

# PRESS RELEASE



Marine  
Conservation  
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## **MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY BEACHWATCH 2008 RESULTS – Beach Litter at Highest Level Ever!**

### ***MCS calls for joined-up action for marine litter***

The amount of litter on Britain's beautiful beaches is at its highest level since records began, according to the Marine Conservation Society's (MCS) Beachwatch 2008 Survey Report published at [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org). The Beachwatch 2008 results show that litter on our beaches has increased by a staggering 110% since the annual survey began in 1994. Average figures for the UK are now at 2,195 litter items/km of beaches surveyed compared to 1,045 items/km in 1994.

At present there are no Government-led plans for tackling marine litter in the UK. In order to turn the tide on rising litter levels, MCS is calling for a coordinated approach from the Scottish Government and other UK Governments to develop a marine litter strategy as soon as possible and deliver it through appropriate Government bodies.

Marine litter kills wildlife, can be hazardous to people and costs millions to clear up. Over 170 species of marine wildlife including seabirds, turtles and whales have been recorded mistaking marine litter for food resulting in starvation, poisoning and fatal stomach blockages.

*"Whether you live near the coast or miles inland, we are all connected to the sea. This is a man-made problem. Every piece of litter has an owner and we all need to take responsibility to not drop litter in the first place. MCS wants to see zero waste on Britain's beaches and our first goal is to halve the litter on Britain's beaches by 2015. MCS is already working closely with the Scottish Government to help improve beach cleanliness, but more needs to be done to develop a strategy to tackle marine litter in Scotland and throughout the UK,"* said Anne Saunders, MCS Scottish Projects Officer.

Anne continued, *"A record number of 5,219 volunteers took part in Beachwatch 2008 showing the high level of public concern but we need thousands more people to join MCS and help with MCS Beachwatch 2009. In order to turn the tide on marine litter we need the public to continue showing their support. If you only do one thing today please sign our petition calling for a Government Action Plan on marine litter. Vote now at [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)."*

The Beachwatch 2008 report is based on data collected by a record number of 5,219 volunteers on 374 UK beaches surveyed over one weekend in September 2008. In Scotland alone, a total of 55,041 litter items were collected by 860 volunteers on 52 beaches. Sewage-related litter continues to be a particular problem on some of Scotland's beaches. In order to tackle the problems of marine litter it is important to know where it is coming from. Our latest report identifies four main sources of beach litter – public litter (37.7%), fishing litter (13.8%), sewage related debris/sanitary waste (6.2%) and shipping litter (1.8%). The average density of UK beach litter in the Beachwatch 2008 survey was 2,195 items of litter per kilometre – an average of over two items for every metre stretch of beach!

MCS Beachwatch results are essential in turning the tide on litter. The results of recent surveys have helped MCS influence changes to laws on disposing of wastes at sea, and resulted in investment in better sewage treatment at the coast. While MCS lobbies for a national strategy to tackle this extraordinary volume of rubbish washing up on our beaches, it also encourages individual responsibility for litter disposal.

For further information about the problems caused by marine litter and the MCS campaign to stop it, please see our Beachwatch backing papers including the full Beachwatch 2008 results at [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

MCS is extremely grateful to The Crown Estate, SeaFrance and The Co-operative Society for funding the litter projects. Promotion of MCS Beachwatch in Scotland was also supported by the Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Scottish Minister for Environment, Roseanna Cunningham said, *"Litter is a blight on Scotland's beautiful landscape and when you consider that our natural environment is worth about £17 billion to the economy it's clearly a problem which cannot be ignored. That's why we convened Scotland's first litter summit last year.*

*"I am grateful to the Marine Conservation Society for highlighting the extent of the problem in our seas and on our coasts and I'm happy to reiterate our support for the 'Fishing for Litter' project. This involves local authorities, the Crown Estate, SNH, and fishermen's organisations and has resulted in a great deal of good work to remove litter and prevent the dumping of waste in our seas.*

*"We are also tackling the litter problem at bathing waters and their beaches, including through our new Scottish Bathing Water Litter Grant Scheme. The scheme, run by Keep Scotland Beautiful, provides grants to community groups to help them reduce marine and coastal litter at these spots.*

*“There is always more that can be done, however, and surveys such as Beachwatch are to be welcomed for bringing the issue to the public’s attention and encouraging us all to take an active role in contributing to a cleaner, greener, Scotland.”*

The data from Beachwatch surveys also contributes to the International Coastal Cleanup, involving over 70 countries worldwide, organised by the Ocean Conservancy in the United States. MCS would like to thank all of the volunteers that participated in *MCS Beachwatch 2008*, without whose hard work and dedication the *MCS Beachwatch* survey would not be possible.

