

Challenges of Sargassum Relocation



GALVESTON ISLAND

Park Board of Trustees

Coastal Zone Management Dept.





Operations are based on Mother Nature's schedule!



Challenges:

- Physical and environmental constraints
- Timing- public usage, tidal events
- Limited resources- personnel, equipment
- Various and overlying layers of regulation at all levels
- Resulting jurisdictional assertions by several agencies due to heightened sensitive matters



- Many narrow beaches along the Seawall
- Adjustments to collection modes based on different areas



• Limited stacking areas



•Timing to ensure public access



- Availability of equipment and skilled Operators
- Rental equipment is limited and costly
- Subjection of equipment to extreme and harsh conditions.
- Unforeseen fiscal adversity to budgets



• Limited capabilities of equipment



•Overwhelming migration of decomposed Sargassum and depositories.



Public complaints:

- Smell and unsightliness
- Gnats! (though beneficial)
- Restrictions on relocating
- Dedication of time and effort to change negative public perception



**Proactive environmental
measures:**

- Hiring of at least 15 experienced Wildlife/Sea Turtle Monitors (TAMUG students)
- Strict adherence to advisements given by the Monitors

06/04/2014

SOLUTIONS



• Receptiveness of new ideas-
departmental and public



• Determining viability of new techniques prior to making significant investments in equipment and personnel.



- Development and implementation of new and efficient modes of operations
- Sound utilization of all available mechanized resources and personnel

05/12/2014

SARCEN Flyover 05/24/2014 Landsat pass 25



Another virtual clear flyover. There are several Sargassum mats and slicks in both the northern and mid images. There was a very large mat that landed on the West end of the Seawall about 3:00 this afternoon. For the next week the winds should be from the SSE at 14 MPH. The surface currents should remain to the North then Northeast parallel to the coast. Galveston and Bolivar Peninsula should expect moderate landings with local heavy in areas where the large mats make landfall.

- Continuous flow of information: SEAS, NOAA, tidal predictions
- Leverage of local partnerships to greatest extent possible- TAMUG, NMFS, USACE
- Acting upon internal committee recommendations (BMAC)

• Embracing the power of Mother Nature!



SEAWEED
THE 8TH WONDER OF THE WORLD

Please EXCUSE THE SEAWEED
WHILE MOTHER NATURE
REBUILDS OUR BEACHES

FUN FACTS SEAWEED IS:
A floating ecosystem
Important to create dunes and conserve sand
An invaluable food source for coastal birds
A natural occurrence along all coastal destinations

Join the
SEAWEED
SCAVENGER
HUNT

GRAB A BUCKET AND
SHAKE OUT A HANDFUL OF
FLOATING SEAWEED TO FIND:

Shrimp
Seahorses
Crabs
Sea Bunnies
Sargassum Fish



Post-season integration of deposits onto the respective beach area.