

San Antonio Bay - Guadalupe Estuary

Shorelines Cleanup

Seadrift & Port O'Connor

*San Antonio Bay
Espiritu Santo Bay
Guadalupe Bay
Mission Lake
Hynes Bay*

September 26 - October 1, 2022

Planning Document

August 28, 2022 v5a



Overview

When: September 26 – Saturday, October 1, 2022

- **Seadrift Shorelines Cleanup**, Tuesday, Sept 27, 8:00 am - noon
- **St Joe High School Senior Project Day**, Thursday, Sept 29, 9:00 am- noon
- **Port O'Connor Cleanup**, Saturday, Oct 1, 8:00 am – noon
- **Airboat Expansion**, Sept 26-28, 8am – 3pm

Signup Contacts:

Port O'Connor - Allan R Berger AllanRBerger@outlook.com 713-829-2852

Seadrift - Janie Waghorne janiewaghorne@gmail.com 361-649-6812

Event Planning Timeline:

- Ongoing- review data gathering protocols and procedures to input into NOAA Marine Debris tracking system- ongoing
- June – Solicit sponsors and partners; Save the date notice for Oct 1-- complete
- July – media community calendar & website posting; obtain USFW permit for dock use—in progress.

Communications:

- Save the date notice: June 27, 2022 (3 months' notice)- sent
- Solicit boats / teams / volunteers: August 6 (8 weeks' notice)
- Solicit volunteers – reminder -Sept 12 (2 weeks)
- Final Assignments for:
 - POC– by email no later than Wednesday Sept 28
 - Seadrift – Sept 25

Supplies Pickup:

- For Thursday's group event: tbd
- Seadrift Shorelines Cleanup - tbd
- Friday, Sept 30, 5pm-8pm – Allan's house, 604 2nd St, POC
- Saturday Oct 1, 7:30am-8:30am
 - by vehicle: TPWD Dock gate, 418 S 16th St, POC
 - by boat from POC Dock on ICWW, POC

Lunch and Refreshments: Noon – 2pm

- Seadrift Sept 29: Bubba's Cajun Seafood
- POC Sept 29 Location: POC King Fisher Park
- POC Oct 1: Hurricane Junction
 - Outdoor venue
 - lunch and refreshment
 - Informative presentation by Surfriders Foundation re plastic marine pollution

Friendly Competition

- Awards for: most bags; most beverage bottles; most unique item.
- Last year: magnetic phone dry bags

Volunteer Thank you gifts:

- Metal water bottles, or
- Long sleeve t-shirt with POC Bay Rat log (as available)

Complete cleanup report SABayPartnership.org

Item	Count
Trash Bags Full	338
Drink Bottles	1564
Balloons & Strings	54
Shoes	338
Fishing Line, Nets & Gear	142
Shotgun Shells	260
Aluminum Cans	554

Thank you Sponsors:



Life's better outside.®



2022 Cleanup Planning

Introduction

Plastic pollution in the marine environment is a problem. The Texas GLO sponsors beach cleanups at various shoreline locations along the Texas Coast to address the issue. The largest effort in the State may be the Padre Island National Seashore where volunteers mobilize to cleanup miles of Padre Island Gulf shores.

The San Antonio Bay – Guadalupe Estuary system is of national significance given that it is the winter home of the endangered Whooping crane. While a relatively undeveloped segment of the Texas Coast, it too is subject to plastic pollution. There are several annual beach cleanups occurring on frequently used beaches within the bay systems in Calhoun County, but nothing was being done to address the problems along remote bay shorelines and beaches – until September 12, 2020, the inaugural Port O'Connor Shorelines Cleanup. It is time to do it again for the 3rd year! Further, addition of the Seadrift Shorelines Cleanup and expansion into San Antonio Bay is planned.

Volunteers and boats are needed for a systematic and comprehensive approach to cleaning these remotes shorelines. These shorelines are accessible only by boat.



Objectives

1. Remove plastic trash from bay shorelines.
2. Engage the public in making a difference in protecting the Bays. And
3. Quantify the number of common debris items so that we can discuss solutions and engage stakeholders and the public to take action to reduce marine trash.

