



New Tools and Tech

Galveston Bay Action Network (GBAN) – Galveston Bay Foundation's free pollution reporting tool empowers the community to be the eyes on our Bay // [CHARLOTTE CISNEROS](#)

Have you ever come across pollution in your community but didn't know how or where to report it? The Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) created the Galveston Bay Action Network (GBAN), a free website and mobile app, to solve this problem. GBAN allows the public to easily report pollution to the proper authorities from anywhere in the Houston-Galveston Area. Pollution events like chemical spills, illegal discharge of boat sewage, and the dumping of waste have the potential to impact water quality and threaten the health of the local people, plants, and animals. Enabling community members to report pollution events to the proper authorities helps mitigate these negative effects on a broad scale.

GBAN is a vital part of GBF's mission to preserve and enhance Galveston Bay as a healthy and productive place for generations to come. Through funding from several Texas Coastal Management Program grants, GBF developed GBAN into the tool it is today. Initially launched in 2016 as a mobile-optimized webpage, GBAN can be found at: galvbay.org/GBAN. In 2017, the GBAN mobile app was developed and made available for free download in the Google Play and the Apple App stores. Since then, GBF has continued to optimize and update GBAN functionality on the webpage and app to make pollution reporting easy and empower anyone to be an active steward for Galveston Bay.

When users make a pollution report through the GBAN website or app, they are asked to submit several pieces of information, including the pollution type and location, photographs, and contact information in case the responsible authority has additional questions. The report is then automatically sent to the proper authority based on the indicated pollution type and location. Once received, authorities will respond to the report as they would with any other pollution complaint made through more complicated channels. Having an easy way for the public to submit pollution reports eliminates the hassle of figuring out who to report to and provides regulatory agencies with an earlier response to pollution events.

Like other tools used to engage community members, GBAN is only as powerful as those who know about it and use it. GBF has conducted a

variety of outreach and engagement activities to spread the word about the tool and continues to encourage everyone to use and share this resource throughout the Houston-Galveston community. You can make a difference; download the GBAN app and be the eyes on our Bay!

For more information about GBAN, please visit galvbay.org or reach out to waterquality@galvbay.org

REPORT POLLUTION ON GBAN



GBAN allows anyone to easily report any kind of pollution to the proper authorities from anywhere in the Houston-Galveston Area. Download it for free from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.



GBAN users can report a variety of pollution, including chemical spills, illegal discharge of boat sewage, the dumping of waste, and more to help keep Galveston Bay clean.

Texas Sites and Coastal Sights

Explore Texas Paddling Trails // Holly Grand

If you're looking for a new adventure this summer, consider exploring one of the Texas Paddling Trails. The number of Americans participating in paddling activities is on the rise, which means there is an increasing demand for public access to water across the state. However, since much of Texas land is privately-owned, it can be difficult to find a place to get your feet wet. To overcome this issue, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) started working with landowners and community partners to create a network of paddling trails throughout the state. The Lighthouse Lakes Paddling Trail, located along Highway 361 in Aransas Pass, was mapped in 1999 and became the first official Texas Paddling Trail. Twenty-two years later, and there are now more than 75 paddling trails throughout the TPWD paddling network—nine of which are along the coast. To maximize access to these waterways, all official Texas Paddling Trails are well-mapped and designed for paddlers of all experience levels.

Coastal paddling trails cross bayous and estuaries from Houston to South Padre Island. Trail lengths vary depending on the location; you can take on a short 1.25-mile loop at the Lighthouse Lakes Trail or paddle the 26 miles of Buffalo Bayou in Houston. If you're up for a real challenge, the Port O'Connor Paddling Trail is made up of 40 miles of interconnected trails.

With the help of local partners and landowners, TPWD continues to open several new trails each year. In June 2018, TPWD welcomed the newest coastal trail in Texas: the Seadrift Paddling Trail. TPWD examines several factors to determine whether a section of river, lake, or bay would make for a good paddling trail. Some of the best areas are those with water segments that are four to twelve miles in length, have public access, and designated parking. Cities, nature centers, paddling clubs, or other partners maintain put-in and take-out access sites and signage for the trails.

