

Response to Public Comments
Two TMDLs for Dissolved Oxygen in Upper Oyster Creek (Segment 1245)

Tracking Number	Date Received	Affiliation of Commenter	Request or Comment	Summary of TCEQ Action or Explanation
001_01	11/13/09	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD; written)	TPWD staff have reviewed the draft TMDLs. It is our understanding that relatively recent monitoring data shows exceedances of dissolved oxygen criteria in Upper Oyster Creek. The TMDL does not require any point or nonpoint source load reductions. We are unclear how the TMDL will help bring Upper Oyster Creek into compliance with the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards. We request that TCEQ please explain how Upper Oyster Creek will be brought into compliance with dissolved oxygen criteria.	<p>On January 7, 2010, the following response was mailed to Dr. Patricia Radloff, Water Quality Program Leader at TPWD, as required by TPWD Code Section 12.0011.</p> <p>Dissolved oxygen samples collected in Upper Oyster Creek do occasionally fail to meet the state's water quality standards. An intensive modeling study of the water body failed to show that traditional point or nonpoint sources of oxygen-demanding substances were sufficient to cause this. However, the model did predict that the assimilative capacity of Upper Oyster Creek has been fully utilized in some portions. Therefore, the TMDL provides a tool by which future point source loadings can be evaluated to ensure that permitted loadings of oxygen-demanding substances do not contribute to the creek's failure to meet water quality standards. The TMDL document acknowledges that additional work needs to be done to determine (and if possible, correct) the causes of the dissolved oxygen exceedances that the model is not predicting. Some potential causes are identified (dredging, use of herbicides to control aquatic vegetation, and hydraulic changes to the system). Additional monitoring studies during the implementation phase of the project are recommended to better understand these dissolved oxygen exceedances.</p> <p>No changes have been made to the TMDL based on this comment.</p>