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## **OCEAN RESCUE RUN, MEXICO TO CANADA COMPLETED**

VANCOUVER, BC, 04/07/17 – Friendly Drifter Co-Founder, David Pennington reached the Ocean Rescue Run goal, completing the journey from the US/Mexico border to Canada on Wednesday June 14th, 2017. After traveling 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. Covering an average of 60 kilometers per day in 12 consecutive days; he crossed the border achieving 82 km that day.

The Ocean Rescue 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. “After realizing the difficulties facing the area, developing proper waste management solutions and educating the public is an important first step - doing nothing, is not an option,” Pennington said.

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.”

While running and dressed as Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea, Pennington was featured on KATU TV in Portland and on KOMO TV in Seattle. The hope is to reach as many people as possible, spreading a message of protection, conservation and responsibility for the oceans, sea life, and coral habitat. Additional details on the run can be viewed on the Friendly Drifter website at <http://friendlydrifter.com/blog-raja-ampat/>. 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](http://www.friendlydrifter.com).

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## OCEAN RESCUE RUN, MEXICO TO CANADA COMPLETED

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](mailto:travel@friendlydrifter.com) or visit [www.friendlydrifter.com](http://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](mailto:travel@friendlydrifter.com) for high-res versions of any photos.