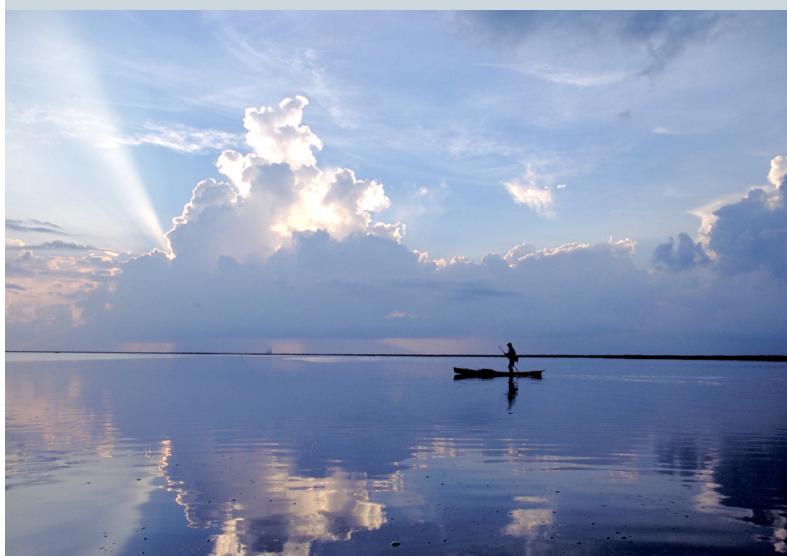
Be sure to check the tide and local weather conditions before heading out for a day of adventure on one of the coastal paddling trails. State and Federal regulations also require you to have a personal flotation device, a whistle or horn, and a white light source if you plan to be on the water at night.

For more information about developing a paddling trail in your community or to start planning your next paddling adventure, visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/paddlingtrails>

TEXAS PADDLING TRAIL



There are over 75 trails in the Texas Paddling Trail network, and nine are located on the coast. Photo credit: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



Paddlers can relax on the paddle trails, as all trails have been surveyed to determine they are safe and easily accessible. Photo credit: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



Paddlers on the Port O'Connor Paddling Trail may get to enjoy a sunset or two on their trip. The trail is comprised of 40 miles of interconnected trails. Photo credit: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Federal Activities in Coastal Waters

Deep Water Port News // JAQUELYN BOUTWELL, J.D.

Texas has four pending deepwater port (DWP) license applications. All DWP applications are required to be consistent with the Texas Coastal Management Plan and the Texas Governor must approve or deny each Texas DWP application. The status for each DWP application is listed below.

S SPOT (Sea Port Oil Terminal, LLC):

SPOT has applied to own, construct, and operate a DWP to export domestically produced crude oil approximately 27.2 to 30.8 nautical miles off the coast of Freeport. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published in the Federal Register and the comment period ended on May 31, 2020. The GLO's comments on the DEIS may be viewed at the regulations website below. The final EIS (FEIS) is expected to be published in early summer 2021.

B Bluewater (Bluewater Texas Terminal, LLC):

Bluewater has applied to own, construct, and operate a DWP to export domestically produced crude oil approximately 15 nautical miles off the coast of San Patricio County. The DEIS is expected to be published for public notice and comment in July 2021 and the FEIS is targeted for publication in October 2021.

G GulfLink (Texas GulfLink, LLC):

GulfLink has applied to own, construct, and operate a DWP to export domestically produced crude oil approximately 28.3 nautical miles off the coast of Brazoria County. The DEIS was published in the Federal Register and the comment period ended on January 22, 2021. The GLO's comments on the DEIS may be viewed at the regulations website below. The FEIS is expected to be published in summer 2021.

B Blue Marlin Offshore Port (BMOP), LLC:

Blue Marlin Offshore Port (BMOP) has applied to develop the BMOP Project in the Gulf of Mexico to provide crude oil transportation and loading services for crude oil produced in the continental United States. The project extends from Nederland, Texas to Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The application was deemed administratively complete on October 22, 2020 and two public scoping meetings were held on December 2, 2020 and December 3, 2020, for the communities of Cameron Parish, Louisiana and Jefferson County and Orange County, Texas. Additional information can be found at the regulations website below or at:

www.blumarlinnepaprocess.com

More information on the applications can be found at www.regulations.gov using the docket no in the table below.

DWP APPLICANT	DOCKET NO. MARAD	APPLICATION DATE
SPOT (Sea Port Oil Terminal/Enterprise Products)	2019-0011	1/31/2019
Bluewater Texas Terminal, LLC (Philips 66)	2019-0094	5/30/2019
Texas Gulf Link, LLC (Sentinel Midstream, LLC)	2019-0093	5/30/2019
Blue Marlin Offshore Port, LLC (BMOP)	2020-0167	10/1/2020

CMP Success Story

Nueces River Authority Completes CMP Project on Schedule Despite Pandemic // SAM SUGAREK AND JESSICA CHAPPELL

As we all know, 2020 was a very challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all the constraints associated with it. The adage “the show must go on”, with its origins in the entertainment industry, became normalized as people began working from home amid mandated lockdowns. Things were especially challenging for CMP grant recipients in Cycle 24. Projects awarded funding under this cycle began on October 1, 2019, meaning they were six months into their projects when the pandemic hit. Project managers frantically scrambled to ensure their projects would remain on track to finish within the 18-month timeframe. Fortunately for water quality data collectors, many of the labs that conduct water quality analysis were open for business due to their essential worker status.

