
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. One or more water quality monitoring stations should be established within Christmas Bay. The existing station at Christmas Point does not reflect bay conditions. Sampling should be conducted monthly for at least two years to establish baseline conditions, and quarterly, at a minimum, thereafter.
2. Studies should be undertaken to establish the relative abundance of the four species of seagrass. It appears that extinction of turtle grass and clover grass may be eminent.
3. The possibility of using maintenance dredge spoil from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to create a colonial bird nesting island within Christmas Bay should be investigated. A vegetated island of adequate elevation to avoid flooding would be a valuable resource for colonial wading birds of the bay and wildlife refuge.
4. Drum Bay and Bastrop Bay, as integral components of the Christmas Bay ecosystem, should be considered as additions to the Christmas Bay Coastal Preserve.