



Research Priorities for the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and N.E Brazil for enhancing the relationship between Science, Policy, and Decision Making



A CLME+ Project

Bob Glazer

Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



www.theGEF.org



Based on Indicators from Pollution Workshop Grand Cayman - 2016

1. P-I.1 Number of sites with effective reduction / prevention pollution programs in place

Example Research Action 1. Survey countries in the region to identify specific reduction / prevention pollution programs in place

Gap or research
need/action 1

Gap or research
need/action 2

Gap or research
need/action 3

2. P-I.2. Improvement in socio-economical quantification of pollution impacts on selected key species / group of species including fishing resources

Example Research Action 1. Develop socio-economic study and funding support to quantify the effects of pollution on the social and economic well-being of society including the fishing sector

Gap or research
need/action 1

Gap or research
need/action 2

Gap or research
need/action 3

3. P-I.3. Degree of understanding of impacts of emerging contaminants (hormones, noise pollution) on the marine diversity and human health

Sargassum

Responding to a sargassum influx

If sargassum appears on your beach, what you do next can be good or bad for the beach and business. Important lessons have been learned so far.

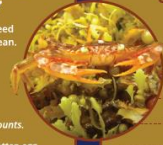
Here's what you need to know

Sargassum is a natural seaweed that floats in the Atlantic Ocean.

It's an important home for marine life. Like fish and sea turtles.

It's a problem only when it comes ashore in massive amounts.

A complaint is the smell of rotten egg gas as wet sargassum decomposes. There are potential health risks at high gas concentrations.



What should you do?

Communication is key!

Inform beach users about sargassum - manage their expectations.

Direct beach users to unaffected or clean beaches.

Agree how much sargassum justifies cleaning.

Determine which beaches will be cleaned.

Join with partners and share the job.

Organise wildlife patrollers to inspect for stranded sea creatures like sea turtle hatchlings, collect and release them with some sargassum into offshore currents.

Leave some sargassum for beach nourishment.

Keep in touch with local environmental agencies as forecasting models are in development.



Take care!

These actions cause serious harm to the beach.

- 1 Constant beach grooming
- 2 Removing sand from the beach or dunes
- 3 Heavy machinery used carelessly
- 4 Clearing or trampling beach vegetation
- 5 Driving above the high water mark and through sand dunes
- 6 Driving over sea turtle nests
- 7 Cleaning before patrollers - Let them check for signs of wildlife before you start cleaning!

If my beach looks like this...

No action required on this beach

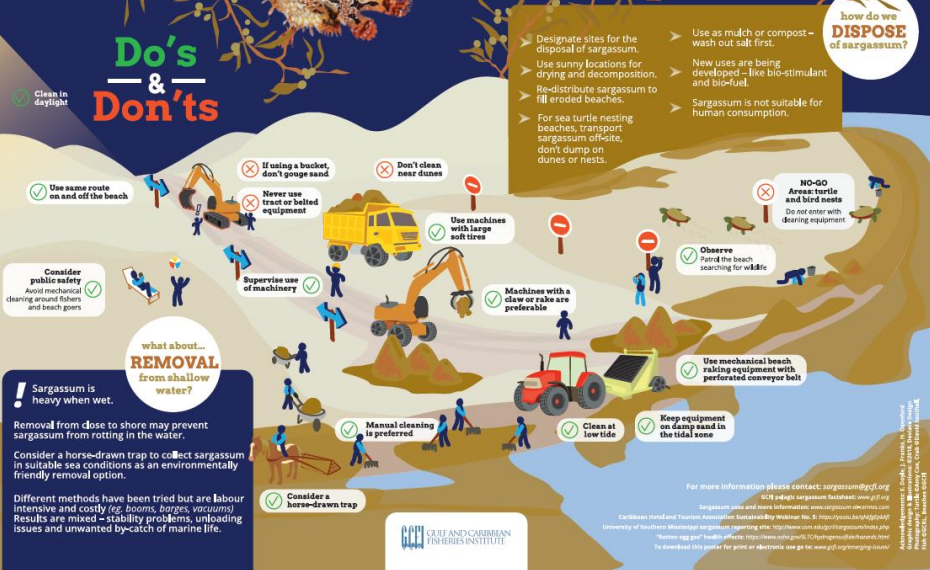
Leave the sargassum alone - let nature run its course. Be patient - it will wash away or get buried. Rest assured - it will benefit your beach and save you money and effort.

Taking action? Manual raking is the approach to take

It's simple, low cost and environmentally friendly. Get communities involved in these beach clean-ups. Run educational scavenger hunts for sea creatures in sargassum. Separate plastic pollution from sargassum for disposal. Transport using wheelbarrows, bags or tarps and take to designated disposal areas.

Work with partners and plan a mechanical response

Take a multi-stage approach - remove upper layers of sargassum with machinery. Without touching the sand, then rake manually or run mechanical beach raking equipment. Clean high usage areas first and leave other beaches for nature to clean. Remove the sargassum as soon as possible after arrival to avoid vast accumulation.



For more information please contact: sargassum@gfl.org
 ©2018 GFL sargassum factsheet: www.gfl.org
 Sargassum sites and news information: www.gfl.org
 Caribbean Travel and Tourism Association Sustainability Webinar No. 8: <https://www.caribbean-tta.org/>
 University of Southern Queensland: <http://www.usq.edu.au>
 Photos: www.usq.edu.au, www.gfl.org, www.caribbean-tta.org/
 To download this poster for print or electronic use go to www.gfl.org



Marine Pollution Survey

English: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GCFIMarinePollution_en

Espanol: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GCFIMarinePollution_es