

MARINE DEBRIS SURVEYS AT THE FALKLAND ISLANDS



Marine debris is accumulated junk, broken fishing gear or litter washed on to the coastline from the sea, being deliberately or accidentally released from boats or blown from land. Some of it, such as floating plastic objects, can even drift from thousands of miles away to reach the Falklands.

Falklands Conservation is collecting information on marine debris across the Islands from the type, quantities, hot spots and where it all comes from.

How you can help

When you are out and about this summer fill in the survey form for a 100 m stretch of beach:

- 1) Walk along 100 m of beach - it doesn't matter if it is sandy or boulders.
- 2) Name the beach, mark on a map where you start the survey or take a GPS position.
- 3) Record all the debris you see by filling in the attached survey form (don't worry about weights if you do not have scales).
- 4) Record the end point of the survey on a map or with a GPS position and note the approximate distance.
- 5) Send your completed survey forms to Falklands Conservation.



A landowner questionnaire in 2011 revealed a high portion of marine debris at the Falkland shores is likely to be plastic (e.g. bottles) followed by broken or lost fishing gear.

Does that correspond with your survey findings?

You should always have permission to access private land from the land owner or farm manager. It would be appropriate to mention that you would like to conduct a marine debris survey on behalf of Falklands Conservation.

For landowners: Before data on marine surveys are published FC will endeavour to contact you to check you are happy having information published.

Send completed surveys via email to cso@conservation.org.fk or drop them into our office.

Falklands Conservation Marine Debris Surveys

Please send to cso@conservation.org.fk or drop in to the FC office.

Name/s:

Name of beach/nearest known point:

Date:

Time:

Start GPS co-ordinates

End GPS co-ordinates

Approximate distance of survey in metres:

Beach type: *Boulder Sandy Rocky/reefs other:*

Tide: *low medium high*

Other debris on beach: *Stranded kelp Trees Flotsam i.e. wood planks/posts Whale bones*

Litter Type		Number of items	Size	Known origin/other comments
FISHING GEAR	Packing band (straps)			
	Net / mesh			
	String			
	Rope			
	Plastic crate / trays			
	Rubber boot / gloves			
	Plastic float / buoy			
	Metal float / buoy			
	Lures/ traps / pots			
PLASTIC	Drink bottle 300 ml			
	Drink bottle 1-2 litres			
	Other plastic bottle			
	Plastic bottle top / cap			
	Plastic piping / tubing			
	Large plastic container			
	Plastic jar / tub			
	Plastic misc. large item			
	Plastic misc. small item			
PACKAGING	Polystyrene / insulation			
	Plastic sheeting			
	Plastic bag			
	Food wrapper / litter			
	Foam packaging			
GLASS	Bottle			
	Jar			
	Fragment			
METAL	Steel food tin			
	Aluminium drink can			
	Aluminium aerosol can			
	Oil drum / barrel			
OTHERS	Flip flop / sandal			
	Shoe			
	Cigarette lighter			
	Hardhat			
	Cloth / material			