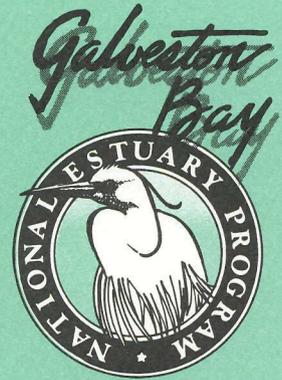


Regulatory Effectiveness Study  
for the Christmas Bay  
Coastal Preserve

~~DISCARD~~



Galveston Bay  
National Estuary Program

GBNEP-14  
December 1991

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# Regulatory Effectiveness Study for the Christmas Bay Coastal Preserve

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# Regulatory Effectiveness Study for the Christmas Bay Coastal Preserve

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**Gary Mitchell, AICP**  
**Principal Investigator**  
**Houston-Galveston Area Council**

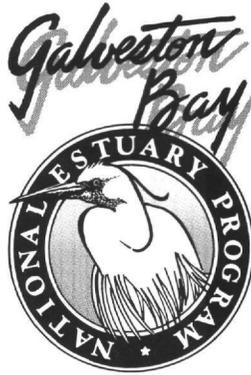
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**The Galveston Bay National Estuary Program**

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## PREFACE

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The National Estuary Program (NEP) was established by the Water Quality Act (WQA) of 1987. The Act authorizes the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to convene Management Conferences to develop Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs) for estuaries of national significance that are threatened by pollution, development or overuse.

Galveston Bay was named for priority consideration for inclusion in the NEP in the Water Quality Act. The Governor of Texas submitted a Supplemental Nomination for Galveston Bay in May 1987. EPA accepted the nomination and initiated the Management Conference for Galveston Bay in July 1988. A cooperative agreement between Texas and the U.S. EPA was signed in October 1988, enabling developmental work to begin on the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program (GBNEP). (A Management Conference overview and member directory is available from the GBNEP Program Office.)

The GBNEP received approval for an Action Plan Demonstration Project from EPA's Office of Marine and Estuarine Protection in July 1989, and EPA Region 6 provided funding in September 1989. Such projects are designed to show near-term positive actions by National Estuary Programs. Under the GBNEP project, two new coastal preserves, Armand Bayou and Christmas Bay, were created under the existing joint Texas General Land Office (GLO)/Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Coastal Preserves Program. Christmas Bay, the focus of this regulatory effectiveness study, was recommended for Coastal Preserve designation due to its role as a key nursery area for many species.

This report contains a description and evaluation of essential regulatory activities governing Christmas Bay and its watershed. This report will be used in management planning for the preserve, and will also contribute to the baseline regulatory data for developing the Galveston Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. A companion report was prepared for the Armand Bayou Coastal Preserve.

This study was conducted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council and Duane Windsor, Ph.D., of Rice University, under contract to the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program.

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