



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 9th, 2025
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3770 Pounds of Marine Debris Removed from Vargas Island

Clayoquot Sound, Vancouver Island — From May 27–31, BC Marine Trails (BCMT) hosted its annual Vargas Island marine debris cleanup, now in its fourth year. A crew of nine volunteers collected, sorted, and staged 15 Super Sacks of debris across the island's beaches. On May 30, 19 members of the Surfrider Pacific Rim and Surfrider South Vancouver Island executive teams joined the effort at Dick & Jane's Beach.

Residents of Vargas also contributed by organizing a separate cleanup on June 1 on the island's east side, collecting an additional three Super Sacks and removing large marine debris items including dock floats and fragments of a washed-up boat.

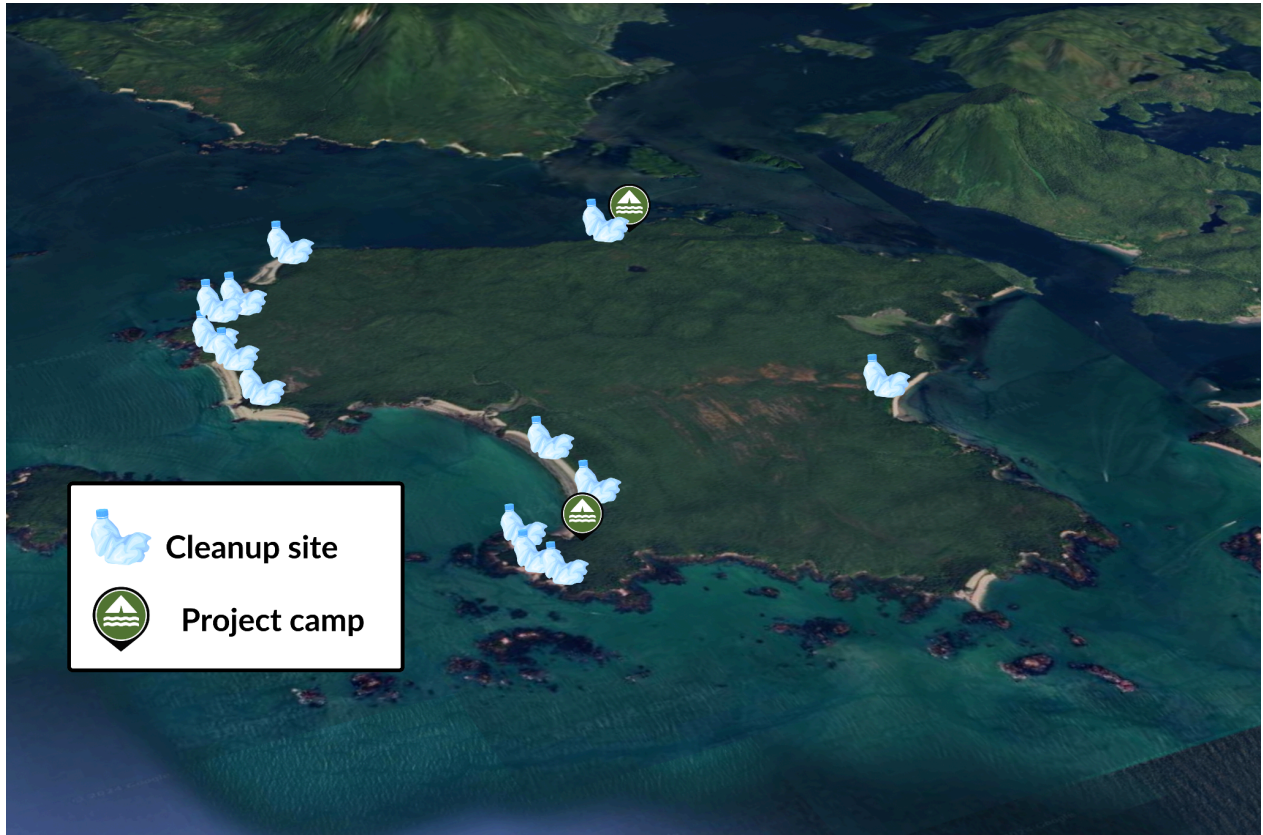
Cleanup efforts culminated on June 3 and 4, when Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC) transported the debris off-island by landing craft.

A total of 3,770 pounds of debris was removed, including 513 discarded water bottles. Of that, 2,823 pounds was sorted for recycling and 947 pounds was designated as waste. All debris was delivered to the Ocean Legacy Depot in Ucluelet for processing — recyclable materials will be recovered, with the remainder sent to landfill. The effort highlights the ongoing value of community-led stewardship in protecting BC's sensitive marine environments.

This cleanup contributes to Ocean Week Canada (June 1–8), a national initiative celebrating ocean conservation and encouraging action across the country.

Find photos of the spring 2025 event [here](#). All photos attributed to Sam Cutcliffe.

2025 project extent(Download .png [here](#)).



Quotes

"Vargas Island offers a powerful lesson on marine debris. When you first arrive at a remote beach like Ahous Bay, it appears pristine. However, collecting five Super Sacks of debris in a single day reveals how pervasive and hidden the problem truly is. Spotting one washed up water bottle often means there are hundreds more hidden along the shore."

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