

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2019 Nominee Profile

Mark Bottomley (the Styrophobe), Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area

Category: Individual

Project: Reducing Marine Pollution in the Salish Sea

Nominator(s): Lasqueti Island Stewardship Award Committee

Project Description:

Mark Bottomley (the Styrophobe), was nominated for his work to reduce marine pollution in the Salish Sea, a project he launched in August 2018. Since this time, Mark has donated his time and resources to collect Styrofoam and plastics from over 50 kilometers of shoreline on Lasqueti Islands and surrounding islands several days a week. Bottomley purpose built a boat to collect and transport plastic debris, and he is currently working on a machine that will shred plastic for reuse, and to transport the product more efficiently to disposal facilities.

Mark's commitment to removing Styrofoam and plastics that endanger marine and bird species has built awareness of the project in the community. Tla'amin Nation and qathet Regional District have expressed support for his efforts. Mark communicates his efforts to community members through YouTube videos and pictures of what he finds. His nominator mentions he has inspired islanders to re-think their shopping habits, and increased awareness of our need for new methods of plastic disposal.