


Marine Debris In Alaska: Partnerships to Keep Coasts Clean and Healthy



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Ocean Conservancy works with partners to create evidence-based solutions for a healthy ocean and the wildlife and communities that depend on it.



The International Coastal Cleanup

- Also known as “ICC”
- Started by Ocean Conservancy in 1986
- 18M+ volunteers
- 440M+ pounds of trash
- 155 countries



Plastics in the Ocean

How microplastics accumulate in the rain of Southeast Alaska

By Ned Rozell | Alaska Science
Published: October 28, 2023



Biologists describe freeing Unalaska whale from 'life-threatening entanglement'

By Sofia Stuart-Rasi, KUCB - Unalaska - April 10, 2024



The Washington Post

By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans, study says



It's Not Just Seafood: New Study Finds Microplastics in Nearly 90% of Proteins Sampled, Including Plant-Based Meat Alternatives

Researchers at Ocean Conservancy and University of Toronto estimate that American adults could be consuming up to 3.8 million microplastics per year from protein alone

January 8, 2024

The Tiniest Pieces of Plastic Are Threatening the Ocean's Largest Creatures



Polar bears are increasingly feeding on garbage

by Heiner Kubny | Aug 2, 2022 | Archive, Science, Science

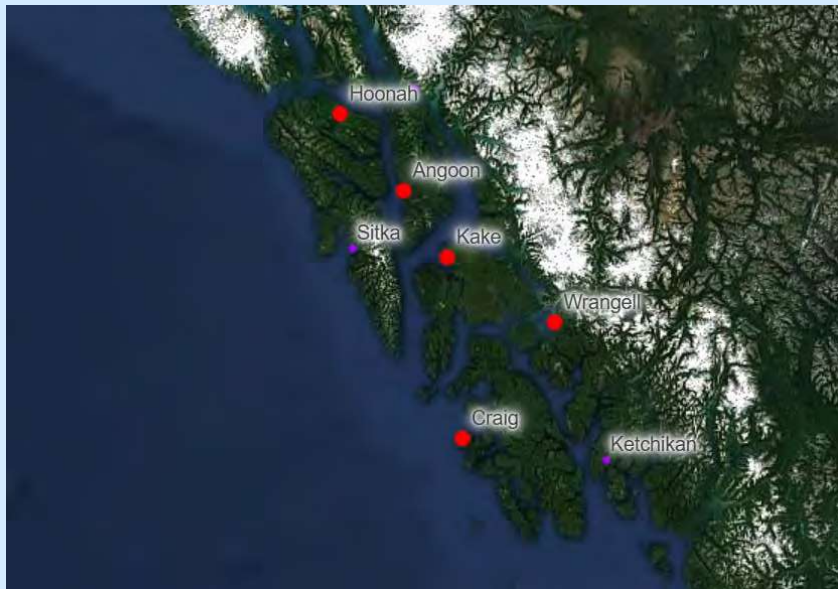


Working Together



Seacoast Indigenous Guardians Network

- Cleanups in partnership with Alaska Youth Stewards and local Tribes
- Five communities: Craig, Kake, Angoon, Hoonah, Wrangell
- 63 participants; 9,400 lbs removed