## **ENDS**

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The Beachwatch 2008 Summary Report is now available from MCS and can be downloaded at [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org) from Wednesday 8th April, alternatively the report can be emailed by request from [beachwatch@mcsuk.org](mailto:beachwatch@mcsuk.org). A series of Beachwatch Backing papers, including an executive summary and results chapter can also be downloaded at [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org) Photographs available to download from [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

### **Editors Notes**

At present there is no lead body in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland responsible for dealing with marine litter. It is imperative that one body within each UK country takes on the responsibility for dealing with and preventing marine litter from all sources. Since our seas do not recognise political boundaries it is vital that lead agencies, once identified, work closely together. One of the first tasks of these bodies would be to develop a coordinated marine litter strategy.

**The Marine Conservation Society (MCS)** is the UK charity dedicated to the protection of our seas, shores and wildlife. MCS campaigns for clean seas and beaches, sustainable fisheries, and protection of marine life. Through education, community involvement and collaboration, MCS raises awareness of the many threats that face our seas and promotes individual, industry and government action to protect the marine environment. MCS provides information and guidance on many aspects of marine conservation and produces the annual *Good Beach Guide* ([www.goodbeachguide.co.uk](http://www.goodbeachguide.co.uk)), the *Good Fish Guide* and [www.fishonline.org](http://www.fishonline.org) on sustainable seafood, as well as promoting public participation in volunteer projects and surveys such as *MCS Beachwatch*, *Adopt-a-Beach* and *Basking Shark Watch*. [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org) The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) is celebrating 25 years of protecting our precious seas, shores and wildlife this year.

**MCS Beachwatch** is an annual UK-wide beach litter survey and clean up, organised by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) since 1993. Beachwatch is the flagship event of the Adopt-a-Beach project, which encourages local volunteers to survey marine litter every quarter. Volunteers remove all the litter from a measured area of their local beach, recording every item that they find. The data gathered from Beachwatch every September is published by MCS in the Beachwatch Report. This information is used at national and International levels to raise awareness of the impacts of marine litter, to promote measures to reduce litter at source and to campaign for marine litter legislation. The sixteenth Beachwatch litter survey and beach clean took place on the 20th and 21st September 2008. Beachwatch 2009 will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

September, for further information see [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org).

**Summary of MCS Beachwatch 2008 results:**

<b>Beachwatch 2008 Summary</b>	
Volunteers	5,219
Number of beaches surveyed	374
Total length surveyed (km)	175.7
Number of bags	3,188
% Public	37.7
% Fishing	13.8
% Sewage Related Debris *	6.2
% Shipping	1.8
% Fly Tipped	0.9
% Medical	0.2
% Non - Sourced	39.4
Total number of items	385,659
Total volunteer hours	11,703
Mean items/km	<b>2,195.1</b>

\*If data from three beaches where over 8,500 cotton bud sticks were recorded are removed, the percentage for SRD is 3.6%

### Top 20 items of litter recorded in Beachwatch 2008

Position 2007	Position 2008	Item	% of Total Litter	Items/km
1	1	Plastic pieces > 1cm-50cm	14.5	318.6
2	2	Plastic pieces < 1cm	7.7	168.7
6	3	Polystyrene pieces	6.5	142.0
3	4	Plastic rope	5.8	127.1
4	5	* Plastic Caps / Lids	5.7	125.5
5	6	Crisp/sweet/lolly wrappers	5.2	114.3
7	7	Cotton bud sticks	4.6	100.5
9	8	Fishing net < 50cm	4.0	88.8
10	9	Glass pieces	3.5	76.8
11	10	Plastic drinks bottles	3.2	71.0
<b>TOP 10 ITEMS</b>			<b>60.7</b>	<b>1333.4</b>
12	11	Cloth pieces/string	2.7	60.3
8	12	Cigarette stubs	2.7	60.0
14	13	Fishing line (from anglers)	2.5	55.2
15	14	Plastic bags (including supermarket)	2.1	46.5
13	15	Paper pieces	2.0	44.0
17	16	Plastic cutlery / trays / straws	1.7	38.2
16	17	Metal drink cans	1.7	37.8
19	18	Foam/Sponge	1.6	35.5
20	19	Wood pieces	1.3	29.2
18	20	Rubber pieces <50cm	1.1	23.5
<b>TOP 20 ITEMS</b>			<b>80.3</b>	<b>1763.6</b>

