

**Aim:** Survey an agreed stretch of shoreline to obtain evidence relating to the categories of marine litter coming ashore on the Scottish Isles. Broadly, the purpose of the survey is to assist in providing reliable data sets year-round through active research for use by Marine Scotland to inform policy. This ensures that on-going issues that coastal communities face when collecting and treating marine waste are represented as well as providing an indicator for the repercussive ecological impacts faced by marine life. It is appreciated that not all beach cleaners will be able to cover a 100m stretch and can therefore choose to survey a 100m stretch **or** a 10m stretch whereby they can later multiply the information gathered by 10 to provide the average number of items on that particular shore.

**Additional:**

- ✓ For continuity, identify one or more locations for regular data collection. It is suggested a minimum of four surveys are carried out over the year at each site.
- ✓ Decide and record the length and breadth of the sample area to give metres covered as well as additional details such as number of volunteers and time spent cleaning.
- ✓ Photograph the area before and after the removal of the litter (record date on the image).

*Note: please read all steps before proceeding.*

**Methodology:**

- ✓ Use a tape measure to gauge a 10m/100m stretch across the shore.
- ✓ Begin to collect your marine litter.
- ✓ As you go, take a note of the **type** and **total pieces** of each waste category collected on the data sheet provided. This may be easier to tally for heavily littered beaches.
- ✓ Ensure litter is sorted in to two categories: **marine industry** and **other** litter.
- ✓ Be sure to note any 'other' items not listed in the data sheet.
- ✓ Leave behind any naturally occurring materials such as seaweed and driftwood.
- ✓ Once you have completed your beach clean, weigh the marine industry litter and other litter separately; making a note of these individual figures on the data sheet provided.
- ✓ Arrange for waste collection by your local waste and recycling centre. If you need advice on disposal, contact us at: [marinelitter@scottish-island-federation.co.uk](mailto:marinelitter@scottish-island-federation.co.uk).
- ✓ Finally, send a copy of your data sheets to [marinelitter@scottish-island-federation.co.uk](mailto:marinelitter@scottish-island-federation.co.uk) with the **subject header: SIF Big Data Collection Event.**

**What You Will Need:**

- **Tape Measure**
- **Litter Pickers**
- **Black Bin Liners**
- **Gloves/Pen**
- **Litter Category Sheet**
- **Hanging scales**