

July 5, 2014

Dear Nantucketers-

We wanted to update you on how the Sconset erosion project performed during Arthur last night. The system worked well in the face of 50+ MPH winds shifting from SE to NW over the most intense hours, preventing any undermining of the toe of the bluff. There was no scour either in front of the sand covered geotubes or on the ends was caused by the storm driven waves. Once again Baxter Road has been protected. Access to homes and the lighthouse is intact. Winds peaked at over 50 MPH at about 11PM-1AM as its direction shifted from the SE to NW through the night as the storm passed the island.

So while the challenging problem of erosion from ocean waves has once been controlled once again, runoff from under 2 inches of rain caused substantial impact to the face of the bluff and the sand template covering the geotubes. Road runoff carried down the hill from the lighthouse flows over the un-vegetated bluff causing large gullies (see photo at right). These fissures in the sand cover will be repaired over the next few days by moving the sand around with a skid steer. Dealing with surface run-off to prevent this unnecessary garden variety erosion from storm water has got to be a priority now.



So that all to see how the erosion project is functioning we have set up an observation area located off the private way between 85 and 87 Baxter Road. Stop by to check it out.

Sincerely,

Josh Posner