



Monthly Newsletter from The Environmental Management Division December 2014

Key areas of work undertaken by EMD this month

- Egg Island Storm Petrel Ringing
- Red Billed Tropic Bird Monitoring and Tracking work
- Monthly seabirds monitoring
- Biannual underwater abundance and habitat mapping surveys
- Side scan sonar surveying
- Environmental assessments and support to planning
- Support to airport project

New staff/staff movements

Ascension Island Conservation team Jolene Sim, Knicky Andrews & Eliza Leat joined EMD's marine team to support the Darwin Storm Petrel Project work from the 25th November 2014 – 10th December 2014.

Staff training/achievements

Miss Annalea Beard of EMD's Marine Section has attained bird ringing trainer status

Solid Waste Management

Why?

The Saint Helena Sustainable Development Plan (2011) identifies Effective Management of the Environment as Saint Helena's third and final National Goal. Strategic Objective 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Plan states: *Environmental conditions improved through better management of solid waste.*

This is delivered through a Solid Waste Management (capital) Project which includes construction and use of a waste reception building, civic recycling area, internal road Infrastructure, incinerator, hazardous waste cell and procurement of specialist vehicles, a mobile aerial netting system and wheeled bins which are Key measures required to better manage the island's solid waste.

Who?

The Environment & Natural Resources Directorate (ENRD), responsible for Solid Waste Management Strategy, will also become responsible for Solid Waste Management Operations in 2015 and will be introducing new services including; improved kerbside collection using the new Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCV's), recycling opportunities and hazardous waste disposal facilities* at Horse Point Landfill Site.



***For advice on the safe disposal of hazardous wastes, or if there is anything else you need to know then we're here to help.** Please contact; Mike Durnford, Environmental Risk Manager, EMD, Scotland. Phone; 24724 or E-mail; mike-durnford@enrd.gov.sh

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WHEELIE BINS

How?

A combination of communal and individual wheeled bins will be distributed throughout the community. The bins are compatible with the lifting and emptying mechanism fitted to the new RCV's. The bins are numbered to assist with distribution and owner identification. Use of the bins will prevent scavenging by animals and birds and reduce litter. The kerb side collections are land filled in a netted cell, this is to prevent access to pigeons who feed on any food waste. Pigeons can be a hazard to low flying aircraft, therefore composting kitchen waste contributes towards minimizing 'Bird Strike' risk, whilst reducing the volume of landfill.

Individual 240ltr Bins?

These bins will serve households where the RCV's can stop outside of properties. In 2015 these bins will also be provided across the Commercial Sector.

Communal 1100ltr Bins?

These bins will serve households where the RCV's cannot get access to individual properties. Where the RCV's cannot get access to rural areas the domestic waste will be collected using a dedicated Land Rover and Trailer service. Communal bins will be sanitized periodically.

Acceptable Domestic Waste?

Paper, cardboard, rigid plastic, plastic film, kitchen waste, glass, textiles, aerosols, cans/tins, polystyrene containers, disposable nappies and other domestic wastes.

Unacceptable Domestic Waste?

Vehicle batteries, motor oil/lubricants, paints/solvents, agricultural chemicals, bulky waste items e.g. TV's/PC monitors, kitchen appliances, mattresses etc.

Top Tips?

Bag up your waste to prevent individual or communal bins from getting dirty. Periodically wash out your (individual) bin to prevent it from smelling. Make sure the lid of your bin can shut as we cannot safely empty bins that are overloaded. We may be unable to collect any bags of waste placed beside your bin, so please minimize waste by composting and recycling as much as possible. **Note;** SHG reserves the right not to empty a bin that contains waste that is not bagged, contains hazardous or unacceptable domestic waste, or the bin is overloaded!

COMPOSTING

Composting is an inexpensive and natural process that transforms your kitchen and garden waste into a valuable and nutrient rich food for your garden or to support community projects (LEMP, SHNT etc.), whilst saving you money and reducing landfill. Items such as fruit and vegetable peelings, tea bags, eggshells, grass cuttings and even shredded paper can all be composted.

RECYCLING

Reusing and recycling more of the domestic waste can help to reduce potentially negative impacts on the local environment by reducing landfill and using up fewer natural resources. The landfill site will soon benefit from a Civic Recycling Area where the public can drop off or pick up recyclable items including; wood, white goods, scrap metal, garden waste etc. and vehicle batteries can be dropped off and safely stored prior to incineration.

Darwin funded marine underwater documentary

On the 27th August around 200 people gathered at the Mule Yard for the launch of St Helena's first under water documentary entitled "Remote". The 30 minute film featured different types of marine life seen around St Helena. It highlighted how difficult it would have been for species to reach and colonise St Helena. It also explained how St Helena's isolation has resulted in the high numbers of endemics seen both with fish, invertebrates and plant life. The film was funded by the Darwin Initiative through the habitat and mapping project. It was produced, edited and narrated by Richard Moors and filmed by Judith and Steve Brown. The movie will be used for educational purposes for both local people and tourists. The film received lots of favorable comments. If anyone would like to purchase a copy of the DVD entitled Remote - A look at St. Helena's marine life, they are available at the Arts & Crafts for £10 per copy



The Spear Guns Control Ordinance and subsidiary Order 2014 was updated to include an increase in the fine to match the current economy and the inclusion of a closed area around Rupert's beach to protect swimmers and the closed areas around the historical wrecks (as per the Protection of Wrecks Ordinance). The Spear Guns Control ordinance now includes all the regulations that were previously in the Spear guns control order, except for the closed areas which will remain within the Order. This enabled the legislation to be strengthened. All other aspects of the regulation remain unchanged.

Closed season for spear fishing

1st January 2015 – 31st March 2015

During this time spear fishing is not allowed at any time or place in St. Helena's waters

The spear gun control ordinance states that during a closed season, no person shall have a spear gun in his/her possession or within 20 meters of any tidal water or upon any beach or foreshore or while swimming or while in any vessel.

At this time most fish are in the spawning stage and it is therefore necessary to put measures in place to allow marine life a chance to breed and grow into sustainable resources. The aim of the controlled season is not to stop people from enjoying the sea; it is to respect our ocean and its resources.

**EMD would like to wish all their readers a very merry Christmas
and a happy and healthy new year**