

## Lavaca Bay/Chocolate Bay

Segment: 2453 Bays and Estuaries

**Basin number:** 24  
**Basin group:** E  
**Water body classification:** Classified  
**Water body type:** Estuary  
**Water body length / area:** 54.8 Sq. miles  
**Water body uses:** Aquatic Life Use, Contact Recreation Use, General Use, Fish Consumption Use, Oyster Waters Use

Standards Not Met in 2004 Assessment Area	Use	Support Status	Parameter	Category
N. end near Lavaca R. confl, near Port Lavaca, Pt Comfort, Chocolate Bay (OW)	Oyster Waters Use	Not Supporting	bacteria (oyster waters)	5a
Point Comfort area	Fish Consumption Use	Not Supporting	mercury in fish and crab tissue	5c

**Parameters Removed from the 2002 303(d) List:** depressed dissolved oxygen, mercury in water

**Additional Information:** The aquatic life, contact recreation and general uses are fully supported.

The TMDL program conducted a special study to determine compliance with the criterion for 24-hour dissolved oxygen average. The entirety of the data demonstrates that the criterion is supported, although the dissolved oxygen concentrations are occasionally lower than the criterion established to ensure optimum conditions for aquatic life.

2004 Concerns: Assessment Area	Use or Concern	Concern Status	Description of Concern
20.1 square miles in the central and western portions of the bay (OW)	Oyster Waters Use	Use Concern	bacteria (oyster waters)
Point Comfort area	Sediment Contaminants Concern	Concern	chromium in sediment
Point Comfort area	Sediment Contaminants Concern	Concern	nickel in sediment

Monitoring sites used: Assessment Area	Station ID	Station Description
Gallinipper Point to SH 35	13383	LAVACA BAY AT SH 35 CAUSEWAY
Gallinipper Point to SH 35	14701	LAVACA BAY AT MOUTH OF PORT LAVACA TURNING BASIN
Gallinipper Point to SH 35	14702	LAVACA BAY BETWEEN LAVACA CM 2, 8, AND 9

<b>Monitoring sites used:</b>		
<b>Assessment Area</b>	<b>Station ID</b>	<b>Station Description</b>
Gallinipper Point to SH 35	14704	LAVACA BAY 300 YDS. NE OF NOBLE POINT NEAR SOUTH END OF CAUSEWAY
Gallinipper Point to SH 35	14705	LAVACA BAY OFF NOBLE POINT
Gallinipper Point to SH 35	14724	LAVACA BAY 1 MI. NORTH OF ALAMO BEACH
Gallinipper Point to SH 35	14886	LAVACA BAY AT CHOCOLATE BAY CHANNEL
Gallinipper Point to SH 35	17554	LAVACA BAY 1.6 MI. EAST OF NOBLE POINT, WEST OF ALCOA ISLAND
Gallinipper Point to SH 35	17558	LAVACA BAY AT PORT LAVACA 1.0 MI. EAST OF THE INTERSECTION OF SH 36 AND SOUTH COMMERCE
Gallinipper Point to SH 35	17853	LAVACA BAY 2.4 MILES EAST NORTHEAST OF PORT LAVACA
Mouth of bay to Gallinipper Point	13384	LAVACA BAY 'Y' INTERSECTION OF PORT LAVACA AND MATAGORDA SHIP CHANNELS AT MARKER 66
Mouth of bay to Gallinipper Point	14717	LAVACA BAY BETWEEN MATAGORDA CM 53 AND 54
Mouth of bay to Gallinipper Point	14718	LAVACA BAY AT RHODES POINT
Mouth of bay to Gallinipper Point	14721	LAVACA BAY OFF SAND POINT
Mouth of bay to Gallinipper Point	14885	LAVACA BAY 0.5 MI. NW OF MAGNOLIA BEACH
Mouth of bay to Gallinipper Point	17555	LAVACA BAY 1.25 MI. SOUTH OF RHODES POINT AND 2.25 MI WEST OF RUPERT POINT
Point Comfort area	13385	LAVACA BAY AT ALCOA SHIP CHANNEL OFF LOADING DOCK
Point Comfort area	14394	LAVACA BAY AT ALCOA CHANNEL, REEFS LOCATED IN SHALLOWS OF WEST SHORELINE IN ALCOA CHANNEL
Point Comfort area	14703	LAVACA BAY AT ALCOA CM 78
Point Comfort area	14706	LAVACA BAY BETWEEN ALCOA CM 7 AND 8
Point Comfort area	17857	LAVACA BAY ALCOA SHIP CHANNEL ADJACENT TO ALCOA PLANT AT CM7
Upper bay	13563	LAVACA BAY 152 METERS SSW OF CM 22 IN RED BLUFF CHANNEL
Upper bay	14121	LAVACA BAY FORMOSA PLASTICS CORPORATION RECEIVING WATER MONITORING PROGRAM STATION B1, 300 FT. FROM THE DIFFUSER SITE TO THE NW
Upper bay	14130	LAVACA BAY FORMOSA PLASTICS CORPORATION RECEIVING WATER MONITORING PROGRAM STATION D2, 1500 FT. FROM THE DIFFUSER SITE TOWARD THE SW
Upper bay	14707	LAVACA BAY AT SHELL REEF
Upper bay	14708	LAVACA BAY
Upper bay	14709	LAVACA BAY AT MOUTH OF VENADO CREEK
Upper bay	14710	LAVACA BAY
Upper bay	14711	LAVACA BAY MIDDLE OF UPPER BAY
Upper bay	14713	LAVACA BAY AT MOUTH OF PLACEDO CREEK
Upper bay	14714	LAVACA BAY 300 YDS. OFFSHORE OF MAXWELL DICH
Upper bay	14720	LAVACA BAY NEAR MOUTH OF LAVACA RIVER AT CM 2
Upper bay	15368	LAVACA BAY IN LAVACA CHANNEL, 1.0 KM SOUTH OF CM 2, WEST OF POINT COMFORT
Upper bay	17552	LAVACA BAG SOUTH OF GARCITAS COVE APPROX. 1.0 KM NORTHEAST OF THE CONFLUENCE OF SIXMILE CREEK
Upper bay	17553	LAVACA BAY WEST OF LAVACA, 1.75 WEST OF THE INTERSECTION SH36 AND SOUTH COMMERCE STREET

(-based on data from 03/01/1998 to 02/28/2003)

<b>Published studies: Publication</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>
IMS 70 Lavaca Bay	Aug. 1976	Bowman/Jensen (Region 14
R 88-02 San Antonio-Matagorda	Oct. 1988	Region 14
SR 92-01 Lavaca Bay	Oct. 1990	Bowman/Jensen (Region 14)

<b>Historical fish kills:</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Fish Killed</b>	<b>Suspected Cause</b>
4/11/1996	Lavaca Bay, Magnolia Beach at Crabbing Bridge	10000	Low Dissolved Oxygen
4/25/1996	Refuge Harbor, Lavaca Harbor	20000	Low Dissolved Oxygen
5/23/1996	Lavaca Bay, Pt Comfort, ALCOA offloading dock at stormwater discharge ditch	10	Physical Damage/Trauma
5/30/1996	Lavaca Bay, Placedo Creek to Garcitas Cove	3500	Disease
6/6/1996	Lavaca Bay, Lynn's Bayou, Highway 35 at Pizza Hut and movie theater	1500000	Low Dissolved Oxygen