\* Prior to Beachwatch 2008, plastic caps and lids were sourced to Non-Sourced

The Marine Conservation Society's **Adopt-a-Beach** project was established in 1999 to encourage individuals and groups to look after their local beach on a more regular basis by carrying out seasonal litter surveys and beach clean ups, to identify local sources of litter and raise awareness of the problems caused by litter. Further information can be found on the Adopt-a-Beach website: [www.adoptabeach.org.uk](http://www.adoptabeach.org.uk)

**The Crown Estate** has supported the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch campaign through its Marine Communities Fund since 1999. As owner of over half the UK's foreshore and almost all the seabed out to the 12 nautical mile territorial limit The Crown Estate places great emphasis on the good management and stewardship of the diverse coastal land in its care. The Crown Estate works with many organisations throughout the UK including government departments, public bodies, environmental groups, industry and local communities to ensure appropriate development and conservation of the coastline. Beachwatch is an excellent example of The Crown Estate and the Marine Conservation Society working together for the ninth consecutive year to raise public awareness of marine pollution and encouraging participation at a local level. For more information about The Crown Estate visit [www.thecrownestate.co.uk](http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk) or contact: Katie King, Communications Dept, The Crown Estate: 020 7851 5009 [katie.king@thecrownestate.co.uk](mailto:katie.king@thecrownestate.co.uk)

Cross-channel ferry company **SeaFrance** are the lead sponsors of the national MCS Beachwatch and Adopt-a-Beach campaign. In addition to direct financial support of this project, SeaFrance and its staff regularly show their commitment to a healthy future for our seas, shores and wildlife by cleaning their local beach, Kingsdown in Kent. SeaFrance's support has helped MCS mobilise thousands of volunteers to remove and survey litter on hundreds of beaches throughout the UK. For additional comment SeaFrance's Senior Communications Executive, Ellie Philpott, can be reached on 0871 282 8507.

MCS would also like to thank The Co-operative, The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Sir John Fisher Foundation and Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation for their support of Beachwatch and Adopt-a-Beach in 2008.

The **International Coastal Cleanup**, involving over 70 countries worldwide, is co-ordinated by the Ocean Conservancy in the United States, and provides a 'snapshot' of the amounts and sources of litter being washed up or dumped on beaches around the world.

## Regional Breakdown of Beachwatch 2008 Results

### Country and Regional variations in litter density (average litter items/km) recorded in Beachwatch 2008

Country/Region	No. of Beaches Surveyed	Total No. of Volunteers	Total litter items	Total length surveyed (km)	Items/km in 2008	Items/km in 2007	Items/km in 2006	Items/km in 2005	Items/km in 2004
<b>Country</b>									
Channel Islands	35	353	19,125	13.23	<b>1,446.0</b>	1,414.5	1,646.2	1,207.2	1,115.9
Northern Ireland	10	175	6,017	6.40	<b>940.2</b>	1,057.1	624.6	1,877.0	484.4
Scotland	52	860	55,041	21.32	<b>2,581.4</b>	2,727.8	2,091.7	1,747.6	1,505.6
Wales	56	606	49,473	19.40	<b>2,549.9</b>	2,654.8	2,524.8	1,753.0	2,634.3
England (Total)	221	3225	256,003	115.34	<b>2,219.6</b>	2,022.1	1,979.8	2,256.1	2,242.8
<b>England Regions</b>									
NE England	39	606	40,167	27.52	<b>1,459.8</b>	1,322.5	1,620.6	1,231.6	1,101.7
NW England	12	152	16,712	10.08	<b>1,658.8</b>	1,983.2	1,926.5	1,579.1	2,948.7
SE England	114	1,538	118,009	60.79	<b>1,941.3</b>	1,841.7	1,604.4	1,847.0	1,790.9
SW England	56	929	81,115	16.96	<b>4,783.6</b>	3,230.0	3,185.7	3,936.1	4,277.0
<b>UK Total</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>5,219</b>	<b>385,659</b>	<b>175.7</b>	<b>2,195.1</b>	2,053.7	1,988.7	1,981.0	1,897.4

### **Beachwatch 2008 – Regional Breakdown**

A summary of the regional results compiled by the Marine Conservation Society, following the Beachwatch 2008 litter survey and clean up on 374 beaches (175.7 km of coastline) by 5,219 volunteers over 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2008.

