

Chapter 26: Coastal Cleaning Protocol

1. Introduction

Beach cleaning is an activity that plays a vital role in maintaining a high standard of coastal space that contributes to the social and economic value of the coast. However, kelp wrack and other natural marine debris play a significant role in the natural coastal processes taking place on our coast where wind driven systems and sand movement are predominant features. As such, uncontrolled, unregulated and unplanned beach cleaning has the potential to significantly negatively impact on the coast's natural dynamic systems and thereby contribute to the deterioration of the City's coastline.

Accordingly the City of Cape Town has developed a Beach Cleaning Protocol that meets socio-economic needs while protecting natural coastal processes and dynamics. This Beach Cleaning Protocol is an internal City policy that directs all City line functions in their operations. In addition all external organisations funded by various means to contribute to beach cleanliness in Cape Town, will be required to adhere to the City Beach Cleaning Protocol.

2. Definition and Intent

Beach Cleaning is defined as a service activity provided by the City of Cape Town that removes waste material from City beaches and rocky shores between the low water mark and the first fixed infrastructure on City owned boundaries.

The intention of the protocol is to provide the City of Cape Town and its communities with a clean beach and coastal environment to the highest standards free of waste material while protecting the natural coastal processes and dynamics.

3. General Principles

The City's Beach Cleaning Protocol is informed by the following guiding principles:

- All beaches and rocky shores will be primarily managed as ecological systems vulnerable to human induced changes and activities.
- The City's coastline is one of our greatest economic, environmental and social assets and as such should, to the best of our abilities, be kept free of waste material.
- Our coastline is utilised in many different ways with distinct high intensity recreational nodal points across the City, as well as extensive natural coastal areas utilised on a far lower intensity. This use pattern of the coastline must inform the Beach Cleaning Protocol and direct City efforts.
- Maintaining a waste free coastal environment is a shared responsibility between the City, its citizens, user groups as well as external organisations. This principle of shared responsibility must at all times be communicated and re-enforced to all coastal users.

4. Waste Categories

The following definitions of waste will apply to the Beach Cleaning Protocol:

- Human induced/resultant waste: This includes all litter and domestic waste (plastics, paper, cigarette butts, cans, cardboards, bottles, organic waste etc) and commercial waste products
- Domestic animal waste: dog and other domestic animal excrement

The following is NOT defined or considered as waste, but is central to the Beach Cleaning Protocol:

- Kelp Wrack
- Red Bait
- Shells and shell fragments

The following coastal waste is excluded from this protocol as it is specifically addressed in separate Council Policies and protocols

- Marine Animal Carcasses (will be dealt with as per the City's Large Marine Animal Stranding Policy)
- Oil, toxic and hazardous waste (Will be dealt with as per the Disaster Management Policy)

5. Roles and Responsibilities

This Coastal Cleaning Protocol applies to all City line functions undertaking cleaning and waste removal actions on the City's beaches or rocky shore lines. Specific reference is made to the lead service delivery department, Solid Waste Management, although the protocol remains applicable to Sport, Recreation and Amenities, Environmental Resource Management, City Parks, Disaster Risk Management and Transport, Roads and Stormwater.

All City partner organisations, independent organisations, individuals as well as externally funded organisations undertaking beach cleaning work (for example CoastCare) within the jurisdiction and boundaries of the City of Cape Town, will be required to adhere in full to this Beach Cleaning Protocol or permission for their work will be removed.

