

BEACH GUARDIANS

HARBOURING WASTE SAFELY

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Keep it clean. Keep it safe.

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BEACH GUARDIANS HAS 3 GOALS

Raise awareness of problems caused by and costs of coastal litter and ways in which it can be reduced

Change attitudes and behaviour to steadily reduce coastal litter problems within targeted stakeholder groups

Community groups adopting local coastline through Adopt a Beach and Beach Watch programmes

Keep it clean. Keep it safe.



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Moray Firth

- 800km of coast
- 100s km rivers flow into the firth
- 200,000 people live around the firth
- 20,000 tons of litter into the North Sea – how much in the Moray Firth?
- 70% of the litter goes to the bottom

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Moray Firth

- 82 beaches have been surveyed or promoted
- 14 cleaned by volunteers in 2005 up from 2 in 2000

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Sources of Beach Litter

- Beach users
- Fishing industry
- Sewage related debris
- Shipping sources
- Fly tipping
- Medical sources
- Unknown sources

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Beach Users

- Half of Moray Firth residents enjoy at least one day a year at the beach; 40% of these come with families to play on the beach and over 60% walk on the beach.
- Beach use is a key part of Moray Firth tourism economy
- Beach users are the source of 45% of litter

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Fishing Industry

- Litter from the fishing industry remains at an 14% average of litter collected 2000 – 2005

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Sewage related debris

- In early 1990 SRD was accounting for nearly 50% of the items found.
- Longman, Lossiemouth and Golspie outfalls installed
- In Beachwatch activity in 2004/5 SRD was virtually absent at 1.5%

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Shipping

- In the early 1990 anecdotal evidence pointed to almost 90% of litter on Aberdeenshire beaches coming from shipping or fishing sources.
- From 1998 ports are required to have waste management plans
- Since 2000 the average amount of shipping related debris recorded is 2.5%

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Fly tipping and medical

- Following a rise in land fill charges the amount of fly tipped material on beaches increased but is localised
- 2.1% of beach litter in the Moray Firth comes from fly tipping

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Unknown sources

- A significant amount (34%) of beach litter comprises small pieces that cannot be obviously sourced
- Clearly, if identified this should be reallocated to other categories including material from ports and harbours
- 2015 could see a further 600 marina berths in the Moray Firth

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