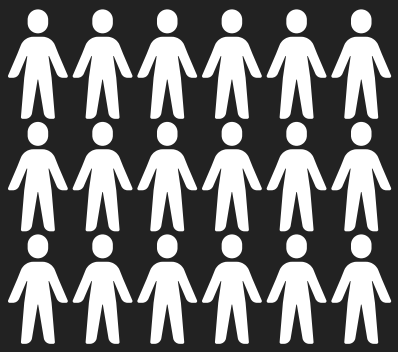
GORILLA OGO CLEANUP

REPORT #1

AT A GLANCE:

18 VOLUNTEERS

CORE GROUP + AINA MOMONA + COMMUNITY MEMBERS

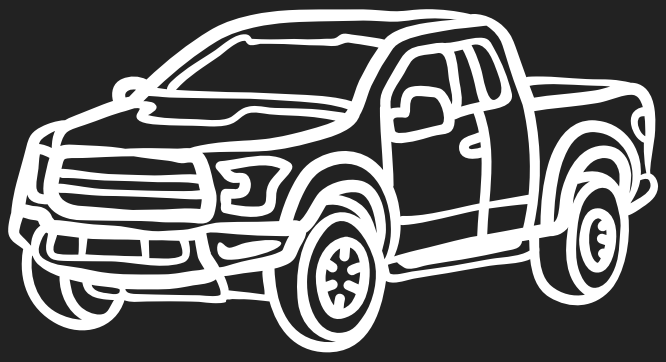


15,000 LBS OF GORILLA OGO REMOVED AND COMPOSTED

~7,000 ON MARCH 27TH AND ~8,000 ON FEBRUARY 4TH

12 TRUCKLOADS

6 ON MARCH 27TH AND 6 ON FEBRUARY 4TH



EVENT DETAILS

Cleanup Location: Kaunakakai Wharf
Composting Location: Keawanui
Dates: February 4th and March 27th, 2021
Relevant Recent Events: Flooding in early February and March followed by Kona winds

The shoreline to the West of Kaunakakai wharf accumulates Gorilla Ogo during high surf, strong kona winds, and king tides. The Gorilla Ogo brought on shore in February by flooding and kona winds has remained along the Western wall of the wharf and the shoreline and has since begun rotting. Our efforts were focused on the shoreline during both cleanups. This Gorilla Ogo is easier to rinse, contains fewer dead organisms, and releases less of a stench while composting.

SUMMARY

Gracilaria salicornia, an invasive seaweed commonly known as Gorilla Ogo, poses a growing threat to Moloka'i's marine ecosystem, a vital food source. In response to this threat, a group of concerned community members organized to brainstorm community-based management solutions, consult experts in the field, obtain proper permitting, and develop best practices for removal and use of Gorilla Ogo.

In early February, flash flooding and strong Kona winds washed ashore a massive amount of Gorilla Ogo. Aina Momona responded removing over 8,000 pounds of the seaweed. In March, much of the Gorilla Ogo remained stagnant and began to rot. A community removal effort was organized and through the collective efforts of 18 volunteers, another 7,000 pounds of Gorilla Ogo was removed from Kaunakakai Wharf. A combined 15,000 pounds (12 truckloads) was taken to Keawanui farm to be composted and utilized on site. To establish best practices for composting, half of the biomass was washed and left to dry and the other half dried without washing. An experiment will be conducted to determine the effect of salt on crops to inform our future composting.

In the future, improvements to the training process for volunteers will be made as well as monitoring protocol for on-shore cleanups versus in-water cleanups.

