



# SEAWEED SCAVENGER HUNT

**S**eaweed is a natural occurrence along all coastal destinations during late spring and summer months. The name seaweed incorrectly implies that these brown algae have little value.



## SEAWEED IS A FLOATING ECOSYSTEM — now see for yourself!

Grab a bucket and a handful of floating seaweed. Quickly shake it out to see which creatures appear.

### — SEAWEED DISCOVERIES —



**SHRIMP**



**MOLE CRAB**



**SEAHORSES**



**SEA BEANS**

(AKA hamburger bean and sea hearts – finding one is good luck)



**SARGASSUM FISH**

The Sargassum Fish is a fascinating creature that has adapted in a very specific and interesting way to live among the sargassum weeds.

The harmless fish's pectoral fins are flexible and limblike and can actually be used to grasp the weed.



What is

# SEAWEED?

Each year there is a potential for large masses of sargassum (gulfweed, Sargasso, seaweed) to wash up along all coastal destinations during late spring and summer months. Seaweed comes from the Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic Ocean.

## FUN FACTS

### Seaweed is:

- A FLOATING ECOSYSTEM
- IMPORTANT TO CREATE DUNES AND CONSERVE SAND
- INVALUABLE FOOD SOURCE FOR COASTAL BIRDS
- PROTECTS JUVENILE TURTLES FROM PREDATORS

## HOW IS THE SEAWEED BEING MANAGED?

During heavy seaweed landings, the Galveston Island Park Board grooms the beaches at paid access points including East Beach, Stewart Beach, Seawall Urban Park, Dellanera RV Park and the West End Pocket Parks. The process includes relocating seaweed toward the back side of the beach to the toe of the dune or other limiting structure to allow the seaweed to decompose naturally while conserving the sand within the beach area. This effort helps protect the beach as a whole and assists in the building of dunes.

**PLEASE BE TOLERANT OF SEAWEED. AT TIMES IT MIGHT BE UNSIGHTLY; HOWEVER, IT IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE GULF OF MEXICO ECOSYSTEM.**

For Beach Conditions and Information, visit [www.galvestonbeachinfo.com](http://www.galvestonbeachinfo.com)



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**THE PARK BOARD WORKS TO PROTECT, ENHANCE AND PROMOTE GALVESTON'S NUMBER ONE ASSET – THE ISLAND'S BEACHES.**