This allowed projects like the Baffin Bay Tributary Study, with the Nueces River Authority, to continue their work unimpeded. The project focused on monitoring water quality in Baffin Bay. The river authority completed a data collection study that examined the water quality parameters of three major Baffin Bay tributaries during high flow events: Petronila Creek Above Tidal, San Fernando Creek Above Tidal, and Los Olmos Creek Tidal. The River Authority also conducted monthly routine water quality monitoring on Los Olmos Creek Tidal and submitted the data to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Surface Water Quality Monitoring Information System (SWQMIS) for assessment purposes.

The project was a CMP success, not only because it was completed within the 18-month timeframe, but because it also revealed important information about the Los Olmos Creek. The monthly water quality monitoring highlighted a strong seasonal trend for nitrate nitrogen, with the highest numbers occurring during the spring months (April – June). Additionally, bacteria results indicate that the water body has elevated concentration of indicator bacteria (*Enterococcus*) with average concentrations (>2,300 colony forming unit (cfu)/100 mL) being two orders of magnitude higher than the bacteria indicator standard for marine waters set by the state (35 cfu/100 mL). The study hypothesized the elevated bacteria levels could be a result of the bat colony that resides under the bridge.

To learn more about this project, visit <https://www.glo.texas.gov/coastal-grants/projects/20-029-baffin-bay-tributaries-study.html>



Los Olmos Creek was one of three Baffin Bay tributaries sampled for this project.
Photo credit: Nueces River Authority



Eyes on the Horizon

GLO Coastal Planning Update // JOSHUA OYER

The GLO continues to develop long-term planning efforts for the Texas coast through both the federally partnered Coastal Texas Study and the state-led Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan.

GLO staff continue to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District on the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study, known as the Coastal Texas Study. The Study was initiated in 2014 to evaluate large-scale coastal storm risk management and ecosystem restoration actions intended to provide coastal communities of Texas with multiple lines of defense to reduce impacts from a range of coastal hazards including tropical storm surge. The Study team is currently producing the Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement. The signed Chief’s Report is expected in September 2021. Upon the completion of the Coastal Texas Study and approval by the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army, a plan would be recommended to Congress for authorization and funding. If authorized and funded by Congress, subsequent phases of the project would include preconstruction engineering and design, construction, and operations and maintenance. For more information on the Study visit <https://coastalstudy.texas.gov/>

For the ongoing Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, GLO staff hosted a round of virtual Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings over the course of May and June to inform the next iteration of the Plan, to be released in early 2023. The spring 2021 round of TAC meetings is aimed at laying the foundation for the 2023 Plan by conducting a comprehensive vulnerability assessment that will drive action and strategy development and the next round of priority projects. Over the next year, the TAC will be consulted through two more rounds of meetings leading up to the issuance of the 2023 Plan. First, in the fall of 2021 to review the wide-scale action and strategies needed as made apparent through the vulnerability assessment process, and second, in the spring of 2022 to evaluate project ideas for potential inclusion into the next Tier 1 priority list to be presented in the 2023 Plan.

For more information on the Plan visit <https://www.glo.texas.gov/crmp>



The Deeper Dive

Record Number of Turtles Rescued at University of Texas Marine Science Institute // SALLY PALMER

Winter Storm Uri caused damage and hardship across Texas. The University of Texas at Austin Port Aransas campus felt the impacts with a record number of sea turtles needing rehabilitation after being threatened by the cold weather.

Staff at the Amos Rehabilitation Keep (ARK) at The University of Texas Marine Science Institute received 900 live sea turtles under threat from cold-water temperatures that had dipped to levels that are almost always fatal.

"We wish to extend a sincere thank you to all of the volunteers and our partners who have helped collect and transport sea turtles during the freezing and difficult conditions," the Marine Science Institute said.

Sea turtles are cold-blooded reptiles that require warm temperatures. When the water dips below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, turtles experience what is known as "cold stun," with decreased heart rate and circulation, leading to lethargy followed by shock, pneumonia and often death. Experts say Winter Storm Uri represented the largest cold stunning event in the United States since at least 1980.

