

Funding Approved for Algae Study

The Sanibel City Council approved funding for a red drift algae study to be undertaken by the City, Lee County, the Lee County Tourist Development Council and the West Coast Inland Navigation District.

In the summer of 2007, Council and Lee County Commissioners directed staffs to develop Requests for Proposals to study the growth of algae along the shores of the Island and the Lee County coast.

Each entity will pay one-quarter of the study's cost, which amounts to approximately \$192,000. Florida Gulf Coast University was selected to lead the study.

Sanibel and the County agreed the research was essential because of the effects algae can have on marine life, seagrasses, beaches, and the economy. The study will look for answers regarding what happens to algae once it leaves the ocean floor and how physical processes such as wind, currents, tidal cycles, and river flow affect the distribution and fate of nutrients in the study area.