

Ayish Bayou (0610A) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Ayish Bayou (0610A) in the summer of 2014 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Ayish Bayou is an unclassified perennial water body in San Augustine County, TX, approximately 41 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2014 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially listed in 2000.

The RUAA identified that the presumed use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Ayish Bayou is appropriate. PCR 1 is defined in §307.3 (a) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards as activities that are presumed to involve a significant risk of ingestion of water (e.g. wading by children, swimming, water skiing, diving, tubing, surfing, and the following whitewater activities: kayaking, canoeing, and rafting).

During the field surveys, field staff did not observe any type of recreation occurring on the stream. Six instances of personal use PCR were documented in interviews (i.e. swimming, wading children). PCR was reported as an observed use in three interviews and a heard of use in two interviews. Evidence of recreation included a swimming aid, an inner tube, a volleyball, and two boats. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.74 meters (29.13 in), 23 pools greater than one meter deep, and normal flow. At the time of the surveys, Ayish Bayou had a mid-range Palmer drought index. Public access to Ayish Bayou is moderate. In addition to a public park with a boardwalk in San Augustine on Ayish Bayou, there are also several footpaths and a few ATV trails along the stream.

Based on evidence collected during the RUAA study, the TCEQ recommends that Ayish Bayou retain its primary contact recreation use and corresponding *E. coli* geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies/100mL for the entire segment, from the headwaters of Sam Rayburn Reservoir to the dam impounding Bland Lake approximately 0.1 km upstream of FM 1279 near the City of San Augustine, in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.