



Beach Basket Report

Sebastian Inlet District

Q1: Jan-March 2024

1.0 Program Summary

The 2024 Q1 (January, February, March) report herein includes details for the two public Beach Basket stations located along the northern shoreline in the Sebastian Inlet State Park. The data presented in this report was collected and managed by our monitoring partners and CCinc's beach basket team through weekly surveys of the beach basket stations. These surveys include the following: recording the number of baskets present at a station along with their unique codes, the cleaning and sanitization of baskets at each station, as well as returning any misplaced baskets to their originally assigned station.

Throughout the first quarter each station was monitored weekly and a total rate of loss (ROL) of 16%, or 1 basket, was recorded. This is a great improvement in ROL considering 2024 Q1 was the first program quarter to have three baskets at each station, rather than just two.

2.0 Detailed Quarterly Report

During 2024 Q1, the total rate of loss (ROL) recorded for baskets was 16% or only one basket because out of six total baskets. The prediction made in our previous report was correct that a greater starting number of baskets will result in the ROL appearing to be lower if the same number of baskets disappears within one quarter.

2.1 Detailed Observations for Inlet Stations

During Q1, the Cove station did not lose any baskets. The North Shore station only lost one basket. The North Shore Station lost its first basket during the last month of the quarter, approximately during the week of 3/17/2024. Meaning, that all three baskets were available for the majority of the quarter. Some level of loss at this location is not that surprising due to the high popularity of the North Shore location.

Based on the voluntary impact surveys, people did use the Cove and North Shore Stations less during Q1.

2.2 Basket Maintenance

No serious maintenance was needed during Q1. All baskets had their labels replaced

at the start of Q1. Every basket has two printed labels and handwritten labels under the basket handles to hide it from the elements.

2.3 Public Relations and Media Attention

Two Instagram posts were made by CCinc regarding the beach basket beach cleanup. The first post served as an invitation to the cleanup and received 32 likes. The second post showcased the cleanup results and highlighted the beach basket stations. It mentioned that we collected over 55 lbs of trash and reminded followers that they could always utilize the beach basket stations for their own beach cleanup. This post received 34 likes. Additionally, the SID also made multiple social media posts highlighting the quarterly cleanup and the beach basket program.

Additionally, a short survey was conducted on our Instagram story, asking people to choose where they have used the beach baskets. According to the survey results, 8% of respondents stated that they used the beach baskets located in Sebastian Inlet State Park.

3.0 Recommendations

The following are recommendations so the program continues to engage beachgoers and remain helpful in keeping beaches clean:

1. Begin working with the SID on new and novel ways to remove marine debris from the Inlet.
2. Support the SID during their annual underwater inlet cleanup.

The next Quarterly report (Q2) will be for beach basket use between April 1, 2024, and June 30, 2024. Thank you for the opportunity to work with the Sebastian Inlet District on such an impactful and useful program to protect the environment.

Kendra Bergman

Executive Director



Maddie Phelan

Sustainability Programs Coordinator