

Upper Gulf Coast Oyster Waters: TMDL Implementation Status

Date of Status Report: 2019, Year 4

I-Plan Approval Date: 8/19/2015

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Responsible Parties Abbreviations

EPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

GBF - Galveston Bay Foundation

TCEQ - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

TWUA Texas Water Utilities - Association

H-GAC - Houston-Galveston Area Council

TAES - Texas AgriLife Extension Service

TEEX - Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service

WWTF - Wastewater Treatment Facility

Management Measures

Management Measure 1: Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestones	Status
GBF, TCEQ EnviroMentors, TEEX, TWUA, WWTFs, WWTF Workgroup	1.1 Guidance and Training	Distribute guidance documents at association meetings with permit renewal packets. Develop WWTF resources webpage on GBF's website. Maintain guidance documents, resource website, and promotion of EnvironMentors Program. Offer two trainings each year within TMDL project area.	Year 2 - A WWTF resources webpage was developed and posted on the GBF website. Year 3 - GBF maintained guidance documents and links to TCEQ resource websites. Galveston County Health District provides WWTF inspection training through TEEX for employees and encourages WWTFs to join the initiative if they haven't already. Year 4 - GBF continues to maintain guidance documents and links to TCEQ resource websites. Galveston County Health District also continues to provide WWTF inspection training through TEEX for employees and encourages WWTFs to join the initiative if they haven't already. The Anahuac WWTF is planned to be overhauled including the collection infrastructure. Updates are scheduled to be completed and online in 2021.

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestones	Status
GBF, TCEQ EnviroMentors, WWTFs, WWTF Workgroup	1.2 Pre-Permit Renewal Sampling	<p>Send letters and info to permittees and operators' associations prior to permit renewal.</p> <p>Follow up with WWTFs to determine who has carried out pre-permit testing, and assist with any problems that arose during pre-permit testing.</p> <p>Send any new WWTFs within TMDL project area a letter and information.</p>	<p>Year 2 – Training manuals were updated with new sampling requirements.</p> <p>Year 3 – This measure is marked as “completed” in the 2018 update presentation. Galveston County Health District maintained quarterly inspections.</p> <p>Year 4 – This measure is completed. Galveston County Health District continued to maintain quarterly inspections</p>
EPA, TCEQ, WWTFs	1.3 Increase Compliance and Enforcement	<p>Workgroup requests that TCEQ develop and approve focused investigations relating to bacterial sampling with an aim to conduct a focused investigation at each facility every two years.</p> <p>Workgroup requests TCEQ continue working to increase the number of unannounced inspections relating to bacterial sampling for each facility within TMDL project area.</p>	I-Plan implementors worked with the BIG's to submit a letter requesting more frequent monitoring requirements.

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestones	Status
GBF, Policy and Outreach Workgroup, TCEQ, WWTFs, WWTF Workgroup	1.4 Decrease Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)	<p><i>1.4a Participation in SSO Initiative (SSOI)</i></p> <p>Workgroup will work with TCEQ or other source to present information on participating in a SSOI at association meetings. Request that TCEQ continue to work with existing permittees and make presentations.</p> <p>Develop an outreach campaign to promote SSOIs.</p>	<p>Year 2 - Funding for outreach campaign was secured.</p> <p>Year 3 - GBF promoted proper disposal of FOG at 19 outreach events, through 13 social media posts, and through several mass media campaigns. In total over 4 million impressions were achieved.</p> <p>Year 4 - GBF continued to promote the Cease the Grease FOG disposal campaign at outreach events and through presentations.</p>

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<p>GBF, Policy and Outreach Workgroup, and WWTF Workgroup</p>	<p>1.4 Decrease SSOs</p>	<p><i>1.4b Address Fat, Oil, Grease, and Roots</i> Compile existing inspection and enforcement tools and provide support to entities without formal grease trap programs.</p> <p>Develop regional Cease the Grease campaign to be distributed and posted on GBF website.</p> <p>Contact local jurisdictions to determine if new grease trap controls have been implemented.</p>	<p>Year 2 – Prior to year 1, funding was secured to help develop existing education materials to be posted on GBF website, an education campaign was developed and implemented. The Cease the Grease education campaign was promoted through www.ceasethegrease.net and the webpage received 8,089 page views. GBF delivered 18 presentations or boothing events, reaching 7,527 people promoting proper disposal of FOG. This included handing out funnels and scrapers to assist in FOG disposal. Also, GBF maintained a FOG workgroup which met quarterly. Feedback from the stakeholder workgroup was incorporated into implementation.</p> <p>Year 3 – GBF maintained the Cease the Grease website and implemented outreach strategies to drive website traffic. In 2018, the website received 7,119 views. GBF installed four cooking oil recycling stations in partnership with the following municipalities: City of Nassau Bay, City of Seabrook, Clear Lake City Water Authority, and City of Dickinson. GBF delivered 26 presentations and events, reaching 5,127 people promoting proper disposal of FOG. This included handing out funnels and scrapers to assist in FOG disposal. Additional outreach occurred in partnership with H-GAC’s Coastal Communities program.</p> <p>Year 4 – GBF maintained the Cease the Grease website and implemented outreach strategies to drive website traffic. As of June 2019, the website received 2,009 views. As of June 2019, GBF had delivered 17 presentations and boothing exhibits to almost 1,500 people promoting proper disposal of FOG. This included handing out funnels and scrapers to assist in FOG disposal. Additional outreach occurred in partnership with H-GAC’s Coastal Communities program.</p>

