

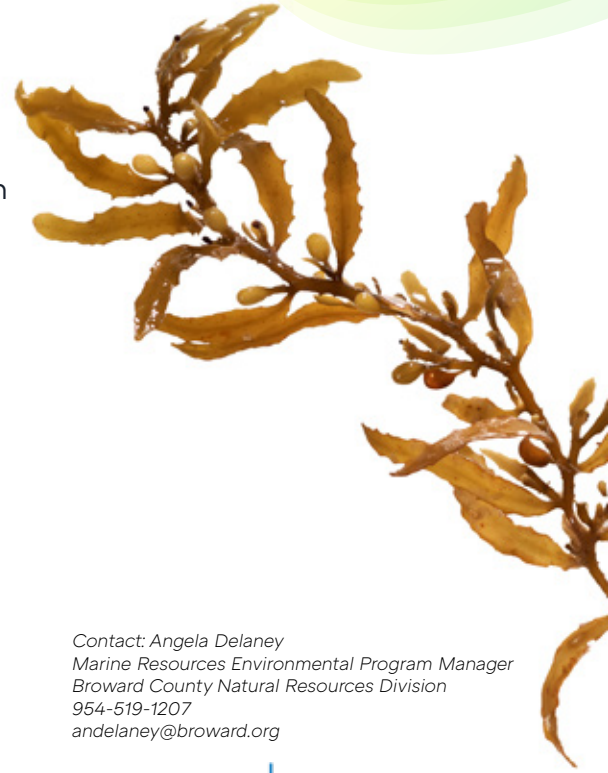
Sargassum

On March 23, 2023 representatives from Broward, Martin, Palm Beach, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties convened to discuss predictions for an “above average” season for Sargassum accumulation along beaches and waterways. The meeting objectives were to share planning efforts, potential mitigation strategies, and a process for ongoing coordination throughout the season.

It was noted that coastal municipalities in Broward and Palm Beach Counties manage their respective beach maintenance activities, which can include the removal/disposal of Sargassum from the beaches, where provided for under FDEP permit. To the south, Miami-Dade County and Miami-Beach both manage beach maintenance activities within FDEP permit conditions. Martin County typically does not remove Sargassum and leaves material in place. In Monroe County, Sargassum tends to accumulate in the canals.

With the potential for heavy Sargassum biomass throughout the season, all five counties are actively monitoring conditions and stated interest in a regional communication network with neighboring jurisdictions, agency and academic partners. Next steps include the establishment of a recurring, bi-weekly meeting to share observations, actions being undertaken, and any changes in best management practices.

Sargassum accumulation is already being reported along the Atlantic Coast but thus far abundance is average. NOAA provides a weekly report detailing the risk of Sargassum inundation at the following site: aoml.noaa.gov/phod/sargassum_inundation_report/.



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