

Great Gull Island post-Sandy

On October 29 Hurricane Sandy wrenched off three sections of the dock platform on Great Gull Island, leaving the loading platform at the north end of the dock isolated from the shore. An initial estimate for repairing the dock is \$200,000 to



\$250,000. I hope to visit the island after Thanksgiving and if there is anything new to report I will let you know and will keep you informed of further inspections and estimates.

You all have been wonderful about contributing to Great Gull Island and I hope you can help us now. I realize these are very hard times with many people and institutions needing help, but I hope you will think about the Great Gull Island Project and contribute or pledge support for the dock and the coming field season.

Our Captain, Matt Poitras, took Matthew Male and Bob Kane to the island on November 11, the first day weather and schedules permitted them to make the trip. As you can see from the pictures, Sandy caused a good deal of erosion.



In areas where the sea broke through at both ends of the island there are large areas of sand and gravel deposited, which



may increase areas where terns can nest. In some areas such as the eastern end of the island, large chunks of the shore have been sheared off and gravel and sand deposited below them. Matthew Male took these pictures to give us an idea of the appearance of the island after the hurricane.

I am working on raising funds for the dock and for the field season. The field season costs amount to about \$60,000. We are looking forward to going to Great Gull Island in 2013 and with your support it will happen. We welcome contributions of any amount. All contributions are a help.

Wishing you all the best for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year!

Cheers,

Helen

From: [Helen Hays](#)
To: [Helen Hays](#)
Subject: Post-Sandy Report of GGI
Date: Friday, November 16, 2012 12:55:47 PM
Attachments: [GGI post-Sandy \(2\).pdf](#)

To all Friends of Great Gull Island:

Here is a post-Sandy report on Great Gull Island. Sandy attacked the dock and I am hoping we can have it repaired before or by the middle of April. I had planned to bring out lumber in April to repair blinds and expand the terraces on the sides of the gun emplacements providing additional nesting areas for Roseate and Common Terns. In addition, of course, I would like the dock to be ready for the volunteers and gear which will begin to arrive in May.

As I mention in the report all contributions toward repairing the dock and supporting the coming field season are welcome. Thank you for considering it. I realize it is a difficult time for raising money because there are so many needs. Please think about a contribution to Great Gull Island. If you would like to contribute, make the check payable to:

Great Gull Island Project –AMNH

Send the check to:

Helen Hays
Great Gull Island Project
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, NY 10024

Thank you in advance for your support.

Cheers,

Helen Hays