As the sea turtles started arriving, the ARK's sea water tanks were quickly filled to capacity. The overflow went to the Institute's heated auditorium, where about 700 turtles were treated.

By the proceeding Monday, 850 sea turtles were released offshore. A pair of vessels donated by Port Aransas Fisherman's Wharf transported hundreds of turtles 30-50 miles offshore into waters that had warmed to the 55-degree threshold required to prevent a secondary stunning event. The ARK has since released all but 10 turtles back into the wild. The Texas General Land Office was a significant partner in this effort by providing the ARK continued support for sea turtle rehabilitation activities and facilities through the Texas Trustee fund administered by the Natural Resource Trustee Agencies of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas General Land Office, and Department of Interior.

About University of Texas Marine Science Institute:

The University of Texas Marine Science Institute was the first marine research laboratory founded in Texas. The Institute is dedicated to advancing knowledge of our estuaries, coastal and blue water oceans, training future generations of marine scientists, and raising ocean literacy through diverse education and outreach programs.



Volunteers helped collect and transport the sea turtles despite the freezing weather. Photo credit: Jace Tunnell, University of Texas Marine Science Institute



A pair of vessels donated by Port Aransas Fisherman's Wharf transported hundreds of turtles to be released 30-50 miles offshore in warmer waters. Photo credit: Jace Tunnell, University of Texas Marine Science Institute

Keeping up with CEPRA

CEPRA Internal Studies Highlight Historic Shoreline Positions, Regional Sediment Supplies, and Program Efficacy // RYAN HOSTAK

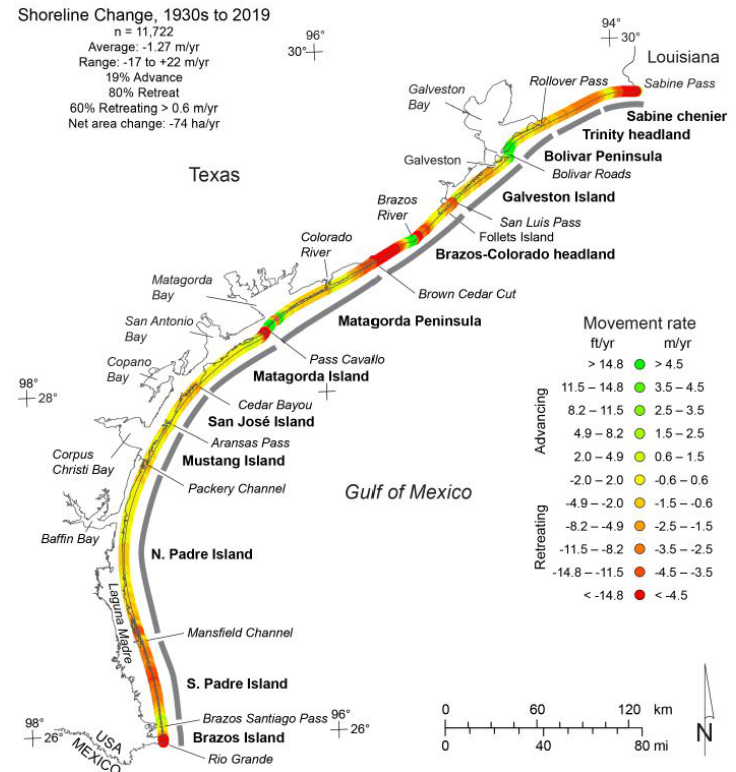
The Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA) Program recently completed three internal studies that highlight the CEPRA program benefits to the citizens of Texas. To complete the studies, CEPRA staff analyzed the program's recently completed projects, monitored shoreline change, and identified critically eroding areas and the impacts on local coastal communities.

The first study offers a comprehensive look at not only historical shoreline position changes, but also beach and foredune elevations and sediment volumes. Published in March 2021, "Shoreline Movement and Beach and Dune Volumetrics Along the Texas Gulf Coast, 1930s to 2019" includes arial photography, ground-based GPS surveys, and airborne lidar surveys conducted by the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG). The study found that shorelines are retreating along approximately 80 percent of the Texas Gulf shoreline, with net shoreline retreat being more pronounced along the upper Texas coast (Sabine Pass to the Colorado River) than the middle and lower coast. The study results also show that shoreline movement trends are correlated with beach and foredune corridor elevations and sediment volumes, with rapidly retreating shorelines having lower peak beach and foredune elevations. Using these results, threshold elevations are identified that will help determine coastline areas that lack adequate sediment supply and are susceptible to breaching and washover during major storm events.

