



Welcome to Reef Check Malaysia's fourth newsletter of the year!

Hello everyone and welcome to our fourth and final newsletter of 2018! This year has been quite a journey for RCM, and we've learnt a lot through the work we have done. We're looking forward for the last 3 months of 2018, but first let's take a look at what we have been up to in the last 3 months.

As most of you now know, RCM has started a long battle against marine debris, and this has been one of our main focuses this entire year. One main event we conducted was the International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) in Malaysia. RCM has conducted beach clean-ups in conjunction with the ICC annually, but this year we organized one on a much larger scale. This issue of our newsletter will highlight the ICC effort in Malaysia.

The International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) Day in Malaysia, 2018

The International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) Day began more than 30 years ago, when communities rallied together with the common goal of collecting and documenting the trash littering coastlines in order to identify ways to eliminate ocean trash in the future. It is the world's biggest annual volunteer effort to protect the ocean. Thanks to volunteers around the world, the ICC has become a beacon of hope, leading and inspiring action in support of our ocean.

Over the years, this movement has created a family that spans oceans and country borders. It is a network that works together for something bigger than us. Data collected by volunteers who participate in the ICC can now be recorded on the 'Clean Swell' app. The data collected all around the world will be sent for analysis and compilation by Ocean Conservancy, which will assist them in tackling the issue of trash in our oceans.

RCM has conducted beach clean-ups in Tioman and Mantanani Islands in conjunction with ICC every year. This year however, we organized a nationwide beach clean-up on a much larger scale, in partnership with Coca-Cola and Body Shop, as well as various other partners and volunteers across Malaysia. This clean-up was held on the 22nd September 2018, also in conjunction with the ICC 2018. This clean-up is also part of our efforts for the 3rd International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2018), and RCM's long term campaign to reduce marine debris, specifically plastic waste.

RCM has teamed up with Coca-Cola and other industry players to try to find real, lasting solutions, besides just organising beach clean-ups. We are now working with a wide group of stakeholders including the brands, waste management companies, recyclers and government to find out just where the problems lie, and find real, lasting solutions. Our goal is: no more beach clean-ups in 10 years.

This clean-up was conducted at 84 locations around Malaysia, with the help of more than 4000 volunteers. More than 7,500 kg of trash was removed from beaches, with the most common items being plastic bottles, cigarette butts and plastic bags. All the teams involved in this clean-up were self-organising, and RCM provided briefing materials on how to conduct clean-ups and collect data. All data collected was recorded using the Clean Swell app.



A beach clean-up in progress in Pulau Kalapuan - Photo credit TRACC



Some of the participants in Desaru (Photo credit - Coca-Cola)



Tengku Zatashah leading one of the clean-ups in Pantai Morib, Selangor (Photo credit - Tengku Zatashah)



Clean-up efforts in Pulau Tioman - Photo credits J&A Productions

**list of partners and data from the clean-up are available at the end of this newsletter. More photos are available on our Facebook page and Facebook group: Malaysians Against Marine Debris.*

EcoDiver Training and Surveys

We now have a new Reef Check Certified Facility, the Tropical Research and Conservation Centre (TRACC) in Semporna, Sabah. We also trained three new Ecodiver Trainers from TRACC.

As for our annual surveys, we have now completed Tenggol, Kapas, Sibut Tinggi, Pulau Payar as well as Lahad Datu, Matakang and Mantanani in Sabah. Surveys in Miri, Sarawak are almost completed with the help of our dedicated volunteers, Neil and Angela. This year we finally managed to conduct our first survey at Pulau Aur together with DMPM after a 5-year gap. It will be interesting to look at the changes that have taken place in these 5 years.

We'd like to thank Dungun Dive Resort, Aqua Sport Divers, Darvel Bay Diving, Mari-Mari Mantanani and Mantanani Dream for the diving logistical support. We also like to express our heartiest gratitude to DMPM for their continuous and strategic partnership in making our survey a success! Last but not least, we will never be able to complete our surveys without the support of our dedicated volunteers! A huge shout out to all the volunteers who have made our survey trips enjoyable and fun.



EcoDiver Trainer training in Semporna



Surveys in Kapas Island with volunteers

Tioman Island Programme – Cintai Tioman

Our Reef Check Malaysia (RCM) team on Tioman Island recently received a visit from Yayasan Sime Darby (YSD), the main funders of the Cintai Tioman community programme. This visit, along with a media team, was organized by YSD, to visit the island and gauge the success of the all the programmes conducted by RCM on the island. We are now into our 5th year of this community programme.

