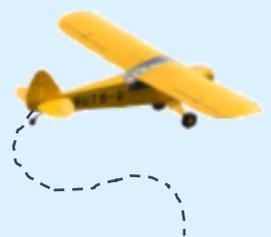




# SCRAPbook: Targeting Coastal Litter

**There are major problems with litter on Scottish coasts, but the spatial distribution of coastal litter accumulation is poorly understood. Increasing scientific, governmental, media and societal interest in coastal litter pollution highlight the importance of better understanding our coastal litter problem, and the need for a baseline set of data to illustrate the current situation.**

SCRAPbook (Scottish Coastal Rubbish Aerial Photography) is an exciting project founded by UK Civil Air Patrol (Sky Watch), Moray Firth Partnership and Marine Conservation Society, which uses **aerial photographs** taken from light aircraft to map **coastal litter hotspots** around the Scottish coastline. Sky Watch volunteer pilots survey the coastline, photographing litter on the coast below. These photographs are then sent to volunteers, who classify them based on the intensity and distribution of litter visible in each image. This data is used to produce maps showing the **spatial distribution and intensity** of coastal litter. The map can then be used to inform further, more detailed, on-the-ground surveys into specific litter types, as well as national strategy.



With the 2018 baseline dataset complete, 2019 saw SCRAPbook focus on two key areas, Orkney and Argyll & Bute:

# ARGYLL & BUTE 2018-2020

Thanks to funding from Marine Scotland, two Marine Litter Officers were posted in Oban, tasked with tackling coastal litter on the ground. The value of their role is in tackling large litter items which would be difficult for members of the public to remove – this involves physical collection and removal of the litter itself, as well as engagement with local businesses to provide the means of more efficient removal and disposal. Their collaboration with local businesses has opened up new solutions such as the use of landing craft to access remote locations, and reduced the issue of the disposal of collected waste through businesses offering to take collected litter for repurposing or disposal. Their work highlighted a key point – much of the litter was historic, so once removed and with increased litter prevention action, this type of litter is unlikely to occur again. Visit [www.scrapbook-scotland.org.uk/argyll/](http://www.scrapbook-scotland.org.uk/argyll/) to learn more.

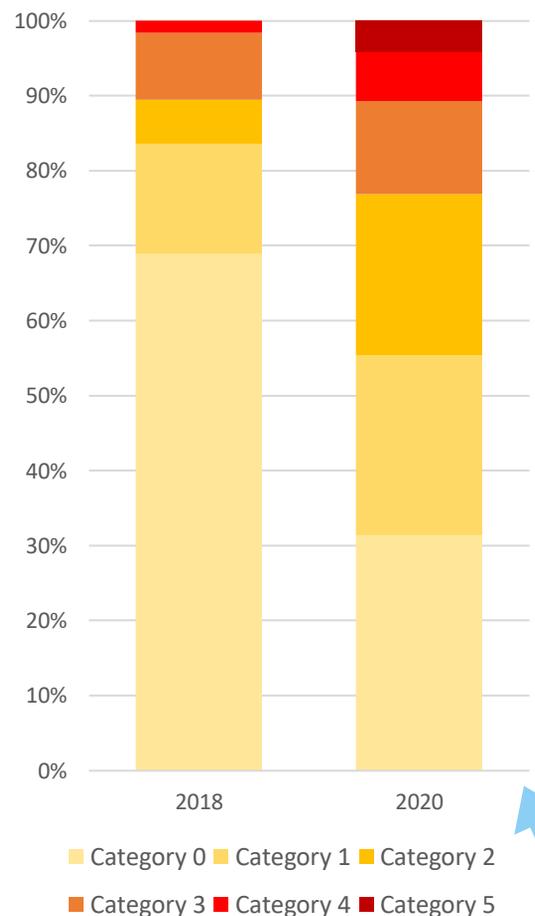


## Litter collected included...

- ✂ Mussel floats, pontoon floats and fish farm piping
- ✂ Fishboxes, drums, barrels, agricultural plastics
- ✂ Oil filters, fencing, engine parts, corrugated farm debris (150kg)
- ✂ Fishing ropes (1200m)
- ✂ Polystyrene
- ✂ Tyres (23)
- ✂ Engine oil (120l)
- ✂ Fishing net
- ✂ Buoys

More than  
**4500kg** of waste  
was collected –  
that's about the  
weight of two  
rhinos!

