

The effort of Japanese NGO in addressing marine litter, including microplastics

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OUTLINE

1. About JEAN and examples of its clean up effort
2. Outcome after 2006 NOWPAP ICC in Yamagata
3. Our initiatives on microplastic
4. Next steps

1. ABOUT JEAN

- ▶ Coordinator of ICC (International Coastal Cleanup) in Japan
 - ~Nationwide cleanup and marine litter studies in Spring and Autumn
- ▶ Organize meetings and conferences for information sharing (e.g. “Marine Litter Summit”)
- ▶ Support for disaster affected areas
- ▶ Collaboration with other NGOs in Japan and overseas
- ▶ Awareness raising and outreach

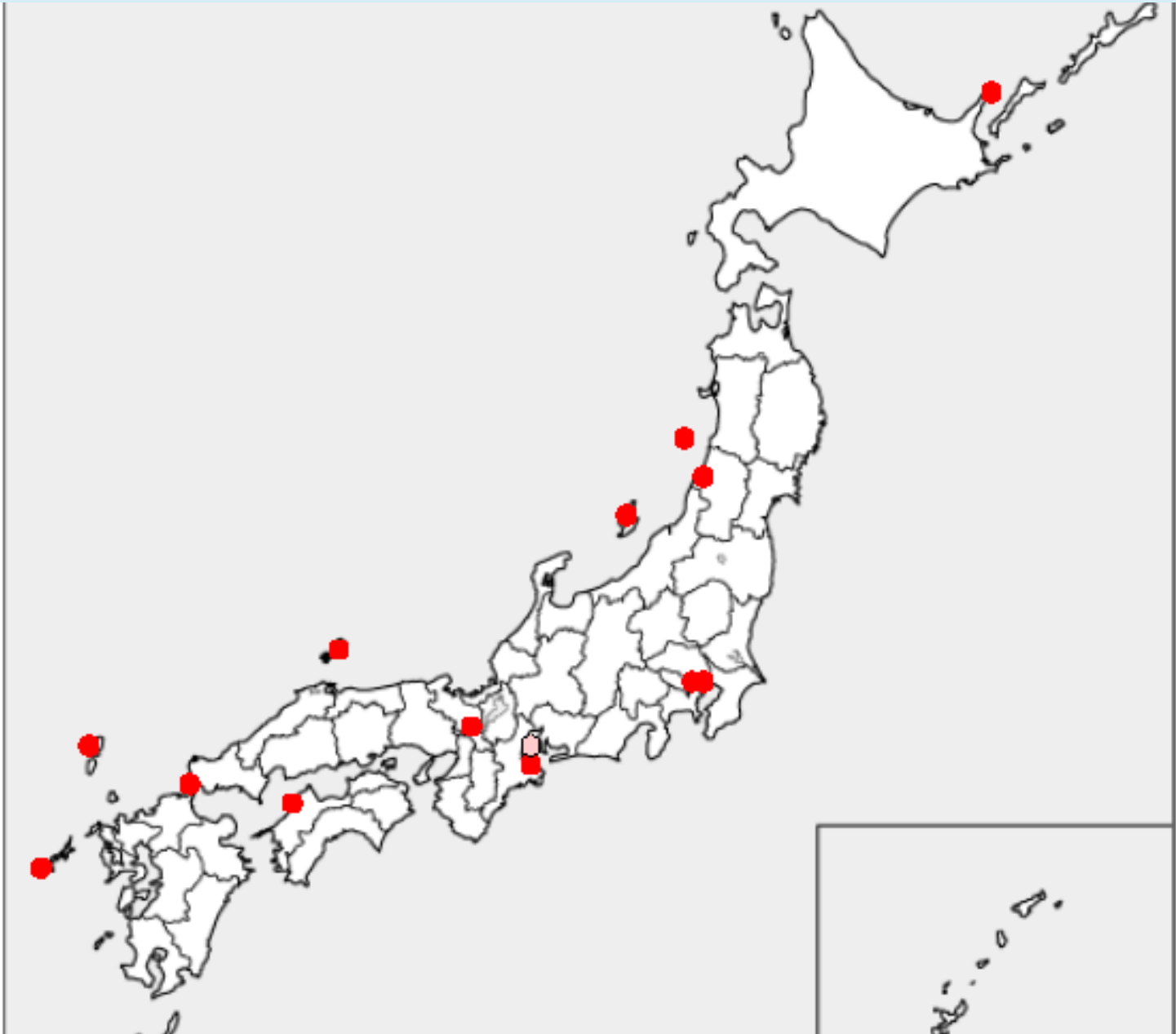


MARINE LITTER SUMMIT

- National annual conference started in 2003 to share information and promote mitigation effort on various issues of marine litter.
- Held in different place each year to invite widely government officials of national or municipal level, NGOs and NPOs, businesses, academics, and communities as well as international guests, to meet and share challenges and situations, exchange and propose ideas on concrete actions.
- Conference in 2016 (28th–30th Oct) was co-hosted by the Mie prefectural government and JEAN in Mie where G7 Summit was held.