Operational Plan

SABP will conduct a volunteer driven cleanup targeting over 50 miles of shorelines near Port O'Connor on two days: September 29 and Oct 1, 2022, removing what is anticipated to be mostly consumer plastics by foot, kayak, or boat, as appropriate for the shoreline.

Seadrift Shorelines will be addressed on September 26-29. A commercial airboat with volunteer crews will begin on Monday. Volunteer boats/crews will work on Tuesday Sept 27.

To quantify our pollution problem and the results of the effort, volunteers are asked to record items they collect on a data sheet. For those who have a technology aptitude, SABP's has a San Antonio Bay Cleanup Project listed on NOAA's Marine Debris Tracker. The app is relatively bulky to use so we have opted instead for the manual (paper) approach for the cleanup event. (The data sheet format is included in this document.) The data sheets will be compiled and input into the database.

New- SABP has applied for a grant to continue and expand Bay cleanups. For larger items that are unable to be retrieved, volunteers are requested to take a photo that documents latitude / longitude

(e.g. with Sololocator app) to build a data base for a separate program focused on the larger items. Send the photo and location data to AllanRBerger@outlook.com.

Targeted Shorelines

Targeted shorelines include over 50 miles of bay and islands that are subject to the accumulation of plastic pollution within Matagorda and Espiritu Santo Bays around Port O'Connor, TX. None of the shorelines are accessible by land. A boat or kayak is required.

Walkable Shorelines (shown on map in White) - Volunteers are taken to the shoreline where the cleanup is to be conducted by walking. Getting feet wet and occasional wading will be required. These shorelines are shell and sand beaches.

Kayak-able Shorelines (yellow) – These shorelines have muddy bottoms, mangrove, or they have shallow beaches that prevent the boat from getting close. Some starting points are accessible by kayak from the mainland; some require shuttle of paddlers by boat. At some locations, kayakers will get out of their kayak and walk the shorelines to pick up trash. There will be spots where wading and pulling the kayak will be appropriate. Kayakers reported a grabber worked well from the kayak. Both mesh bags and the use of a 5-gal bucket worked well to hold the trash in the kayak.



Boatable Shorelines (red) - Boatable shorelines have deeper water close to the shore allowing trash to be picked up both from the boat and by disembarking. A flounder boat works ideally!



Airboat Expansion to more of Espiritu Santo

A NOAA Marine Removal Grant obtained for abandoned Crab Trap Removal funding has been modified to expand to allow commercial airboat coverage further into San Antonio Bay. A total of 5 days is planned in the areas listed below. Volunteer crews (2-3) and volunteer tender boats will be sought to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the airboats.

Schedule

1. Thursday September 29, 9am-noon
 - a. Lagoon N Shore 6.6 miles
 - b. Lagoon Bay Shore 4.4 miles
 - c. Lagoon S Shore 6.1 miles

Potential Staging points: AF Cut , Charlies, wide entrance



2. Saturday October 1, 9am – noon
 - a. Shoalwater N Shore 7.0 miles
 - b. Shoalwater Bay Shore 4.4 miles
 - c. Shoalwater S Shore 6.1 miles

Potential Staging areas : Charlies, Steamboat Island



Seadrift Shoreline Cleanup / San Antonio Bay Expansion

3. Monday Sept 26:Guadalupe Bay / Mission Lake 14.7 miles
Potential Staging areas: Seadrift Marina, River Mouth shoreline

4. Tuesday Sept 27 Seadrift Shorelines Cleanup
 - a. Victoria Barge Canal 8.9 miles
 - b. North Shore SA Bay 3.6 miles
 - c. E SA Bay Shore 7.0 miles
 - d. Steamboat Island, E 1.3 miles

5. Tuesday Sept 27: Delta Marsh and Lakes
 - a. South Shore 3.9 miles
 - b. West Shore 2.3 milesPotential staging areas: Seadrift Marina, Austwell

6. Wednesday Sept 29: Hynes Bay 10.0 miles
Potential staging areas: Seadrift Marina, Austwell

Planning basis for these three days is to stage from Seadrift Marina



Additional Areas as progress allows:

