Seabrook Shoreline Status Update

The condition of Seabrook Island's shoreline is constantly changing. Over the past 2 years we have experienced significant erosion in some areas. Much of the erosion can be attributed to the storms we have experienced and the associated storm surge. Mathew (9.29'), Irma (9.92'), Idalia (9.5'), and the latest unnamed December winter storm (10.25') created an erosion scarp line like the one pictured below along our dunes. After each storm event the dunes did recover, and the dunes are expected to recover from the most recent winter storm over the next 6-12 months.

Looking at a larger 10-year time scale, the shoreline has experienced sand accretion in some areas such as the North Beach area north of boardwalk 1 and the area in front boardwalk 5. This is due to the cycle that is created as a result of the Capn Sams Inlet relocation which has occurred 3 times (1983, 1996, and 2015). This shoreline management strategy was developed with the help of Coastal Science and Engineering who conducts regular shoreline condition assessment surveys. A summary of the history of Seabrook's shoreline can be found here and provides pictures and details on how successful the program has been over the last 40 years.

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b543e6601123443b95e232a96ea44c09

Relocating Capn Sams Inlet serves to maintain a sand source from the mouth of Capn Sams Inlet that feeds Seabrook's shoreline. The sand shoal that forms at the mouth of Capn Sams Inlet gradually washes onto Seabrook's shoreline at North Beach and over time, that sand makes its way south all the way to

Camp St Christopher. The sand does not always accumulate evenly along the shoreline and SIPOA has utilized sand recycling projects in the past to help relocate sand from areas with excess sand to areas in need. SIPOA has completed 10 sand recycling projects previously and is currently working to implement another.

In 2021, SIPOA filed an application to conduct another sand recycling project. The proposed project would relocate sand from the intertidal area of North Beach (excess sand) to the area between boardwalks 6 and 7. We obtained a permit for sand recycling in 2023 from the SC Office of Coastal Resources and Management (OCRM) with some conditions that require the work to be done between October 1 and December 31 to minimize impacts to critical bird habitat. We were prevented from sand recycling in 2023 by the Coastal Conservation League's appeal of the issuance of this permit. We are working closely with Coastal Science and Engineering and the Burr Forman law firm to defend our permit so that we can conduct sand recycling in 2024. Due to the permit conditions, the earliest the project could begin would be October 1, 2024.