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestones	Status
GBF, Policy and Outreach Workgroup, and WWTF Workgroup	1.4 Decrease SSOs	<p><i>1.4C Address Lateral Line Maintenance</i></p> <p>Develop and/or compile existing education materials; distribute and post on GBF website.</p>	<p>Year 2 – Prior to year 1, funding was secured to help develop existing education materials to be posted on GBF website, an education campaign was developed and implemented. In Year 1, the Cease the Grease education campaign was promoted through www.ceasethegrease.net. Implementation efforts occurred in tandem with those outlined in measure 1.4 above.</p> <p>Year 3 – GBF continued to update information on the Cease the Grease website. Implementation efforts occurred in tandem with those outlined in measure 1.4 above.</p> <p>Year 4 – GBF continued to update information on the Cease the Grease website. Implementation efforts occurred in tandem with those outlined in measure 1.4 above.</p>

Management Measure 2: On-Site Sewage Facilities

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestones	Status
<p>GBF, Authorized Agents in area, H-GAC, OSSF owners, OSSF Workgroup, Policy and Outreach Workgroup, Research Partners, TCEQ, TAES</p>	<p>2.1 Create Regional Plan to Identify, Prioritize, and Address Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs)</p>	<p>Prioritize areas to focus OSSF inspections. Hold workshops and identify low income candidates to assist in OSSF repair.</p> <p>Years 2 - 4 will focus on the development, completion, and presentation of the OSSF impact study in the affected watershed.</p> <p>In Years 2 - 5, the identified highest priority OSSFs will be inspected in the following order:</p> <p>Year 2: 25% of highest priority OSSFs. Year 3: Next 25% highest priority. Year 4: Next 25% highest priority. Year 5: Final 25% highest priority.</p>	<p>Year 2 - An inspection plan was created for priority areas.</p> <p>Year 3 - Two workshops were offered in May 2018 that included information on maintaining private septic system and additional resources and financial support opportunities. H-GAC delivered an addition five presentations about the OSSF SEP program. H-GAC maintains a spatial database of permitted OSSFs within the region. This can be viewed at http://datalab.h-gac.com/ossf/</p> <p>Year 4 - H-GAC updated information on their spatial database of permitted OSSFs within Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, and Montgomery counties. As a result of the update, 2,632 OSSFs were added. Through funding by TCEQ (Supplemental Environmental Project, or SEP) and Harris County District Attorney's Office, project partner H-GAC administered a total replacement of 23 OSSFs, 17 of which were in the Galveston Bay drainage area. Replacements occurred in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, and Montgomery counties. Also, H-GAC delivered 14 presentations about the OSSF SEP program. H-GAC has also revised the Homeowner Education course and the OSSF Real Estate Inspector course. The Homeowner Education course will be offered through numerous watershed-based plans.</p>

Management Measure 3: Boater Waste

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestone	Status
<p>GBF, Authorized Agents in area, H-GAC, OSSF owners, OSSF Workgroup, Policy and Outreach Workgroup, Research Partners, TCEQ, TAES</p>	<p>3.1 Increase Access to Pump-Out Facilities, Enforce Existing Regulations, Enhance Outreach and Marketing, Designate Galveston Bay as a Federal No-Discharge Zone (NDZ), & Conduct Water Quality Monitoring in Marinas</p>	<p>Survey and collect data to determine impacts of boater waste on bacteria inputs. Continue to promote NDZ designation, apply for federal NDZ, and reach final approval of NDZ application by Year 4.</p> <p>Continue discussions with local entities and stakeholders to gain support for federal NDZ designation, additional pump-out stations, and ordinance adoption.</p> <p>Continue adding pump-out stations through education and outreach. Pass one ordinance and install one new pump-out per year. Increase marine office enforcement efforts.</p>	<p>Year 2 - A study plan was developed and executed on boater waste impact. GBF delivered presentations and handed out materials at 63 events to 4,289 people promoting the BWEC. GBF maintained the Pump Don't Dump website, www.pumpdondump.org. In 2017, the website received 600 site visits.</p> <p>Year 3 - GBF continued to conduct water quality monitoring in over 20 local marinas on a monthly basis (www.galvbay.org/watermonitor) and promote the proper disposal of boater waste through the Pump Don't Dump campaign. GBF also delivered presentations and handed out materials at 80 events to 7,418 promoting the BWEC. GBF maintained the Pump Don't Dump website. In 2018, the site received 308 visits.</p> <p>Year 4 - GBF continued to conduct water quality monitoring in over 20 local marinas on a monthly basis (www.galvbay.org/watermonitor) and promote the proper disposal of boater waste through the Pump Don't Dump campaign. As of June 2019, GBF had delivered presentations and handed out materials at 49 events to 4,062 people promoting the BWEC. GBF maintained the Pump Don't Dump website. As of June 31, the site received 345 site visits in 2019.</p>