



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 17, 2024

Contact:

Sam Cutcliffe

Communications & Stewardship Coordinator

BC Marine Trails

(902) 213-3039

scutcliffe@bcmarinetrails.org

Expanded Marine Debris Drop Zones in Clayoquot Sound Lead to Major Cleanup Efforts

Clayoquot Sound, Vancouver Island – [BC Marine Trails](#) (BCMT), in partnership with [Surfrider Pacific Rim](#) and BC Parks, is pleased to announce the successful expansion of the Clayoquot Sound marine debris drop zone program. As of July, there are now five dedicated drop zones on Vargas and Flores Islands, providing locations for visitors to easily gather and store marine debris for future removal.

BC Parks has since reported that these drop zones have been used for their intended purpose — marine debris such as fishing nets, rope, buoys and styrofoam. Negligible camping waste accumulated in the designated areas — a strong indication that visitors are contributing positively by using the drop zones responsibly.

From September 10–12, the [Western Canada Marine Response Corporation](#) (WCMRC), another key partner, carried out a comprehensive removal operation, clearing debris from the drop zones and other beaches across Clayoquot Sound. WCMRC also collected eight

super sacs of debris from Surfrider-led beach cleanups conducted earlier this summer. In total, 1980 lbs of debris were removed from the area, with approximately 500 lbs coming directly from the dedicated drop zones. The debris will be recycled through the [Ocean Legacy Foundation](#) depot in Ucluelet, an organization dedicated to closing the loop on plastic management systems.

This initiative highlights the tangible impact of responsible debris piling and reporting, as well as the positive environmental influence recreational visitors can have when visiting sites on the [BC Marine Trails map](#). The program is an important step in preserving the natural beauty of Clayoquot Sound while encouraging sustainable recreation and environmental stewardship.

After 13 super sacs were removed from Vargas Island in May 2024 by a team of BCMT volunteers alongside youth from Ahousaht, Tofino, and Ucluelet, it's encouraging to witness ongoing success in Clayoquot Sound.

Quotes

“Galvanizing recreationists to help in the fight against marine debris is crucial. As thousands of individuals visit the BC coast annually, we are working to give them the power to make a difference.”

- Sam Cutcliffe, BC Marine Trails, Stewardship & Communications Coordinator

-30-

Past release: [BCMT, Ahousaht, Surfrider Youth Vargas cleanup | May 2024](#)

Helpful document: [Who is BC Marine Trails?](#)

Find photos of debris collection [here](#)

[BC Marine Trails media kit](#)