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Western CEDAR

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2022 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference
(Online)

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A community collaboration striving for a Plastic Free Salish Sea

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San Juan County

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PLASTIC FREE SALISH SEA

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1. San Juan County Marine Resources Committee, 2. San Juan County Department of Environmental Stewardship, 3. The Remakery, Lopez Island, 4. Friends of the San Juans



Plastic Free Salish Sea is an example of transboundary citizen led efforts to address the broader challenges of plastic consumption and pollution from local perspectives.

Plasticfreesalishsea.org

Background

Plastic pollution has become a globally recognized problem. Its presence is having a devastating effect on marine life as well as human health. The impacts of larger marine debris such as derelict fishing gear and discarded household items can result in deadly entanglements of marine life including mammals, birds, sea turtles and fish. More alarming is the proliferation of microplastics throughout the world's oceans, including here in the Salish Sea. Plastics of all forms can be found along shorelines throughout the Salish Sea, including San Juan County.



The local Youth Conservation Corps created art from plastics found on the islands' beaches

In 2018, the San Juan County Marine Resources Committee joined forces with solid waste managers and non-profits throughout the county to develop an education and awareness building campaign aimed at changing citizen behavior and the culture of plastics use. This campaign, Plastic Free Salish Sea was established with the bold vision to eliminate single-use plastics in San Juan County. Check the Plastic Free Salish Sea Website by scanning this QR code!