The second study is the "Texas Coastwide Erosion Response Plan" (TCERP, December 2020), which was developed with Professional Geologist K.K. McKenna. This study uses recent shoreline change rates, calculated by the previously mentioned BEG study to identify critical erosion areas based on historical erosion rates, vital infrastructure, natural resources, and previous beach nourishment and CEPRA projects. The TCERP also highlights the importance of coordination with coastal communities during the many challenges faced in 2020, including the intense storm season and the COVID-19 pandemic.



Drone view of a Galveston beach following Tropical Storm Beta (September 2020). The Texas Coastwide Erosion Response Plan highlights the importance of coordination with coastal communities during the intense 2020 storm season. Photo credit: D. Henry



Net rates of long-term movement for the Texas coastline calculated using shoreline positions from the 1930s to 2019. Photo credit: Shoreline Movement and Beach and Dune Volumetrics Along the Texas Gulf Coast, 1930s to 2019

Finally, the CEPRA Program, along with Taylor Engineering, completed the "2020 Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA) Economic and Natural Resource Benefits Study" (April 2021). This report is completed once per biennium and fulfills CEPRA's duties to the Texas Legislature. The study discusses the economic and natural resource benefits associated with CEPRA construction projects. To complete the study, the research team focused on four CEPRA Cycle 11 projects and estimated the economic and financial benefits associated with habitat, recreation, storm surge protections, primary production, gas sequestration, pollution abatement, aesthetics, out-of-state visitor spending, and non-Texas project funding. Through its Texas accounting perspective, the study determined that the State of Texas receives \$8.77 in economic and financial benefits for every \$1.00 of state funding invested in the projects. This metric highlights the importance of continuing state efforts towards coastal resiliency and restoration.

By identifying coastline areas susceptible to breaching and wash over during major storm events, pin-pointing critical erosion areas, and calculating the return on investment for CEPRA projects, CEPRA continues to benefit the State of Texas. If you have questions on these studies, or would like a copy of the reports, please contact Ryan Hostak (ryan.hostak@glo.texas.gov).

Clean Coast Texas Corner

Coastal Water Quality Through the Lens of Texas Beach Watch

// JASON PINCHBACK

In response to a widespread fecal contamination event in 2019, GLO's Texas Beach Watch partnered with the Harte Research Institute at the Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) to improve our understanding of coastal water quality. The partners conducted a study that provides the first comprehensive decadal assessment of fecal bacteria pollution across coastal Texas. The project focused on identifying long-term fecal bacteria pollution trends and providing information to guide management and restoration efforts. This study involved the analysis of enterococci data from 2009-2020. The data, collected by the Texas Beach Watch Program, was gathered from 66 beaches, 169 monitoring stations, and more than 75,000 sampling events. A summary of this analysis is found in Table 1.

Primary Findings

- Overall, enterococci concentrations increased with time, population size, and sea level. Beaches in Harris, Matagorda, and Brazoria counties exhibited a stronger relationship with these variables.
- With respect to time, 60% of EPA beach action value (104 Most Probable Number (MPN)/100 mL) exceedances and 89% of the test upper limit of detection (24,196 MPN/100 mL) exceedances were reported in the last six years (2015-2020). The EPA beach action value is a water quality standard used to determine if bacteria levels are unsafe for water contact.
- With respect to sea level, beaches in counties that experienced the strongest correlation with sea level (e.g., Harris, Matagorda, and Brazoria) exceeded the EPA beach action value far more frequently than other counties.
- In 2019, enterococci concentrations were significantly higher in Brazoria, Matagorda, and Harris counties. Several beaches (Follet's Island, Surfside, Quintana, Bryan, Sargent, Matagorda Jetty Park, and Sylvan) exceeded the beach action value more than 50% of the time.
- Links between enterococci and human activity were further confirmed during the Texas COVID-19 stay-at-home-order when enterococci concentrations were significantly lower at nine beaches. Those beaches included four beaches in Brazoria County (Bryan, Quintana, Surfside, and Follet's Island) and two beaches in Nueces County (Cole Park and Ropes Park) that have a history of beach action value exceedances.
- Enterococci concentrations were also significantly higher at beaches located in bays versus open-water beaches located on the Gulf of Mexico.
- Beaches in Harris, Brazoria, Matagorda, San Patricio, and Nueces counties were 'hotspots' of bacteria pollution.





