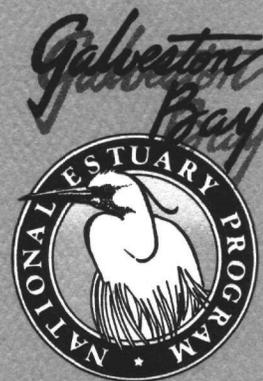
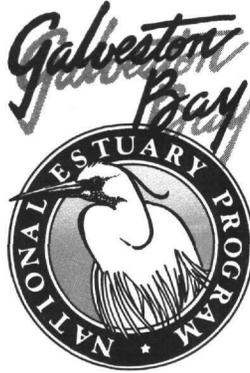


Regulatory Survey for the
Christmas Bay Coastal Preserve



Galveston Bay
National Estuary Program
GBNEP-9
March 1991



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**Regulatory Survey for the
Christmas Bay Coastal Preserve**

**Carl Masterson
Principal Investigator**

Houston-Galveston Area Council

**Galveston Bay National Estuary Program
GBNEP Publication - 9
March 1991**

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PREFACE

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 (CCMP's) 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 WQA. 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). (Appendix D contains additional details on the administrative structure and organization of the GBNEP, as well as addresses and phone numbers for principal contacts within the program. A comprehensive membership directory may also be obtained from the GBNEP Program Office.)

The GBNEP received approval for an Action Plan Demonstration Project from EPA Office of Marine and Estuarine Protection in July, 1989, and funding from EPA Region 6 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 was recommended for Coastal Preserve designation due to its role as a key nursery area for many species.

This report contains comprehensive surveys of the regulatory authorities and programs governing the Christmas Bay Coastal Preserve. (Appendix E lists the addresses and phone numbers for key agencies covered by this survey. Appendix C provides a list of specific contacts within these agencies.) This information will be used to develop a management plan for the Preserve, and will also contribute to the baseline regulatory data for developing the Galveston Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

This study was conducted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council, under contract to the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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GBNEP Coastal Preserves Task Force

Dr. Larry McKinney, Chair
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Mr. James Blackburn
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Ms. Glenda Callaway
EKISTICS Corporation

Ms. Sally Davenport
Texas General Land Office

Dr. Frank M. Fisher, Jr.
Rice University

Dr. Hal Irby
Texas General Land Office

Mr. Fred Leblanc
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Mr. Rollin MacRae
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Mr. Don Moore
National Marine Fisheries Service

Mr. David Neleigh
Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Frank S. Shipley
GBNEP, Program Director

Mr. Ken Teague
Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Jerry Wermund
University of Texas at Austin

H-GAC Project Staff

Jeff Taebel, Manager of Community and Environmental Planning
Carl Masterson, Senior Environmental Planner
(Principal Investigator)
Ed Polasek, Environmental Planner
Lance Freeman, Environmental Planner
Gary Mitchell, Environmental Planner
Rowena Ballas, Administrative Assistant
Royce Rosenberg-Houthuijzen, Intern
Katherine Wilson, Intern

Houston-Galveston Area Council
Community and Environmental Planning Department
PO Box 22777, 3555 Timmons
Houston, Texas 77227
(713) 627-3200

Fax: (713) 621-8129

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