



THE IKKATSU PROJECT  
2018 ANNUAL REPORT



*EXPLORATION, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY*

**When we look back on 2018, it is going to be hard to believe all that was accomplished in one short year. The Ikkatsu Project was formed in 2012 and each year has seen new programs and collaborations but this year the growth has been especially challenging and exciting.**

**Traveling to DC to talk ocean preservation with elected officials, data collection and beach cleanups from Tacoma to the Washington coast to the remote beaches of southeast Alaska, classroom instruction and field research with area Middle Schoolers and building a kayak out of beach debris... all these and more provide a glimpse of the level of activity that we saw in 2018, as well as a look ahead to what we can expect to see in the future.**



## **2018 Programs**

### **DC Hill Day**

In February, the Ikkatsu Project was part of a delegation from Washington State that traveled to our nation's capital to engage with elected representatives on ocean issues. (This was the third consecutive year that we have been involved in these efforts on a national scale and the process has been both educational and rewarding.) The Hill Day was organized by the Surfrider Foundation and as the State Lead, the Ikkatsu Project set up the individual meetings with staff and members of Congress on what turned out to be a busy and productive day.

All told, we met with seven members of the House and both Senators from Washington and were able to discuss ocean oil exploration issues and marine plastics, while reaffirming our support for the Save Our Seas Act, an important building block for future marine preservation that was signed into law later in the year.





## **WA Coastal Monitoring**

As it has done in years past, the Ikkatsu Project returned to several specific beaches on the Olympic coast to look at how the debris is collected and distributed at different times of the year.

Scheduled to coincide with the two annual beach cleanups that are coordinated by Washington CoastSavers, these returns to beaches on the Makah reservation in April and September are a way to track the types and quantities of items that come ashore from the open ocean.

Most of the items found are plastic, with a significant percentage coming from sources in Asia as well as debris from points closer to home. Surveys have shown a decrease in total amounts of items found since this program began in 2012, possibly a product of the greater number of cleanups that have taken place on these beaches in the intervening years.



## Seventy48 and the *Basura del Mar*

The inaugural Seventy48, a human-powered race from Tacoma to Port Townsend, took place in June. Open to kayaks and canoes, rowing shells and outriggers, this race was designed as a prelude to the annual Race to Alaska (the R2AK, that started from Port Townsend about 12 hours after this one finished).

For this event, rather than use a sea kayak or standup paddleboard, the Ikkatsu Project went a different route. The *Basura del Mar* was built this past winter, mainly from large foamed plastic chunks that washed ashore at a single south Sound beach. In addition to the foam, the wood, conduit (for the keel), cotton sheets, decking, paint and hardware were all used items, leftovers from other projects. This isn't the first boat we've made out of discarded plastics... the *Hyas yíem* was a kayak constructed in 2014 from 2-liter plastic bottles that was paddled from Olympia to Bellingham, 150 miles up the inside passageways of Puget Sound. That voyage had been a chance to engage with people about single-use plastic and this race seemed like a good opportunity to keep the conversation going.

As a talking point, the *Basura* was a great success. At pre-race events, hundreds of people took a pledge to reexamine their use of plastics, reduce their resource footprint and help turn back the plastic tide. Many of them signed the boat, adding little messages of inspiration and support, and it was an honor to carry their names along on the race. Although the

*Basura* didn't finish – it made it 42 miles to Kingston in the allotted 48 hours – it did raise awareness of the marine plastics issue in a thought-provoking way that was entertaining for a wide audience.



### TEAM BASURA

team members Ken Campbell hometown Tacoma, WA, USA vessel  
Foam, glued and covered with cotton wrap propulsion Paddles



**The *Basura del Mar*...  
13 feet long and 29 inches wide.  
Constructed out of foamed  
plastic, shaped and covered with  
cotton sheets and sealed with  
seven coats of acrylic paint, it  
was designed to be paddled  
either from a standing or sitting  
position.**

## Fresh Water Microplastics Program

Our current program has been in place since 2015, and has introduced hundreds of Middle School students to plastics issues. They are trained to set up their own field studies, collect water and sediment from rivers and streams in the Puyallup River watershed and analyze their samples for microplastics. Since the original, first-year pilot program, the Ikkatsu Project has worked with teachers from Lakeridge Middle School in Sumner to expand the curriculum, where students learn about plastic in their local environment, the effects of single-use plastics and other sources of pollution and how each of the different ecosystems in their watershed are connected.

