

STATUS REPORT #4: City of Sanibel Fish Kill Clean-up (8/2/18 11:15 a.m.)

Crystal Mansell | 08/02/2018 11:23 am

Read this status report for current fish kill clean-up efforts.

STATUS REPORT #4

City of Sanibel Fish Kill Clean-up

Additional Labor & Equipment Mobilized and Deployed Today

IN A NUTSHELL - Due to the unprecedented volume of dead sea life currently washing up on the shores of Sanibel, the City continues the collection and removal that began on Saturday, July 28th. **First break of day reports indicate dead sea life deposits today are greater in volume than yesterday.** Today's hardest hit area reported thus far is between Donax to Lighthouse Beach on the gulf-side. Today, **the City has again substantially increased both the contractual labor and equipment allocated to the beach clean-up task.** Yesterday, the City removed a total of 22 large carcasses from our shores (20 Goliath Groupers & 2 Tarpon) and thousands of smaller dead sea life from the impacted areas of the beaches. Today, **the City has 4 flats boats in the canals cleaning** dead sea life from the canals. Additionally, additional contract labor is on the shore of the canals also removing dead sea life from the canals. The City has begun in the canals with the greatest impact. One of the more challenging tasks this morning is the removal of 9 additional dead Goliath Groupers from the Bayside in areas difficult to access.

[Click here for VIDEO of City's Contractual Labor Rolling Out on Periwinkle Way, August 2, 2018.](#)

We currently have three basic operations underway to remove dead sea life from the Island under the direction of the City of Sanibel Department of Public Works:

1. Beach Clean-up
2. Canal Clean-up and waterside removal; and
3. "Rapid Response Team" primarily addressing large carcasses

Early today, additional contractual labor crews arrived by bus and will continue to work on the beach in each of the 5 designated zones with a City employee to monitor and direct around sea turtle nests, etc.

In addition to more contractual labor today this additional equipment has been added:

- 7 UTV's
- Additional boat
- 1 additional wheel loader

Two additional work teams will begin at Lighthouse and work the poor condition area between Donax and the Lighthouse.

One additional work team will begin at Donax and work toward the Lighthouse.

One additional work team will begin at Rabbit Road and work toward Tarpon Bay.

One additional work team to begin at Gulf Pines Drive and work toward Rabbit Road.



The City of Sanibel Boat Ramp has been prepared as the staging area for the Canal and water-borne clean-up operations. The current plan is to bring all dead sea life back to the Public Works yard for hauling off-island by Advanced Disposal. Advanced Disposal deployed additional dumpsters to Public Works for debris disposal. At this time, public access to the Boat Ramp is permitted.

In addition to City employees and the City's hurricane debris removal contractor Crowder-Gulf, the City has also deployed local landscapers, Grounds by Greenways, previously under contract with the City to assist with the removal of the dead fish.

Large carcasses inventory for Wednesday, August 1, 2018. (one day totals; NOT cumulative):

Goliath Grouper - 20

1 @ 250 lbs

3 @ 200 lbs

9 @ 80-100 lbs

4 @ 50 lbs

3 @ 40 lbs

Tarpon - 2

1 @ 150 lbs

1 @ 100 lbs.

First light of day report by City of Sanibel Public Works staff:

- Lighthouse Beach
 - Current Conditions: Poor
 - Red Tide: Present
 - Odor: Strong
 - Deposits: Approximately 20 to 60 dead sea life every 10 feet
- Sanibel Boat Ramp
 - Current Conditions: Fair to Poor
 - Red Tide: Present
 - Odor: Yes
 - Deposits: More than 200 dead fish floating at Boat Ramp
- Algiers Beach (Gulfside City Park)
 - Current Conditions: Fair to Poor
 - Red Tide: Present
 - Odor: Present
 - Deposits: Approximately 25 dead sea life every 10 feet
- Tarpon Bay Beach
 - Current Conditions: Fair
 - Red Tide: Moderate presence
 - Odor: Present
 - Deposits: Approximately 10 dead sea life every 10 feet
- Bowman's Beach
 - Current Conditions: Fair
 - Red Tide: Heavy presence
 - Odor: Present
 - Deposits: Approximately 15 dead fish every 10 feet
- Blind Pass
 - Current Conditions: Moderate
 - Red Tide: Slight to Moderate presence
 - Odor: Present
 - Deposits: Approximately 5 dead sea life every 10 feet
- Turner Beach Park
 - Current Conditions: Good to Excellent

- Red Tide: Not present
- Odor: None
- Deposits: Zero deposits of dead fish present

Based on tides, winds and currents, these conditions may alter quickly and significantly.

If you encounter any dead sea life washed ashore on private property that is too large to be removed by hand, please email address and location information to: j.zimomra@mysanibel.com , and attach a photo if possible.

The City of Sanibel Departments of Public Works, Natural Resources and Administration will also be working on the clean-up. **SATURDAY, AUGUST 4TH & SUNDAY, AUGUST 5TH THE PUBLIC WORKS PHONES WILL BE STAFFED FROM 8 AM TO 5 PM. THE PHONE NUMBER FOR PUBLIC WORKS IS (239) 472-6397.**

Catfish Caution: A large portion of the dead fish on the beach are catfish. The pectoral (side) fins and dorsal (top) fin contain sharp, venomous spines; extreme care should be used when handling this fish. Beachgoers should also avoid stepping on dead catfish as some sharp barbs can even penetrate the sole of a shoe.

Yesterday's Heat Index exceeded 100 degrees; today's forecast is the same. Your City staff remains focused on completing the task at hand and is determined to do so the best of our ability. The City of Sanibel staff is committed to put forth our best efforts to accomplish this task. The tides, changing currents and new deposits which are left immediately following a clean-up pass makes this hot, tedious and odoriferous task even more challenging.

Judie Zimomra
Sanibel City Manager

[Click here for City's Call for Action](#)

[Click here for City of Sanibel 2018 Water Priorities](#)

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