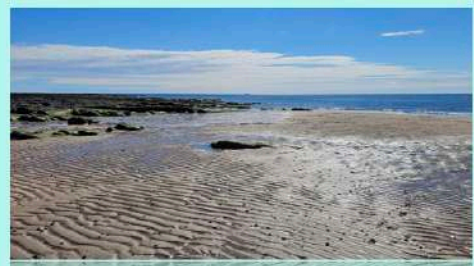


Great East Coast Beach Clean September 2024

**Great East Coast Beach Clean
20th - 25th September 2024**

Make a Difference - Every Action Counts - Just do it.



The Great East Coast Beach clean encourages people right along the east coast of Scotland to take action and remove as much marine litter from our rivers, streams and beaches as possible. Also to identify litter types and to try and prevent it at source. People of all ages and all abilities are encouraged to go out and pick up at least 4 items.

'Make it Safe and Make it Fun'.

Where will you take your 4 for the shore ?



<https://www.aceangus.co.uk/great-angus-beach-clean>

Community-led Coastal Protection in Angus

Introduction

The Great East Coast Beach Clean was once again timed to coincide with the annual MCS Great British Beach Clean. The reality in Angus is that several individuals and groups are out cleaning the Angus coastline all year round. This is particularly the case between Arbroath and Monifieth. This area of the coast attracts a disproportionate amount of marine litter due to both tidal flows and fishing industry activity.

In Angus storm debris reached an unprecedented level on 2023-24 following Storms Agnes, Babet and Ciaran. More than 10.5 tonnes of marine litter was collected between October 2023 and May 2024 by community volunteers. Initially efforts were focused on removing large items which included a trailer and a huge volume of fishing gear. There were also dead mammals including a cow which washed down from the Elliot burn to the sea. Some of the creels were washed up in large entanglements of rope which quickly became buried in the sand. A cordless grinder was purchased to enable trained volunteers to break up the entanglements and enable removal by the All-Terrain-Vehicle.

Although the removal of these large items was challenging it was equally difficult to pick up the thousands of pieces of small polystyrene and sewage related debris which have filled the dune face in various sections of the coast. These small items have taken the entire year to remove and involved hundreds of volunteer hours. Working together along the coast in one big final clean up exercise has been a useful way in which to review the impact of volunteer efforts as the whole coastline is now much cleaner which helps to achieve on environmental and sustainability goals.



Removal and Disposal of Marine Waste

We are grateful to Angus Council for their support in collecting litter at designated points following planned beach cleans. Also for organising skips to remove fishing gear from East Haven car park every year. East Haven Together (EHT) has obtained a Temporary Waste Storage Licence from SEPA to store fishing waste in this location. Due to the complex mix of non-inert materials which creels and rope are made with they can't be sent to the Waste to Energy unit at Baldovie. Therefore fishermen and members of the public are encouraged to upcycle and recycle as much as possible to reduce the amount going to landfill. EHT have also campaigned for the circular design of fishing gear and improved standards for end of life gear.



Fishing Industry

Great efforts have been to engage constructively with local Fishermen since 2017. Inshore creel fishing should be one of the most sustainable forms of fishing and is an important part of the Angus economy. However, Angus has a long history of gear conflict and sabotage which adds significantly to the amount of lost gear which is washed up on our beaches. Every time a line is cut between 8 and 24 creels are lost. Stock assessment data produced on behalf of the Marine Directorate highlights concerns regarding both lobster and crab on the east coast. Changes will need to happen if we are to achieve sustainable fish stock levels into the future.

East Coast Scotland European Lobster stock status

East Coast Scotland Brown Crab stock status

Relationship between fishing mortality (F) and FMSY Fishing Mortality Maximum Sustainable Yield.

Assessment period		F (Fishing Mortality)			
		2006-2008	2009-2012	2013-2015	2016-19
East Coast	Males	✗	✗	✗	✗ Above
	Females	✗	✗	✗	⦿ At F_{MSY}

Assessment period		F (Fishing Mortality)			
		2006-2008	2009-2012	2013-2015	2016-19
East Coast	Males	✗	✗	✗	✗ Above
	Females	✗	✗	✗	✗ Above

Creel Marking

Creel marking was introduced in 2020 for creels deployed within 12 nautical miles of the Scottish coast. The idea was welcomed by communities as it should have enabled the collection of more meaningful data. It could have also allowed beach cleaners to contact harbours/fishers directly to uplift their gear. However, it is not actually the creels which are marked but only the bouys. Moreover, there is no mechanism in place to enable identification of numbered bouys. We have discussed this with the Marine Directorate and suggested that there should be a reporting mechanism. It is an issue which the 'Scottish Coastal Clean Up' group are also intending to raise with the Marine Directorate.