MARINE LITTER SUMMIT (PLACES HELD)



THE 14TH MARINE LITTER SUMMIT 2016 MIE CONFERENCE

Conference Agenda

① Biodiversity and Marine Litter

Proposal for collaborative research to investigate the impact of marine litter on biodiversity in the Asia–Pacific region

② Prevention of plastic litter flowing out to sea

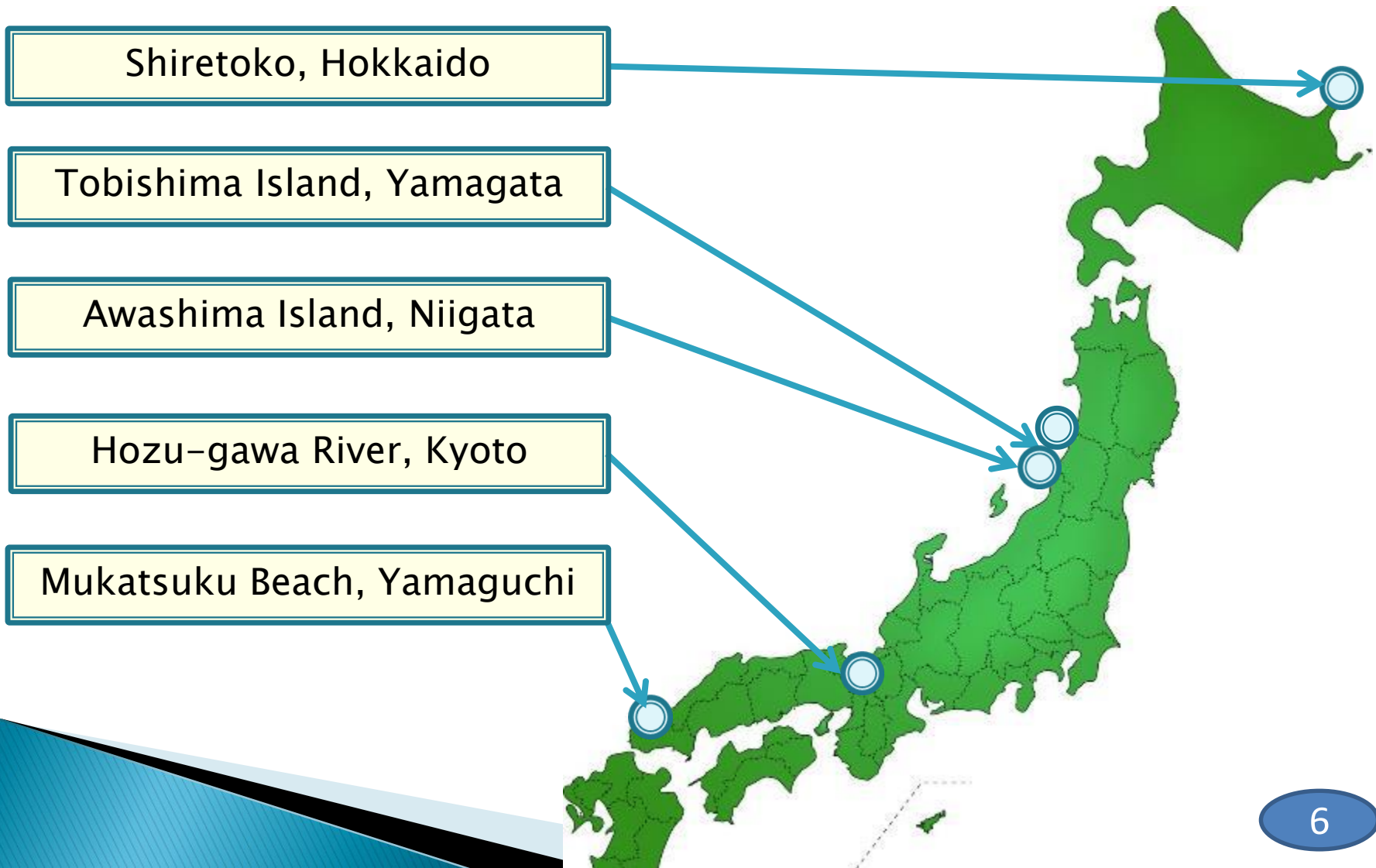
Proposal for enhanced mitigation of riverine litter and assessment of microplastic

③ Collaboration across Asia–Pacific region

Proposal for setting up an international fund to foster further collaboration among NGOs/NPOs



EXAMPLES OF CLEANUP EFFORT ACROSS JAPAN



CLEANUP EFFORT ACROSS JAPAN-Example 1

Shiretoko, Hokkaido



CLEANUP EFFORT ACROSS JAPAN–Example 2

Tobishima Island Operation “Cleanup”, Sakata City, Yamagata



Tendency to accumulate large amount of household litter and fishery litter in Tobishima Island.

