



Beach Basket Report

Sebastian Inlet District
Q3: July-September 2026

1.0 Program Summary

The Q3 2026 (July, August, and September) report herein includes details for three (3) public Beach Basket stations within Sebastian Inlet State Park (SISP). Two (2) of the basket stations are located along the northern inlet shoreline, and one (1) basket station is located on the southern inlet shoreline.

The data presented in this report were 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 each station along with their unique identifying codes, disposing of any marine debris left in the baskets, rinsing baskets and sanitizing basket handles, checking the battery-operated digital scale at each station to determine if it is in working order and set on the desired unit of weight (lb), and returning any misplaced or traveling baskets to their originally assigned station.

Throughout the third quarter, each station was monitored periodically, and a total rate of loss (ROL) of 66.6%, or six (6) baskets, was recorded. No other baskets required replacement due to damage or old age; however, when this need arises, replaced baskets are not calculated into the ROL since the ROL is based solely on baskets that are lost or stolen within the monitoring period prior to when they would be aged out of rotation.

2.0 Detailed Quarterly Report

During Q3 2026, the total rate of loss (ROL) for Beach Baskets was 66.6%, with six (6) baskets lost out of nine (9) total baskets in rotation. This quarter's ROL is one of the highest experienced for these stations, a figure last seen in Q2 2024, prior to the installation of the T-Dock station (Appendix A, Figure 1). During the quarter, there were (2) instances noted when baskets traveled from their home station located at the north jetty within SISP to the SID stations located along the northern inlet shoreline.

2.1 Detailed Observations for Inlet Stations

Within Q3 2026, the North Shore (NS) station lost one (1) basket, The Cove (COVE) station lost two (2) baskets, and the T-Dock (TD) station lost all three (3) of its baskets. The one (1) missing North Shore (NS) basket has not been seen since it was placed in rotation during the quarterly visit on July 1, 2026. The two (2) baskets missing from The Cove (COVE) were last seen during the monitoring conducted the week of August 29, 2026. Two (2) of the missing T-Dock (TD) baskets have not been seen since the week of August 8, 2026, while the third missing basket was last seen when monitoring was conducted during the week of September 26, 2026. No baskets were in need of replacement due to old age. These replacements occur once a basket has been in rotation for a year or more, or if breakage or damage occurs prior to that time.

When comparing quarterly ROL since the SID Beach Basket project began in 2022, the third quarter of the year typically experiences a range of basket loss from higher than to lower than the average of 35%, with Q3 2026 being the first instance these stations have experienced a loss greater than 50% (Appendix A, Figure 2). This quarter's higher-than-normal ROL occurred after the three (3) SID stations went two (2) consecutive quarters, Q1 2026 and Q2 2026, with a 0% ROL, or no Beach Basket loss.

Regarding basket movement throughout Q3 2026, there was an instance, observed during a quarterly visit, when two (2) SID baskets moved from their home stations to another within SISP. One (1) basket from The Cove (COVE) station traveled to the SISP Boardwalk 2 (BWA) station one (1) time, and one (1) basket from the North Shore (NS) station also traveled to the SISP Boardwalk 2 (BWA) on one (1) occasion. No observations were documented to show that SISP baskets traveled to any of the SID stations within the quarter.

Aside from movement, basket use can also be indicated through responses to the "Report Your Impact" survey, which parkgoers can access by scanning a QR code found on the small "Report Your Impact" sign at each station. Although no new "Report Your Impact" surveys were submitted during Q3 2026, a cumulative total of 190.74 lb of marine debris have been removed with the use of SID Beach Basket stations.

2.2 Basket Maintenance

No serious station maintenance was required in Q3 2026. Each basket is assigned a unique ID for tracking purposes, with every basket provided with two (2) printed labels. In addition, unique codes are written with permanent marker under each of the basket's handles, which minimizes their exposure to the elements. To allow for easy visibility and tracking, baskets that remained at these stations and transitioned from Q2 2026 to Q3 2026 had any missing or faded printed labels replaced as needed, and each of the stations had its signage and scale screens cleaned at the start of the

quarter.

2.3 Public Relations and Media Attention

Throughout Q3 2026, the Sebastian Inlet District was tagged in social media posts created by CCinc regarding Beach Baskets and Coastal Cleanup events. In July, a post was created that featured a photo of a Beach Basket in use at The Cove. The caption stated, “Plastic Free July is all about making small changes that have a lasting impact. Choosing reusable alternatives helps prevent single-use plastics from entering our environment in the first place. Maybe for you, that means making the switch from single-use to reusable straws. However, it’s up to all of us to help clean up the plastic that’s already there. The next time you’re heading to the beach, borrow a Beach Basket and leave the shoreline a little cleaner than you found it. The Cove Beach Basket station, along with two others located within Sebastian Inlet State Park, is proudly supported by the Sebastian Inlet District.” That post received 5,162 views, five (5) comments, 10 shares, and 314 likes on Instagram and 2,365 views, 38 reactions, and three (3) shares on Facebook.

