

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 2002				
Assessment Area	Use	Support Status	Parameter	Category
North end near Lavaca R. confl, near Port Lavaca, Pt Comfort, Chocolate Bay	Oyster Waters Use	Not Supporting	bacteria (oyster waters)	5a
Point Comfort area	Fish Consumption Use	Not Supporting	mercury in fish and crab tissue	5a

Standards Not Met and Concerns in Previous Years				
Assessment Area	Use	Support Status or Concern	Parameter	Category
Point Comfort area	Aquatic Life Use	Partially Supporting	depressed dissolved oxygen	5c
Point Comfort area	Fish Consumption Use	Not Supporting	mercury in water	5c

Additional Information: The contact recreation and general uses are fully supported.

This segment was identified on the 2000 303(d) List as not supporting the fish consumption use due to mercury in water. Because there were insufficient data available in 2002 to evaluate changes in water quality, this segment will be identified as not meeting the standard for mercury in water until sufficient data are available to demonstrate use support.

This segment was also identified on the 2000 303(d) List as partially supporting the aquatic life use due to depressed dissolved oxygen. Because an insufficient number of 24-hour dissolved oxygen values were available in 2002 to determine if the criterion is supported, this segment will be identified as not meeting the standard for dissolved oxygen until sufficient 24-hour measurements are available to demonstrate support of the criterion.

2002 Concerns:			
Assessment Area	Use or Concern	Concern Status	Description of Concern
Point Comfort area	Sediment Contaminants Concern	Concern	chromium in sediment
Point Comfort area	Sediment Contaminants Concern	Concern	manganese 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
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
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
Point Comfort area	13385	LAVACA BAY AT ALCOA SHIP CHANNEL OFF LOADING DOCK
Point Comfort area	14703	LAVACA BAY AT ALCOA CM 78
Point Comfort area	14706	LAVACA BAY BETWEEN ALCOA CM 7 AND 8
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

Published studies:		
Publication	Date	Author
IMS 70 Lavaca Bay	Aug. 1976	Bowman/Jensen (Region14
R 88-02 San Antonio-Matagorda	Oct. 1988	Region 14

(based on data from 03/01/1996 to 02/28/2001)

Published studies: Publication	Date	Author
SR 92-01 Lavaca Bay	Oct. 1990	Bowman/Jensen (Region 14)

Historical fish kills:			
Date	Location	Fish Killed	Suspected Cause
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