



WSU EXTENSION
Island County

On the Beach

CLCP NEWS, ISLAND COUNTY

COMMUNITY LITTER CLEANUP PROGRAM



MDMAPPING

PG 2

SURFRIDER UPDATE

Surfrider Foundation out of California is doing some fantastic work in marine debris repurpose. Surfrider is also the group to which we report shotgun wad retrieval, and the existing map is interesting to view.

MICROPLASTICS

PG 2

IMMERSIVE VR

Virtual Reality is coming to marine debris cleanup!!

Read about the new technology helping students and volunteers truly understand the impacts of plastics in marine environments.

SCHEDULE

PG 3/4

NEWS ARTICLE

UPCOMING CLEANUPS

Learn about the innovative ways to repurpose plastic into 3D Printed Limbs.

Our February schedule is out and we have a great one. We will be adding Admiralty Cove to our list of beaches to serve, as well as heading there the first Tuesday in February.

Surfrider Promotes Ocean-Friendly Restaurants



Surfrider Chapters work with businesses to reduce plastic pollution through the Ocean Friendly Restaurant Program. (Photo: Ranell Nystrom)

Submitted by: [Brice Boland](#), Surfrider Foundation, California

The Surfrider Foundation has several action items listed in the state's Marine Debris Action Plan (MDAP) that it hopes to accomplish following the plan's release. Subjects like reducing firework debris, better coordination of beach cleanups, and shaping state policy to reduce single-use plastics are a few that stand out. What has been possibly the most recognized outcome from Surfrider's MDAP action items so far is the significant increase in the number of Surfrider Ocean Friendly Restaurants (OFR), which now number approximately 40. Surfrider chapters are using a proactive model to work with businesses to help them ditch plastic straws, polystyrene takeout containers, and plastic single-use utensils in their businesses to reduce waste and increase efficiency. By registering as a Surfrider OFR, businesses are required to meet guidelines focused around reducing single-use plastics that no longer end up in our landfills, on our beaches, and in our marine waters. [Courtesy of NOAA Newsletter](#).

Immersive VR

As beach marine debris has become a major issue, so has the locating of volunteers needed to maintain removal networks. So "in order to reach high effectiveness and efficiency in solving marine debris issues, immersive VR" is an "emerging technology in education." Motivation is what maintains teams of volunteers and what assembles them. Whether land-based marine debris or ocean-based, motivation plays a key role in the removal process.

Immersive VR places the individual directly in contact with the problem of marine debris. Viewing trapped animals in netting, and seeing an Albatross dead from a

stomach of plastic, are just a couple of the examples that the VR world has in store. "Visual immersion is..."how close the system's visual output is to real-world visual stimuli," and VR has advanced by leaps and bounds in the last few years. Not only is the simulation very life-like, but the expansion of technology has increased such that VR is available to greater markets.

Immersive VR seeks to answer three main questions: 1. What is marine debris, 2. What are the impacts, and 3., How to educate the coast residents and visitors..." It also has a goal to "support coastal environmental protection through increasing awareness of marine debris issues and preventative actions." The more we increase awareness, the greater motivation becomes to help keep beaches clean.

In general, the effort with VR is to afford greater respect for the debris that is in the water and that which has washed up on shore. Also, educating individuals to keep water plastic-free will encourage proper litter disposal from the start. -Kacie

Sayali Joshi, Yu Wang, Eric Sparks, Mohammad Marufuzzaman, Mandy Sartain, Junfeng Ma, Marine debris awareness improvement using immersive virtual reality, Marine Pollution Bulletin, Volume 186,2023,114406, ISSN 0025-326X, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2022.114406>.

Cleanup Schedule

Thursday, February 9th @ Keystone West 1-3

Tuesday, February 14th @ Joseph Whidbey 2-4

Friday, February 24th @ Keystone East 12-2

Wednesday, March 1st @ Admiralty Cove 2-4

Tuesday, March 7th @ Fort Casey 2-4

The Purple Card Program is a fast and easy way to eliminate marine debris. When you sign up and receive your purple card, you can take specific litter to the transfer station at no cost to yourself. If you are a member, please don't forget to fill out the [BEACH TRACKER](#) form so that we can keep track of litter disposed and hours volunteered. Thanks again!





WEEKLY BEACH CLEAN-UPS

These clean-ups are a fun, free, and easy way to give back to your community by keeping pollution from damaging marine organisms in and around Island County. It is easy to participate!

Washington CoastSavers Partners with Million Waves to Provide 3D Printed Limbs from Marine Debris for Kids



Abbey McPherran, a nine-year old Million Waves Project prosthetic hand recipient, picks up debris at Hobuck Beach during the 2018 International Coastal Cleanup. (Photo: NOAA OCNMS)

Submitted by: [James Roubal](#), Washington CoastSavers

On September 15, 2018, CoastSavers organized another incredibly successful cleanup effort for the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC). More than 500 volunteers participated in the 2018 ICC, collecting over 7,500 lbs. of debris from Cape Flattery to Cape Disappointment – the entire outer coast of Washington, with volunteers distributed along approximately half of the 157 miles of coastline and along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

A unique collaboration was developed for last year's ICC. Million Waves Project, a nonprofit located in Anacortes, WA, reached out to CoastSavers during the summer to form a new partnership. The Million Waves Project takes reclaimed ocean plastics and turns them into 3-D printed prosthetic limbs. Million Waves had plastic shredding demonstrations and 3-D printed limbs available on display at Hobuck Beach at the Makah Reservation. A nine-year old Million Waves Project prosthetic hand recipient, Abbey McPherran (above) and her family, attended the cleanup. [Courtesy of NOAA](#).