Enhancing Our Understanding

Information to further characterize coastal bacteria conditions is still needed. An upcoming study in partnership with TAMU-CC will aid in improving the understanding of water table interactions with septic systems, sea level, and the near-shore environment. TAMU-CC will evaluate the importance of septic systems as nonpoint source pollution in the area from the Bolivar Peninsula to Matagorda Beach. Researchers will also determine the vulnerability of septic systems to sea level rise/ tidal fluctuations that link nitrogen and bacteria inputs to nearshore waters through continuous groundwater- seawater interaction analyses. Another study, in partnership with TAMU College Station, will refine analysis techniques and focus on smaller geographic areas. The study plans to identify hotspots and potential drivers of coastal fecal bacterial pollution on Galveston Island.

Earlier this year, the GLO launched the Clean Coast Texas (CCT) program, which works with communities to enhance the management of nonpoint source pollution. CCT is conducting engagement efforts and seeks communities interested in working together on common goals of improving water quality. This program has limited capacity, but opportunities are still available to be part of this effort.

Special acknowledgment and thanks to Dr. Nicole Powers for her leadership and analysis on the study.

Information for this article is sourced from the Marine Pollution Bulletin 166, 2021: Long-term water quality analysis reveals correlation between bacterial pollution and sea level rise in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. Nicole C. Powers, Jason Pinchback, Lucy Flores, Yuxia Huang, Michael S. Wetz, Jeffrey W. Turner

For more information visit www.cleancoast.texas.gov or contact Jason Pinchback at jason.pinchback@glo.texas.gov

COUNTY	MAX	MED.	AVG.	NO. BEACHES	%EXCEEDANCES	CATEGORY
Cameron	2,252.50	10	16.17	9	1.17	Low
Jefferson	1,723.00	10	32.12	2	3.44	Low
Galveston	24,196.00	10	68.16	23	7.09	Medium
Kleberg*	1,995.00	7	49.89	4	7.67	Medium
Aransas	19,863.00	10	107.46	1	8.27	Medium
San Patricio	4,611.00	10	61.98	1	10.55	Medium
Nueces	24,196.00	10	207.67	18	11.17	High
Brazoria	24,196.00	10	121.15	4	11.93	High
Matagorda	24,196.00	20	235.17	3	21.90	Very High
Harris	24,196.00	30	444.32	1	25.74	Very High

Table 1 Summary: Based on the percentage of samples that exceeded the EPA beach action value (104 MPN/100 mL), water quality was classified as having “low” (< 5%; shown in green), “medium” (5-10%; shown in yellow), “high” (10-20%; shown in orange), or “very high” (> 20%; shown in red) levels of enterococci. Enterococci concentrations were measured as CFU or MPN/100 mL water (Max. = maximum, Med. = median, Avg. = average). Minimum concentrations for every county were equivalent to < 10 MPN/100 mL. *Kleberg County samples were only recorded from 2009-2011.

Beach Dune Digest

Texas General Land Office Issues Temporary Suspension of the Line of Vegetation // NATALIE BELL

The Texas Open Beaches Act (OBA) tasks the GLO with keeping Texas beaches accessible and safe to the public. As gradual erosion or accretion occurs, the public beaches shrink or expand, and the boundary of the public beach may shift accordingly. Under the OBA, the public has the right to use the areas between mean low tide and the line of vegetation (LOV), even though these areas may be privately owned, if the public has acquired an easement or right of use through prescription, dedication, presumption, or has retained a right by virtue of continuous right in the public. In cases where the LOV has been obliterated by a meteorological event or major storm, the OBA provides an alternative process to determining the location of the LOV.

It is no secret that the 2020 hurricane season was devastating to many areas of the Texas Gulf Coast; bringing an onslaught of particularly damaging effects to the beach and dune system and adjacent homes and properties. After conducting extensive on-the-ground surveys after Hurricane Laura and Tropical Storm Beta, the GLO determined that the LOV had been destroyed in certain areas, specifically in the Village of Surfside Beach and portions of the City of Galveston.

To provide homeowners peace of mind through regulatory certainty, the GLO issued a Temporary Order to suspend the determination of the LOV for two years. Under the Order, for a period of two years, the public beach will extend to a line 200 feet inland from the line of mean low tide as established by a licensed state land surveyor.