6. Governance

The City of Cape Town will apply the following governance principles in relation to the Beach Cleaning Protocol to ensure optimum opportunity for beach cleaning operations while minimising risk of injury to person or persons:

- The City retains the rights to close affected beaches to public access in the event of significant waste removal operations
- City law enforcement agencies will have the authority to prevent public access to the affected area where needed and may remove general public and unauthorised individuals from the area
- The City will ensure ongoing communication through the media in this regard

7. Beach Cleaning Protocols

7.1. General Protocols

- All beaches will be managed as ecological systems;
- Under no circumstances will human waste be buried on the coast/beach. Natural waste may under exceptional circumstances be buried on the coast/beach with permission from the Manager: Area Cleaning and the City of Cape Town's Coastal Coordinators.
- All marine mammal carcasses must be managed in accordance with the Large Marine Animal Strandings Policy for the City of Cape Town;
 - In the event of a whale or dolphin carcass Disaster Management Call Centre must be contacted to initiate the Large Marine Animal Strandings Policy
 - All animal carcasses will be removed to the appropriate landfill site unless requested for dissection by National Government's Oceans and Coasts Department.
- No litter bins, dustbins and cleansing containers will be located on beaches or rocky shores but at the back of beaches and rocky shores

7.2. Kelp Wrack and Red Bait

- For all areas demarcated as Kelp Cleaning Areas (Annexure A) all kelp wrack and Redbait shall be removed from the coast and taken to the appropriate landfill site;
- No kelp may be removed from the coast at any time by private individuals or organisations unless in possession of a permit issued by National Government
- All tidal pools to be kept free of kelp
- No kelp or redbait is to be removed from any other area on the coast. Where extreme storm events result in abnormal amounts of kelp wrack being deposited, removal of kelp wrack to a landfill site from "Natural Coastal Areas" may be requested by the relevant Beach Manager (in consultation with the Coastal Coordinators. Completion of these ad hoc requests will be at the discretion of the Area Cleaning Manager.
- Frequency of kelp and redbait removal from the demarcated areas will be done according to the Cleaning Schedule. This Cleaning Schedule will be determined by the Area Cleaning Manager and communicated in writing to the relevant Sport, Recreation and Amenities as well as the Environmental Area Managers for their records.
- The Kelp Cleaning Schedule will be frequent during summer months (1st October to 30th April) and reduced to as needed during winter (May to September).
- Kelp and redbait may be stockpiled prior to removal to the landfill site. All stockpiling will be done at the locations indicated on the maps. No kelp or redbait may be stockpiled for longer than three days;
- On the request of the relevant Beach Manager, collected kelp will be distributed to reasonable locations and central points for the use in dune rehabilitation. This kelp will NOT be litter picked by Area Cleaning prior to distribution for dune rehabilitation,
- Once distributed for dune rehabilitation, the Beach Manager will be responsible for removing the kelp to the landfill site if NOT used for dune rehabilitation as intended.

7.3. Deep Sand Cleaning

- For all areas demarcated as Deep Cleaning Areas (in the attached aerial photographs), deep sand cleaning may occur in the defined nodal area (as mapped);
- The frequency of deep sand cleaning will be restricted to the following:
 - Deep sand cleaning may only take place between the 1st October and 30th April
 - Each deep sand cleaning beach will be deep cleaned at least twice during this period and a maximum of three times at the discretion of the Solid Waste Department
 - No Deep Sand Cleansing will take place during windy conditions,
- The Deep Sand Cleaning machine may only enter and exit the beach at the formalised access point.

7.4. Litter Picking and Waste Removal

- All coastal areas will be litter picked according to the annual cleansing schedule which, where appropriate, will be determined by the Manager: Area Cleaning. A copy of the schedule, or ad hoc or seasonal work, will be supplied to Sports, Recreation and Amenities as well as the Environmental Area Managers for their records.
- On request by the relevant Sport, Recreation and Amenities or Environmental Manager, major waste material in the form of large drift wood, concrete blocks, metal poles etc that may emerge on the beaches or be washed ashore, shall be removed by Area Cleaning at their discretion.
- No private organisations may conduct beach cleaning activities without approval by the Council's Solid Waste Management Department.

7.5. Shells and Shell Fragments

In compliance with national legislation, the City and its partners will not remove any shells or shell fragments from the beach as part of its cleaning activities.

ANNEXURE A: KELP AND DEEP CLEANING NODES



























