

San Antonio & Espiritu Santo Bays

# Shorelines Cleanup

September 23- Sept 28, 2024

Planning Document

August 4, 2024



## Overview

### Mobilization Days:

- Monday, Sept 23 – Seadrift Cleanup Kickoff with Key Conservation Partners
- Special Group Cleanups: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday—Sign your team up!
- Saturday, Sept 28, 2023- Seadrift, Port O'Connor Bay, Lavaca Bay/Port Lavaca Cleanups. Cleanup activities are also scheduled for Rockport, Matagorda, & the Guadalupe River / Victoria. Details available soon.

### Data Protocols

- Each team is requested to log the debris removed on a handwritten form. The data will be uploaded to NOAA Marine Debris Tracker to inform educational and public outreach efforts
- Each team is also requested to use a cellphone-based app Quick Capture to measure the distance cleaned.

### Event Planning Timeline:

- Ongoing- review data gathering protocols and procedures to input into NOAA Marine Debris tracking system - in progress.
  - Add balloons to data sheet
  - Improve measurement of cleaned shoreline with app
- May 2 – Marine Plastics webinar – Jace Tunnell, Harte – accomplished!
- June – order supplies and bins; approvals for bin locations
- June – Solicit sponsors and partners; obtain USFW permit for dock use.
- August – media, community calendar & website posting.

### Communications:

- Save the date notice: June 24 (3 months' notice)
- Solicit boats / teams / volunteers: August 1 (8 weeks' notice)
- Final Assignments – by email no later than Friday Sept 20 for weekday cleanups ; Wednesday Sept 25 for Saturday cleanup

### Supplies Pickup:

- For Seadrift tbd
- For POC
  - Friday, Sept 27, 5pm-8pm – Allan's house, 604 2<sup>nd</sup> St, POC
  - Saturday Sept 28, 7:30am-8:30am --TPWD Dock , 418 S 16<sup>th</sup> St, POC
- Port Lavaca tbd
- Aransas Bay, Matagorda Bay – tbd

**Meal and Refreshments: Sept 28, 530pm – 9pm , POC Community Center**

- Meal and refreshment by Cathy's and Gulf Breeze Winery
- Informative presentation by Jace Tunnell, Harte Research Institute
- Entertainment by Jack Mottley
- **Friendly Competition** --Awards for: most bags; most beverage bottles; most unique item—gifts to be determined

**Volunteer Thank you gifts:**

- New gift – T-shirt with Bay R.A.T. logo
- Or, as available :
  - Coffee mugs with Coastal Art by Dawn Ragusin.
  - Metal water bottles with Bay RAT logo, or
  - Long sleeve t-shirt with Bay Rat logo

# Thank You Partners!

Some from 2023 – I hope all signup up again!



## AND SPONSORS



&



# 2024 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 beach.

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 5th year!

This plan repeats and expands the bay cleanup effort, focused initially on shorelines near Port O'Connor, but now 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

- Remove plastic trash from bay shorelines.
- Engage the public in making a difference in protecting the Bays.
- Quantify the number of common debris items so that we can discuss solutions and engage stakeholders & 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 across the bay system on **September 28**, removing what is anticipated to be mostly consumer plastics by foot, kayak, or boat, as appropriate for the shoreline.

During other days the week of September 23, 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 data sheets will be compiled and input manually into the database.

A new app is being developed to better measure the shoreline cleaned.

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](mailto:AllanRBerger@outlook.com).

## Targeted Shorelines

Targeted shorelines include nearly 200 miles of bay and islands that are subject to the accumulation of plastic pollution within San Antonio and Espiritu Santo Bays, adjacent Matagorda Bay shorelines and Lavaca Bay. 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!

**Airboats** - Teams of 3-4 volunteers are needed to man airboats clean shallow water shorelines and marshes.

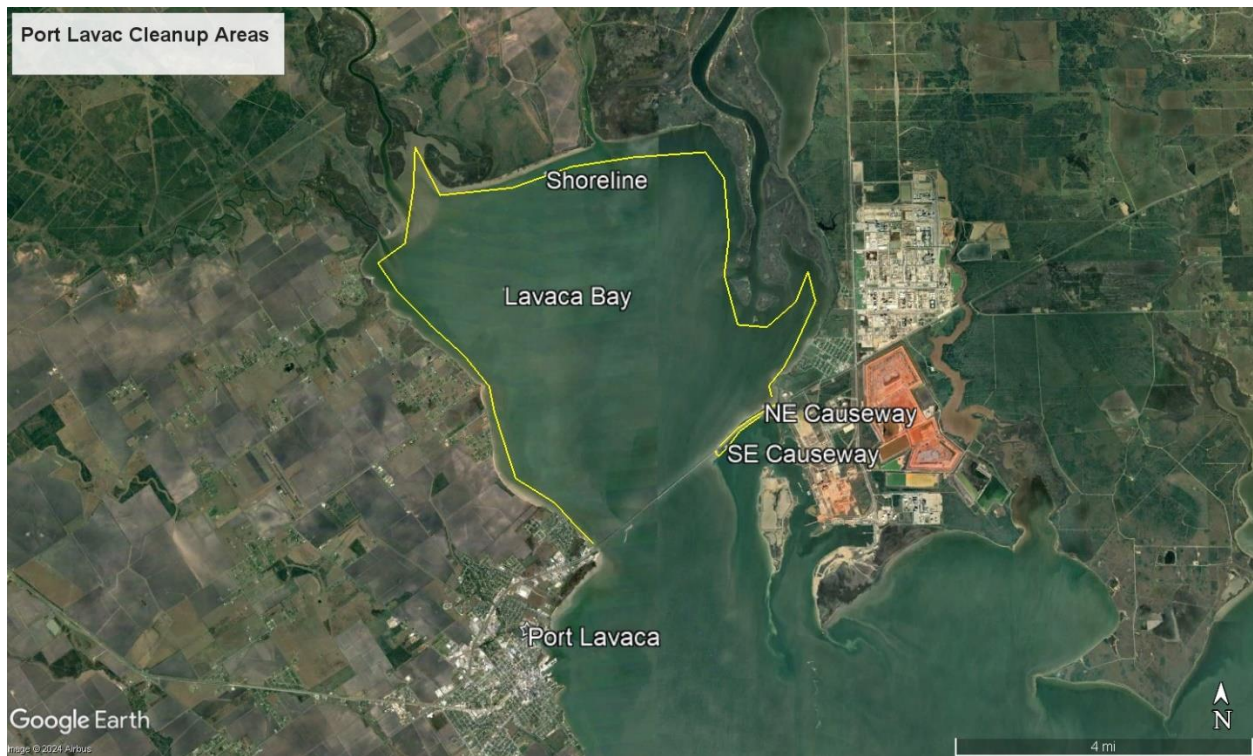
If you are not familiar with the area you would like to clean, Allan can advise which technique or combination would be appropriate for your area.



