

Beach Waste Report

2022



Photo credit: Karen Jenner

01

Beach Waste from the Bay of Fundy shores

In the past 3 fiscal years, Valley Waste has collected a total of 35.4 tonnes of beach waste from collectors



Photo credit: Karen Jenner

Over the past three years, Valley Waste has seen an increase in the collection of beach waste. During the pandemic a number of beach collector groups formed and the 'past time' of collecting litter from the beach has grown exponentially from 2019 – 2022.

The most active groups and individuals include Friends of Scots Bay, Nova Scotia Beach Awareness, Eddie Simmons, and Scotian Shores. They have been the driving force that has organized more regular and structured clean-ups along the Bay of Fundy.

Nova Scotia Beach Awareness documented collecting 17,576 lb (7.97 tonnes) of rope in the last 4 years.

Approximately 80% of the waste is marine waste which includes fishing gear, plastics, weather balloons and aquaponic waste.

The other 20% is shore based and includes shotgun shell casings, cigarette butts and lighters, needles, shoes, toys, plastic cutlery, and other odds and ends.

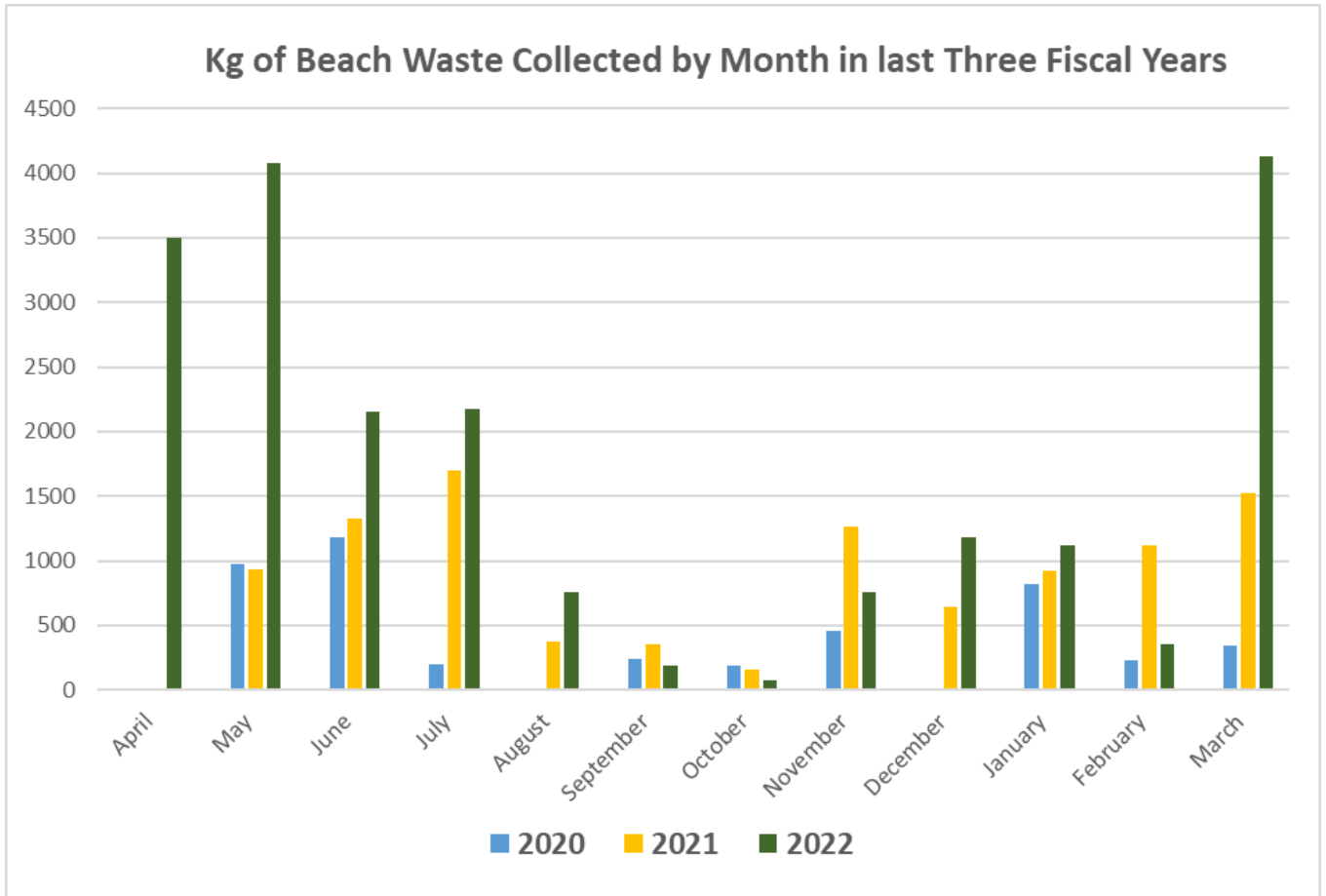
In the past four years, 51332 straps were collected. The average length is 45" (1.14m) which if put end to end would stretch for 36.5 miles (58.74km).