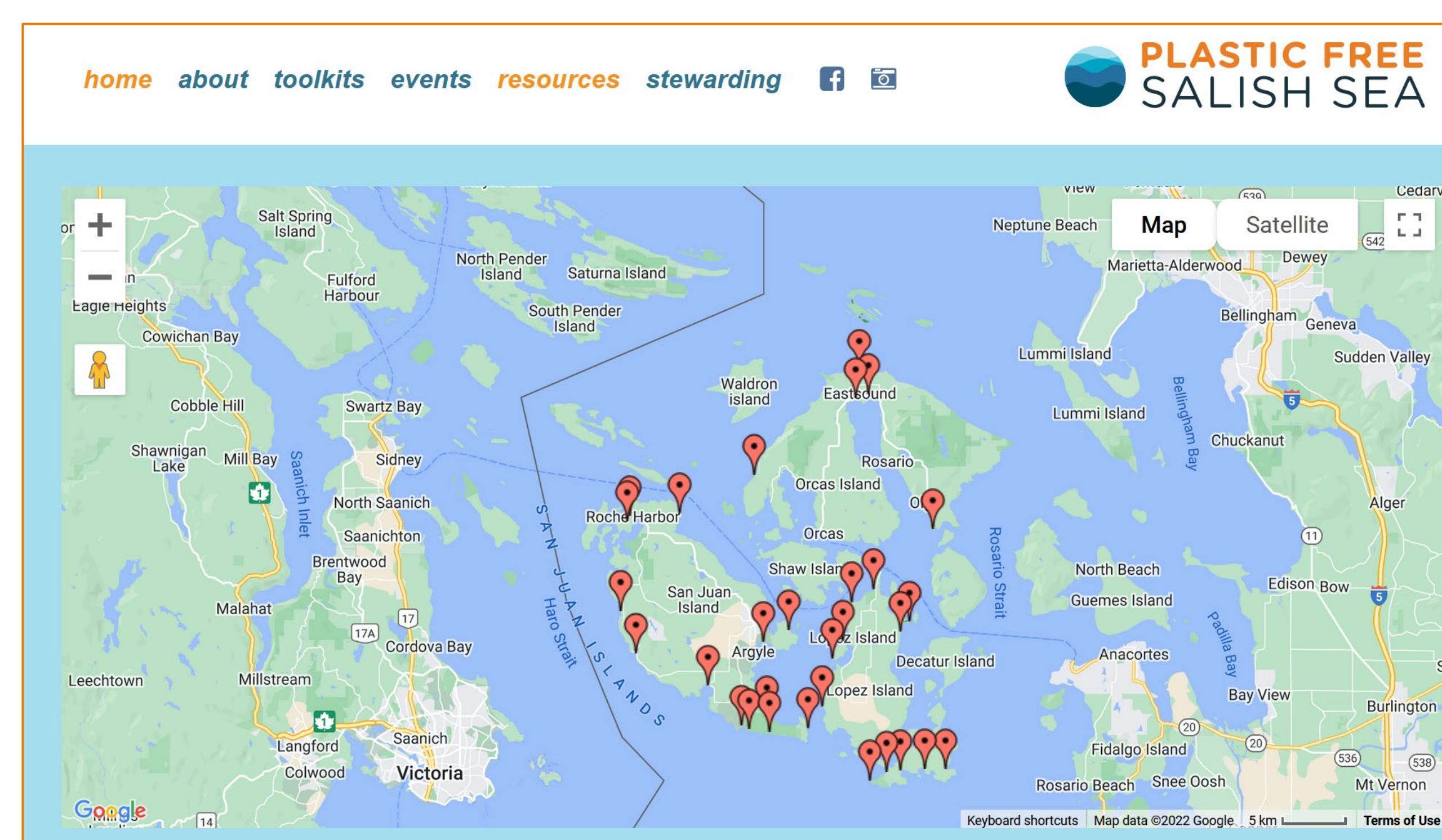


Beach Stewards

We've recruited community members as beach stewards to help keep San Juan County's shorelines and beaches beautiful.



Individuals, families, and teams adopt beaches and pledge to clean their chosen beach at regular time intervals. They can report their effort and what they collect through the Plastic Free Salish Sea website.



Plastic Free Salish Beach Stewards have adopted public and private beaches all over San Juan County

Tool kits & Resources

We created toolkits to living plastic free in the San Juan Islands.

We have created some nifty guides and videos with easily accessible steps and resources to reduce plastic usage for individuals, community event organizers, and small businesses in the San Juan Islands, emphasizing the strength we have in the community.

PLASTIC FREE SALISH SEA PRESENTS

TIPS FOR BEING PLASTIC FREE IN THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS

OUTDOORS EDITION

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN

Land managers in the San Juan Islands have different guidelines on how to dispose of waste. While these guidelines may be different, you should always be prepared to pack out everything that you pack in. To learn more about agency specific waste disposal, please call their respective call ahead.

BRING A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE

STAY HYDRATED!

60 million plastic bottles end up in landfills and incinerators every day. Be part of the solution by bringing your own water bottle when spending time outdoors. Some public lands have water bottle refill stations. Check with them in advance to see if this is available.

BRING REUSABLE PET SUPPLIES

KEEP YOUR PUP HYDRATED, TOO!

If you like to explore the outdoors with your four-legged friends, remember to bring a reusable container for your dog as well. Temperatures in the islands can get pretty high in the summer.

BRING AN EXTRA BAG FOR TRASH

KEEP OUR ISLANDS CLEAN & GREEN

The San Juan Islands are known as an outdoor enthusiast's paradise. We all have a responsibility to keep these natural areas clean. Next time you are hiking, cycling, or spending time outdoors, bring an extra reusable bag and clean up any trash you see!

BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND REUSABLE CONTAINERS & UTENSILS

Many natural areas are not near restaurants or other food vendors. A great way to avoid getting hungry while on a hike AND reduce plastic usage is to bring your own meals, snacks, reusable containers, and utensils.

PLASTIC FREE SALISH SEA

PlasticFreeSalishSea.org

TIPS FOR LIVING PLASTIC FREE

6 tips to help you get started

Every day approximately 8 million pieces of plastic pollution find their way into our oceans. How can you help?

SHOPPING BAGS

Instead of using single-use plastic bags provided at stores, use paper bags or better yet, bring your own reusable bag!

WATER BOTTLES

Carrying a reusable water bottle and coffee mug instead of buying disposable plastic bottles/cups is a great way to stay hydrated and reduce your plastic usage.

BUY BULK

Ready-made, small portioned products are often packaged in a lot of plastic packaging. Buying bulk can eliminate unnecessary packaging and can be much less expensive. A win for the planet and your wallet!

ON-THE-GO MEAL KIT

Keep a meal kit with you that includes food containers, utensils, a reusable straw, and for on the go meals or takeout from restaurants.

HOME SUPPLIES

Many local stores and online companies are working towards providing low-waste alternatives. Some examples include shampoo bars, toothpaste tablets, and plastic free laundry detergent tablets!

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Wondering how to further live a plastic free lifestyle? Visit our website or any other organization working to reduce plastic usage for more tips on how to live plastic free.

REDUCE YOUR USE OF SINGLE USE GROCERY BAGS

REUSE

Bring a bag! Don't buy your groceries. Walk your items to your car or basket and pack them in your clean, reusable bag or basket or your car or basket. If you don't have them, go outside the store!

GOOD

Use a recycled paper bag and hang up your groceries yourself!

AVOID

Bring the single-use plastic bags offered at the stores.

REDUCE THE PACKAGING YOUR FOOD IS IN

REUSE

Buy fresh, buy local - collect! Buy local produce or CSA boxes. Your reusable bag is your friend!

GOOD

Choose items that are packaged in plastic-free or recycled cardboard or metal cans. These containers light up the lights!