In July, an event flyer was created and posted to promote the quarterly Coastal Cleanup at The Cove that occurred in August. That post, captioned “Lend a hand by helping clean up the sand,” and providing additional cleanup event details, received 849 views, 24 likes, and one (1) share on Instagram and 7,101 views and 34 reactions, five (5) comments, and 12 shares on Facebook. Furthermore, a Facebook Event was created for the cleanup, with 21 people indicating they were interested in attending and five (5) people stating they would attend. In addition, the Sebastian Inlet District Beach Basket stations were featured in stories on both Instagram and Facebook at different times throughout the quarter as part of our “Beach Basket Tuesdays” series.

2.4 Coastal Cleanup Events

During Q3 2026, the Sebastian Inlet District served as a collaborator for a quarterly Coastal Cleanup at The Cove. A record forty-two participants attended the cleanup, removing 91.9 lb of marine debris. In all, 2,055 pieces of trash were collected, including 649 pieces of hard plastic, 371 cigarette butts, 271 plastic bottle caps, 84 pieces of fishing line or fishing-related equipment, 68 food wrappers, and 58 pieces of plastic film.

3.0 Recommendations

The following are recommendations to ensure the program continues to engage inlet-goers and remains helpful in keeping the Sebastian Inlet free of debris:

1. Continued weekly Beach Basket station survey submissions are

recommended for generating comprehensive reports about basket use, basket travel, and the rate of loss.

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



Jeanna Kent
Sustainability Programs Coordinator

Appendix A

Figure 1.

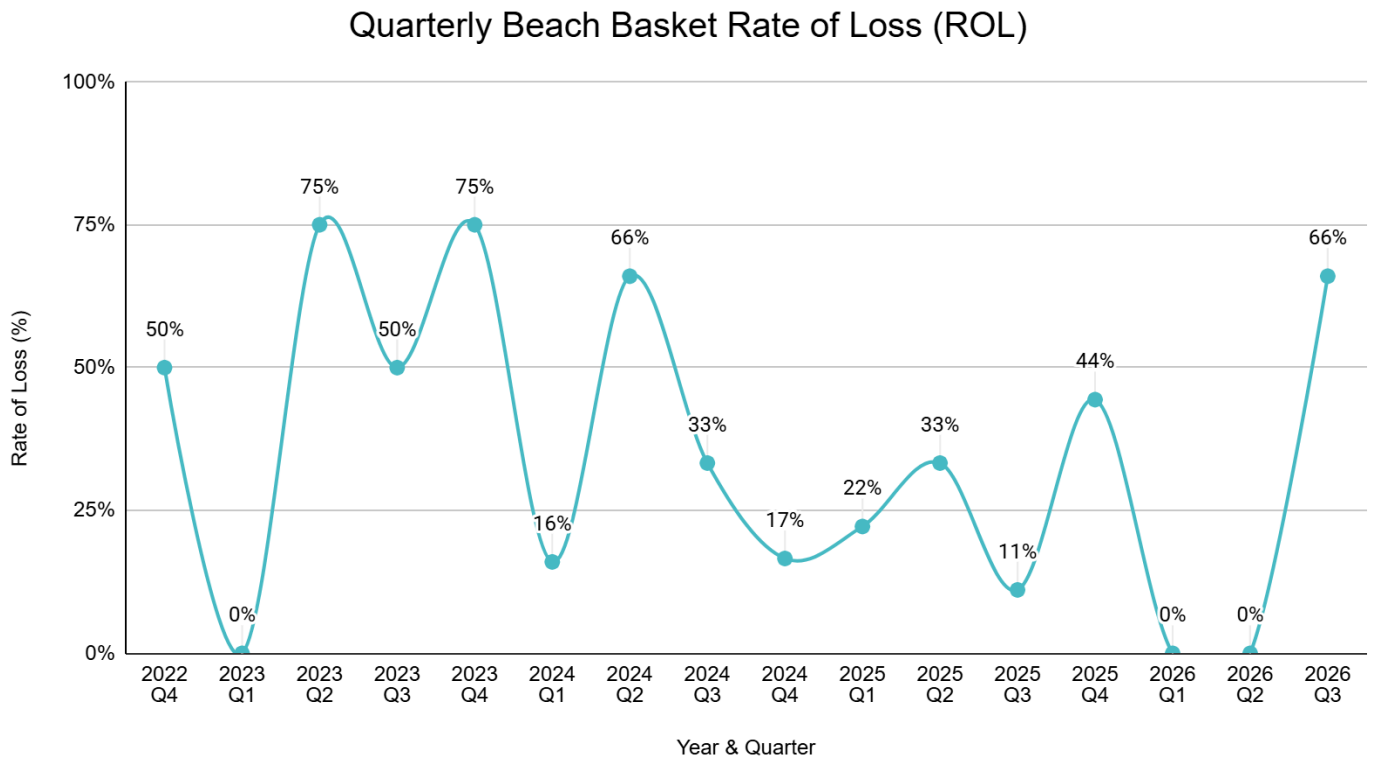


Figure 2.

