



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR  
PRESS OFFICE  
No.6 Convent Place  
Gibraltar  
Tel:20070071; Fax: 20043057**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Government starts Catalan Bay and Sandy Bay Beach replenishment for summer season**

The Government wishes to inform the General Public that beach sand replenishment works are scheduled to take place at Catalan Bay and Sandy Bay beaches in preparation for the forthcoming summer season. The works involve the use of a suction dredger to hydraulically place sand and replenish the beaches. In order to allow the works to be carried out safely, temporary closure or restricted access to the general public will be implemented during the progress of the works. The works, subject to weather conditions, are scheduled to take approximately 3 weeks. The outline programme is as follows:

3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011 – Catalan Bay Beach will be closed to the general public to allow the Contractor to assemble the floating pipeline to be connected to the dredger.

Dredging and beach nourishment works to Catalan Bay are expected to commence on the 6<sup>th</sup> May working until the 10<sup>th</sup> May when the works are expected to be completed and the beach reopened for public access.

10<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011 – The dredger and sand moving plant and equipment will move to Sandy Bay where the same operations will commence and are expected to take one week to complete.

18<sup>th</sup> -20 May 2011 – During this period, the contractor will be demobilising his equipment and this will result in a 50 metre long section of Catalan Bay beach having to be temporarily cordoned off so as to allow the Contractor to disassemble the floating pipeline.

The Public are kindly requested to stay clear of the works area as large machinery will be employed and, immediately after the placing of new sand, there will temporarily result areas where the ground will be extremely soft and potentially dangerous.

The Contractor will avoid causing noise disturbance during the silent hours.

A Government spokesperson said:- “This operation is intended to maximise the usage of Catalan Bay Beach, and to recreate Sandy Bay for the summer season. There is of course the risk that storms will destroy part of the work to be done although it will be possible to top up any sand lost in that way.”

