

# TPWD Perspectives on the Trinity-San Jacinto BBEST Report

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Presentation to Trinity-San Jacinto BBASC  
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Trinity and San Jacinto and Galveston Bay  
Basin and Bay Expert Science Team

## Environmental Flows Recommendations Report

Final Submission to the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay Basin and Bay  
Area Stakeholder Committee, Environmental Flows Advisory Group, and Texas  
Commission on Environmental Quality

November 30, 2009

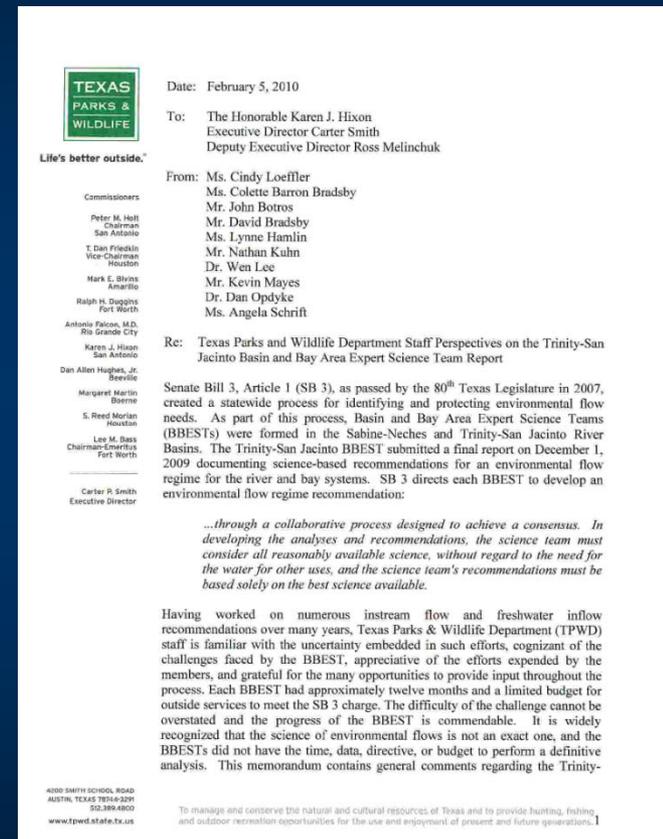
# **BBEST Charge**

- **Enormous scientific challenge**
- **12 months and limited budget**
- **No precedent for this specific task in Texas**

**TPWD appreciates the efforts of  
all members of the BBEST**

# TPWD Comment Letter

- Submitted Feb 5, 2010 to TPWD Commissioner Karen Hixon, member of EFAG
- TPWD responsible for the fish and wildlife resources of Texas



# Sound Ecological Environment

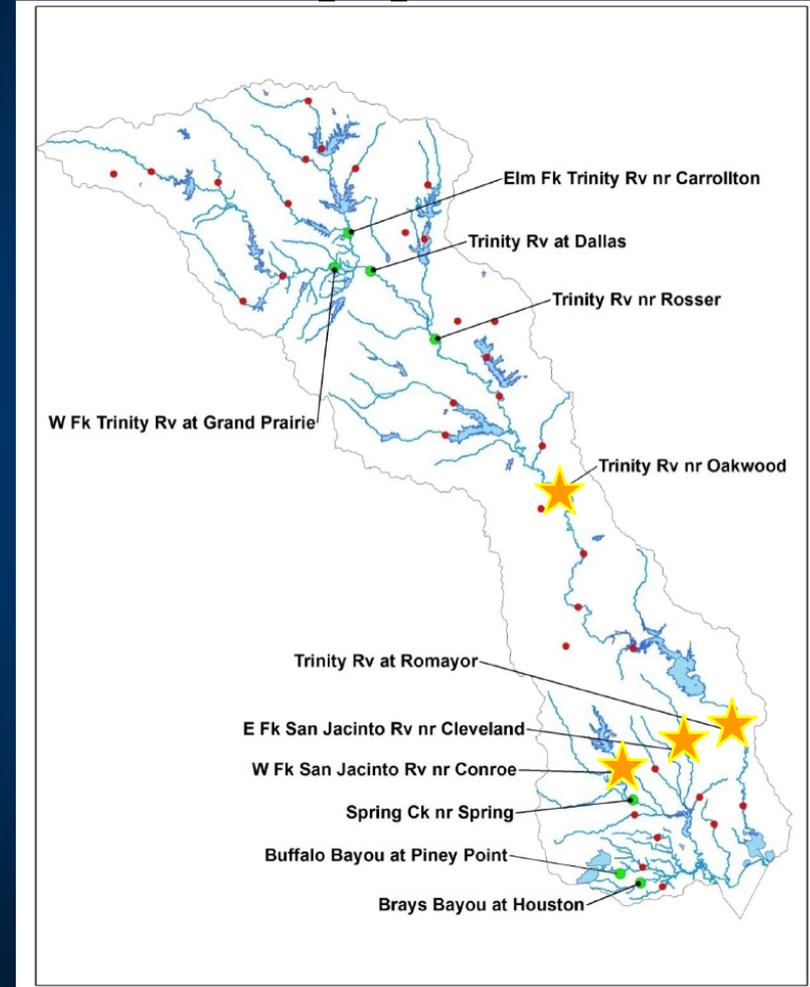


- BBEST reached consensus that S.E.E. does currently exist
- TPWD notes
  - Ongoing loss of wetlands
  - Declining mussel populations
  - Lack of reproduction in some fish



