



## Beach Clean Up in Ao Nang – Krabi



It's a fairly common sight around these parts: a tourist leaning over the side of a speedboat or longtail, throwing bread into the water for the swarms of fish that congregate around, waiting for just this occurrence. It would appear to be an innocent exchange of dinner for a show, but the fish that dart so beautifully in pursuit of the bread are in fact ignoring their jobs as eaters of algae. So through the ignorant actions of tourists, the algae build up and kill the coral, becoming yet another challenge to the survival of the reefs.

Feeding of wildlife has become a popular means for tourist and tourism operators to interact and closely observe animals in the wild. These practices are widespread, However these practices have a variety of impacts to wildlife and tourists, altering their natural behavior and population levels and dependency on humans to provide food.



In an effort to combat unawareness to areas such as this, Projects Abroad and Green Fins partnered up to organize a public beach clean up on the Queen's Birthday on Ao Nang and Noppharat Thara beach. Local businesses and tourists were all invited to attend and help out, or just stand by the table set up to learn about how rubbish in the ocean affects the environment, importance of No Marine Sales and how to be a Responsible tourist.



The day dawned cloudy and a bit breezy, which was both a blessing and a curse to the event. Those already committed to the clean up were happy to have a respite from the heat, but the less than stellar beach weather meant that not many tourists were around to be solicited on Ao Nang Beach. However, as the Queen's Birthday is a Thai holiday, Nopparat Thara Beach was crowded with locals, who at first watched the beach clean up with amusement that so many people would choose to spend their holiday picking up rubbish.



At one point, the weather that had been so ideal for cleaning the beach threatened to turn against us, as a few drops ominously began to fall. But the weather held, and at the end of the day, we took a triumphant group photo and weighed the trash, which came to a total of 431.5 kg, well done everyone and a big Thank You to all the businesses and the 45 volunteers from the community that helped contribute to the day's success!

**Article written by Clare Hurley, volunteer for Projects Abroad.**

