

Initiative for Marine Debris Clean-up and Disposal

June 2008



Introduction

As in other arenas humankind has been terribly disrespectful and abusive of our marine environment. The time has come to turn the corner on this behavior and begin to clean our own “nest”.

We have been in contact with an Alaskan non-profit organization, the **Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation**, and they have indicated an interest in matching funds with **Earth Council Geneva** in order to see this project go forward this summer. They have not committed entirely, but have given a strong indication that they feel matching funds will be available. Since they have efforts underway in other parts of Alaska, they have requested that we specifically target Shelikof Strait, as they know the debris accumulation is heavy, and no effort is currently being made in this area.



Initiative

The proposal is that Dan Strickland would dedicate the vessel he and his partner, Pam, own, for fifty days during the summer of 2008, to reach remote Alaskan beaches and retrieve marine debris. Simultaneously, they would embark on a public relations program which would highlight the pertinent issues, raise awareness of the problem, and establish a grass roots effort to combat the abuse of our oceans on a continuing basis.

The vessel is 13M, and located in the port of Homer in southcentral Alaska.

We would visit beaches in Shelikof Strait and those of the Katmai coast, and retrieve substantial amounts of debris. This would be catalogued, photographed, and brought to port to be recycled. This pilot project could be exported throughout the world, perhaps targeting the Mediterranean Sea during the summer of 2009.



The proposed time frame coincides with the Alaskan summer. The weather patterns are more benign, there are far fewer storms, and collection of debris is easiest at this time. The months of June, July, and August would be targeted.

All debris collected would be photographed, catalogued and recorded. It would be recycled or disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner. The disposal of the debris would highlight the need to have facilities at all Alaskan ports capable of properly recycling marine debris.