

POC Shorelines Cleanup
September 12, 2020

San Antonio Bay

Partnership

San Antonio Bay - Guadalupe Estuary

2020 Cleanup Summary

SABP Message:

San Antonio Bay Partnership has drawn conclusions from first POC Shoreline Clean Up and the data collected:

Two hundred and thirty-nine bags of trash collected, including 2382 plastic beverage bottles, in half a day's effort by 73 concerned citizens, is an admirable effort. But is also indicative of a significant problem effecting our bays: plastic marine debris. While plastics have brought great benefits, we must keep them out of our bays.

The data from the POC Shoreline Cleanup confirms that plastic beverage bottles, plastic bags, aluminum cans, and plastic drink cups make up significant portion of the retrieved trash around Port O'Connor.

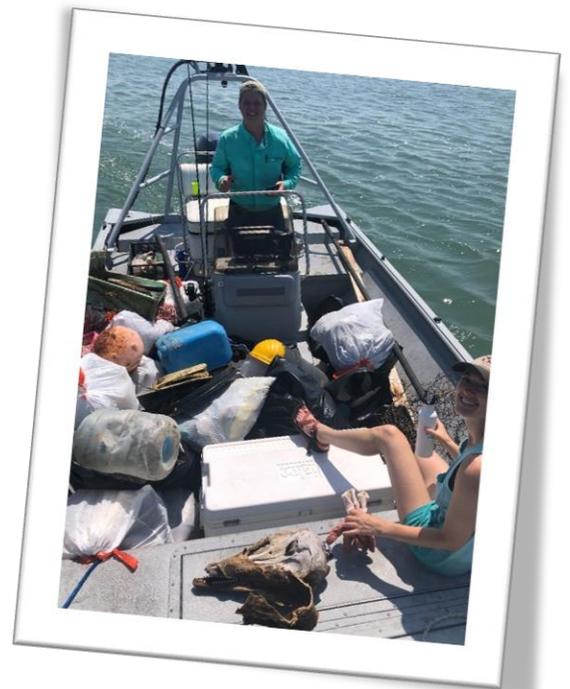
The good news is that reducing this pollution is within our individual control. Allan Berger, Chair of the San Antonio Bay Partnership and coordinator of the Cleanup, believes much of it is blown off boats using the bay. "The data gathered from this cleanup and my observations lead me to conclude that much of it is blown off boats using the bay. I paddle shorelines frequently and I see the fresh evidence. With a little effort, we can do better and ensure that our bays and estuaries remain heathy and productive."

"The science regarding the consequences of plastics of in the marine environment is emerging, but it's hard to imagine that is not harmful. As important is the impression the trash leaves on bay users. Who wants to fish or paddle along a row of garbage? Our attraction is our bays— Let's keep them natural!"

[See Photos from the 2020 Cleanup](#)

Results

Bags of Trash Removed	239
Trash Removed	4.6 tons
Teams/Individuals	15/71
Manhours of effort	250
Shoreline cleaned	19 miles



POC Shorelines Cleanup	Miles - Walked	Miles- Paddled	Miles- Boated
Espiritu Santo Bay			
Blackberry Island East	0.4		
Blackberry Island West	0.7		
Barroom + Big Bayou		2.9	
Big Bayou		1.5	
Chris' Shore			
Bill Day Reef			
Saluria	0.2		
Tellers			
Bayucos South Shore			
Grass Island			
Farwell Island	1.3		
Whitakers Shore			1.8
Big Pocket Shore			
Lighthouse Cove			
Matagorda Bay			
Little Jetty Shore	0.5	1.0	
E Bayucos		1.6	
Coast Guard Shore to Sur	1.5		
J-Hook to Sunday Cove			2.0
Pass Cavallo			
Broad Bayou			
Powderhorn East Shore	0.9		
Boggy Bayou	0.4	1.5	
Intracoastal Waterway			
East	0.2		
West	0.5		
West	0.2		
Total	6.8	8.5	3.8



Awful Five - Top Documented Trash

Plastic beverage bottles	2382
Aluminum cans	688
Plastic bags	478
Glass containers	293
Drink cups	218

Other Notable Trash

- Plastic Fragments – too many to count!
- Shotgun Shells 207
- Fishing line, lures, corks 159
- Flipflops & Shoes - not counted but abundant

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE LITTER IN OUR BAYS:

- ✓ Secure the trash on your boat. Plastic bottles, plastic bags and wrappers, buckets and other stuff, blow off easily.
- ✓ Use alternative containers, e.g. metal water bottles and cups instead of plastic water bottles and Styrofoam and plastic cups, to reduce the opportunity to lose them from your boat.
- ✓ Leave the Bay cleaner after your trips. Pick up, instead of walking by, trash.
- ✓ Participate in Clean Ups and Crab Trap Removal events. Specifically, boats are needed to transport volunteers to remote sites. If you cannot participate, contribute to support those who can.
- ✓ Encourage your friends and family to do the same!

Reflections on 2020 POC Shorelines Cleanup Event

1. The frequently documented items are mostly light weight and easily blow from boats when not properly secured.
2. Glass containers are not likely to blow off boat; perhaps willfully discarded.
3. Plastic fragments reflect the known life cycle and deterioration of plastics.
4. Shotgun shells can be addressed by increased diligence of the hunters to retrieve them.
5. While fishermen certainly do not want to lose their fish to a line break, monofilament line in the marine environment is particularly harmful to birds and turtles.
6. Areas with heavy accumulations of trash took a lot longer and reduced the shoreline miles cleaned.
7. More boats and volunteers are needed!



HUGE Thank You to our Generous Sponsors!



Helping Here.



[See Photos from the 2020 Cleanup](#)