In other words, a temporary LOV will be established for two years before the GLO reverts to the standard process of determining the LOV by assessing vegetative conditions on the ground. The intent behind this Order is to establish a LOV for permitting purposes, and to allow sufficient time for natural processes to build back the beach and reestablish the natural LOV before officially reevaluating

its location. This Order will also allow property owners to make certain necessary repairs to their homes that may now be located seaward of the temporary boundary of the public beach, while also establishing and protecting the location of the public beach easement in accordance with the OBA. This temporary Order applies within the Village of Surfside Beach city limits and in the City of Galveston from the western terminus of the Seawall west to 13 Mile Road.

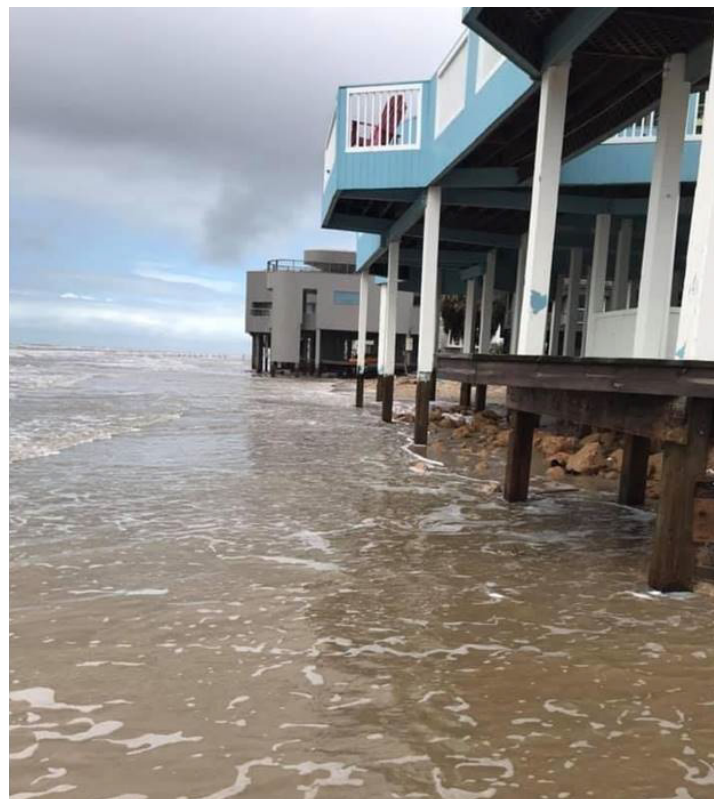
Because a limited number of homes may be partially or wholly on the public beach since they are less than 200 feet from mean low tide, the Order also includes a three-year suspension of the ability for the Commissioner to request that the Texas Attorney General's Office file a suit to remove a home from the public beach, as long as the structure does not present an immediate danger to the public.

By issuing this temporary order, the GLO seeks to ensure that Texas beaches are accessible to all Texans without danger or impediment, while assisting homeowners who have been impacted by the 2020 hurricane season. For more questions and further clarification on the temporary order, please see the GLO's FAQ page:

<https://www.glo.texas.gov/coast/coastal-management/lov-resources/index.html>



The GLO determined that the line of vegetation had been destroyed in certain areas, specifically in portions of the City of Galveston after Hurricane Laura and Tropical Storm Beta.



The Temporary Order includes a three-year suspension of the ability for the Commissioner to request that the Texas Attorney General's Office file a suit to remove a home from the public beach, as long as the structure does not present an immediate danger to the public.



Welcome to the Coastal Resources Team!

Andrea Walmus,

Coastal Resources

Andrea Walmus (andrea.walmus@glo.texas.gov) is no stranger to GLO's Coastal Resources team. Andrea joined the GLO three years ago as a grant coordinator for CEPRA and Resource Management. With Sharon Moore's retirement at the end of April, Andrea has stepped into the Coastal Resources Financial Team Lead position. She will now be overseeing the financials for CMP, CEPRA and NRDA. Her personal interests are planning fun outing with the family, animals, treasure hunting, and crafting.

Bridget Clayton,

Coastal Resources

Bridget Clayton (bridget.clayton@glo.texas.gov) is the Coastal Resources Intern for the summer of 2021. She will be working with the Water Resources team and the Living Shorelines Program, focusing on researching existing Texas living shorelines. Bridget is currently studying Environmental Policy & Management at Denver University and will graduate in March 2022. While living in Houston, Bridget participated in two terms with the Student Conservation Association performing invasive species management and site beautification with TCEQ and USACE oversight. She also has experience as a botanical gardens greenhouse assistant. Her personal interests are reading Japanese novels, listening to podcasts, and walking her pit bull, Hugo.