7. Aransas NWR shoreline
8. Welder Flats and east SA Bay Shoreline
9. Matagorda Island- Lighthouse Cove to Ayers Point
10. Matagorda Lakes

POC Shoreline Areas

<u>Area</u>	<u>Starting Points</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Shoreline Miles</u>	<u>Access to Starting Point</u>	<u># Kayaks</u>	<u># Walkers</u>	<u># Boats</u>	<u># Volunteers</u>
Barroom Bay								
	A-Fishermans Cut	Kayak	2.6	Paddle from Fishing Cntr	2			2
	B-Army Cut	Kayak	2.6	Paddle from Sanctuary	2			2
	C-Fishermans Cut	Kayak	2.9	Paddle from Fishing Cntr	2			2
		Support Boat					1	2
Little Jetties / E Bayucos								
	D-N Little Jetties	Walk	0.5	Boat Shuttle		4		4
	E-S Little Jetties	Paddle	1.0	Boat Shuttle	2			2
	F-Bayucos East	Paddle	1.7	Boat Shuttle	2			2
		Support Boat					1	2
Boggy / Powderhorn								
	G-Bayou Shore	Paddle	1.5	Paddle from Boggy Park	6			6
	H -Mat Bay Shore	Paddle	2.7	Paddle from Boggy Park	4			4
		Support Boat					1	2
Big Bayou / Chris'								
	I-Big Bayou at Little Marys	Paddle	1.9	Paddle from Fishing Cntr	1			1
		Paddle	1.6	Paddle from Fishing Cntr	1			1
	J-Chris's at Big Bayou	Paddle	1.5	Paddle from Fishing Cntr	1			1
		Paddle	1.5	Paddle from Fishing Cntr	1			1
		Support Boat					1	2
Saluria								
	K1 Mitchells Cut E Shore	Boat	0.5		0	3		3
	K2 Mitchells Cut W Shore	Boat	0.5		0	3		3
	K3 Saluria N Shore	Boat	0.5		0	3		3
	K4 Saluria S Shore	Boat	1.5		0	3		3
	K5 Saluria NW Shore	Boat	0.6		0	3		3
		Support Boat					5	10
Bayucos - Tellers								
	L-Mitchells-Bayucos Pt	Paddle	3.5	Boat Shuttle	2			2
		Support Boat					1	2
Grass Island								
	NE Tip							
	M -N Shore	Paddle	2.5	Boat Shuttle	2			2
	M- S Shore	Paddle	2.7	Boat Shuttle	2			2
		Support Boat					1	2
Whitakers								
	N - West Oil Well Cut	Paddle	1.8	Boat Shuttle	2	0		2
		Support Boat					1	2
Big Pocket								
	L-North Shore	Paddle	1.2	Boat Shuttle	1			1
	M South Shore	Paddle	1.8	Boat Shuttle	1			1
		Support Boat					1	2
Farwell Island								
	P Farewell	Walk	1.2	Boat Shuttle	0	4		4
		Support Boat					1	2
Lighthouse Cove								
			2.9					
	Q - N Shore	Paddle		Boat Shuttle	1			1
	Q- S Shore	Paddle		Boat Shuttle	1			1
	Q-Island Shore	Paddle		Boat Shuttle	1			1
		Support Boat					1	2
Sunday Cove								
	R CGS South on W Shore	Paddle	2.4	Boat Shuttle	2			2
	R Jhook South on E Shore	Paddle	1.8	Boat Shuttle	2			2
		Support Boat					1	2
Pass Cavallo								
	S Jhook	Walk	1.1	Boat Shuttle		4		4
		Support Boat					1	2
IntraCoastal								
	T1 Little Jetties South	Walk	0.2	Paddle from Little Jetties	2			2
	T2 ICW	Walk	1.7	Boat shuttle		8		8
		Boat Shuttle					2	4
TPWD Dock								
								4
			50.4 Miles		43 Kayaks	35 Walkers	19 Boats	120 Volunteers

Volunteer Roles

- **Captain** - Navigates; operates boat; collect trash for return to staging point bin
- **Data Hand** - inputs trash counts onto data sheet or app
- **Pickers** - Walks, paddles or wades a shoreline to pick-up trash
- Recommend 4-6 people per team with one person designated as Data Hand
- **Dock Crew** of 4 to assist unloading of boats.