Although the students have had the chance to participate in most of the aspects of the course, 2018 was the first year that the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders took on the actual lab analysis tasks. (For the first three years of the program, water samples were taken to the lab at the University of Puget Sound. Secondary analysis will still be done at UPS for some samples, but this year is the first time that the students have had the opportunity to run the entire process.) As the program continues, the scope of the lessons will grow to provide even more hands-on opportunities for students.



In the summer of 2015, the Ikkatsu Project took a journey down the length of the Puyallup River, from Mount Rainier to Puget Sound. Water was collected from the glacier to the bay and plastic fibers were found in every sample.

## South Kuiu Cleanup

“Cape Decision, on the southern tip of Kuiu Island, is one of the most remote locations in southeast Alaska, about 100 miles west of Wrangell and 100 miles south of Sitka. The beaches on the windward side of the peninsula are exposed to the full force of the Pacific while the coves and inlets to the east are more protected. The waters are busy with whales and otter, sea lion and salmon. Kelp forests run along the near shore in many places and there is always an eagle or two watching from the tall cedars.”

That description of Cape Decision comes from the summary of the 2018 South Kuiu Cleanup on the Ikkatsu Project web site. The program involved getting a dozen volunteers and all food and supplies from Wrangell out to the lighthouse and using that spot as our base to get to four different wilderness beaches, conducting debris surveys and sampling for microplastics before cleaning the flotsam off the shoreline.



THE IKKATSU PROJECT WHOLE WATER MICROPLASTICS SAMPLING, SOUTH KUIIU CLEANUP 2018

Date (MM-DD-YEAR)	Sample ID MICRO-WW MICROPLASTIC SAMPLER PROJECT ABBREVIATION	Time (military)	Latitude	Longitude	Beaufort Scale	Wind Direction	Water Temp (F)	Notes	Plastic per liter Fibers/Fragments
7/12/18	MICRO-WW-07122018-1-SKC	1500	N 56.3199°	W 134.7049°	2	SSW	49	Wall Track Beach Fort McArthur, Tongass Nat. Forest	25/0*
7/13/18	MICRO-WW-07132018-2-SKC	1615	N 56.9014°	W 134.1131°	N/A	N/A	51	Western Cove Kell Bay	5/0
7/20/18	MICRO-WW-07202018-3-SKC	1245	N 56.0277°	W 134.8998°	3	SW	47	Comma Cove Cape Decision	22/6
7/26/18	MICRO-WW-07262018-4-SKC	1700	N 56.3046°	W 134.93413°	6	W	N/A	Howard Cove Tongass Nat. Forest	13/0
7/27/18	MICRO-WW-07272018-5-SKC	1130	N 56.6111°	W 134.77432°	1	SW	49	The Landing Cape Decision	9/0
7/28/18	MICRO-WW-07282018-6-SKC	1430	N 56.1098°	W 134.80983°	5	WSW	47	Lighthouse-Beaches (64), Cape Decision	7/0

\*One fragment was found in one single subsample. This is the only fragment found in the samples analyzed so far.

Overall average plastic fibers per liter found is approximately 13.





**12 Volunteers  
2 Weeks  
4 Wilderness Beaches  
2,625 pounds of debris**

The sampling and surveys are scheduled to continue in 2019, with one of the studies that was done this summer going on to become even more relevant as time passes. The Landing, a small cove near the Cape, was selected to be the site of a deposition study, to track how debris accumulates over time. The beach was cleaned to 99% and all of the plastic that we could find was removed. When this beach is surveyed again, we'll know that every piece of debris that is found will have arrived in the intervening time. Studies like these are important to understanding the way that plastic moves back and forth between the water and the land.





**1 Day  
78 Volunteers  
669 Pounds of Debris**



## Tacoma Shoreline Survey

From the Day Island Bridge to the beaches of Northeast Tacoma, there are approximately 13 miles of shoreline located within the Tacoma city limits. (This excludes the tideflats and the Port.) The total distance was divided into nine sections, some to be done by kayak and others to be done on foot. The Tacoma Shoreline Survey was intended to accomplish several concrete goals while engaging volunteers and raising the visibility of the local marine debris issue.

