

San Antonio & Espiritu Santo Bays

# Shorelines Cleanup

September 25- Sept 30, 2023

Planning Document



## Overview

### Mobilization Days:

- Monday, Sept 25 – Seadrift Cleanup Kickoff with Guadalupe Blanco River Trust and Key Partners
- Tuesday, Sept 26 – Seadrift SABay Cleanup public event
- Saturday, Sept 30, 2023- Port O'Connor Espiritu Santo Bay Cleanup public event
- Special Group Cleanups: Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday—Sign your team up!

### Event Planning Timeline:

- Ongoing- review data gathering protocols and procedures to input into NOAA Marine Debris tracking system.
- July – Solicit sponsors and partners.
- August – media, community calendar & website posting; obtain USFW permit for dock use—in progress.

### Communications:

- Save the date notice: June 30, 2022 (3 months' notice)- sent.
- Solicit boats / teams / volunteers: August 7 (7 weeks' notice)
- Final Assignments – by email no later than Sunday Sept 24 for Seadrift; Wednesday Sept 28 for POC.

### Supplies Pickup:

- For Seadrift event: tbd
- For POC
  - Friday, Sept 29, 5pm-8pm – Allan's house, 604 2<sup>nd</sup> St, POC
  - Saturday Sept 30, 7:30am-8:30am --TPWD Dock , 418 S 16<sup>th</sup> St, POC

### Lunch and Refreshments: Noon – 2pm

- Sept 26 Location: --Seadrift
  - Location tbd
  - Informative presentation
- Sept 30 POC-- Hurricane Junction
  - lunch and refreshment
  - Informative presentation

### Friendly Competition

- Awards for: most bags; most beverage bottles; most unique item—Travel tumbler with Coastal Art by Dawn Ragusin

### Volunteer Thank you gifts:

- Coffee mugs with Coastal Art by Dawn Ragusin.
- Or, as available
  - Metal water bottles, or
  - Long sleeve t-shirt with Bay Rat log (as available), or

# Thank You Partners!



## AND SPONSORS



# 2023 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 4th year!

This plan repeats and expands the bay cleanup effort, focused initially on shorelines near Port O'Connor, but last year expanded to Seadrift. Volunteers and boats are needed for a systematic and comprehensive approach to cleaning these shorelines. All 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.
3. And, 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, the POC Chamber of Commerce & Bay Flats Lodge will conduct a volunteer driven cleanup targeting shorelines near Port O'Connor on September 30, removing what is anticipated to be mostly consumer plastics by foot, kayak, or boat, as appropriate for the shoreline.

On September 26, a similar effort will be mounted from the Seadrift Marina.

During other days the week of Sept 25, special cleanup events will be planned specific to the participating Partners interests.

To quantify our pollution problem and the results of the effort, volunteers are asked to record items they collect on a data sheet. 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 sheets will be compiled and input into the database.

SABP continues to seek funding for 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 Solocator app)

to build a database for a separate program focused on the larger items. Send the photo to AllanRBerger@outlook.com.

## Targeted Shorelines

Targeted shorelines include over 150 miles of bay and islands that are subject to the accumulation of plastic pollution within San Antonio and Espiritu Santo Bays and adjacent Matagorda Bay shorelines. None of the shorelines are accessible by land. A boat or kayak is required.

**Walkable Shorelines** - 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** – 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** - 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!

If you are not familiar with the area you would like to clean, Allan can advise which technique or combination would be appropriate for your area.



