



PACIFICABEACHCOALITION.ORG

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PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Japanese Tsunami Marine Debris Clean Up Program in Pacifica

(Pacifica, CA - September 8, 2012) — Commencing February 2013 and continuing throughout the year, volunteers are invited to join National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-sponsored, organized beach and shoreline clean ups.

The first of a series of cleanups will be hosted by trained Pacifica Beach Coalition site captains from 9am to 11am on Saturday, February 16 at Linda Mar Beach and on Saturday, February 23 at Mussel Rock Car Park. Additional cleanups will be scheduled throughout the year.

This year, according to NOAA, the arrival of significant amounts of Japanese tsunami marine debris is expected on Pacifica and Daly City beaches. An estimated 5 million tons of debris was originally generated by the 9.0-magnitude earthquake that shook the island of Japan on March 11, 2011, and has since been travelling the Pacific Ocean on ocean currents. An estimated 1.5 million tons of debris are en route to the California Coastline, with particular density expected to reach land on the Northern California Coastline within the next 2 years.

To answer to the most frequently asked question, “Is the debris radioactive?”, the debris **is NOT expected to be radioactive** because the nuclear power station meltdown occurred several days after the debris was generated and floated away from Japan on ocean currents. If the public finds debris that appears to have come from Japan, before disposing of any item, they should send photos with details of the location to disasterdebris@noaa.gov.

At our clean ups, this will be facilitated by reporting findings to site captains, who will log the findings and photos with the California Coastal Commission and NOAA.

For further information about clean ups, and about unique sponsorships to fund these vitally important cleanups, please consult www.pacificabeachcoalition.org, or call 650-355-1668.

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