First, the TSS was used to compile an actual list of types and quantities of debris that was found. The data generated can help to find the immediate causes of the problem and direct future cleanup efforts. Volunteers used the NOAA Marine Debris App as well as paper tally sheets to track their coverage and by the end of the day, we had a good snapshot of a day in the life of Tacoma's shoreline.

After the items of debris had been counted, volunteers were asked to pick them up, bag them and get them off the beach. In some sections, this required using kayaks or skiffs to transport it to more accessible locations. From there, everything was brought to the TSS tent on Ruston Way, where the weighing and sorting was done, right along the main pedestrian thoroughfare in the waterfront park. Everything we collected was sorted, either to be recycled or sent to the landfill, and the results speak for themselves.

As a local event, the TSS was wildly successful, and the relationship between Puget Sound and the open ocean (in terms of debris issues), was brought into sharper focus for all involved.

**In addition to the programs that have already been highlighted, the Ikkatsu Project is active in a variety of events throughout the year, using stories, images and film to raise awareness about issues that affect the ocean.**

**As a participant in panel discussions with Puget Soundkeeper or at Tacoma's Meaningful Movies, the Ikkatsu Project was able to effectively reach out to the community. By manning a booth at Oceanfest in June or hosting Green Drinks in November, there was – and continues to be – always some sort of outreach program on the schedule.**

**Other education opportunities took the Ikkatsu Project into elementary classrooms, talking with 5<sup>th</sup> graders about single-use plastics, the effects that they have on the waters of Puget Sound and ways that each of us can make a difference right where we live. The engagement and understanding of the students is most definitely a source of great optimism for the future.**

**Collaboration with other local environmental organizations continues to be an excellent way to involve more people in the effort. Harbor Wild Watch, Tacoma Metro Parks, Citizens for a Healthy Bay and the Puyallup Watershed Initiative have all been partners in various programs over the course of this year. South Sound Surfrider was also a major collaborator, on local beach cleanups as well as on the remote shorelines of southeast Alaska.**



## **2018 Program Financial Overview**

### **Expenses**

<b>Supplies</b>	<b>\$3296.65</b>
(Kayaking Parts/Equipment, Tools, Lab Equipment, Presentation Items, etc.)	
<b>Postage/Shipping</b>	<b>\$1,239.08</b>
(Includes Alaska shipping charges.)	
<b>Office Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,120.33</b>
(Copying, Office Supplies, Telephone, etc.)	
<b>Program Development</b>	<b>\$2350.00</b>
<b>Presentations/Film Production</b>	<b>\$4197.92</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>\$7,870.73</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b><u>\$955.00</u></b>
	<b>\$22,029.71</b>

### **Revenues**

<b>2017 End Balance</b>	<b>\$17,720.94</b>
<b>Grants</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b><u>\$4,110</u></b>
	<b>\$24,330.94</b>

The work that the Ikkatsu Project does would not be possible without the support of organizations and individuals who are passionate about the ocean. Special thanks goes out to Lush Cosmetics for their generous funding toward the South Kuiu Cleanup and the Fresh Water Testing Programs. Thanks to the Puyallup Watershed Initiative and Surfrider for their continued support and to everyone who contributed over the past year. Every dollar helps and every penny counts.

## Looking Ahead

2019 will see the continuation of several programs as well as the beginning of new ones. The Second Tacoma Shoreline Survey is on the calendar for May, when we will track the beaches after the winter storms have passed. Then, the journey to Alaska is on again in July, back to Cape Decision for this year's South Kuiu Cleanup. We're excited to be working closely with the Cape Decision Lighthouse Society on basic improvements at the lighthouse and at the Landing that will allow this work to continue for years to come.

The Fresh Water Plastics program is going to carry on as well, not only in the Sumner School District, but expanding to three other schools in the Puyallup River Watershed. Likewise, we're back in the Seventy48 Race this May, paddling a sea kayak this time but planning on a couple of different beach cleanups at points along the way during the race.

The festival-length film "Decision" is due to be out this spring, a documentary about land, sea and plastic in the Alaskan wilderness. The Ikkatsu Project is also planning on being an active part of the campaign for a state-wide bag initiative, looking forward to starting to reverse the input of plastic to the system. Presentations and film events will be happening all year, along with other things we haven't even thought of yet.

Thank you for your support!



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