



Beach Basket Report

Sebastian Inlet District

Q4: Oct-Dec 2023

1.0 Program Summary

The 2023 Q4 (October, November, December) report herein includes details for the two public Beach Basket stations located at access points 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 fourth quarter each station was monitored weekly and a total rate of loss (ROL) of 75%, or three total baskets, was recorded.

2.0 Detailed Quarterly Report

During 2023 Q4, the total rate of loss (ROL) recorded for baskets was 75% or three baskets because each station started with two baskets each. However, beginning in 2024 Q1 the total number of baskets at each station will increase to three, so the ROL will not appear to be as high if the same number of baskets disappear within one quarter.

2.1 Detailed Observations for Inlet Stations

At the beginning of Q4, the Cove station lost both baskets for about two weeks. This observation was very similar to the early disappearance of baskets experienced in Q3, however, one of the cove baskets reappeared at the station and remained available for the rest of the quarter. The disappearance and reappearance of the remaining basket served as a clear indication that the basket was being used. The North Shore station lost its first basket about four weeks after the first of the quarter around Halloween. The second basket at the North Shore Station remained available for most of the quarter and then disappeared in December.

It was very clear based on the impact surveys that people are using both the Cove and North Shore Stations. Thirty people self-reported using the stations as either a pickup point or drop-off point for the beach baskets across Sebastian Inlet State Park. Based on all of the reporting for Sebastian Inlet State Park during Q4, the public cleaned up 50.6 lbs of trash off the beaches. People are becoming more aware of the new survey tool with an average of 6.3 people answering the survey each month of

Q4. In addition, the public continues to provide the program with the highest satisfaction rating of 5 out of 5. The survey feedback in addition to the data serves as a positive confirmation that the beach baskets are effectively serving their purpose.

2.2 Basket Maintenance

During Q4 the scale attached to the Cove station was replaced due to weathering and water damage. The scale was replaced with an outdoor fishing scale that works better in the salty Florida elements. In addition to the scale, all baskets had their labels replaced at the start of Q4. Every basket has two printed labels and a handwritten label under the basket handle to hide it from the elements.

2.3 Public Relations and Media Attention

One post was made about the cleanup that used the beach basket stations at Sebastian Inlet State Park. In the post, we mentioned how many microplastics were cleaned up off the beach and advertised that the baskets are always there for people to use if they want to do their own cleanup. The post received 45 likes. One person commented on the post and said “Love the clearing of the microplastics!!” Comments like these along with the satisfaction ratings from the surveys indicate that people really appreciate the beach basket program and its purpose.

3.0 Recommendations

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

1. No recommendations at this time

The next Quarterly report (Q1) will be for beach basket use between January 1, 2024, and March 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.

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Executive Director



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