

Environmental Update

The last couple of months have been very busy in this space.

We are still full steam ahead with the update of our Environmental Certification Programme and updated beach cleaning programme, there has been a slight delay in releasing this as we have been waiting on some data from council to complete it.

Originally, we set up the beach cleaning programme by assigning participating companies a beach cleaning target based on their "impact" on the environment. So, the more farm hectares they had the higher their beach cleaning target.

As the MFA covers the entire top of the south, we discovered that hectares were not a fair indicator of impact due to there being differences in farming density. We have decided now to assign beach cleaning targets based on total backbone length.

Most of this data comes from the TOS councils, but individual line leases are having to be manually entered to be able to access the metric data required.

This is still at the forefront of our minds and we are working hard to release it.

In the meantime, cleaning efforts have been increased in the Beatrix, Clova, Crail Bay areas, Darren has been out and met with Kristen Gerard from Hopai and together they have marked out specific areas of concern. The farmers in the area have ramped up cleaning and Darren is monitoring the area closely.

The MFA Environment App is still in testing but very close to release on both platforms, we are hoping that we can release all these new initiatives together very soon.

Late March, we met with Sustainable Coastlines, Marlborough Girls' & Marlborough Boys' Colleges to discuss how to manage the Long Island litter survey area going forward. This site was set up by Marlborough Girls' as part of a research project. The site needs to be assessed quarterly so it was proposed that all the high schools and the community get together and do one assessment each per year. The MFA will pick up the community's turn as part of our big clean in East Bay in December. In the meantime, some training will take place at Long Island and the Manaroa site to get the MFA staff up to speed for December.



Sauce!

Crews should keep an eye out for Darren & Jackie over the next wee while, they are delivering homemade sauce to all vessels for their fridges.

The sauce bottles will be refilled every time they visit your vessel for Environmental refresher training.

Crews need to take note of the message the bottles are carrying.

