

RECREATIONAL FISHERY BY-CATCH IN THE GALVESTON BAY SYSTEM

1.0 PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

The Galveston Bay National Estuary Program is characterizing the status and trends in resource condition as a necessary step in formulating the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the Galveston Bay system. An examination of the magnitude of recreational fishery by-catch, in concert with projects evaluating the magnitude of commercial shrimp trawl fishery by-catch and magnitude of other non-fishery-related mortality will characterize the direct impacts of human removal of organisms from the estuarine environment. The purpose of this report is to present information on the recreational fishery by-catch in the Galveston Bay system.

The report is organized into the following sections: Introduction (Section 2) provides background information on recreational fishing in the Galveston Bay system and Texas estuarine waters, and identifies the project objectives; Historical Data Review (Section 3) identifies information available to this study; Methods (Section 4) presents an approach for estimating recreational by-catch using existing data; Results and Discussion (Section 5) presents estimates of recreational by-catch; and Conclusions and Recommendations (Section 6) summarizes the findings and identifies approaches to estimate recreational by-catch in Galveston Bay.