Supplies Pick-up

- For Thursday cleanup- tbd
- Friday evening 5 pm – 8 pm at Allan’s house (604 2nd St, POC)
- Saturday morning 7:30 am-8:30 am
 - by vehicle at TPWD Dock gate (418 S 16th St, POC)
 - by boat from TPWD Dock on ICWW (see site map below)

Supplies Provided

- Refillable Metal Water Bottle
- Trash Bags: heavy duty black plastic with draw string; mesh bags, especially for kayaker
- Bucket Rings
- Trash grabbers
- Gloves
- Grabbers
- Data sheets & clipboard
- Supplies to be prepackage and labeled for easy pickup

Gear Required by Volunteers

- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Wading boots or water shoes (sandals not recommended for trash collectors)
- Long-sleeves, long pants recommended
- Knife or snipper for cutting ropes & strings

EVENT WAIVER

Volunteers release and forever discharge any and all rights and claims for damages, including any claims, for loss, damages, or injury to my person or property arising out of the performance or failure of performance of the San Antonio Bay Partnership, Inc., or the respective officers, agents, representatives, successors and/or assignees of the parties named above, from any and all claims, demands and liability of every kind and nature, legal or equitable, occasioned by or arising out of my participation in the event known as **POC Shorelines Cleanup**.

Volunteers must recognize the challenges of the event in which they have chosen to participate and assume all risks of personal injury or death in connection therewith. They attest that they



Collection Tips

The targeted pollution includes bottles, cans, buckets, and small items that can be safely handled.

Drink Plenty of Water (in reusable non-plastic bottles) and snacks in a small cooler or backpack and bring with you to the shoreline for frequent access while picking. Take frequent breaks and hydrate often.

Mosquitos can be abundant in vegetation. Wear long sleeve and pants. Use bug spray.

Look Before You Reach! Hazards in the grass and brush and under trash items can include fire ants and wasps. Watch out for mesquite and cactus thorns. Always wear gloves and use a reacher / grabber.

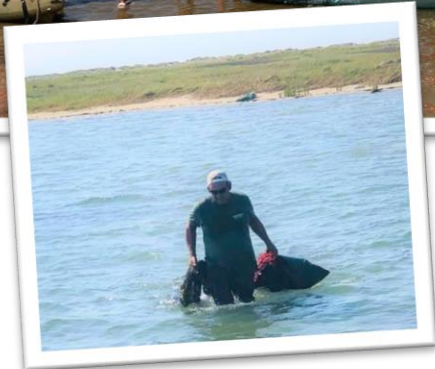
- ✓ Snakes are not commonly seen but are out there. Move slowly and watch where you step and reach.

Record Data Real-time. Suggested methods:

- Picker calls to items to Data Hand as they place the items into their bag.
- 2-3 Pickers per Data Hand

Take Pictures and videos during and send them to brigidberger61@gmail.com / text 713-825-1929

Pile filled bags on the shoreline well above the tide line. Leave enough time to retrieve the bags and put them on the shuttle boat and take the bags to the TPWD Dock for off-load to the dumpster.



Trash Off-Load – Port O’Connor

All trash collected is to be loaded on to a shuttle boat and taken to the dumpster at Texas Parks and Wildlife Fisheries dock. The dock crew will be there to assist with the off-load from 10 am – 12:30 pm. Please allow adequate time to make it to lunch by 1:00 pm.



Trash Offload - Seadrift

Discussion with the City are pending to determine the specific location for the bin.



Data Sheets

Data hands are asked to have data sheets completed and hand in to the coordinator at the lunch. The data collected is important quantify the amount of effort given to the event and to gain insights on the sources of the trash and potential strategies for reducing this pollution. The data sheet format is included in this document. The data sheets will be compiled and input into the NOAA Marine Debris database.

