

Gulf of Alaska Keeper (GoAK)

...From sea to shining sea...

GoAK - Dedicated to cleaning shorelines in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska

May 2006 PWS Cleanup



Over 100 volunteers collected over 600 bags of trash and cleaned 30 miles of shoreline.

Ongoing PWS Cleanup



During June through August 2006, GoAK collected more than 35 tons of marine debris.

Montague Island Survey



Twice during 2006, GoAK surveyed the outer coast -- LOTS of trash observed!

Gore Point Survey Oct 2006



In 2007, GoAK plans to tackle Gore Point -- a gargantuan catcher's mitt of debris.

Naked Island Survey



Oct. 2006, GoAK surveyed Naked Island as a prelude to 2007 volunteer cleanup.

GoAK Needs Your Help

Since the dawn of plastics, immeasurable amounts of plastics have been dumped into our oceans worldwide. After drifting for years in ocean currents, storms drive the debris onto our shorelines. Plastic marine debris (MD) is not only unsightly, but also poses risks to our intertidal ecosystems.

In the late 1990's, a small, dedicated group of citizens became alarmed at the increasing amount of plastics, derelict fishing gear, styrofoam, and other marine debris that is collecting in "pristine" Prince William Sound.

GoAK is Born

Beginning in 2001, small-scale local cleanups in Prince William Sound were initiated successfully out of Whittier, Alaska. During the following 5 seasons, volunteers worked eastward from Whittier, cleaning approximately 70 miles of sensitive coastal habitat.

Discovering more and more debris-choked beaches and faced with the daunting task of cleaning more than 3500 miles of shoreline in Prince William Sound alone, the non-profit Gulf of Alaska Keeper (GoAK) formed in 2005 to expand and fund the program.

2006 and Beyond

In 2006, GoAK launched a highly successful cleanup of over 350 miles of extremely rug-



A pile of derelict fishing gear awaits removal during the 2006 cleanup on Knight Island in Prince William Sound.

ged and remote shorelines of the Knight Island archipelago; an equivalent of **46 large dumpsters (35 tons)** of marine debris were removed from the islands and hauled to Whittier.

Over 300 miles of beach surveys were conducted in 2006 along Knight Island, the outer coast of Montague Island, western PWS, Gore Point, and Naked Island. 2007 field plans include marine debris removal and further surveying, but the challenge grows as GoAK focuses effort further away from immediate land-based resources. We can no

An estimated 100,000 marine mammals and 2 million seabirds die *each year* after ingesting or being caught in plastic debris. (Garrison, Oceanography, 2005)

longer rely primarily on volunteer efforts.

Given that the majority of marine debris

swirls in from the Pacific Ocean, we often wonder how much more is out there. We may not be able to eliminate the source, but through volunteer and funded efforts, we can do our part to tackle this problem -- starting in our own Alaskan backyard.