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OCEAN RESCUE RUN, MEXICO TO CANADA NEARS FINISH IN VANCOUVER, BC

MARYSVILLE, WA, 12/06/17 – Friendly Drifter Co-Founder, David Pennington expects to reach his Ocean Rescue Run goal, completing the run from the US/Mexico border to Vancouver, Canada on Saturday, June 17th, 2017. After completing over 1700 kilometres last year, Pennington was forced to halt the journey due to a staph infection in his foot. Round two of the run began where Pennington left off in Reedsport, OR on June 2, 2017. Having traveled through Oregon and most of Washington state, covering an average of 60 kilometers per day, Pennington is looking forward to celebrating reaching his goal at Kitsilano Beach, Vancouver.

Pennington states, “The route including Pacific Coast regions was chosen to connect communities, remove international boundaries and bring attention to global issues surrounding plastic waste in our oceans. Some of our western technologies, plastic culture and production have had serious negative impacts on the environment - we have a responsibility to create solutions.”

This run is the first awareness and fundraising campaign to supply Raja Ampat, Indonesia with much needed waste management solutions. Raja Ampat is a remote area located off the northwest coast of West Papua. There are logistical challenges in removing plastic waste from the region; it is complex and expensive. After Pennington organized beach clean-ups in Raja Ampat during the spring of 2015, it became all too apparent to him that clean-up efforts were only going to be effective if there was easy access to recycling methods; currently none exist. Raja Ampat has more marine bio-diversity than anywhere else on the planet. Plastic waste is extremely hazardous to all marine life. This region alone comprises of over 1500 species of coral reef fish, and 75% of all hard coral species in the world. “After realizing the difficulties facing the area, developing proper waste management solutions and educating the public is the necessary next step - doing nothing, is not an option,” Pennington said. Plastic debris is contaminating the marine life, resulting in devastating consequences for the oceans and the local population; fish being their main source of food.

During the trip, Pennington hopes to reach as many people as possible, spreading a message of protection, conservation and responsibility for the oceans, sea life, and coral habitat. Progress on the run can be followed through the Friendly Drifter website at www.friendlydrifter.com/blog. Donations may be made by visiting the <http://www.gofundme.com/friendlydrifter> webpage. For more information on Friendly Drifter and to learn about its founder and partners, visit www.friendlydrifter.com.

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Calendar Information: The Friendly Drifter *Ocean Rescue Run* from the US/Mexican border to Vancouver Canada, is to raise awareness about plastic waste in the oceans and funds for sustainable waste management solutions in Raja Ampat. Contact: Friendly Drifter, 3192 Gibbins Road, Duncan, BC V9L 1G8, phone 778.988.7191, email: travel@friendlydrifter.com or visit www.friendlydrifter.com.

Photo Captions: Friendly Drifter Beach Clean Up March 2015 of Raja Ampat, Indonesia.

Attn. Media: Additional photos of the 2015 clean-up are available on the “Raja Ampat Gallery” page of the website. Feel free to contact travel@friendlydrifter.com for high-res versions of any photos.

