

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SURFRIDER CANADA ANNOUNCES EVIDENCE OF AN IN PROGRESS SOLIDIFIED OIL SPILL IN THE FRASER RIVER

Surfrider Vancouver Island researchers have researched, monitored and quantified plastic pellets washing up on BC's coasts; ([see map](#))

- **Hundreds of thousands of pellets found washing up on the Fraser River**
- **Pellets are directly linked to plastic industry manufacturers that operate in Metro Vancouver waterways leading to the Fraser River ([see photos](#))**
- **Pellets have also been found at 12 (thus far) Metro Vancouver plastic industry sites, parking lots, rail sidings, street drains**

ANNACIS ISLAND, DELTA, BC, OCT 4, 2019 — Surfrider Canada is exposing industrial spillage of plastic pellets (nurdles) used in manufacturing which pollutes the Fraser River and is urging the Province of BC to investigate plastic pellet spills.

After three years of research, Surfrider Vancouver Island researchers have found evidence of pre-consumer plastic production pellet spills happening at plastics manufacturing industry sites along the multiple arms of the Fraser River. Evidence is now mapped at locations around Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, San Juan Islands, Sunshine Coast, and the Lower Mainland where pre-consumer plastic pellets are washing up on waterfronts.

“We cannot recycle our way out of this particular type of pollution,” says David Boudinot, Surfrider Plastic Pellet Researcher. “Plastic pellets are used in the manufacturing process for making bags, bottles, straws, and other plastic items. There is no reason a plastic pellet should be on a storm drain. It is time for the Province to monitor the plastics industry in British Columbia and ensure that storm drains are properly covered at plastic manufacturing facilities. That’s the solution: let’s turn off the tap on plastic.

“From what we have observed, the primary entry point of plastic pellets into our waterways is via the municipal storm drain system. Installing storm drain covers (the kind required at construction sites) at each manufacturing facility would be a good start, so long as they are maintained.”

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Surfrider Foundation Canada is a community of everyday people who passionately protect our playground – the ocean, waves, and beaches that provide so much enjoyment for everyone. We ensure clean water, healthy ocean and coastlines and accessible beaches for all to enjoy by finding lasting solutions to the threats the ocean faces. Learn more at vancouverisland.surfrider.org/sos

Documentary video footage on the solidified oil spill:

<https://vimeo.com/363904334>

Surfrider Canada will be holding a media event on site at Audley Channel where pellets are being found in the storm drainage system close to nearby plastic manufacturing facilities.

Boudinot will be speaking to the media about his research and show first hand how plastic pellets are entering the marine environment.

Who: **David Boudinot, Surfrider Plastic Pellet Researcher**

When: **Friday, October 4, 2019, 10 a.m. to noon.**

Where: **Corner of Audley Blvd & Derwent Way, Annacis Island, Delta, BC**

Press Kit found at vancouverisland.surfrider.org/sos