Small Eroded Coastal landfill sites

The storms of 2023/24 caused unprecedented erosion along various areas of the Scottish coast. In Angus, this has been particularly evident and in some areas as much as 10 metres was lost. It has also been evident that an increasing amount of historic waste items have been found along the Angus coast. The problem in Broughty Ferry/Monifieth/Buddon is well documented. However, further up the coast it has been unusual over the last 30 years to find old items such as fairy liquid bottles or old crisp packets. Erosion is now at such a level that very old waste items can be found on almost any beach clean. In June 2024 an area of eroded landfill was discovered at Hatton. A local man in his 90s commented that he wasn't surprised because he remembered it as the 'old cowp' where locals used to dump their waste. Before the introduction of municipal waste services, it was common for people to bury their rubbish

in dunes or even tip it directly into the sea. The area at Hatton contained many old domestic plastic items and also old glass beverage and milk bottles.

In June 2024, children discovered another waste site at East Haven in front of cottages where 10m of dune had been eroded. Of interest on this site was a margarine tub which had been collected dated 1994. This seemed very modern until it was remembered that residents did not receive a dustbin service in this area until 1997.

In September 2024, a further site was discovered nearer Panbride and very old items were found both on the beach and sticking out of dunes. A decision was made on all sites not to undermine the integrity of the dunes any further by removing items which were deeply embedded. Angus Council Environmental Health staff and SEPA have both advised that there is nothing they can suggest to contain old waste items in dunes. Any construction would have to be considered as part of a wider coastal defence structure and hard defences are generally not advised. It seems at the moment that the best thing communities can do is to gather data on eroded sites and remove exposed items as they appear. We have started a data collection system to monitor site locations and also to try and date them. This can be done by recording the make and type of materials found



Eroded Coastal Landfills

Area	What 3 Words	OS Northing Easting	Date Discovered	Group Individual	Location Information	Age/Type of Contents
Hatton	<u>Observe twinkling grapevine</u>	596-395	12/06/24	EHT	Bottom of farm track. <u>Also</u> the location for burying waste from Hatton Airfield.	Mostly plastic domestic waste from 1950s. DDT Bottle. Several very old glass beverage bottles. Pens, toys, Polystyrene+++
East Haven	<u>noise broom tripods</u>	592-362	15/06/24	EHT	In-front of Shore Row Cottages. Former residents reported burying waste on dunes. Refuse service not provided until 1997.	Mainly plastic domestic waste from 50s right up to 1994. Three glass beverage bottles. Old glue bottles possibly from 1960s.
Lunan Bay	<u>mergers minimums reddish</u>	29094N 24264W	20/09/24	SSEN	Area of dune adjacent to track and car park area	Very old beer tin recovered and other items visible in dune face.
Panbride	<u>otter corded sides</u>	49728N 70568W	22/09/24	EHT	Near Parton Ha and cottages	Very old glass beverage bottles. One marked Robertsons. Doby washing up bottle made from polyethylene 1950s. Old <u>Parazone</u> bleach bottle 1960s.
Auchmithie	<u>emotional drama keepers</u>	43528N 14852W	July 2024	<u>Monifieth</u> Vols	Old cliff dump site	Previously Glass, old plastics and old brass button polisher.
<u>Monifieth</u>	TBD	?	July 2024	<u>Monifieth</u> Vols	Community Centre up to <u>Budden</u> camp area	Potentially very old as lots of historic glass. More investigation

ANGUS BEACH CLEANS

Inchcape Beach

Ladyloan Primary school children once again launched the Great East Coast Beach Clean and collected 64.6kgs. Lauren Smith from East Grampian Coastal Partnership and Turning the Plastic Tide led a marine dance with the children prior to the clean up. The children collected eleven full black bags of waste in addition to a fishing bouy, plastic pipe, metal pieces and a large vehicle exhaust unit. A large amount of food packaging was collected from between gabion rocks in-front of the motorhomes. It was also noted that one of the motorhomes was releasing grey water on the site whilst we were there.



Lunan Bay

Volunteers from SSE undertook a beach clean at Lunan Bay which is now a designated nature reserve. It is also a very popular location for dog walkers. It is noted that a number of rubber dog toy parts were found along with filled dog waste bags. Also very small pieces of plastic which is a big concern for the coastal birds as many are already on the red species at risk list.

A blanket and a champagne bottle were also found.

In an area of eroded dune a very old beer tin was found. Other items were also buried deep in the dune but these were not removed as it may have caused unnecessary destruction of the dune. SSE Volunteers took notes for inclusion in the coastal landfill data log.