## Targeted Shorelines *(see key on next page)*



<u>Key</u>	<b>POC Area Shorelines:</b>	<b>Miles</b>		<u>Key</u>	<b>Seadrift Area Shorelines</b>	<b>Miles</b>
1	Barroom Bay	1.6		1	N Shore SA Bay	1.1
2	Little Mary / Big Bayou	2.3		2	Victoria Barge Canal	1.6
3	Blackberry Island	2.0		3	Guadalupe Bay E Shore	7.3
4N	Lagoon N	6.2		4	Guadalupe Bay W Shore	4.8
4S	Lagoon S	6.2		5	Hynes Bay	10.1
5	Dewberry Island	6.2		6	Refuge Shoreline	9.7
6	Shoalwater N	5.6		7	Island W of Panther Point	5.0
7	Shoalwater S	5.3		8	Island E of Panther Point	6.5
8	Steamboat	5.0		9	Turnstake S	0.9
9	South Pass	3.7		10	Turnstake E	0.8
10	Vandever Island	4.9		11	Welder Flats ICW Shoreline	1.9
11	Lighthouse Cove	2.7		12	Drum Hole	1.6
12	Big Pocket	2.6		13	E Shore SA Bay	3.4
13	Farwell Island	1.7		14	Steamboat W Shore	1.7
14	S Grass Island	2.4			<b>Total Seadrift Area</b>	<b>56.4</b>
15	N Grass Island	2.4				
16	Whitakers	1.7				
17	NW Bayucos	2.3				
18	W Saluria	1.5				
19	N Saluria	1.2				
20	S Saluria	1.5				
21	Coast Guard Shoreline	2.2				
22	Pass Cavallo	1.3				
23	E Bayucos	1.4				
24	Little Jetties Shoreline	1.3				
25	Penninsula	4.0				
26	Boggy	1.2				
27	Powderhorn Shore	5.0				
28	Powderhorn Lake	12.2				
	<b>Total POC Area</b>	<b>97.6</b>			<b>Total SA Bay System</b>	<b>154</b>

## Volunteer Roles

- **Captain** – Responsible for safety of crew; navigates; collects trash for return to staging point bin
- **Data Hand** - inputs trash counts onto data sheet or app
- **Trash Hands** - 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 Tuesday Seadrift cleanup- tbd
- For Saturday POC Cleanup
  - Friday evening 5 pm – 8 pm at Allan's house (604 2nd St, POC)
  - Saturday morning 7:30 am-8:30 am
    - by boat from TPWD Dock on ICWW (see site map below)

## Supplies Provided

- Bags: heavy duty large contractor bags; mesh bags, especially for kayaker
- Bucket Rings
- Trash grabbers
- Gloves
- 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 are sufficiently physically fit to participate safely herein, and that they have not been advised otherwise by a qualified medical person.



## 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 can include **fire ants and wasps**. Watch out for mesquite and cactus thorns. Always wear gloves and use a reacher / grabber.

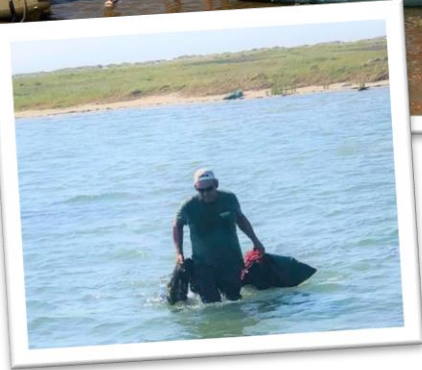
- ✓ Snakes are not commonly seen but are out there. Move slowly and watch where you step and reach.

**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](mailto: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

All trash collected is to be loaded on to a shuttle boat and taken to the dumpster at Texas Parks and Wildlife Fisheries dock and at the Seadrift Marina. 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.



## Data Sheets

Data hands are asked to have data sheets completed and handed in to the coordinator at the lunch. The data collected is important to 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 form will be provided with other supplies – and is available on the website,



## 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 1:00 pm. Lunch will be buffet style to facilitate a timely meal for all. 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

# To Sign Up

Copy the information below and paste it into an email. Add your responses and the subject: **Shorelines Cleanup**. Send it to [AllanRBerger@outlook.com](mailto:AllanRBerger@outlook.com)

**Yes, I want to help with the 2023 Shorelines Cleanup!**

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

**Date to pick up trash:**

**Team participants (#):**

**I have a boat to transport a team to assigned area:** yes or no

**I need crew members:** yes or no

**Preferred Area to clean** (*if none, Allan will assign*):

**Questions?**



# Thank YOU!