### **UK Wide Overview:**

During Beachwatch 2008 the highest overall litter density recorded was in Scotland with 2,581.4 items/km surveyed, a 5.4% decrease from 2007 (2,727.8).

Wales had the second highest litter levels, which fell slightly from 2,654.8 items/km in 2007 to 2,549.9 items/km in 2008. Litter density levels also decreased in Northern Ireland from 1,057.1 items/km in 2007 to 940.2 items/km in 2008.

The Channel Islands had the third highest litter levels in 2008 with 1,446 items/km, a slight increase of over 2% when compared to density levels in 2007 (1,414.5/km). An increase of 9.77% in litter density was also recorded in England from 2,022.1/km in 2007 to 2,219.6/km in 2008.

Within England, the greatest density of litter was recorded, as in previous years, in the South West, where 4,783.6 items/km were recorded, followed by the South East (1,941.3/km), North West (1,658.8/km) and North East (1,459.8/km). When compared to Beachwatch 2007, average litter densities increased in all regions with the exception of the North West.

### **England Total ( 4 regions combined)**

A total of 256,003 litter items were collected on 221 beaches over a total length of 115 km. The density of litter in England (2,219.6/km) was higher than the UK average (2,195/km), representing an increase of 9.77% when comparing the density recorded in 2007 (2,022.1/km).

Within England overall, the density of public litter (847.5/km) was the main source of litter followed by fishing litter (317.3/km) the second highest for any UK country (after Wales). SRD (93.7/km) represented the third most common source of beach litter in England. Shipping litter was the fourth main source of litter (40.7/km).

Source	% Of Total Litter	Items/km 2008	Items/km 2007	Items/km 2006	Items/km 2005	UK Average Items/km 2008
Public	38.2	847.5	727.3	710.8	782.5	827.3
Fishing	14.3	317.3	285.2	225.1	359.1	302.8
SRD	4.2	93.7	71.3	91.8	75.9	135.9
Shipping	1.8	40.7	35.0	36.7	48.5	39.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,219.6</b>	<b>2,022.1</b>	<b>1,979.8</b>	<b>2,256.1</b>	<b>2,195</b>

(SRD = sewage related debris)

### Scotland

A total of 55,041 litter items were collected on 52 beaches over a total length of 21.32 km. On average 2,581.4 items of litter /km were found, more than the UK average (2,195/km) representing a 5.37% decrease in density levels compared to 2007 (Figure. 21). The overall litter density figure falls to 2,219.6/km when data from East Bay and Clynder beaches are completely removed from the analysis.

Public litter was the main source of litter recorded on beaches surveyed in Scotland, with a density of 966.8 items/km surveyed. **This is the highest density of public litter for any UK country. The density of SRD in Scotland (509.1/km) was the highest of any country and over three times the UK average (135.9/km)**, representing 19.7% of all litter in Scotland. However, if East Bay and Clynder beaches are removed from the analysis, the density of SRD in Scotland falls to 186.48 items/km, **still higher than the UK average and the highest SRD density of any country.** Fishing litter was the third largest source with a density of 203.2/km followed by shipping, the lowest of the main litter sources in Scotland with a density of 40.5/km. Scotland recorded the **highest density of shipping litter for any UK country.**

Source	% Of Total Litter	Items/km 2008	Items/km 2007	Items/km 2006	Items/km 2005	UK Average Items/km 2008
Public	37.5	966.8	810.0	621.1	622.2	827.3
Fishing	7.9	203.2	264.3	148.2	152.6	302.8
SRD	19.7	509.1	708.8	694.5	411.9	135.9
Shipping	1.6	40.5	53.3	50.3	41.4	39.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,581.4</b>	<b>2,727.8</b>	<b>2,091.7</b>	<b>1,747.6</b>	<b>2,195</b>

(SRD = sewage related debris)

### Wales

A total of 49,473 litter items were collected on 56 beaches over a total length of 19.40 km. On average 2,549.9 items of litter /km were found, higher than the UK average (2,195/km), a slight decrease of 3.95% in density levels when compared to 2007 (2,654.8/km).

