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OCEAN CLEAN-UP



EARTHCARE Volunteers hard at work cleaning marine debris underwater.

EARTHCARE observes World Ocean Day with underwater clean-up

EARTHCARE observed World Ocean's Day with an underwater clean-up at Coral Beach.

"Today, June 11, EARTHCARE, along with concerned citizens/volunteers cleaned a quarter mile or 400 meters of ocean bottom at Coral Beach, the site of the BASRA Marathon this summer," said Gail Woon, Founder of EARTHCARE and a Director of Save The Bays.

She noted that the objective of the event was to rid the seafloor of trash/marine debris. "Trash bags and refreshments were provided. Volunteers snorkeled to remove trash and it was bagged ashore. All members of the public were invited to the event.

"Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans," said Jacques-Yves Cousteau, famous ocean science/media pioneer. His words have unfortunately proved true today as evidenced by the state of our Bahamian beaches and the world's coastlines.

"I am happy with the results of today's clean-up. The sea was calm, 15 volunteers collected trash just off the beach in 5 to 8' of water. We filled six large trash bags. A special thanks goes out to all that showed up to help," said Woon.

"The idea came from Ryan Carroll, a concerned Yacht Captain and former commercial fisherman. He was in the water one day and saw all the marine debris and thought it would be a good idea. He organized several Underwater Clean-ups throughout the past four years and we thought this would be a great way to keep his tradition alive and also honor World Oceans Day, June 8. This is an area that most people don't see, so it goes ignored. It's very critical now that we stop the abuse of our oceans!

Plastics are overflowing into our oceans. Whales are dying from eating plastic. It is being predicted in a World Economic Forum Report that by 2050, on the current track, oceans will contain more plastic than fish (by weight). Things you can do, eliminate or minimize your use of disposable plastics. Bring silverware to events and wash them for re-use. Buy products with a minimum of plastic



EARTHCARE Volunteers: Justin Snisky II, Justin Snisky, James Snisky, Maya Simmons, Gabriella Rguez, Ryan Carroll, Angelina Rahming, Aiden Rahming, Savannah Gibson, Havana Gibson, Ana-Alicia Carroll and Candice Woon, not pictured.



Angelina Rahming, EARTHCARE Eco Kids Team Leader, hands beverage bottles found underwater to her brother, Aiden for proper disposal onshore.

packaging. Never discard fishing gear overboard. Stop buying water. Boycott microbeads which are being found in many marine creatures now. Cook more to eliminate the need for take-out containers. Purchase items secondhand. Recycle. Support a bag tax or ban. Buy in bulk. Bring your own garment bag to the dry cleaner. Put pressure on manufacturers to minimize plastic packaging," Woon continued.

Carroll remarked, "A calm day at Coral Beach was met by very little garbage near shore. A pleasant surprise, unlike the copious amounts we usually find elsewhere. Onto filthier pastures soon."

Justin Snisky said, "Another wonderful clean-up event put on by EARTHCARE and volunteers and it was a pleasure for BASRA (Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association) to join up with them and do our part in

keeping the beaches and waters clean. We encourage everyone to join this worthy cause and hope to see you all at the next clean-up."

Items found underwater included many bottles, fishing gear, rope, nets, hooks, lines, sinkers, plastics of all sorts, towels, and metal sheets to name a few.

Volunteers who helped with this underwater clean-up effort included Ryan Carroll, An-



Justin Snisky II surveys the marine debris collected by EARTHCARE volunteers at the Underwater Clean-up in honor of World Ocean's Day.

gelina Rahming, Havana Gibson, Savanna Gibson, Justin Snisky, Justin Snisky II, James Snisky, Edwin A. Moss, Ana-Alicia Carroll, Gabriella Rguez, Maya Simmons, Candice Woon, Gail Woon, Aiden Rahming and Linda Gem-balies-Rahming.

Ana-Alicia Carroll reiterated, "We all did a fantastic job on

bringing up debris that was lying on the ground floor. Though, it shouldn't be hard to take your own trash with you at the end of the day."

Another Underwater Clean-up is planned for mid-July. Contact earthcare.bahamas@yahoo.com for details and information on how you can join the effort.