

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

GEORGETOWN AND HORRY COUNTIES

**EMERGENCY ORDER
SAND SCRAPING
22-EO-HI2**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (the Department), an agency of the State of South Carolina, organized and existing under the authority of the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act, S.C. Code Ann. §48-39-10 *et seq.*, finds that emergency conditions have occurred associated with Hurricane Ian beginning on September 30, 2022, on beaches facing the Atlantic Ocean in Georgetown and Horry Counties in the State of South Carolina and therefore located within the “critical area” jurisdiction of the Department. These conditions may expose and create an imminent threat to the existing habitable structures or critical infrastructure on front beach properties.

The Department finds that this imminent threat constitutes temporary emergency conditions that may endanger the health, safety, welfare, and resources of residents of the coastal zone as well as the general population of the State of South Carolina. Accordingly, the Department, pursuant to the authority of S.C. Code Ann. §48-39-130(D)(1), hereby issues an Emergency Order to allow the owners of front beach properties in Georgetown and Horry Counties, whose lands and buildings abut the Atlantic Ocean, to conduct sand scraping in those areas of the beach threatened by erosion. The local government with jurisdiction over the site must be notified of the activity.

This Emergency Order, 22-EO-HI2, will expire on October 31, 2022 (30 days from the date of this Order). Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §48-39-130(D)(1), property owners may request an individual emergency order from the Department if an emergency persists.

Specifically, all work must conform to the following requirements:

1. The Department must be notified in writing of all activities performed under this Emergency Order within 72 hours. This notification should include the property owner's name, the property address, and the date sand scraping was conducted. This information must be submitted in the form of an email to Matt Slagel, Manager of OCRM's Beachfront Management Section, at slagelmj@dhec.sc.gov.
2. Sand may only be scraped from the intertidal beach and only between extended property lines of the structure receiving the sand. The depth of sand scraping may not exceed one foot below the existing beach level.
3. Sand may be placed against an eroded scarp or to replace an eroded dune that is seaward of a threatened structure. The dune shall not exceed six (6) feet above grade or twenty (20) feet in width as measured from dune toe to dune toe.
4. Sand scraping is not allowed seaward of an erosion control structure unless it can be proven that the erosion control structure is itself in danger of collapsing and is within ten feet of the habitable structure. If sand scraping is to be conducted seaward of an erosion control structure that is proven to be in danger of collapsing and is within 10 feet of the habitable structure, the sand may only be pushed up to the erosion control structure and cannot cover or bury any portion of the erosion control structure.
5. No sand may be placed landward of an existing functional erosion control device.
6. Sand scraping may be performed only one time per this Emergency Order.
7. A copy of the issued Emergency Order shall be in possession of anyone performing the sand scraping on the beach.
8. The contractors performing work under this Emergency Order shall be in direct contact with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Marine Turtle Conservation Program (MTCP) representative. Daily, early surveys of the beach are performed to document turtle nesting activity and MTCP representative shall be consulted each morning prior to any work being performed on the beach. In the event a nest is disturbed during construction and/or sea turtle adult is encountered, all work should cease and the DNR MTCP should be contacted immediately. The MTCP contact is Michelle Pate who can be reached at 843-953-9052 (office) or PateS@dnr.sc.gov.

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October 1, 2022

Matthew J. Slagel
Manager, Beachfront Management Section
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Date