Public litter was the main source of litter recorded on beaches surveyed in Wales with a density of 816.9 items/km surveyed. The second most common source of litter in Wales was fishing with a density of 462.9 items/km, much higher than the UK average (302.8/km) and the **highest density of fishing litter for any UK country.** SRD was the third biggest source of litter in Wales (94.1/km) followed by shipping litter with a density of 40.3/km.

Source	% Of Total Litter	Items/km 2008	Items/km 2007	Items/km 2006	Items/km 2005	UK Average Items/km 2008
Public	32.0	816.9	995.0	739.0	719.6	827.3
Fishing	18.2	462.9	336.9	322.7	253.0	302.8
SRD	3.7	94.1	94.6	131.4	44.4	135.9
Shipping	1.6	40.3	57.7	41.5	37.1	39.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,549.9</b>	<b>2,654.8</b>	<b>2,524.8</b>	<b>1,753.0</b>	<b>2,195</b>

(SRD = sewage related debris)

### Northern Ireland

A total of 6,017 items of litter were collected on 10 beaches over a total length of 6.4 km. On average 940.2 items of litter /km were found, less than the UK average (2,195/km), representing an 11% decrease from 2007. However, it should be noted that during 2008 only 10 beaches were surveyed in Northern Ireland, such small samples cannot be used to give a representative indication of beach litter in Northern Ireland as a whole.

Northern Ireland recorded the lowest density of public litter, fishing litter and shipping litter for all UK countries. Public litter was again the greatest source of litter (523.8/km), representing 55.7% of all litter recorded. Fishing litter was the second most common source of litter (50.5 items/km). SRD was the third most common source of litter (30/km), followed by shipping litter (24.4/km).

Source	% Of Total Litter	Items/km 2008	Items/km 2007	Items/km 2006	Items/km 2005	UK Average Items/km 2008
Public	55.7	523.8	468.1	257.2	881.6	827.3
Fishing	5.4	50.5	72.7	66.2	159.5	302.8
SRD	3.2	30.0	36.7	25.7	290.7	135.9
Shipping	2.6	24.4	16.5	14.3	65.0	39.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>940.2</b>	<b>1,057.1</b>	<b>624.6</b>	<b>1,877.0</b>	<b>2,195</b>

(SRD = sewage related debris)

### Channel Islands

A total of 19,125 litter items were collected on 35 beaches (27 on Guernsey, 5 on Herm Island, 2 on Jersey and 1 on Sark) over a total length of 13.2 km. On average 1,446 items of litter/km were recorded, lower than the UK average (2,195/km), and higher than results in 2007 (Figure 19) representing a increase of 2.23% in litter levels.

Litter from the public was the main litter source recorded on beaches surveyed in the Channel Islands with a density of 588.7 items/km surveyed, representing 40.7% of all litter recorded. Fishing litter (224.4/km) was the second largest source of litter in the Channel Islands, followed by shipping (28.4/km) and SRD (14.1/km). **The Channel Islands recorded the lowest density of SRD.**

Source	% Of Total Litter	Items/km 2008	Items/km 2007	Items/km 2006	Items/km 2005	UK Average Items/km 2008
Public	40.7	588.7	479.6	550.0	369.8	827.3
Fishing	15.5	224.4	276.7	354.7	254.1	302.8
SRD	1.0	14.1	10.3	10.4	9.2	135.9
Shipping	2.0	28.4	30.1	44.4	27.2	39.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,446.0</b>	<b>1,414.5</b>	<b>1,646.2</b>	<b>1,207.2</b>	<b>2,195</b>

(SRD = sewage related debris)

### England regions:

#### North East England

A total of 40,167 items of litter were collected from 39 beaches over a total length of 27.52 km. On average 1,459.8 items of litter/km were found, lower than the UK average (2,195/km), representing an increase of 10.4% in the density recorded in 2007 (1,322.5 /km).

**The North East had the lowest density of public, fishing, SRD and shipping litter**, and all densities were well below both the England and UK averages. Public litter was the largest source of litter in the North East with 608.4 items/km surveyed. The second largest source was fishing litter (132.5/km), followed by SRD (55.5/km) and shipping (20.7/km).

