

SPECIAL CONDITIONS BEACH CLEANING POLICY



Sarasota County will utilize a special conditions beach cleaning policy to administer the removal of large amounts of shoreline debris. This policy establishes operational procedures for the removal of dead fish, seaweed or debris left by the tides or storm events. Stranded seaweed and dead fish provide an important food source for beach and near-shore food chains. Removal of debris, dead fish or seaweed should only occur when all of the following criteria are met:

1. Accumulation reaches an estimated volume to fill one 5-yard truck per two-mile continuous section of beach that is accessible to motorized equipment or vehicles if two tidal cycles have not removed it naturally; and
2. Beach to be cleaned is
 - a. Owned by the County and open to the general public; or
 - b. Below the approximate mean high water line and in close proximity to a County-owned public beach or beach access; or
 - c. Part of a Federal or State beach re-nourishment project and seaward of the Erosion Control Line (ECL); and
3. Cleaning can be accomplished in compliance with all applicable Local, State and Federal regulations; and
4. Funding is available.

Sarasota County's special conditions beach cleaning policy may apply to private beaches for County managed removal of dead fish and/or seaweed only under all of the following conditions:

1. Accumulation reaches an estimated volume to fill one 5-yard truck per two-mile continuous section of beach that is accessible to motorized equipment or vehicles if two tidal cycles have not removed it naturally; and
2. Cleaning can be accomplished in compliance with all applicable Local, State and Federal regulations; and
3. The area to be cleaned is landward of the approximate mean high water line and seaward of the any pronounced escarpment, dune, vegetated area or shore protection structure such as a revetment; and
4. The beach is in close proximity to a County-owned public beach or beach access and has been customarily crossed and/or used by the general public; and
5. Funding is available and a public purpose can be established; and
6. The owner(s) have provided written permission to the County. Such permission shall acknowledge the historic customary use of the beach by the public.

This policy was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on May 7, 2013.