Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Science

of

KATLYN KEATS

B Env Sc (University of Manitoba, 2014)

“Exploring Community for Reducing Marine Debris”

Department of Geography

Thursday, April 15, 2021
10:00 A.M.
Remote Defence

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Jutta Gutberlet, Department of Geography, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Sylmara Dias, Department of Geography, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Alexander Turra, Instituto Oceanografico, University of Sao Paulo

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Andrew Marton, Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, UVic

Dr. Stephen Evans, Acting Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

Marine debris is an ever growing environmental and human health concern. Beach litter is a major contributor to the issue of marine debris, especially in the Global South where lack of awareness and successful policy are factors in the continuous accumulation of debris on beaches and in coastal communities. Under the community-based, participatory action framework, this study will examine how beach users and other key stakeholders in the local government and non-governmental organization sectors perceive waste in their environment. The study will explore ways of improving awareness and environmental education of beach users, as well as investigating ways to reduce littering of waste on beaches. Results from this research will help to provide suggestions for local decision makers to improve policy that addresses marine debris and beach littering.