Haines

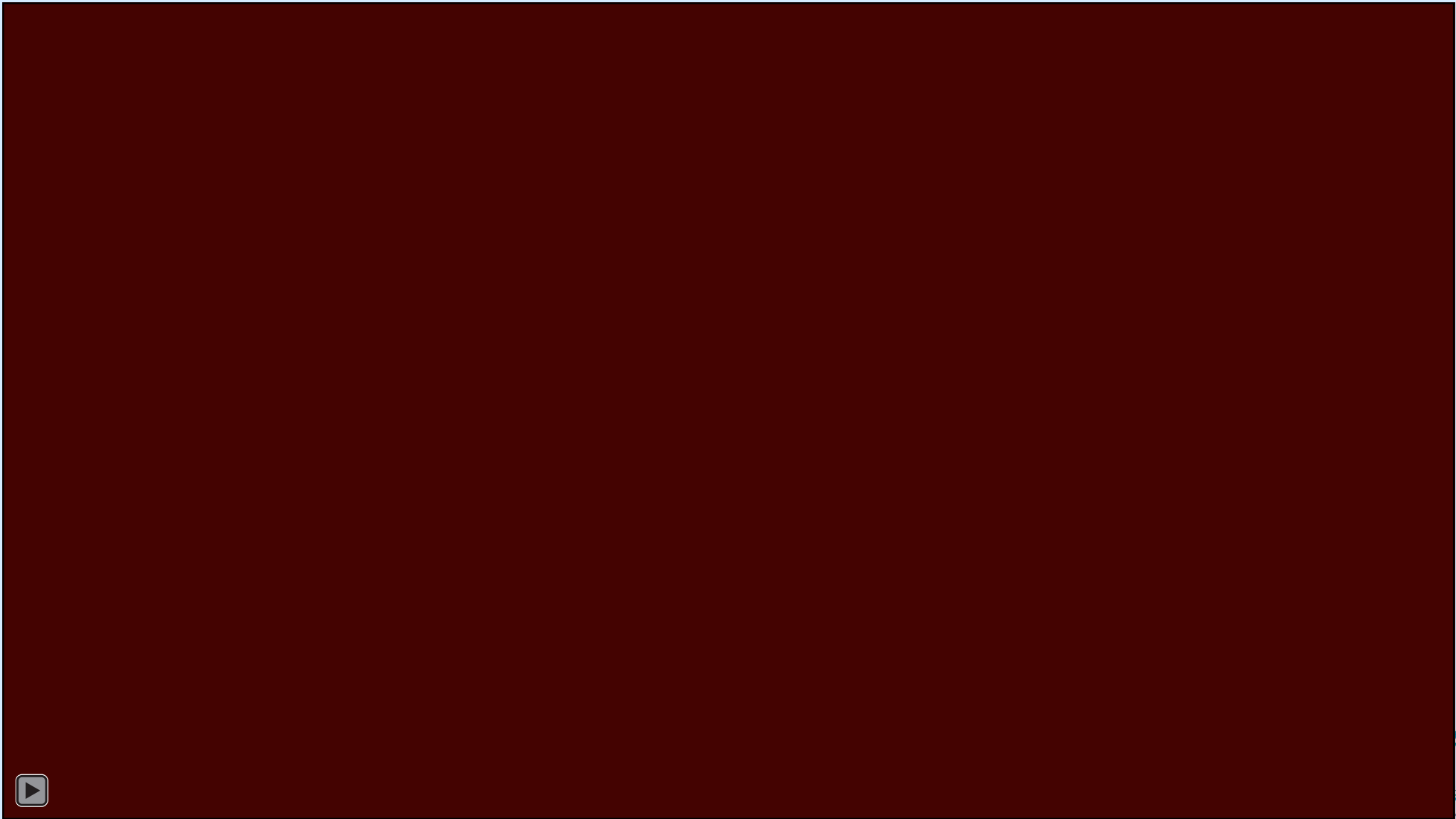
Takshanuk Watershed Council



- Cleanups in partnership with Haines Friends of Recycling, local schools, fishermen, and Alaska Plastics Recovery
- Marine Debris Kick-Off Event, Data Training, and School Lessons
- Cleanup Results
 - Number of days: 6
 - Number of volunteers: 180
 - Amount of debris removed: 3,070 lbs







Marine Debris Backhaul Project

Ocean Conservancy awarded \$1.7 million from EPA to develop a pilot program for backhaul of marine debris from coastal communities in Alaska to disposal and recycling facilities.

PROJECT GOALS

- Remove existing stockpiled debris
- Remove debris in conjunction with planned cleanups
- Provide local jobs
- Prepare final report & sustainable model

Native Village of Port Heiden

- 30,000 lbs of stockpiled marine debris removed from Port Heiden with support from Zender Environmental and Ocean Conservancy
- Transported to Ocean Plastics Recovery Project in Kodiak for recycling
- More NVPH cleanups in 2025





Kawerak & Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation



- ~10,000 lbs of marine debris removed from St. Lawrence Island and shipped to Nome
- Sorting & staging in Nome (hub for future cleanups in the region)
- Will be backhauled to Seattle for recycling in partnership with Net Your Problem





Thank you!

For more information about Ocean Conservancy's work on marine debris in the Arctic, please visit <https://oceanconservancy.org/protecting-the-arctic/arctic-marine-debris-initiative/>