Photo credit: Karen Jenner

Beach Waste collected

02



Total of Beach Waste collected by fiscal year. March to July are peak months for pick-ups.

Fiscal Year	Kg	Tonnes
2019/2020	4,630	4.6
2020/2021	10,300	10.3
2021/2022	20,460	20.5
Totals	35,390	35.4

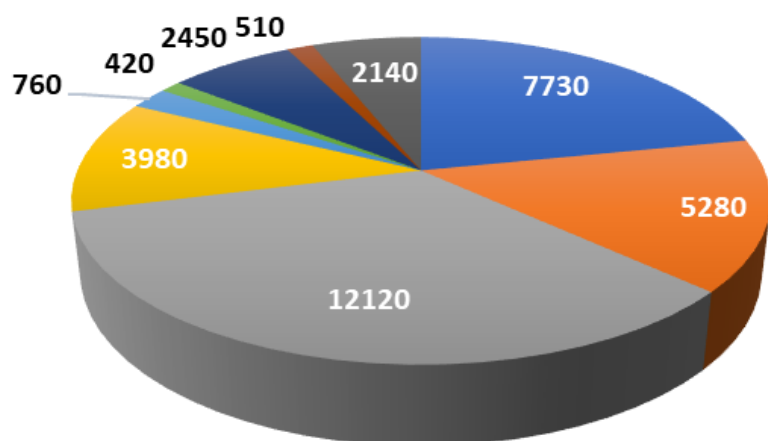
Beach waste collection has doubled in the past fiscal, and quadrupled from the previous fiscal.

The number of organized beach collectors has grown since COVID started.

Beach Waste Collectors 2019 - 2022

03

Beach Waste Collection in kg (2019-2022)



- Karen Jenner
- Friends of Scots Bay
- Peggy Salsman
- Community
- Scotian Shores
- Eddie Simmons
- Angela Melynychuk
- Paul Cameron

Collector	kg	Number of collections	VWRM hours
Angela Melynychuk	420	2	4
Community	2450	15	30
Eddie Simmons	3980	22	2
Friends of Scots Bay	12120	44	97
Karen Jenner	7730	39	80
Other	2140	14	25
Paul Cameron	510	3	6
Peggy Salsman	760	3	6.5
Scotian Shores	5280	25	52
Grand Total	35390	167	302.5



Photo credit: Karen Jenner

Bay of Fundy clean ups

The most cleaned beaches on the Bay of Fundy, and Valley Waste Region, include Scots Bay, Huntington's Point, Harbourville, Donnellens Brook, Black Rock, and Morden. Collectors have formed groups and many have collaborated their efforts which has also increased the tonnage of waste collected.



Photo credit: Karen Jenner

Data Collection

1239 Containers are shown in the left hand photo. This is an example of some of the plastic waste washed on shore. Many of the items have been traced to companies in Maine.

In the last 4 years, Nova Scotia Beach Awareness has documented collecting 286,454 items, 29,517lb (13.38 tonnes) debris and 17,576lb (7.97 tonnes) of rope.

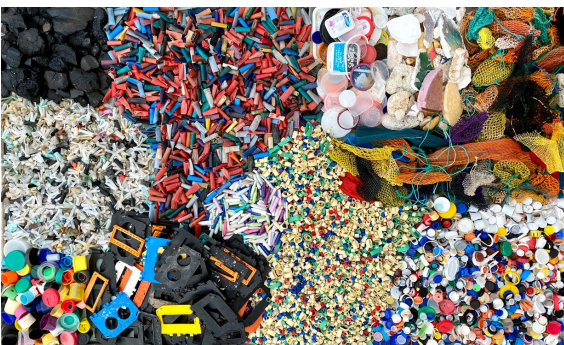


Photo credit: Karen Jenner

Scotian Shores estimated a total of 12,426 lb (5.63 tonnes) of beach waste collected from Kings and Annapolis Counties. 11,462 lb (5.2 tonnes) was collected from Kings County beaches and 964 lb (0.43 tonnes) from Annapolis County beaches.

Among the beach waste collected in the past year were over 2,000 shotgun shell casings, wads and tampon applicators, 1,896 caps, lids and coffee pods, 213 bait bags, and 6,179 lobster bands.

05

Valley Waste and beach collections



Valley Waste has supported the collectors with pick-ups from agreed points at the beaches or homes of collectors.

In the fiscal year 2019/2020, Valley Waste dedicated 50 people hours and 25 truckloads weighing in at 4.63 tonnes.

In 2020/2021 49 waste collections were made, and 85 people hours used, and in 2021/2022, this increased to 93 truckloads and 167.5 hours of staff time.



Beach collectors are offered a tipping fee exemption to bring their beach waste into the transfer stations but Valley Waste also offers a pick up service for those groups who do not have the means to get their waste to the site.



Some of the collectors have tried to look at sustainable options with the use of reusable bags, recycling some of the rope collected into other items such as bags and mats.

While beach waste continues to increase on our shores, more volunteers are looking for assistance with collections, equipment and bags. Valley Waste continues to help the collectors as much as they can but recognise the issue is a larger one with beaches in need of constant cleaning to make them inviting and safe for residents, wildlife, and visitors alike.