Annual cleanup since 2001.

The same method is used in Awashima Island in Niigata leading to ongoing exchange including the Island of Sado

CLEANUP EFFORT ACROSS JAPAN—Example 3

Awashima Island, Niigata



CLEANUP EFFORT ACROSS JAPAN—Example 4

Hozu-gawa River, Kameoka City, Kyoto



CLEANUP EFFORT ACROSS JAPAN—Example 5

Mukatsuku Beach, Nagato City, Yamaguchi



2. OUTCOME AFTER 2006 NOWPAP ICC IN YAMAGATA

- 1) 2006 NOWPAP ICC in Yamagata
- 1) 2006 Evaluation of the amount of plastic litter along the coast across Japan
- 2) 2009 Enactment of Law for the Promotion of Marine Litter Disposal

INITIATIVES ON DRIFTED MARINE LITTER DERIVED FROM GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE 2011

- **Field studies and dialogue with the stakeholders with support from the Japan Ministry of Environment**

- Aug 2012 Dialogue with ICC coordinators in the U.S. West Coast, Portland Oregon, USA
- 2013 Field studies and disseminating the findings to Japanese society
- USA: Hawaii, Lincoln City Oregon, Alaska, Washington; Canada: British Columbia
 - Reporting forums in Tokyo and Sendai City
- 2014 Reporting forums in Vancouver Canada and Natori City Japan
Organizing meetings among NGOs

2012

Dialogue with ICC coordinators from five states on the US West Coast

Portland Oregon, USA



2013

Field Studies

Hawaii and Lincoln City Oregon, USA



2013

Reporting forums in Tokyo and Sendai City



Field studies in Washington, USA and BC, Canada



【Outcomes of the dialogue among NGOs from US, Canada, and Japan】

- Network of ICC lead to building trust among the stakeholders along the coast of North Pacific
- Shared understanding of the importance of spreading information on the seriousness of marine plastic pollution highlighted by the disaster and of strengthening international collaboration among NGOs and NPOs.
 - ⇒ Dec. 2015、 NGO meeting in Big Island, Hawaii
 - ⇒ Oct. 2016、 Marine Litter Summit Mie Conference Agenda

Hilo Symposium, Big Island Hawaii

(2015/12/03-04)

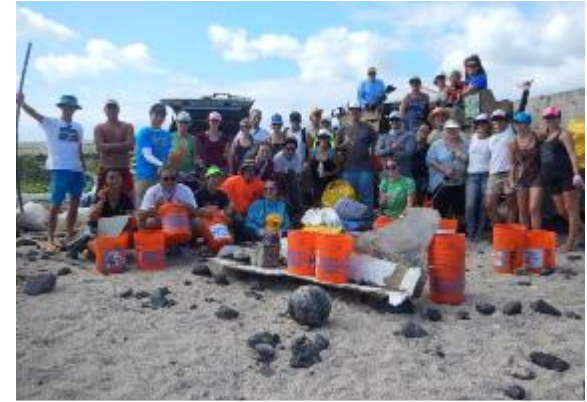


Photo by; Hawaii Wildlife Fund

More than 60 pipes for oyster farming found within appx. 100m stretch of the coast on the south of the island. (2015/12/05)



3. INITIATIVES ON MICROPLASTIC

Increase of microplastic that absorbs toxic chemicals



Yusa-machi, Yamagata

Fishing buoys containing toxic heavy metals



Ishigaki Island, Okinawa

Raising awareness about issues of microplastic

- Study of plastic pieces at ICC

Plastic piece was removed at one point from the study items by the Ocean Conservancy in the US, the managing body of ICC. JEAN continued on studying plastic pieces in the ICC studies.

- Supporting the International Pellet Watch by Dr. Hidetoshi Takada at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (utilizing JEAN's network across Japan)

- Knowledge and expertise on microplastic shared at the Marine Litter Summit

Awareness Raising in Yamagata

~Collaboration with a student volunteer organization

○ Aug. 31st ~ Sept.3rd 2017

- Collaborated with International Volunteer University Student Association (IVUSA) comprised of students from 90 universities in Japan.
- 180 students participated in the coastal cleanup at Tobishima Island in Yamagata among others. They learned about issues of microplastic.
- In the previous year, Dr. Takada gave a talk for the students.



4. NEXT STEPS

Collaboration within Japan

- Networks working on 3R, aquatic environment, protection of biodiversity, and climate change
- Businesses, Fishery Cooperatives, Agriculture Cooperatives etc.

Sharing information & collaboration

Government (relevant agencies and ministries),
Academics,
Members of Diet etc.

International Collaboration

- East Asia + North Pacific Coast
⇒ Establish a fund for international cooperation etc.

Tobishima Island, Sakata City Yamagata





Moving towards plastic-less society while continuing the clean up activities