



Beachwatch 2005

THE MARINE Conservation Society (MCS) is appealing to Scottish divers to get involved in this year's Beachwatch event and making a real difference! When most people are asked to imagine their ideal beach, they most likely conjure up images of long sandy bays lapped by crystal blue waters. Litter isn't likely to feature in that ideal scene, but unfortunately today, beach litter is a major problem on our beaches.

Beach litter is more than just an eyesore; it's a problem on a major scale, costing local authorities in the UK an estimated £14.5 million annually, but there is something practical, and simple everyone can do to help. The MCS annual Beachwatch litter survey and clean-up takes place over the weekend of the September 18-19.

Since 1993, volunteers from all over the UK have given up their time to take part in the UK's only national beach clean and litter survey, helping to make a practical difference to the UK's coastline. MCS is calling for volunteers to take part and make a BIG difference to the state of the UK's beaches.

Andrea Crump, MCS Litter Projects Coordinator says "By taking part in Beachwatch, volunteers are helping to make practical changes to their local environment, and because MCS also uses the survey results to tackle sources of beach litter they are contributing to long-term improvements too".

Beach litter can be dangerous to wildlife, and humans. Sharp items such as broken glass, and old syringes can cause injury to humans. A plastic bag, carelessly left on the beach can prove fatal to marine animals such as turtles. Fishing debris too can be deadly. Entanglement in items such as abandoned fishing gear affects at least 144 marine species worldwide.

During last year's MCS Beachwatch 2004 weekend, over 3,000 volunteers took part, cleaning and surveying 269 beaches, and collecting over a quarter of a million items of litter, a clear signal that clean beaches are a matter of high



There are many dangers to marine

concern to the UK public.

Beachwatch is the flagship event of the Marine Conservation Society's Adopt-a-Beach project. Adopt-a-Beach and Beachwatch are both sponsored by The Crown Estate. For further information, or to register for Beachwatch 2005, please contact the Marine Conservation Society on 01989 567807, e-mail beachwatch@mcsuk.org or register online at www.adoptabeach.org.uk.

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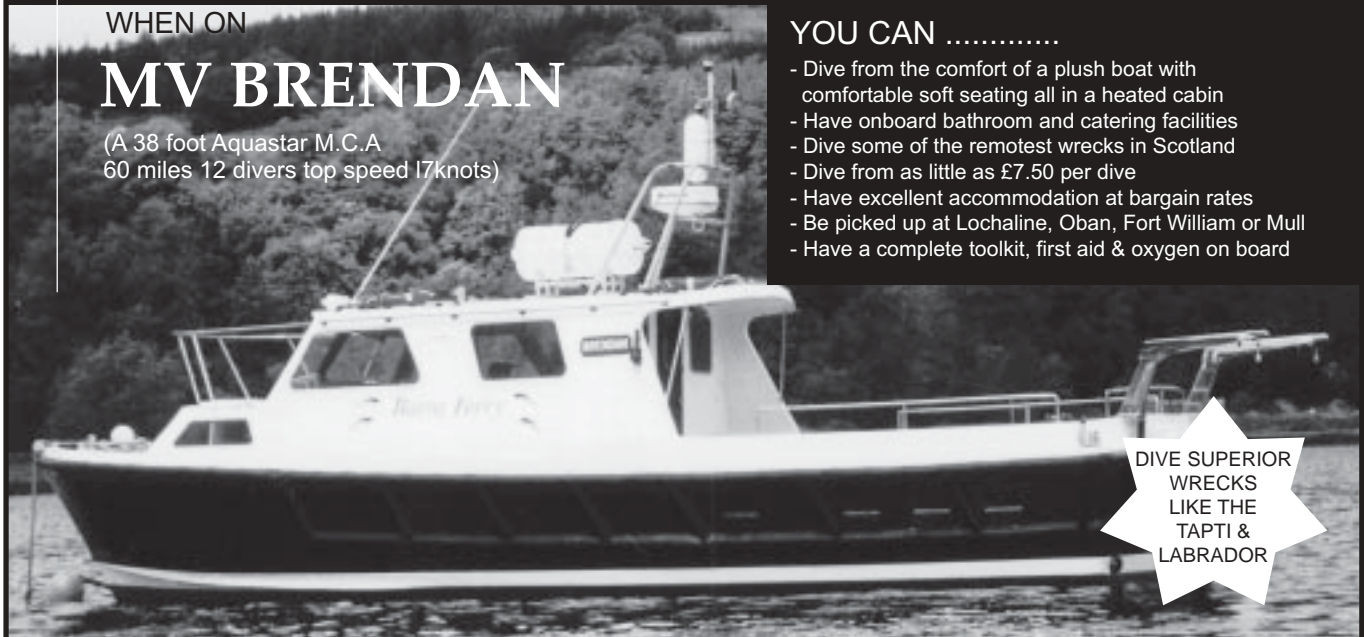
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