



# OceanGybe Beach Pollution Study

Location: Hesquiat Peninsula, Vancouver Island, Canada

Latitude: 49° 22.8' N

Longitude: 127° 28.8' W

Local Geography: The western tip of the Hesquiat Peninsula sits north of the coastal village of Tofino. The end of the Peninsula does not feature any major rivers or stream and is relatively flat compared with the steep mountainous coastline in the vicinity.

Local Population Size: None. Closest area of habitation is Hot Springs Cove - approximately 50km away.

Study Location Description: Flat gravel/sand area on the north-western tip of the point. The steep beach slope led us to believe that waves sweep over the entire beach and into the forest during winter. Evidence of oceanic pollution was found up to 10m inside the forest. Therefore it was assumed this beach would be “swept clean” with each passing winter.

Study Area: 100m X 2.5m = 250m<sup>2</sup>

## Pollution:

- Foam fishing floats: 5
- Large plastic fishing floats: 12
- Small plastic fishing float (Japan UBE): 1
- Large rubber bumper: 1
- Fabric camping chair handle: 1
- Medium sized school backpack: 1
- Non drinking plastic containers: 3
- Pieces of Styrofoam: 9
- large pieces of metal (1 cylinder head, 1 tow bar, 1 very large rusty propane tank from Nisho Japan LPG): 3
- Black piece of plastic crate: 2
- 15 gallon plastic water container (perfect condition USA): 1
- Shoe soles: 3
- Metres of fishing rope: 20
- Plastic drinking container (2L down 330ml): 18
- Very very large plastic buoy broken in half: 1

Random pieces of random plastic: 7

Pollution Density:  $68 \text{ pieces} / 250\text{m}^2 = 0.27 \text{ pieces/m}^2$

Notes: As with Amos Creek, the numbers belie the fact that this beach was extremely polluted, much of the pollution indicated coming from Japan or China. Much of the pollution was in large chunks which could be due to the lack of extreme heat/sunshine and warm water to add in the photodegradation process.