

Fiscal Year 1994 Annual Work Plan



Galveston Bay
National Estuary Program

GBNEP-32
August 1993

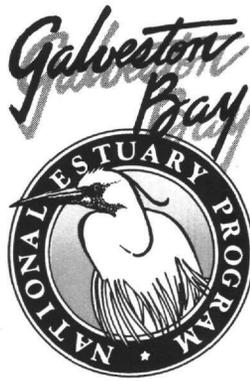
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The Galveston Bay National Estuary Program

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The Galveston Bay National Estuary Program

Texans increasingly express their expectations for a clean environment in terms of entire ecosystems. Until recently, our tendency was to view environmental problems in isolated pieces we could understand—indeed this view was institutionalized (and seemingly immortalized) in an elaborate mosaic of fragmented jurisdictions. The Galveston Bay National Estuary Program (GBNEP) is a forerunner in elevating hands-on management of coastal environments to the level of the ecosystem; and in doing so, is encouraging an integration of traditionally disparate institutions.

The GBNEP was established under the authority of the Water Quality Act of 1987 to develop a *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* (CCMP) for Galveston Bay. The purpose of the CCMP is to address threats to the Bay resulting from pollution, development, and overuse. To address these threats, five years of work commenced in 1990, consisting of three phases: (1) Identification of the specific problems facing the Bay; (2) A Bay-wide effort to compile data and information to describe status, trends, and probable causes related to the identified problems; and (3) Creation of the CCMP itself to enhance governance of the Bay at the ecosystem level. The GBNEP is accomplishing this work through a cooperative agreement between the U.S. EPA (Region 6) and the State of Texas (administered by the Texas Water Commission).

The structure of the GBNEP reflects a strong commitment to consensus-building among all Galveston Bay user groups, government agencies, and the public. The GBNEP "Management Conference" consists of six Governor-appointed committees with broad representation, totaling about one hundred individuals. Meetings of these committees are also open to the public, and public participation in policy-setting and in Bay management are considered strengths of the program. When submitted to the Governor of Texas in late 1994, the CCMP will reflect thousands of hours of involvement (much in the form of volunteer time) by individuals who in various ways use, enjoy, or help govern this vital coastal resource.

This document describes work planned for the fifth and final year of the process leading to creation and implementation of the CCMP. It is written to meet Environmental Protection Agency requirements for an Annual Work Plan for award of National Estuary Program grants (40 CFR Part 35, Federal Register Vol. 54, No. 190, Oct. 3, 1989). The information presented here serves as an agreement between the State of Texas and the U.S. EPA for work to be carried out by the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program (GBNEP) in state fiscal year 1994 (September 1, 1993 through August 31, 1994).

This Work Plan is also written for members of the Management Conference, as well as for the wider Galveston Bay Community with an interest in the estuary and in our efforts to improve its management. It is our hope that anyone with a desire to improve the stewardship of this important Texas and American resource will join us in the endeavor.

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