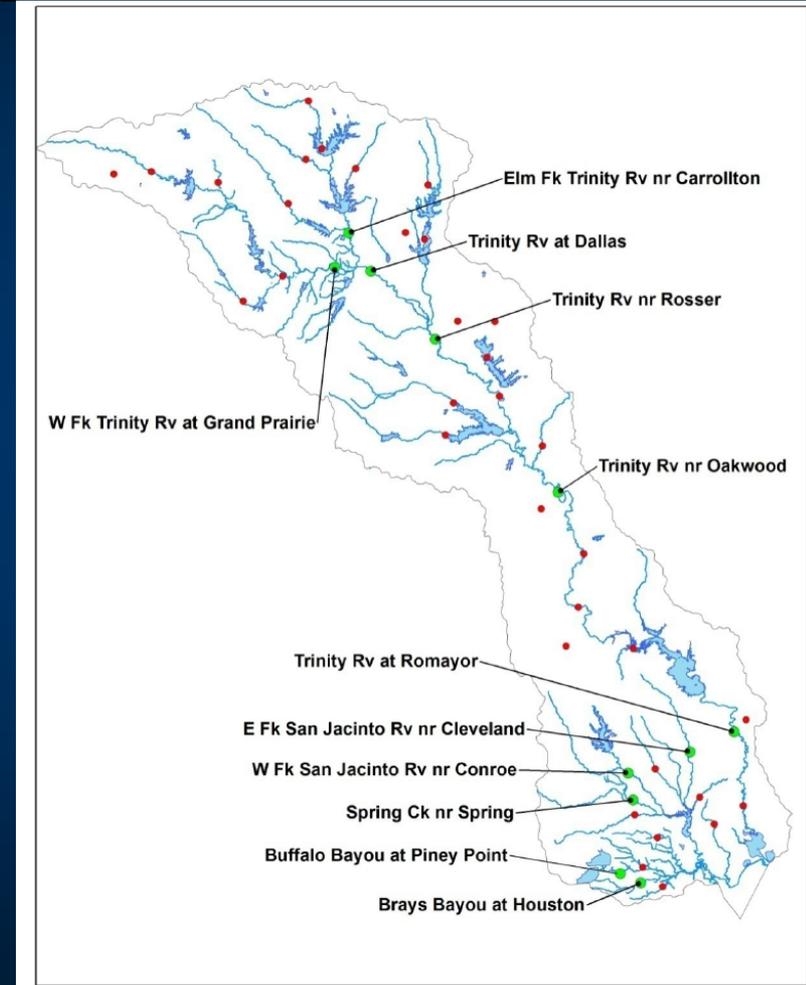
# Conditional Phased Approach

- TPWD does not endorse
- Is not a flow regime
- Inadequate geographic scope (4)
- Does not use all of the best available science
- Adaptive management clauses of SB 3 helpful, but no panacea



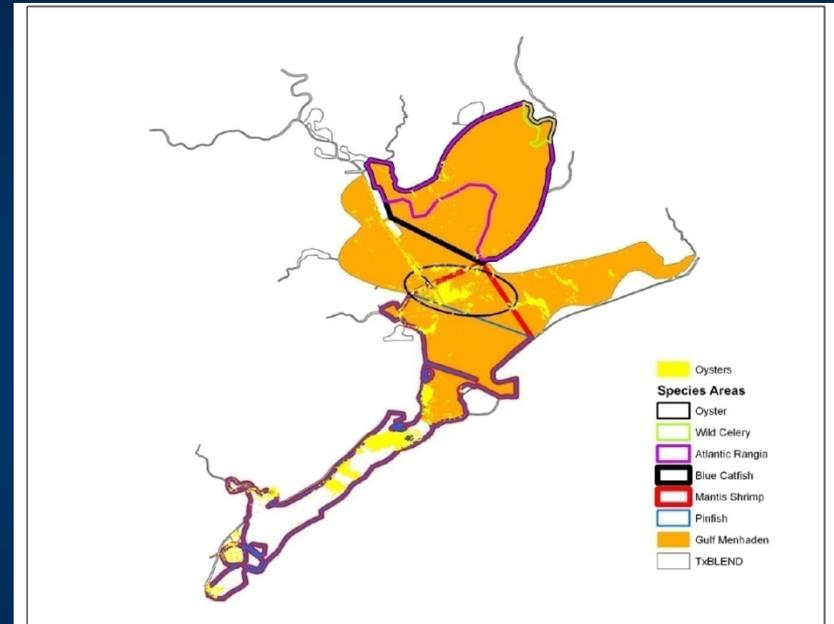
# Flow Regime Approach

- TPWD does endorse
- Flow regime consistent with NAS, SB 2, and SAC
- Uses best science available
- Method should be expanded to important tributaries



# Freshwater Inflow Recommendations

- TPWD sees merit in this approach
- Linkage of inflows to salinity to habitat is a reasonable approach
- Results are incomplete
  - Some months, seasons, and years have no recommendations



# Consolidated Comments, Espey et al.

- TPWD does not endorse
- Monthly patterns are integral to the State Methodology

Table 4

Alternative Recommendation for Freshwater Inflows for the Galveston Bay System

Inflow Scenario	Quantity Needed (acre-feet/year)	Historical Frequency	Target Frequency
Max H	5.2 million	66%	50%
Min Q	4.2 million	70%	60%
Min Q-Sal	2.5 million	82%	75%
Min Historic	1.8 million	98%	90%

# TPWD Suggestion

- **Combine both approaches**
- **Use “Freshwater Inflow Recommendations” where available**
- **Use State Methodology monthly values to fill gaps**

# **Additional Comments**

- **TPWD believes it is the responsibility of the BBASC and TCEQ to consider implementation of overbank events**
- **TPWD appreciates both approaches straightforward presentation of flow magnitudes and attainment frequencies**

# Next Steps

- **TPWD staff committed to providing support to SB 3 groups**
  - Work Plan
  - Adaptive Management
  - Implementation Strategies
- **TPWD will also provide comments during TCEQ rulemaking**