## Litter intensity changes in Argyll & Bute:



But after a couple of heavy storms - more needs to be done



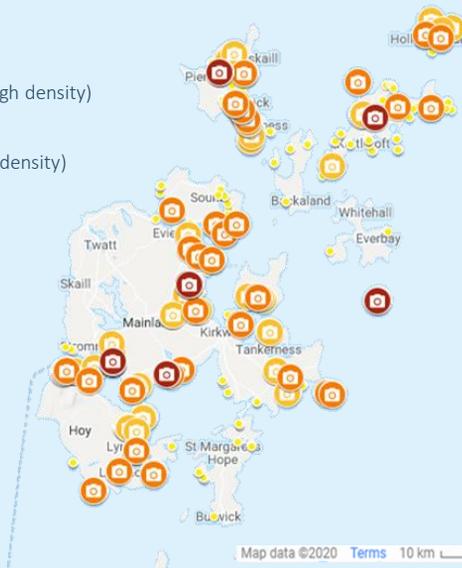
SCRAPbook's Marine Litter Officers found that a huge part of the litter problem in their target area were mussel buoys, which were difficult to collect and remove and were often damaged and so unable to be returned into industry. However, innovative solutions such as turning them into planters and water storage containers meant that they could avoid landfill.



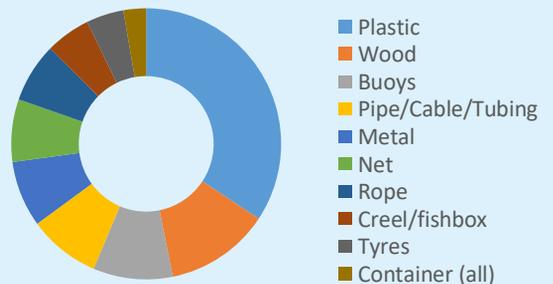
# ORKNEY 2019

A generous donation from Orkney-based distillery Highland Park allowed SCRAPbook to extend its reach to Orkney, and survey its beautiful coastline during the 2019 flights. The data collected shows that while most of Orkney's coastline is relatively clean, litter can be seen at locations all around the coastline. The most commonly found item was miscellaneous plastic, with almost 60% of sites where litter was recorded containing plastic items. Other common litter types included pieces of wood, buoys, pipes and cables, metal, net, rope, creels and tyres. The litter is likely to have come from both land and marine sources. In addition, there are hotspots where large items such as abandoned cars, scrap metal, old boat parts and pipes occur on certain beaches. Visit [www.scrapbook-scotland.org.uk/orkney/](http://www.scrapbook-scotland.org.uk/orkney/) to learn more.

- **Category 5** (widespread, high density)
- **Category 4** (localised, high density)
- **Category 3** (widespread, medium density)
- **Category 2** (localised, medium density)



Top 10 most common litter types by frequency



# MORAY FIRTH 2018-2020

Moray Firth Partnership covers Scotland's western coast from Fraserburgh to Wick. Using SCRAPbook data, Moray Firth Partnership are planning to tackle both recurring and historical litter items, by collaborating with groups already working to clean the coastline, and engaging with communities to raise awareness of the litter problem and start to clean new areas. By analysing the changes in litter intensity along the Moray Firth coastline between 2018 and 2019-20, different approaches can be taken to best address the issues in different areas. Visit [www.morayfirth-partnership.org/](http://www.morayfirth-partnership.org/) to learn more.



Large amounts of fishing litter and plastics were found on Whiteness Head. Moray Firth Partnership hope to collaborate to get the litter removed, and restore this beach to its natural beauty.



A visit to the Cromarty Firth allowed some of the SCRAPbook photographs to be ground-truthed, including these stone and metal items seen on the beach near Alness. Turning to social media revealed that they were likely wartime debris, linked to the nearby seaplane slipway.

Want to learn more?

Visit our website at [www.scrapbook-scotland.org.uk](http://www.scrapbook-scotland.org.uk) or get in touch at [info@scrapbook-scotland.org.uk](mailto:info@scrapbook-scotland.org.uk)

Founding partners:



With thanks to:



Keep Scotland Beautiful



logpartner.com



Highlands and Islands Airports Limited  
Puir-adhair na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean Earranta

Tay Charitable Trust

Hugh Fraser Foundation