Lunch & Prizes

Lunch and beverages will be provided to all volunteers at a local restaurant. Teams should allow enough time to off load trash to attend the lunch by 12 noon. Awards will be given to the team who finds the most plastic beverage bottles and the team who fills the most trash bags. If one team qualifies for both, the second-place team who have filled the most trash bags will win the prize. The individual with the most unusual item, as recognized by the group indicated by applause, will win a prize.

Follow Up & Reporting

- Results will be tabulated and reported
- Press release to local papers with results and sponsors
- Post results and photos on website & social media
- Pictures / report to sponsors



2022 Shorelines Clean Up

Team Name: _____ Team Leader: _____


Team Members: _____

Clean Up Section(s): _____

Start Time: _____ End Time: _____ (Include boat drive time)

The most common items found on bay shorelines and the ones we'd like to track are listed in the table. *WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?* To answer this important question is why we are asking you to record the trash you collect. The hope is that the data can inform potential initiatives to reduce trash in our bays.

Please record the trash you pick up on the back of this sheet. Use hash marks or dots & lines to keep a tally of items collected. At the days end, total up the count for each item and the number of bags collected. Hand in your data sheet at lunch for your chance to win exciting prizes!

	Dots & Lines Tally Dots represent counts from 1 to 4 Lines represent 5 to 8 Diagonal lines 9 and 10 This method is commonly used in forestry and related fields.
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* **LARGE ITEMS** – items too large for you to collect can be picked up later with the appropriate boat & manpower. Please record these items and its GPS by using a smart phone photo or free photo apps such as Solocator.

Please give us your feedback and suggestions for improving this event!

QUESTIONS? CALL ALLAN BERGER 713-829-2852

**Hand in Your Data
BY NOON
at the After Party**



**Send Us Your Photos!
brigidberger61@gmail.com**

Please Count & Record

**Hand in Your Data
BY NOON
at the After Party**

TEAM NAME: _____ **DATA RECORDER:** _____

Team Prizes will be given for 1.) most number of bags, buckets, & crates, 2.) most plastic bottles, 3.) the most unusual item.			Total
FILLED TRASH BAGS, BUCKETS & CRATES			
PLASTIC DRINK BOTTLES			
UNUSUAL ITEMS (Take Photo or bring item to lunch to win a prize)			
Please Record Items Collected	Total		Total
Aluminum Cans		Jugs or Containers	
Balloons & balloon strings		Lightbulbs	
Crab Trap Floats		Plastic Bags	
Drink Cups (<i>Styrofoam or Plastic</i>)		Plastic Pieces	
Duck Decoys		Rope & Netting	
Fishing Lines / Lures / Corks / Weights		Shoes / Footwear	
Other Fishing Gear – rods, net with handle, stringers		Shotgun Shells	
Glass Bottles & Jars		OTHER	
Large Items for later pick up (<i>Take photo with GPS & email to AllanRberger@outlook.com</i>)			

Safety Reminders

1. Boat captains & volunteers are responsible for monitoring weather conditions and making operational decisions.
2. Boats must follow TPWD Boat Safety requirements. See:
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/boating/required-safety-equipment>
3. Volunteers should complete the Liability Release form on page 14 and send a photo to their Bay coordinators.
4. Water hazards include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Strong winds, particularly related to thunderstorms or cold fronts that can capsize boats.
 - b. In winter, cold water and air that can lead to hypothermia.
 - c. Rain or fog that interferes with vision and navigation, resulting in collisions, grounding, or stranding.

