

Section 15**Sanitation Collection****Purpose**

Vehicles used to collect the trash and trash left on the beach overnight can potentially impact sea turtle and AIBM nesting activities. Vehicles may run over nests, interfere with monitoring activities, and/or leave ruts on the beach. Trash on the beach can attract predators such as raccoons, foxes, crows, gulls, and fire ants which may impact foraging Anastasia Island Beach Mice and increase predation on sea turtle nest. Requiring sanitation vehicle operators to attend HCP and Protected Species training will minimize and possibly eliminate any impacts to both sea turtles and AIBM.

Relevant ITP Condition - G.1.h.

- h. Sanitation Collection.** “From May 1 to October 31, each year, trash collection shall be authorized only after completion of daily sea turtle nest surveys on beaches containing trash receptacles and until 8:00 p.m. Between November 1 and April 30, each year, access is not limited. The Permittee shall require that any sanitation collection vehicle driver complete training specified in Condition 11.G.2.o.”

HCP Performance During 2008

Implementation: The County employed the services of a local trash contractor to perform sanitation collection throughout St. Johns County beaches. As specified in the HCP and Protected Species training, sanitation collection employees are required to operate only after the morning turtle surveys are complete as well as remain outside of the Conservation Zone. The trash contractor uses one large diesel truck to empty trash cans and 2-3 ATVs to drive up and down the beach to pick up trash not in receptacles.

Assessment: During 2008 the amount of reports regarding overflowing trash cans decreased significantly.

Program Improvements: No formal changes to trash collection management are proposed. The HCP Coordinator will continue to work closely with the trash contractor in an effort to improve trash management activities.