

Section 15 Sanitation Collection

Purpose

Vehicles used to collect the trash and debris left on the beach overnight and from storm events can potentially impact sea turtle nesting and Anastasia Island Beach Mice (AIBM) behavioral activities. Trash on the beach can attract predators such as raccoons, foxes, crows, gulls, and fire ants. This may impact AIBM and sea turtles by causing disturbance through predation. Requiring sanitation vehicle operators to attend HCP and Protected Species training will minimize and possibly eliminate impacts related to sanitation collection on 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 2012

Implementation: The County employs the services of a local trash contractor that has several years of experience carrying out trash collection on both driving and non-driving beaches of St. Johns County. Prior to the 2012 nesting season, the sanitation collection employees attended HCP and Protected Species Training. Operators of the sanitation vehicles are prohibited from entering the beaches prior to 8:00 a.m. or before sea turtle patrol has finished their morning surveys which ever occurs last. Furthermore, they are prohibited from entering the Conservation Zone while conducting their daily duties on the beach. The trash contractor uses one truck to collect the trash from cans on driving beaches and is allowed access to Mickler’s beach through the sandy entrance that is also used by Marine Rescue and horseback riders. In addition, ATVs are used to collect debris on both driving and non-driving beaches.

Assessment: St. Johns County has retained the same trash contractor since the inception of the HCP in 2006 and this working relationship. Trash collection continued as it has in years past with minor challenges outside of storm system.

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