# Targeted Shorelines

(see key below )







## Map Key

<u>Key</u>	<u>POC Area Shorelines:</u>	<u>Miles</u>		<u>Key</u>	<u>Seadrift Area Shorelines</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1	Barroom Bay	1.6		1	N Shore SA Bay	1.1
2	Little Mary / Big Bayou	2.3		2	Victoria Barge Canal	8.8
3	Blackberry Island	2.0		3	Guadalupe Bay E Shore	8.4
4N	Lagoon N	6.2		4	Guadalupe Bay W Shore	5.6
4S	Lagoon S	6.2		5	Hynes Bay	11.6
5	Dewberry Island	6.2		6	Refuge Shoreline	11.2
6	Shoalwater N	5.6		7	Island W of Panther Point	5.8
7	Shoalwater S	5.3		8	Island E of Panther Point	7.5
8	Steamboat	5.0		9	Steamboat Pass Area	2.6
9	South Pass	3.7		10	Turnstake E & S	1.9
10	Vandever Island	4.9		12	Welder Flats ICW Shoreline	2.2
11	Lighthouse Cove	2.7		13	Drum Hole	1.8
12	Big Pocket	2.6		14	E Shore SA Bay	4.0
13	Farwell Island	1.7		15	Delta	4.0
14	S Grass Island	2.4			<b>Total Seadrift Area</b>	<b>76.5</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				<u>Target</u>
28	Powderhorn Lake	12.2				
29	Chester Island	1.4			<b>Total SA Bay System+</b>	<b>175.5</b>
	<b>Total POC Area</b>	<b>99.0</b>				
<u>Key</u>	<u>PL Area Shorelines:</u>	<u>Miles</u>				
1	Lavaca Bay Shoreline	17.2				
2	NE Lavaca Causeway	1.0				
3	SE Lavaca Causeway	1.0				
		<b>19.2</b>				

**Plans for Rockport and Matagorda are being developed.**

## Volunteer Roles

- **Captain** – Responsible for safety of crew; sets launch site and schedule, navigates; collects trash for return to staging point bin
- **Data Hand** - inputs trash counts onto data sheet; with new app, measure cleaned shoreline.
- **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 Saturday 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)
- For Saturday Port Lavaca - tbd

## 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.

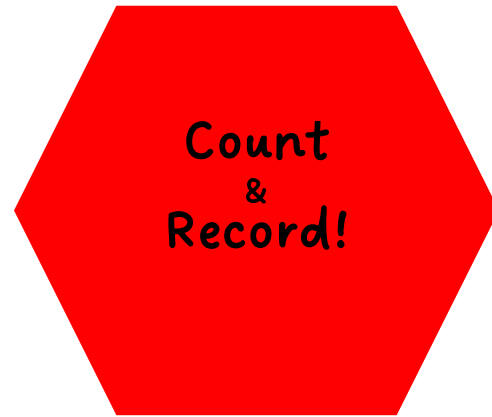


## Trash Bin Protocols

1. ABSOLUTELY NO MATERIAL ABOVE THE FILL LINE.
2. TIRES WILL BE ACCEPTED **BUT MUST BE STACKED OUTSIDE THE DUMPSTER.**
3. NO CONCRETE.
4. NO SOIL.
5. NO APPLIANCES OF ANY TYPE.
6. IF IT IS LIGHT ENOUGH TO FLY OUT OF THE BOAT OR BACK OF TRUCK IT MUST BE BAGGED BEFORE BEING PLACED IN THE DUMPSTER.



## 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,

## **Dinner/Refreshment & Prizes**

POC Community Center – Saturday September 28, 2024, 5:30pm

Dinner and beverages will be provided to all participants. Teams should allow enough time to offload trash to attend the celebratory party by 5:30pm.

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**

Click here: [Sign up Now for 2024 Bay Shorelines Cleanup](#)

**If you have difficulties, try this:**

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 2024 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!

**SAN ANTONIO BAY**



**PORT O'CONNOR**