Volunteers should:

- Monitor local weather conditions and forecasts.
 - In Summer, protect yourself from sun with clothing, hats, sunglasses
 - In Winter, dress warmly, wearing clothes that are waterproof or made of quick drying materials. Carry dry, warm clothes in case someone gets wet.
 - Carry extra water.
 - Advise responsible persons of water destination and schedule.
 - Carry a cell phone in a dry bag.
5. Handle the trash with caution. Wear protective gloves to guard against cuts from trash or barnacles. Have current tetanus vaccination. Carry first aid kit on boat.
 6. Securely strap trash down when transported back to dock to avoid shifting weight and the possibility of trash blowing into crew. Do not overload the boat and risk capsizing.
 7. Put these number in your cell phone:
 - a. US Coast Guard 361-983-4313
 - b. Calhoun County Sheriff 361-553-4646
 - c. Calhoun County EMS 911
 - d. Matagorda County Sheriff 979-245-5526
 - e. Matagorda County EMS 911
 - f. Aransas County Sheriff 361-729-2222
 - g. Aransas County EMS 911

Environmental Compliance

One of the highlights of a day on the water is the opportunity to see endangered species, eg Whooping cranes or sea turtles. Below are NOAA's requirements:

Sea Turtles: Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)- activities will be done in February, outside the nesting sea turtle season (March 15 to October 1). In addition, in the event turtles are present boats will maintain a minimum distance of 150 feet and if sea turtles approach the vessel within 150 feet engines are to be placed in neutral until the animal safely departs.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) – These shorebirds use the beach that vehicles may traverse to reach volunteer loading sites. Crews will stay out of the splash zone and avoid flushing the birds during the winter months.

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) – Habitat includes salt marshes and tidal flats on the mainland and barrier islands. It is unlikely whooping cranes will be encountered in open water areas of the bay, it does overlap with the whooping cranes wintering season (October 15 to May 15). Therefore, volunteers will ensure a 1,000-foot buffer zone between trap removals and any cranes. If whooping cranes enter the 1,000-foot buffer, boats will be placed in neutral, and activities will cease until it has moved beyond the 1,000-foot buffer. If an encounter with a whooping crane results in the crane flying away, the sighting will be reported to the Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office in Corpus Christi at (361) 533-6765 and/or the Whooping Crane Coordinator at (361) 676-9953.

West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) – Manatees are rare in Texas but have been documented in the area. If a manatee is sighted during crab trap removals, the vessel will move slowly to avoid any potential encounters. If manatees approach the vessel within 300 feet, engines are to be placed in neutral until the animal safely departs. No water or food will be given to the manatee. Sightings will be reported to the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network at 1-800-9MAMMAL or the Service at (361) 533-6765.

**SAN ANTONIO BAY – GUADALUPE ESTUARY
SHORELINES CLEANUP LIABILITY RELEASE**

I understand that I and/or the minor child under my care am/are participating in the San Antonio Bay-Guadalupe Estuary Shorelines Cleanup at my own risk and that the San Antonio Bay Partnership, nor any organization assisting in the Program, does not have responsibility for my safety or the safety of persons under my care.

I understand that water activities pose risks of personal injury and property damage, including but not limited to drowning, animal stings or bites, punctures, sunburn, heat strokes and other injury.

I will wear a personal floatation device (life preserver) at all times while in or on the water, will follow safe boating practices, and will use appropriate protective equipment to protect myself from injury due to litter, and I will ensure that all persons under my care do so as well.

In consideration for the opportunity for myself and/or the minor child under my care to participate in the San Antonio Bay – Guadalupe Estuary Shorelines Cleanup on or about February 20, 2021, I, individually and on behalf of any participating minor child under my care, agree to **RELEASE, DISCHARGE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS TPWD, ITS AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND CONTRACTORS, FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, LOSSES, DAMAGES, DEMANDS, CAUSES OF ACTION, SUITS, AND LIABILITY OF EVERY KIND, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ANY CLAIM FOR LOSS, DAMAGE, OR DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, OR INJURY (INCLUDING DEATH), BY WHICH SUCH PERSONS OR ENTITIES, INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY, MIGHT OTHERWISE BECOME LIABLE IN ANY MANNER IN CONNECTION WITH OR IN RELATION TO THE CRAB TRAP REMOVAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH LOSS ARISES IN WHOLE OR IN PART FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES.**

I have read this release and I understand all of its terms. I sign this release voluntarily and with full knowledge of the legal consequences.

Signature of Volunteer or Parent/Guardian
(Parent/Guardian must sign if participant is under 18)

Date

Printed Name of Volunteer

Names of Additional Participating Minors:

