
IV. Agency Responsibilities

While oversight *Galveston Bay Plan* implementation will be the responsibility of the Galveston Bay Program (GBP), with advice from the Galveston Bay Council (GBC), more than 20 federal and state agencies, over 100 local governments and special purpose districts, universities, non-profit organizations and various stakeholder groups have specific implementation responsibilities identified in the *Plan*. Implementation responsibilities of public agencies and other organizations, as they pertain to the *Plan's* Action Plans or individual actions, can generally be grouped in the following categories:

- earmarking funds
- allocating staff
- assisting with legislative initiatives
- passing new or revised regulations
- establishing guidelines
- entering into Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)
- passing local ordinances
- adopting resolutions of support
- redirecting agency resources to achieve *Plan* objectives

This chapter summarizes, in tabular form, the agencies (or other entities) with responsibility for implementing each of the *Plan's* 82 recommended actions. Table 2, which begins on the following page, lists each *Plan* action by: (1) number and title; (2) priority of the problem addressed by the action; (3) lead entity(ies); and (4) other participants.

For the most part, "Lead Entities" are those which possess the appropriate regulatory jurisdiction, funding resources, personnel and/or expertise to best carry out the steps necessary to implement the action. Whenever possible, a single lead entity has been listed. However, some actions, due to their complexity or jurisdictional overlaps, have one or more lead entities. In these cases, the GBP will play a major role in assuring that efforts are coordinated.

The "Other Participants" listed in the table will play important, but generally supporting, roles. These roles may include carrying out directives from regulatory authorities, providing input on program design, reviewing and commenting on proposed initiatives, furnishing research, monitoring data and analysis, or helping to educate stakeholders or the general public about an aspect of the action.

For space and formatting purposes, agency (entity) names are generally abbreviated (please refer to the List of Acronyms at the beginning of the report). While this table provides a comprehensive overview of those agencies and other organizations involved in *Plan* implementation, their specific responsibilities are outlined in the action steps in the *Plan* itself and Chapter 4 (Enforceable Policies) of this report.

TABLE 2: Agency Responsibilities

Action Number	Action Title	Priority	Lead Entities	Other Participants
HP-1	Restore, create, and protect wetlands	Very High	GLO, TPWD, USFWS, NOAA, Corps	NMFS, SCS, TNRCC, private conservation groups, private landowners, citizens
HP-2	Promote beneficial uses of dredged material to restore and create wetlands	Very High	Corps, and agencies serving on the ICC	TCMP, Tx DOT, TNRCC, TPWD, local sponsors, City of Texas City
HP-3	Inventory degraded wetlands and fund remedial measures	Very High	USFWS, National Biological Survey, private landowners	NMFS, SCS, Corps, EPA, GLO, TPWD
HP-4	Implement a coordinated system-wide wetland regulatory program	Very High	Corps, EPA, FEMA, HUD, NMFS, USFWS, TPWD, TNRCC, TWDB, RRC, GLO, H-GAC, citizens	
HP-5	Acquire and protect quality wetlands	High	TPWD, USFWS, GLO	Corps, NPS, EPA, NMFS, private conservation groups, private sector
HP-6	Develop economic and tax incentive programs to protect wetlands	High	GLO, TPWD, GBC, local governments	USFWS, NOAA, private sector, private conservation groups
HP-7	Facilitate birds nesting on existing sites	Very High	TPWD, USFWS, GLO	Private organizations, citizens
HP-8	Build nesting islands using dredged materials	Very High	Corps, USFWS, GLO	TPWD, local dredging sponsors
HP-9	Reduce erosional impacts on wetlands and habitats	Moderate	SCS, GLO	Corps, Sea Grant, NMFS, USFWS, TPWD, TWDB, NBS, TNRCC, Bureau of Reclamation, USCG, San Jacinto River Authority, Trinity River Authority, HGCSD, UT BEG
SP-1	Implement a bay-wide effort to strengthen species management	High	TPWD, new species advisory committee, GBP	USFWS, TNRCC, GLO, EPA, CCC, Corps, SCS, NMFS, local governments, private conservation groups, industry, commercial fishing interests, the public
SP-2	Return oyster shells to designated locations within the bay	High	TPWD	Oyster Advisory Committee, NMFS, commercial oyster harvesters
SP-3	Promote the development of oyster reefs using alternate materials	High	USFWS, TPWD, HL&P	GLO, TDH, Corps, TAMU, other industry
SP-4	Set aside a portion of reef habitat as scientific research areas or preserve	High	TPWD	USFWS, GLO, TDH, NMFS, Sea Grant, industry, public
SP-5	Encourage continued development of gear to reduce commercial bycatch	High	NMFS	USFWS, TPWD, Sea Grant, commercial fishing industry
SP-6	Conduct educational programs about catch-and-release	High	TPWD	
SP-7	Investigate potential measures to reduce impingement and entrainment	High	HL&P	TPWD, USFWS, Sea Grant
SP-8	Develop management plans for endangered or threatened species	High	TPWD	USFWS, NMFS
SP-9	Improve enforcement of prohibitions against introductions of exotic species	Low	EPA, USFWS, USCG	TPWD, NMFS
SP-10	Identify and implement techniques for the control of problem exotic species	Low	TPWD	NMFS, USFWS, SCS
PH-1	Develop a seafood consumption safety program	High	TDH	TNRCC, EPA, FDA, and local governments

PH-2	Enhance the TDH Shellfish Sanitation Program	Moderate	TDH	TPWD, USGS
PH-3	Develop a contact recreation advisory program	Low	TDH	EPA, TNRCC, USGS, county and local health agencies
FW-1	Complete current studies to determine freshwater inflow needs for the bay	Very High	TWDB, TPWD	TNRCC, Universities
FW-2	Expand streamflow, sediment loading, and rainfall monitoring	Very High	USGS, TWDB	Trinity River Authority, San Jacinto River Authority, Corps, City of Houston, Harris County Flood Control District, National Weather Service, BEG, local governments
FW-3	Establish management strategies for meeting freshwater inflow needs	Very High	TNRCC	TPWD, TWDB, GLO, CCC, City of Houston, Trinity River Authority, San Jacinto River Authority, other water consumers
FW-4	Establish inflow regulations to protect the ecological needs of the estuary	Very High	TNRCC	TPWD, TWDB, GLO, CCC, USGS, Corps, EPA, USFWS, City of Houston, other water consumers
FW-5	Explore means of providing sediment to the estuary	Very High	TNRCC	TWDB, TPWD, USGS, Corps, GLO, Bureau of Reclamation, Trinity River Authority, San Jacinto River Authority
FW-6	Reduce water consumption	Very High	GBP, TWDB, HGCSO	TNRCC, municipalities, Trinity River Authority, San Jacinto River Authority, and water utilities
FW-7	Evaluate the effects of structures on bay circulation	Moderate	TNRCC	TWDB, TPWD, USGS, Corps, City of Texas City, Ports
SD-1	Promote planning to facilitate natural resource damage assessments	High	Natural resource trustees for the state of Texas (i.e., USFWS, NMFS, GLO, TNRCC, TPWD)	
SD-2	Identify simplified damage assessment procedures for small oil spills	High	GBP	Natural resource trustees for the state of Texas (i.e., USFWS, NOAA, GLO, TNRCC, TPWD)
SD-3	Facilitate effective restoration of Galveston Bay's natural resources damaged by spills	Low	GBP	Natural resource trustees for the state of Texas (i.e., USFWS, NOAA, GLO, TNRCC, TPWD)
SD-4	Facilitate spill cleanup by advance shoreline characterization	Low	GLO	Natural resource trustees for the state of Texas (i.e., USFWS, NOAA, TNRCC, TPWD)
SD-5	Improve trash management near the shoreline	Low	GBP	GLO, Corps, local governments, commercial venture operators for private facilities
SD-6	Screen trash from stormwater discharge	Low	Local governments (by authority of EPA and TNRCC)	
SD-7	Publicize environmental harm caused by illegal dumping	Low	GBP	GLO, TNRCC, local media, "Keep Texas Beautiful" and similar campaigns
SM-1	Establish a planning program for shoreline development	High	Local governments, H-GAC	Regulatory agencies, industry, public and private sector developments
SM-2	Identify appropriate residential shoreline development guidelines	High	GBP, H-GAC	Local governments, CCC
SM-3	Establish commercial and industrial shoreline development guidelines	High	GBP, H-GAC, TNRCC, DPS	GLO, TNRCC, H-GAC, local governments, industry, public
SM-4	Minimize negative effects of structures and dredging on publicly owned lands	High	GLO	TNRCC, TDH, county health departments, Corps, private leaseholders, local governments, TPWD, EPA, USFWS, USCG
SM-5	Improve access to publicly owned shorelines	Low	GBP	TPWD, USFWS, H-GAC, GLO, local governments, GBP, NPS, landowners

WSQ-1	Reduce contaminant concentrations to meet standards and criteria	Very High	TNRCC	EPA, NPDES permit holders, USGS, toxics researchers
WSQ-2	Determine sources of ambient toxicity in water and sediment	Very High	TNRCC, USFWS	EPA, TPWD, USGS, Corps, RRC, NPDES stormwater permit holders, industrial groups
WSQ-3	Establish sediment quality criteria	Very High	TNRCC	TPWD, USFWS, USGS, GLO
WSQ-4	Perform TMDL loading studies for toxics by watershed	Very High	TNRCC	EPA, USFWS, USGS, NPDES stormwater permit holders
WSQ-5	Support Clean Texas 2000 Pollution Prevention Program	Very High	TNRCC, industries, local municipalities, and citizens	
WSQ-6	Reduce nutrient and BOD loadings to problem areas	High	TNRCC, EPA, USGS	Local municipalities
WSQ-7	Perform TMDL loading studies for oxygen demand and nutrients by watershed	High	TNRCC	EPA, USFWS, USGS, NPDES stormwater permit holders
NPS-1	Implement stormwater programs for local municipalities	Very High	Joint Storm Water Task Force, Pasadena, and municipalities in the local Galveston Bay watershed	H-GAC, USGS, EPA, TNRCC, local developers
NPS-2	Perform pilot projects to develop NPS best management practices for the Galveston Bay watershed	Very High	GBP, TNRCC, Houston/Harris County	H-GAC, EPA, universities, USGS, GLO (TCMP), consulting firms, local municipalities
NPS-3	Identify and correct priority watershed pollutant problems	Very High	GBP	H-GAC, EPA, universities, USGS, SWCB, SCS, GLO (TCMP), consulting firms, local municipalities
NPS-4	Establish residential load reduction programs	Very High	TNRCC, GBP	EPA, GLO (TCMP), local municipalities, local school districts, environmental organizations
NPS-5	Correct malfunctioning shoreline septic tanks	Very High	County health departments, Corps, GLO, GBP	EPA, TDH, TPWD
NPS-6	Implement NPS reduction plan program for new development	Very High	GLO, NOAA	EPA, USGS, TNRCC, local municipalities, marina owners, construction companies and developers, industries
NPS-7	Establish roadway planning to minimize NPS effects	Very High	GBP, TXDOT	USDOT, county highway departments, local municipalities, TNRCC
NPS-8	Implement NPDES stormwater program for area industries	Moderate	EPA, TNRCC, industries identified by federal regulations in NPDES industrial stormwater permit program	
NPS-9	Prevent degradation of bay waters by ground water plumes	Moderate	TNRCC, local industries with known ground water problems	H-GAC, River Authorities, USGS
NPS-10	Develop inventory of agricultural non-point sources	High	SWCB, SCS, H-GAC	River Authorities, local farming organizations, EPA, TNRCC, USGS, GLO
NPS-11	Coordinate and implement existing agricultural NPS control programs	High	GBP	SWCB districts, GLO, USDA, EPA, SCS, Clean Rivers Act studies, TDA, Farm Assist, Rural Clean Water Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, TNRCC Ag Program (MOU between TNRCC and SWCB)
NPS-12	Adopt regional construction standards for NPS reduction	Low	H-GAC, CCC, GBP	EPA/TNRCC(NPDES), GLO (TCMP), local municipalities, Joint Storm Water Management Task Force