Source	% Of Total Litter	Items/km 2008	Items/km 2007	Items/km 2006	Items/km 2005	UK Average Items/km 2008
Public	41.7	608.4	638.1	666.3	485.9	827.3
Fishing	9.1	132.5	79.6	110.9	110.8	302.8

Source	% Of Total Litter	Items/km 2008	Items/km 2007	Items/km 2006	Items/km 2005	UK Average Items/km 2008
SRD	3.8	55.5	69.4	92.4	92.3	135.9
Shipping	1.4	20.7	17.5	29.4	23.6	39.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,459.8</b>	<b>1,322.5</b>	<b>1,620.6</b>	<b>1,231.6</b>	<b>2,195</b>

(SRD = sewage related debris)

#### **North West England**

A total of 16,712 items of litter were collected from 12 beaches over a total length of 10.1 km. On average 1,658.8 items of litter/km were found, lower than the UK average (2,195/km), representing a decrease of 16.4% in the density of litter recorded in 2007 (1,983.2/km).

Public litter was the major source of litter in the North West with a density of 687.8 items/km surveyed. Fishing litter (163.7/km) was the second largest litter source in the North West, followed by SRD (109.3/km) and shipping litter (36.4/km).

Source	% Of Total Litter	Items/km 2008	Items/km 2007	Items/km 2006	Items/km 2005	UK Average Items/km 2008
Public	41.5	687.8	779.6	808.4	660.5	827.3
Fishing	9.9	163.7	262.4	169.0	188.8	302.8
SRD	6.6	109.3	118.2	131.4	84.1	135.9
Shipping	2.2	36.4	54.4	65.7	62.0	39.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,658.8</b>	<b>1,983.2</b>	<b>1,926.5</b>	<b>1,579.1</b>	<b>2,195</b>

(SRD = sewage related debris)

#### **South East England**

A total of 118,009 litter items were collected from 114 beaches over a total length of 60.79 km. On average 1,941.3 litter items/km were found, lower than the UK average (2,195/km), and 5.4% higher than the average density for the South East in 2007 (1,841.7/km).

Public litter was the major source of litter in the South East with a density of 806.5/km. Fishing litter (307.6/km) was the second largest litter source in the South East, followed by SRD (70.9/km) and shipping litter (41.9/km).

Source	% Of Total Litter	Items/km 2008	Items/km 2007	Items/km 2006	Items/km 2005	UK Average Items/km 2008
Public	41.5	806.5	695.0	597.9	703.6	827.3
Fishing	15.8	307.6	207.7	156.3	227.9	302.8
SRD	3.7	70.9	46.6	61.1	41.4	135.9
Shipping	2.2	41.9	36.8	29.8	42.9	39.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,941.3</b>	<b>1,841.7</b>	<b>1,604.4</b>	<b>1,847.0</b>	<b>2,195</b>

(SRD = sewage related debris)

#### **South West England**

A total of 81,115 litter items were collected from 56 beaches over a total length of 16.96 km. On average 4,783.6 items of litter/km were found, much higher than the average density for the UK (2,195/km) and the highest for any region in the UK. This density represents a large increase of 48.1% when compared to 2007 figures (3,230/km)

**The South West recorded the highest density of public, fishing, SRD and shipping of any England region.** Public litter was the major source of litter in the South West with a density of 1,477.3/km, followed by fishing litter (743.5/km), SRD (228.2/km) and shipping litter (70.9/km). However, if Porthtowan data are removed from the analysis, the density of SRD in the South West falls to 91.44 items/km, below the UK average.

<b>Source</b>	<b>% Of Total Litter</b>	<b>Items/km 2008</b>	<b>Items/km 2007</b>	<b>Items/km 2006</b>	<b>Items/km 2005</b>	<b>UK Average Items/km 2008</b>
<b>Public</b>	30.9	1,477.3	889.6	988.3	1,179.5	827.3
<b>Fishing</b>	15.5	743.5	713.7	498.5	822.4	302.8
<b>SRD</b>	4.8	228.2	129.3	153.2	119.2	135.9
<b>Shipping</b>	1.5	70.9	41.3	50.0	72.7	39.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,783.6</b>	<b>3,230.0</b>	<b>3,185.7</b>	<b>3,936.1</b>	<b>2,195</b>

(SRD = sewage related debris)