

# Barrier vs. Beach Removal

Item	Barrier	Beach Removal
Cost	Cost of deployment of barrier, Maintenance, supervision	1000's of staff and volunteer hours – labor intensive, equipment removal vehicles, cost of storage
Beach Impact	No erosion	Erosion
Mangroves	No impact	Potential severe impact
Mangroves Indirect	No impact	Loss of filtering capacity, shoreline protection, nursery function, carbon sequestration
Seagrass beds	No impact	Severe impact versus loss
Seagrass beds indirect	Minimal Impact	Loss of sand stabilization, filtering capacity (clear water, pathogens), carbon sequestration
Human health	No impact	H2S gas hazard
Tourism	No impact	High impact
Swimming & Snorkeling	May be inconvenienced	Impact
Fauna (interstitial, seagrass beds, mangroves)	May be saved – only affected at extraction points	High mortality
Removal of Sargassum	Controlled in one area	Dependence on property owners leaves many untreated areas
Compost	Sargassum without sand may be used for compost	High sand content bad for decomposition
Other Risks	Unsupervised booms may end up on downwind side of area or be damaged	Loss of mangroves, seagrass beds, sea life in general