

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Tuna Industry Takes Beach Clean Up to the Next Level

The Port Lincoln Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) industry has taken their role of keeping Eyre Peninsula's beaches clear of marine debris to the next level.

"Discussions with Port Lincoln Parks and Gardens led to an intensive clean up of an area of Proper Bay. Of all the rubbish collected, three quarters of the waste from the shoreline was attributed to non-aquaculture related activities, with tyres being the biggest problem. ." said Claire Webber of the ASBTIA.

On Wednesday 17th April 2013, 20 people walked the shores of Proper Bay behind the racecourse picking up every piece of rubbish they could find.

Elizabeth Nosworthy of ASBTIA explained that "Industry members gathered at 9 am and were allocated zones to clear in the Proper Bay area, which has long been an equipment maintenance area for the SBT industry. Debris was collected on the coastline between the low tide mark and the old train line/road. Industry equipment was also consolidated and secured in a small area of Proper Bay over two days prior to the shore clean up".

Approximately 3110 kg was collected, of the total, tyres accounted for 48%, general waste 27% and aquaculture related 25%. "It was a big effort to coordinate the task, as well as the necessary vessels, cars, trucks, trailers and machinery required in order to pull everything together on the right tides." said Claire.

Despite removing over 3 tonnes of waste from the shoreline, there remains much rubbish further inland. It appears to be a community dumping ground, which is disappointing considering the waste depot is only a kilometre up the road., Dumping rubbish in Proper Bay is clearly a community issue, which has been brought to the attention of the Port Lincoln City Council.

"As well as participants from the SBT industry, we wish to acknowledge and thank the Port Lincoln City Council for waiving dumping fees, and Michelin Tyres for receiving four large trailer loads of illegally dumped tyres.

"The industry is more than willing to take ownership of shoreline debris that is aquaculture related and looks forward to working with the community on the issue as it is dedicated to best practice.

ADELAIDE OFFICE

PO Box 416 • Fullarton • South Australia 5063
Tel : +61 419 840 299 Fax : +61 8 8270 3630
E : austuna@bigpond.com

PORT LINCOLN OFFICE

PO Box 1146 • Unit 12/6 South Quay Boulevard • Port Lincoln • South Australia 5606
Tel : +61 8 8682 3257 Fax : +61 8 8682 3749 Mobile : +61 427 837 966
E : davidellisamc@bigpond.com

The Proper Bay clean up has coincided with the conclusion of a broader 12 month Adopt a Beach Program. The local aquaculture industry developed the Adopt a Beach concept after identifying the need for a collaborative approach to the regular collection of debris from beaches on lower Eyre Peninsula. This program is currently under review by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Claire Webber

Research and Liaison Officer, ASBTIA

Phone 0488 900384

Email sbt_research@bigpond.com