



2021 POC shorelines Cleanup Summary

A large group photograph of approximately 30 volunteers of various ages posing outdoors. They are standing in two rows, with some individuals sitting or kneeling in front. They are wearing casual summer clothing like t-shirts, shorts, and hats. Behind them is a white fence under a clear blue sky with a few clouds.

POC Shorelines CLEANUP 2021

Complete cleanup report: SABayPartnership.org

PORT O'CONNOR
Bay R.A.T.
Removing Awful Trash

Item	Count
Trash Bags Full	338
Drink Bottles	1564
Balloons & Strings	54
Shoes	338
Fishing Line, Nets & Gear	142
Shotgun Shells	260
Aluminum Cans	554

SABP Message: San Antonio Bay Partnership and its volunteers conducted its second POC

Shoreline Clean Up on September 18, 2021

Three hundred thirty-eight bags of trash collected, including 1564 plastic beverage bottles, in half a day's effort by 55 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 healthy 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!"

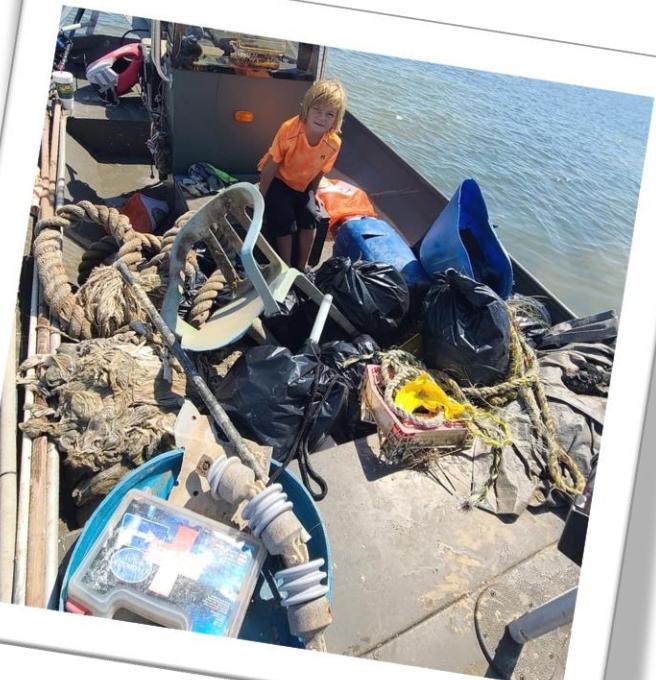
2021 Results

338 Bags of Trash Removed

2.3 Tons of Trash Removed

17 Teams, 55 Individuals

221 Manhours of effort



Targeted Shorelines



Awful Five - Top Documented Trash

Plastic beverage bottles	1564
Drink cups	689
Plastic bags	623
Aluminum cans	554
Flip-flops & Shoes	338

Other Notable Trash

Plastic Fragments – too many to count!	
Jugs and containers	264
Shotgun Shells	260
Fishing line, lures, corks	142
Balloons & strings	54

Reflections on 2021 POC Shorelines Cleanup Event

1. The frequently documented items are mostly light weight and easily blow from boats when not properly secured.
2. Plastic fragments reflect the known life cycle and deterioration of plastics.
3. Shotgun shells can be addressed by increased diligence of the hunters to retrieve them.
4. 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, marine mammals, and sea turtles.
5. Areas with heavy accumulations of trash took a lot longer and reduced the shoreline miles cleaned.
6. More boats and volunteers are needed.
7. We could not do this without our Sponsors!

Join the Bucket Brigade!



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!

Contact Allan to get your
Bay R.A.T. Bucket
AllanRBerger@outlook.com



Heartfelt Thanks to our Generous Sponsors:



and

Volunteers like you.

Thank you for keeping our Bays clean and productive!