A few local islanders were invited to share their experience in working with RCM and from participating in the programmes and activities organized by RCM. The Director General of the Department of Marine Parks Malaysia (DMPM), En. Abdul Rahim bin Hj. Gor Yaman, and the Director of the Pahang Department of Marine Parks, En. Fazli bin Long joined this visit by YSD.



Part of the group during the visit



The group during a short discussion session

Do follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CintaiTioman> for regular updates on our programmes and activities on the island.

Mantanani Island Programme – Cintai Mantanani

As part of our capacity building initiative on Mantanani Island, we have conducted a series of Basic English Language Training (BELT) for the local community of Mantanani Island in July 2018. The classes were led by our island-based staff, Mohd Adzmin and assisted by our internship student from University of Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Dhivvian. You can follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cintaimantanani/> for more updates on our Cintai Mantanani effort.

Pulau Sibü Community Project

RCM and members of the local community from Sibü Island were invited again by MY GEF DSCP partner Langkawi Dolphin Research (MareCet) to participate in their joint seagrass sampling survey that is in collaboration with University Malaya. This survey is part of a continuous work to study dugong feeding ecology in the Sibü-Tinggi archipelago. This collaboration is made possible by the GEF Dugong & Seagrass Conservation Project. A video of this sampling survey can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/rcmalaysia/videos/1762636510492069/>

In August, RCM held the first joint stakeholders meeting in Sibü Island, as part of our efforts in getting local stakeholders involved in MPA management. The focus of this meeting was to set up a co-management approach that is acceptable to all stakeholders. A general consensus was achieved and a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the co-management set up is currently being drafted by RCM.



Discussion during the stakeholders meeting



The group involved in the meeting

Data from the International Coastal Clean-up Day (ICC) 2018 in Malaysia

Clean Up Summary	Total
People	4018
Kilograms	7576.63

Most Likely to Find Items	Total Items		Total Items
Cigarette Butts	20299	Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	30248
Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	7870	Beverage Bottles (Glass)	2897
Take Out/Away Containers (Plastic)	4418	Beverage Cans	3963
Take Out/Away Containers (Foam)	3728	Grocery Bags (Plastic)	12055
Bottle Caps (Plastic)	8782	Other Plastic Bags	524
Bottle Caps (Metal)	94	Paper Bags	143
Lids (Plastic)	2274	Cups, Plates (Paper)	211
Straws, Stirrers	8182	Cups, Plates (Plastic)	3401
Forks, Knives, Spoons	2634	Cups, Plates (Foam)	204
Fishing Gear			
Fishing Buoys, Pots & Traps	359	6-Pack Holders	56
Fishing Net & Pieces	290	Other Plastic/Foam Packaging	1474
Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	35	Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.)	448
Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	179	Strapping Bands	123
Fishing Gear (Clean Swell)	3672	Tobacco Packaging/Wrap	118
		Other Packaging (Clean Swell)	2065
Other Items			
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	45	Condoms	6
Balloons	644	Diapers	372
Cigar Tips	73	Syringes	11
Cigarette Lighters	249	Tampons/Tampon Applicators	14
Construction Materials	111	Personal Hygiene (Clean Swell)	663
Fireworks	18		
Tires	10	Tiny Trash Less Than 2.5 cm	
Toys	573	Foam Pieces	1878
Other Trash (Clean Swell)	14397	Glass Pieces	93
		Plastic Pieces	24990

(*Data published based on reports received as of 5pm, 28th September 2018)