AVOID

Single-serving packaged items.

REDUCE YOUR TAKE OUT FOOTPRINT

REUSE

Before the restaurant, reusable plastic forks or knives. If you plan to eat your food out of your car, reusable water bottles and water jugs are your reusable friends!

GOOD

Bring your own reusable water bottle and water jugs.

AVOID

Single-use plastic water bottles and water jugs.

DON'T FORGET! USE REUSABLE FACEMASKS WHEN OUT IN PUBLIC

Leave the reusable face masks for the health professionals and law enforcement or support a local community member who is making face masks and also donating to essential workers such as nurses, police, firefighters, etc. Remember the best is to wash your hands often - use the hand sanitizer outside grocery stores and don't touch your face!

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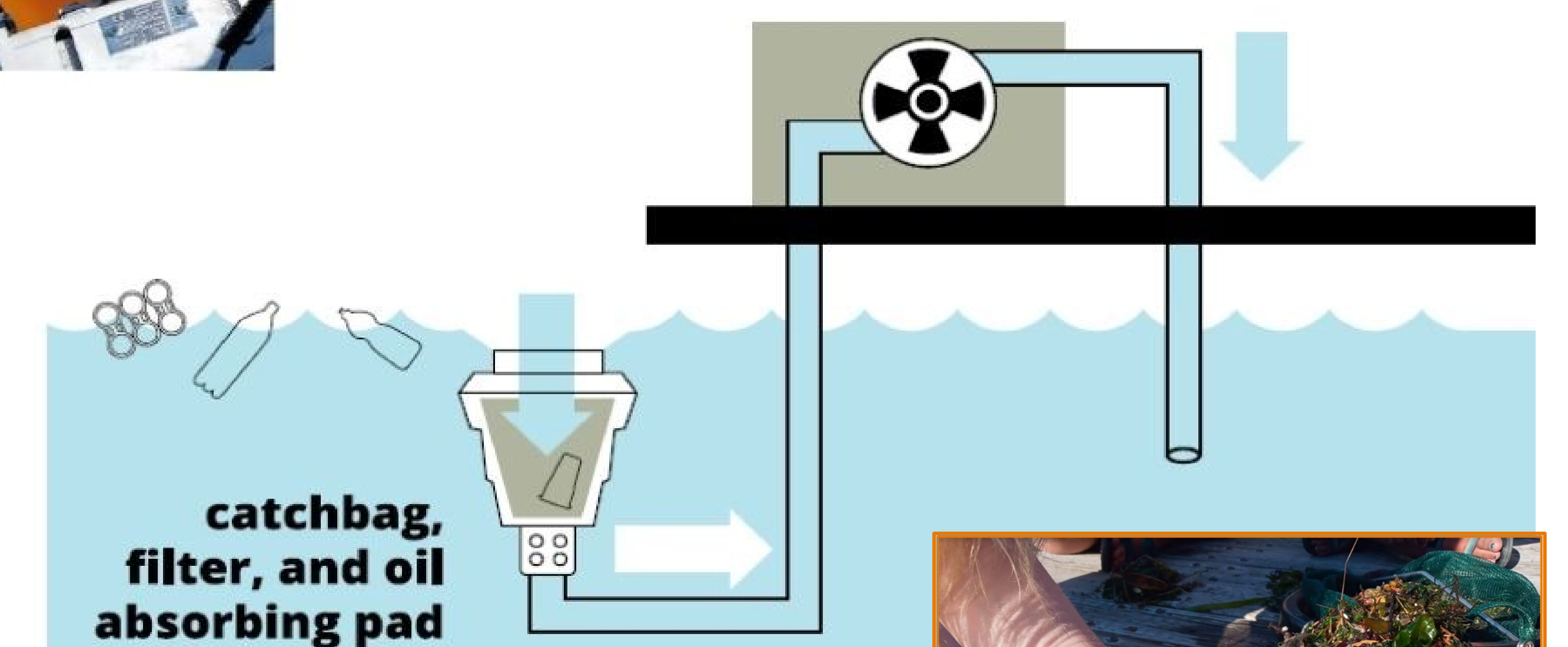
SeaBin

We're using innovative ocean-cleaning technology to collect trash and filter pollution, gather data, and raise public awareness.



The SeaBin is like a marine vacuum cleaner that moves up and down with the tide, collecting floating debris, microplastics, and oil.

pump circulates 25,000 liters each hour



catchbag, filter, and oil absorbing pad



- Contents emptied and checked daily
- Collects floating debris, microplastics over 2 mm, and surface oils and fuels.
- Is not harmful to wildlife (fish avoid it, and any marine creatures caught are unharmed and returned to their habitat by careful hands).