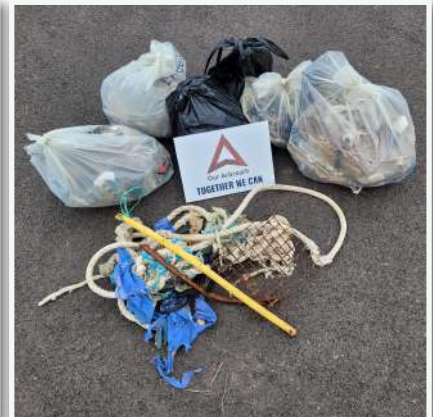


Auchmithie Beach

A small beach clean took place at Auchmithie where a small historic waste site within eroded dune has been discovered. Historic glass fragments were collected along with small polystyrene pieces.

Elliot Beach

Susan Spink chose World Clean up Day on 20th September to host a GECBC event at Elliot Beach, Arbroath. Two members of the newly established Arbroath Board attended in support. Despite the fact that Susan dedicates a huge amount of her time cleaning this stretch of beach a total of 31 kgs of litter was still collected. This comprised sewage related debris, gun cartridges, plastic creel coatings, monofilament fishing line, plastic straws, polystyrene pieces and various sizes of ropes and pieces of nets. Also plastic bottles and cans. It is notable that a number of historic litter items have been found in this location over the last year and vintage crisp packets were found during this beach clean. It would indicate that there may be another eroded cowp/ landfill in the locality.



Victoria Park

Misha and the Arbroath beach clean volunteers collected 9 kgs of litter. Considerable time was spent collecting a huge amount of microplastics, fast food packaging, a balloon, plastic bottles, cans, a glass bottle, a bucket hat, winter glove, shova glove, cigarette butts, sewage related debris. There were also a large number of plastic bags, monofilament fishing line, ropes and plastic creel coatings and one creel. A large plastic sheet was also dug out of the sand.



Monifieth

The Monifieth Marine Litter group collected 18kgs of litter. Seonaid and other key individuals are out regularly cleaning on this stretch of beach which is disproportionately affected by SRD and other waste due to tidal flows.

Amongst the waste was one helium balloon, cotton bud sticks and other SRD, one discarded nappy (unwrapped), dog waste bags, 3m length of plastic piping, two vapes, plastic bottles, crisp packets, cans and paper cups, small plastics, polystyrene pieces and expanded foam, a large piece of reinforced polythene sheeting and an unprecedented amount of very small sharp pieces of glass along the strand line. There was also a small amount of historical glass and one vulcanised rubber stopper in broken bottle neck and three nurdles.



Carnoustie

In Carnoustie over 25kgs of marine litter was collected in a beach clean led by Carnoustie Community Council. Volunteers collected a lot of plastic including bottles and a variety of fishing waste. In common with other areas of the coast there was also a lot more polystyrene pieces than in previous years.

The prize for the most interesting piece of beach litter had to go to Carnoustie for this toy plane which was saved for reuse!



Friockheim Park

Friockheim Park Volunteers led an inland clean up event on Saturday 21st September. This event highlights the importance of keeping our drains and water courses free from litter as much of this waste ends up in the sea.

A total of 17 volunteers collected a staggering 43 kgs of litter in and around Friockheim.

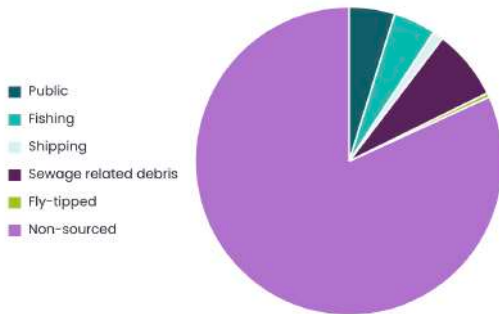


East Haven

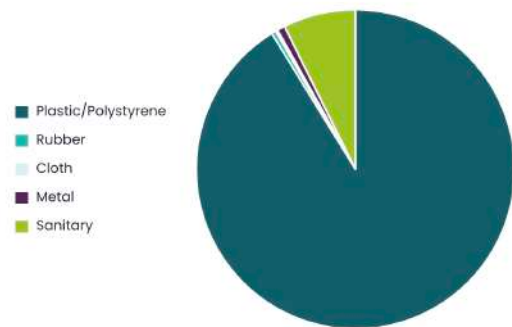
In East Haven 15 volunteers collected 897 items of marine litter weighing 17kgs. In addition, several creels, bouys, rope, tyres and traffic cones were uplifted from the beach between Carnoustie and Arbroath.

A large potato box which was swept away from the Meikleour Estate during Storm Babet was also removed from the beach at Westhaven. The boxes were swept down stream in the River Tay and have been found as far away as Northumberland. The one located here was transported back on the ATV and has been up-cycled and put to good use.

Sources



Materials collected



Community-led Coastal Protection

This report has highlighted the value of communities working together as guardians of the coast to protect the marine environment. More than 324 kgs of marine litter was collected after possibly one of the worst years on record for marine litter following the storms of 2023/24. Everybody who played a part and helped to make a difference is commended for their commitment and contribution.

Report compiled by: Angus Clean Environments. 10/10/24