

## Tres Palacios Harbor - Dissolved Oxygen TMDL Project

Nonpoint Source Subcommittee Meeting (5:30 - 7:00 pm)  
Shrimping Practices Subcommittee Meeting (7:00 - 8:30 pm)  
June 8, 2006  
Palacios Recreation Center

The meetings were attended by representatives from resources agencies (TPWD, TNC, TCEQ), county organizations (County Health Department, Matagorda Navigation District), University of Texas Marine Science Institute, and the general public. There was no representation from the shrimping community.

### Specific concerns raised:

- TMDL stations may have different pollution sources and the possible solutions may need to be location specific
- State funding is need to help with local problems.
- Funding should go to additional law enforcement.

### *Point Sources*

- Wastewater treatment plant is currently at maximum capacity and often overflows. Infrastructure of this facility needs to be updated and increased to support population.
- A new development may exasperate the current capacity problem at the wastewater treatment plant.
- The city planning and engineering department needs to work with TCEQ and USACOE to help new development construct in a manner that will not cause further nps pollution.
- The city/county has a redevelopment plan, and there is still a need for funding to replace infrastructure at the wastewater treatment plant.
- The wastewater treatment plant is almost at its maximum load and the new development will likely push it over the limit with an addition al 120 gal/day

### *Runoff*

- The Harbor receives 20-25% of the municipal runoff (main transmission line runs along 12<sup>th</sup> st)
- Drainage needs to be cleaned in the downtown area.
- There is also an unincorporated properties outside the city limits that could drain into Harbor
- BeachWatch has shown that the pavilion (1<sup>o</sup> storm water outfall) often has high enterococcus counts.
- The city has 6-8 major outfalls along the shoreline
- The City is not a “green manicured” type and residential fertilizers are not likely a nps.

### *Education and outreach*

- Target audiences include children, city council, chamber of commerce, and general public
- Information should be presented as how does this directly affect you, i.e. decrease in fish populations
- General public can be reached through local newspaper with simplified map and description
- Don't spend \$ on development of new materials, bc there is plenty available
- There are plenty of outreach opportunities in local festivals, and there should be a dedicated effort for education at these events.

### *Shrimping*

- There was a lack of representation from the shrimping community at this meeting, which might be remedied by creating and distributing a one page fact sheet about the TMDL problem, potential sources, and options. This fact sheet should also be generated in Spanish and Vietnamese.
- The processing of bay shrimping and gulf shrimping is vastly different. Gulf shrimp are deheaded and frozen off shore, therefore, gulf shrimping is not a likely source for nutrient inputs.
- Bay shrimping has significantly decreased this year due to price of diesel gas and abundance of imported shrimp.
- TPWD conducts biweekly interviews that are qualitative and have discovered that there are very few people bay shrimping, and fish houses are closing.
- TPWD conducts a coastline survey on the opening day of bay shrimp season. This year there were only 51 bay shrimp boats, whereas in the past it has ranged from 300-900.
- There are currently only 350 boats in the harbor, whereas in the past the number is around 500.
- The lack of activity in bay shrimping should act as a control when analyzing water quality and should be looked at in the final report.