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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thousands of Pieces of Foam & Debris Blow On To Beach And Into Ocean Quick Action And Reporting By Assateague Coastal Trust At 46th Street Condominium

BERLIN, MARYLAND On Saturday, December 22nd, local surfer and Communication Director for Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT), Billy Weiland, managed to document and report to Ocean City officials the thousands of pieces of construction foam and roofing debris collecting on the beach at 46th street in Ocean City, Maryland.

“I was up here (46th street) to check the waves and noticed huge sheets of white styrofoam blowing over top of me, across the beach, and out into the water. I turned around and couldn’t believe the ridiculous amount of construction material blowing off the ocean front condominium on 46th street. I mean, this wasn’t a couple pieces of foam. We had a 20-25 knot offshore wind that was sweeping this stuff from the roof and out onto the beach. I know some of my friends out in the water were paddling through all the chunks of foam that ended up there.”

Last year, the town of Ocean City strengthened their construction regulations to require contractors using styrofoam exterior insulation to secure their job sites to prevent this sort of situation from occurring. ACT hopes the town issues an immediate stop work order and clean up of the job site.

Weiland, who is also the founder of ACT’s program, Trash Free Assateague, says that it is this kind of situation and these kinds of materials that are, after a couple tide cycles and the right wind direction, finding a way onto the north point of Assateague Island National Seashore. “A lot of this construction material, along with plastics and other debris that are initially generated in Ocean City, can find its way onto the north point of Assateague Island,” Weiland said. “Because the north point is a relatively isolated part of the national seashore, that material will remain on that part of the island for decades.”

Assateague Coastal Trust has posted video and photos of the styrofoam blowing from the roof and on to the beach on their facebook page.

What: Fast Action By Assateague Coastal Trust Calls Out Polluters

When: Saturday, December 22nd

Where: 46th Street Ocean City, MD

Videos and photo: Billy Weiland

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The Assateague Coastal Trust's mission is to promote and encourage the protection of the health, productivity, and sustainability of the coastal bays watershed of Delmarva through advocacy, education and conservation.

Visit www.ACTforBays.org