NPS-13	Implement toxics and nutrient control practices at construction sites	Low	H-GAC, CCC, GBP	GLO (TCMP), EPA, TNRCC, local developers, construction companies, municipalities, Joint Storm Water Management Task Force
NPS-14	Require sewage pumpout, storage, and provisions for treatment	Moderate	GLO, TPWD, TNRCC	GBP, local marinas, local municipalities, TNRCC
NPS-15	Require use of marine sanitary chemicals that can be treated in POTWs	Moderate	TNRCC	GBP, GLO (TCMP), local boat supply retailers, boat owners
NPS-16	Implement washdown controls and containment measures	Moderate	Marina owners with NPDES permits	Local municipalities, TNRCC, GLO (TCMP), Coast Guard, EPA
PS-1	Determine location and extent of bypass and overflow problems	Very High	TNRCC, local municipalities	EPA, MUDs, GCWDA, TWDB, GLO, Galveston County, Harris County, Chambers County, Brazoria County, Liberty County
PS-2	Eliminate or reduce bypass or overflow problems	Very High	TNRCC, local municipalities	EPA, MUDs, GCWDA, GLO
PS-3	Regionalize small wastewater treatment systems	High	GCWDA, TNRCC	Local municipalities, MUDs, GLO, USGS
PS-4	Improve compliance monitoring and enforcement	High	TNRCC, EPA	GCWDA, POTW operators, USGS
PS-5	Implement a dry-weather illegal connection program	High	local municipalities, POTW operators	TNRCC, GLO
PS-6	Issue NPDES Coastal General Permit or ban oil field brine discharge	Very High	EPA, RRC	Oil producers with brine discharges
RSC-1	Establish a research coordination board	Support Action	GBP	UT, TAMU, UH, Rice, WEF, SeaGrant, TWRI, TNRCC, GLO, TDH, RRC, TWDB, GBF, TPWD, EPA, Corps, USFWS, NMFS, USGS, TCC, river authorities, environmental groups, industrial research groups
RSC-2	Identify research needs from a holistic ecosystem perspective	Support Action	GBP	UT, TAMU, UH, Rice, WEF, SeaGrant, TWRI, TNRCC, GLO, TDH, RRC, TWDB, GBF, TPWD, EPA, Corps, USFWS, NMFS, USGS, TCC, river authorities, environmental groups, industrial research groups
RSC-3	Continue State of the Bay process	Support Action	GBP	UT, TAMU, UH, Rice, WEF, SeaGrant, TWRI, TNRCC, GLO, TDH, RRC, TWDB, GBF, TPWD, EPA, Corps, USFWS, NMFS, USGS, TCC, river authorities, environmental groups, industrial research groups
RSC-4	Increase Funding for Galveston Bay Research	Support Action	GBP	UT, TAMU, UH, Rice, WEF, SeaGrant, TWRI, TNRCC, GLO, TDH, RRC, TWDB, GBF, TPWD, EPA, Corps, USFWS, NMFS, USGS, TCC, river authorities, environmental groups, industrial research groups
PPE-1	Establish citizen involvement as an integral part of the GBP	Support Action	GBP	
PPE-2	Continue and expand the State of the Bay Symposia	Support Action	GBP	Sea Grant, government agencies, universities, GBF, public and private schools, etc.
PPE-3	Develop and implement a long-range adult education and outreach program	Support Action	GBP	GBF, governmental agencies with a role in bay management, media
PPE-4	Develop specific curricula for use in Galveston Bay watershed school districts	Support Action	GBP, GBF	Local schools and universities, TPWD, USFWS, SCS, State coordinating committee on environmental education, Ag. extension service

PPE-5	Continue to develop effective volunteer opportunities for citizens	Support Action	GBP, GBF	TNRCC, TDH, TPWD, all other governmental agencies with a role in bay management, other private volunteer groups, the public
PPE-6	Maintain a citizen pollution reporting system	Support Action	GBP, TNRCC	local environmental agencies
PPE-7	Develop and implement a strategy for informing, educating, and providing support for local government involvement	Support Action	H-GAC	Local governments, EPA, TNRCC
PPE-8	Establish support for user groups affected by implementation of The Galveston Bay Plan	Support Action	GBP	TPWD (maritime sanitation program), TPWD (licenses), GBF