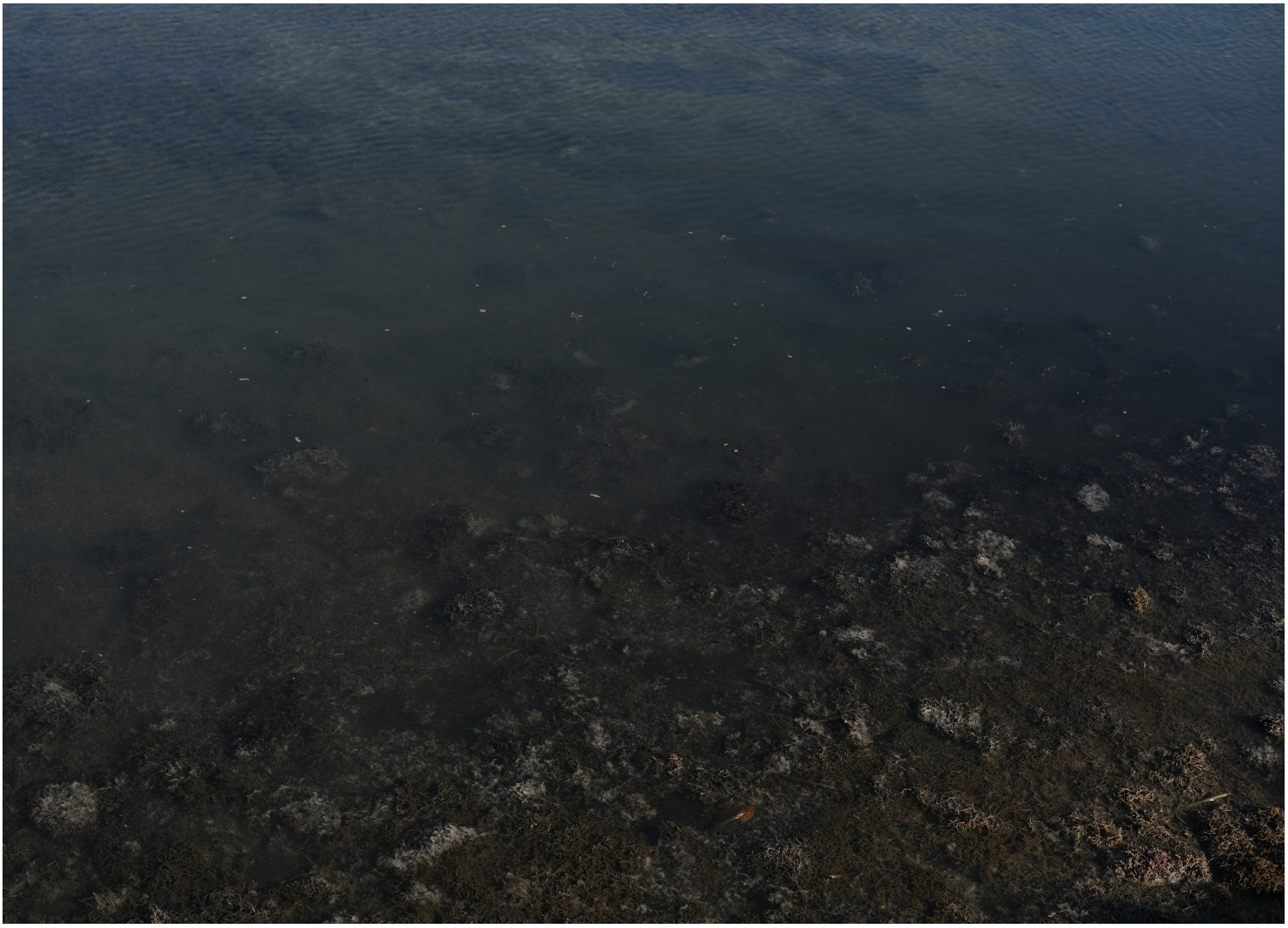
Gorilla Ogo infestation on February 4th, 2021 (before)

After February 4th Cleanup

Six truckloads of Gorilla Ogo ready to be composted at Keawanui

Six truckloads of Gorilla Ogo ready to be composted at Keawanui

The Gorilla Ogo rotting along the Western wall of the Kaunakakai Wharf (3/23/2021)



March 27th: Before (top), after (bottom)

Our efforts were focused on the shore line (3/27/2021)

Bags averaged over 60 lbs and each truckload averaged 1,000 lbs.

Top: On 3/27/2021, the Gorilla Ogo was more dehydrated and sun bleached than on 2/4/2021. We likely removed more Gorilla Ogo on 3/27 than on 2/4 despite a greater weight on 2/4 due to the difference in water weight of the limu.
Bottom: washing one truckload of biomass

Composting occurs in a flat area away from the ocean and nearby streams.