Kristin Halley,

Beach Access & Dune Protection Program

Kristin Halley (kristin.halley@glo.texas.gov) is our newest natural resource specialist within the Beach Access & Dune Protection Program. She previously worked for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a conservation biologist, focusing on coastal protection and habitat protection for sea turtles and manatees. She holds a Master of Science degree in Coastal Policy and Management from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology from Florida Institute of Technology. In her personal time, she is an ultra-distance trail runner, loves to kayak, and is a dog mom to two awesome rescues.

Melissa McCutcheon,

Coastal Management Program

Melissa McCutcheon (melissa.mccutcheon@glo.texas.gov) has joined the Coastal Management Program team! She will be the project manager for the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA)-funded Projects of Special Merit. She will also be working on the development of the Texas Sediment Management Plan and doing coastal policy research and analyses. Melissa comes to the GLO with a strong background in Texas coastal environments and coastal issues. She holds a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science and a Ph.D. in Coastal and Marine System Science from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Her Ph.D. research investigated trends in water quality, especially carbonate chemistry and acidification, in the Texas estuaries. She also briefly worked on marine policy research for Ocean Conservancy in Washington, D.C. Her personal interests include playing with her three dogs, playing tennis, painting, and traveling.

Ryan Hostak,

Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act Program

Ryan Hostak (ryan.hostak@glo.texas.gov) recently joined the Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA) Program as a Project Manager. His work will focus on the implementation of coastal resiliency and restoration projects through collaboration with state and federal agencies, NGOs, and local governments. Ryan earned his Master of Science degree in Geology with an emphasis in chemical and physical oceanography from Texas A&M University. Prior to joining the GLO, Ryan worked as an environmental consultant managing projects in environmental due diligence, remediation, compliance, natural resources, and industrial hygiene. His personal interests include hiking, skiing, traveling, reading, and playing soccer.



Photo credit: Kristin Ransom

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CMP CYCLE 26 AWARD RECIPIENTS!

Bird-nesting Bird Demography & Public Engagement on the Texas Gulf Coast:
American Bird Conservancy

Bird Island Creation in Carancahua Bay: National Audubon Society

Construction and Enhancement of the Artificial Reefs in the Northern Gulf of
Mexico: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Data Collection for Oyster Mariculture Interactions with Seagrass: Texas A&M
University- Corpus Christi

Evaluating the Trophic Value of Beneficial Uses Restoration Sites for Coastal
Birds: Texas A&M University- Galveston

Expansion of King Fisher Beach Park: Calhoun County

Fred Stone Park Amenities Enhancements: Willacy County

Galveston Bay Foundation Oyster Shell Recycling Program Phase 4: Sun Curing
Research & Collaboration: Galveston Bay Foundation

Mapping Optimal Locations for Oyster Aquaculture: I. Remote Sensing and Field
Observations: Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi

Pocket Park #3 Improvements: City of Galveston

Redhead Pond Invasive Species Management: Friends of Redhead Pond and
Environmental Stewardship Association

Resilient Coastal Dune Ecosystems for Erosion and Habitat Protection at South
Padre Island: Texas A&M University: Kingsville

Restoration of Small Shell Island on Bill Day's Reef to Enhance Nesting for
American Oystercatchers: San Antonio Bay Partnership

Sea Island Circle Beach Access Amenity Improvements: City of South Padre
Island

Texas Coastal Nutrient Input Repository- Phase I Lavaca Bay: Texas A&M
AgriLife Research, Texas Water Resources Institute

Texas Gulf Region CWMA: Dune Management & Restoration on Mustang Island,
Phase II: Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program

Texas Regional Stormwater Wetland Manual: Empowering Communities to
Develop Wetlands for Resiliency: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

The Effects of Rollover Pass Closure on Tidal Wetland Plant Assemblages and
Associated Fauna: Texas A&M University- Galveston

UHCL Habitat Restoration and Nature Trail: University of Houston- Clear Lake

ANDREA'S ADVICE...

How do I calculate the allowable Indirect Cost (IDC) rate for my CMP or CEPRA funds?

CMP uses the IDC established by the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) and the Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) from the federal government. IDC rates may only be based on Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC). The IDC accepted by CEPRA is limited to 15% of MTDC; however, the project participant must have a NICRA with a contracting federal agency. For either program, the NICRA must be submitted to the GLO.

Expert Tip

Unallowable costs, as defined in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E – Cost Principles, cannot be reimbursed by CMP nor can they be used as local or third-party match. Unallowable costs include costs related to alcohol, contingency, entertainment, fund-raising, food (not associated with travel), tips, and snacks/drinks for employees/volunteers.