Clean-up Locations	Organisers
Cat Beach, Teluk Bahang	Catlovers Penang
Dataran Kembara, Mersing	Skwad Amal Pantai Bestari
Desaru Offshore Fishing	Coca-Cola
Hibiscus Walk, Lexis Hibiscus, Port Dickson	The Body Shop
Jalan Tangki, Klang	Munira
Johor - various locations	TRACC
Kurung Tengar	UniMAP Residential College Student Council
Lutong Beach, Miri	Curtin University Dive Club
Mandurah Hotel Beach, Kuantan	Out of the Box
Pantai Air Papan, Mersing	Skwad Amal Pantai Bestari
Pantai Angkat SK Lambidan, Kuala Penyu	SK Lambidan
Pantai Bagan Lalang	Selangor State Government, Aker Solutions
Pantai Bak-Bak	Trash Hero Kudat
Pantai Bandar Mersing	Skwad Amal Pantai Bestari
Pantai Belawai, Sibul	Woodlands International School, Iftitah Restaurant & Resort
Pantai Cahaya Negeri, Port Dickson	Tokyo Marine Life Insurance Malaysia
Pantai Dickson, Kampung Teluk Pelanduk (12th Mile)	Kent
Pantai Kelanang	Si Peng Wong
Pantai Mersing	Jabatan Taman Laut Malaysia
Pantai Minyak Beku, Batu Pahat	Metrics Global
Pantai Morib	Selangor State Government, Metrics Global
Pantai Pandan, Lundu	Sarawak Eco Warriors, WCS, Kuching Beach Cleaners, Coca-Cola
Pantai Pasir Panjang, Balik Pulau	AZ Salleh
Pantai Penyabong, Mersing	Skwad Amal Pantai Bestari
Pantai Purnama, Port Dickson	Wina Shamsuddin
Pantai Puteri, Tanjung Kling	TOFU Malaysia
Pantai Redang	Ho Kooi Chee
Pantai Remis	Selangor State Government, Metrics Global
Pantai Senok, Bachok	Noblebeez
Pantai Sungai Batu, Teluk Kumbar	RCE Sejahtera Youth USM
Pantai Tanjung Piai	Trash Hero Malaysia
Pantai Teluk Batik	Trash Hero Lumut
Pantai Teluk Ketapang	UMT, Coca-Cola
Pantai Teluk Likas 2	Trash Hero Borneo
Pantai Teluk Mak Nik	The Body Shop, Coca-Cola
Pengkalan Balak	WD Foundation
Piasau Boat Club beach, Miri	Piasau Boat Club
Pulau Gaya - Padang Point	Sabah Parks
Pulau Kalapuan	TRACC
Pulau Kapas	Kapas Conservation Club
Pulau Lang Tengah and Tanjung Jara	Lang Tengah Turtle Watch
Pulau Langkawi - Pantai Kok & Tanjung Rhu	Trash Hero Langkawi

Pulau Mabul	Scuba Junkie Mabul
Pulau Mabul	SDC Mabul
Pulau Mabul	Trash Hero Semporna
Pulau Mamutik	Sabah Parks
Pulau Mantanani Besar	Reef Check Malaysia
Pulau Manukan	Sabah Parks
Pulau Manukan	Sutera Sanctuary Lodges
Pulau Payar	Jabatan Taman Laut Malaysia
Pulau Perhentian	Bubbles Dive Centre
Pulau Perhentian	Ombak Dive Resort
Pulau Perhentian Besar - Teluk Dalam	Leisure Divers
Pulau Perhentian Besar - Teluk Keke	Reef Check Malaysia, British High Commission, Ecoteer
Pulau Perhentian Kecil - Long Beach	Angel Diver
Pulau Perhentian Kecil - Pantai Aching	Sea Voice Divers
Pulau Perhentian Kecil - Romantic Beach	Anti Gravity Divers
Pulau Pom Pom	TRACC
Pulau Rawa	Orca Scuba
Pulau Rawa, Perhentian	Island Watch Conservation Initiative
Pulau Redang - Long Beach	Coral Redang Island Resort and Dragonet Diving
Pulau Redang - Long Beach	Jabatan Taman Laut Malaysia
Pulau Rusukan Besar	Jabatan Taman Laut Malaysia
Pulau Sapi	Sabah Parks
Pulau Sibul	Jabatan Taman Laut Malaysia
Pulau Sibul	Reef Check Malaysia, MARECET
Pulau Sibul - Naked Beach (Northern Point)	Rimba (Hi-Tide Divers)
Pulau Sibulan (underwater), Semporna	Mabul Scuba
Pulau Sipadan	Seaventures Dive Rig
Pulau Tengah	Batu Batu Resorts, Tengah Island Conservation
Pulau Tiga	Sabah Parks
Pulau Tiga	Survivor Lodge
Pulau Tioman - Air Batang Bay	B&J Dive Centre
Pulau Tioman – Bunut	Accenture
Pulau Tioman - Multiple locations	Reef Check Malaysia, JCI Iskandar, Lions Club International District 308B1
Pulau Tioman - Pantai South Tekek	Tioman Dive Centre, Jabatan Taman Laut Malaysia
Simpang Mengayau, Kudat	Amir Sani
Tanjung Aru Beach 2	Shangri-La Tanjung Aru Resort
Tanjung Tuan, Melaka	Kent
Tuaran	Shangri-La Rasa Ria Resort
Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, Kota Kinabalu	Scuba Junkie Kota Kinabalu