



Announcement and Call for Presentations, Panel Sessions and Posters

10th State of the Bay Symposium

20 Years of Successfully Preserving Galveston Bay

Wednesday and Thursday, January 13-14, 2016
Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center
Galveston, Texas

Deadline for submission: May 15, 2015

The Galveston Bay Estuary Program is pleased to announce that the 10th State of the Bay Symposium will be held January 13-14, 2016 at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center in Galveston, Texas.

The Estuary Program, a non-regulatory program administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and its partners work together to implement [The Galveston Bay Plan \(The Plan\)](#), a science-based plan designed to protect and restore the bay. The Estuary Program hosts the symposium to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to interact and share environmental policy and management successes, report the latest monitoring and research findings, and to illuminate the challenges facing Galveston Bay.

About the symposium

The theme of this symposium is **"20 Years of Successfully Preserving Galveston Bay."** Through science, collaborative partnerships, public education, and hard work, the Galveston Bay Estuary Program and partners have made great progress in protecting the bay's ecological and economic health—as well as the public health.

The Estuary Program welcomes abstracts for oral and poster presentations and panel sessions that address coastal and estuarine restoration and management, in all habitats, at all scales in all regions of Galveston Bay. See instructions for submitting abstracts below.

The Estuary Program desires to present related aspects of a topic (e.g. research/technical aspects, policy implementation and results, impediments to implementation) within single sessions. **Therefore, presentations should be developed with a diverse audience in mind.** The symposium audience is comprised of representatives from citizen and environmental groups; business and industry; commercial and recreational fishing; ecotourism and recreation; K-12 education and academia; and local, state, federal and regional government.

Presentations, posters and panel sessions will cover all aspects of The Plan. Symposium topics may include, but are not limited to:

- **Habitat Protection** – assessment of wetlands and other estuary habitats; conservation, preservation, acquisition, restoration of wetlands and other estuary habitat; erosion impacts and their moderation, and coastal resiliency.
- **Species Protection** – assessment of estuarine species populations; protection of populations of declining or economic/ecologically important species; assessment of, and methods to eradicate or reduce threatening exotic species.
- **Freshwater Inflow and Bay Circulation** – assessment and methods to ensure beneficial inflows of freshwater to estuarine systems; assessment and methods to ensure alterations to circulation do not negatively impact productivity and ecosystem health.
- **Spills and Dumping** – assessment of, and compensating environmental damages from spills and dumping; reduction of impact of spills and dumping.
- **Shoreline Management** – assessment of shoreline management and practices; reduction of degradation through shoreline management plans and practices; increasing environmentally-compatible public access; mitigation of coastal hazards.
- **Public Health Protection** – assessment and reduction of health risks from consumption of contaminated seafood (e.g. contaminant concentrations in environment and seafood species, species' physiological factors relationship to contaminant concentrations, management considerations); oyster reef harvest closures; assessment and minimization of illness resulting from contact recreation.
- **Water and Sediment Quality** – assessment and reduction of toxicity and contaminant concentrations in water and sediments; fate, transport and remediation of contaminants (e.g. PCBs, dioxins, pesticides, endocrine disruptors); increasing dissolved oxygen in water bodies; watershed protection planning and implementation; impact of the Total Maximum Daily Load Program; the impact of air deposition water and sediment quality; Best Management Practices (BMPs); and Low Impact Development.
- **Nonpoint Sources of Pollution** – assessment of nonpoint source pollutant loadings; reduction of nonpoint source pollutant loadings from urban, industrial, agricultural lands and from construction sites; the impact of Phase I and Phase II stormwater permitting efforts, stormwater management efforts, malfunctioning septic tanks; reduction of marina water quality degradation from sewage discharges and other marina/boating-related contamination; stormwater wetlands.
- **Point Sources of Pollution** – elimination of wet weather bypasses and overflows from wastewater treatment systems; elimination of pollution problems from wastewater treatment plants; elimination of illegal connections to storm sewers.

- **Public Participation and Education** – assessment of public attitudes towards environmental protection; involving citizens and volunteers in estuary and watershed protection; implementing adult education and outreach; involving local government in estuary protection; developing and implementing student estuary curricula; informing and involving bay user groups (business, industry, agriculture; commercial/recreational fishing, boaters/marinas; ecotourism interests, etc.) in bay protection; measuring the effectiveness of outreach and education efforts.
- **Economic Valuation and Impact of Estuarine Resources** – determining the value and economic impact of marketable and non-marketable estuarine resources including quality of life.
- **Monitoring and Research** – unique or emerging technologies or methods to assess ecosystem function; developing environmental and programmatic indicators.

Specific areas of interest as they relate to the topics include emerging environmental threats; impacts of human population growth; understanding physical and biological factors of estuarine ecosystems; environmental policy and management; successes, lessons learned and challenges; and innovative tools, incentives, and techniques. NOTE: The content of the presentations need not be limited to Galveston Bay, but applicable to estuarine systems such as the bay.

Instructions for Submitting Abstracts

Those wishing to present an oral or poster presentation or provide a panel session must submit an abstract and the additional information noted below in electronic format. To be accepted for consideration, abstracts must conform to the following guidelines:

1. Prepare using Microsoft Word.
2. Maximum length is one page.
3. Use 1-inch margins on top, bottom, and sides; single-spaced; Arial, 11-point font.
4. Center title at top of page and type in bold, all capital letters.
5. Skip one line between title and author(s).
6. Center author(s) name(s) and provide only author name, division/section/etc., organization/firm/university/etc., city, state. If multiple authors, insert one author per line and skip one line between authors.
7. Skip one line between the author(s) and body of abstract.
8. Use full justification for body of abstract.
9. Leave a line between paragraphs but do not indent.
10. Do not include figures, tables, or graphs.

In addition, you must include the following information with your abstract in order for it to be accepted for consideration (this can be placed on a second page of the abstract file, a separate file or in the body of an e-mail):

1. Name, title, division/section/etc., organization/firm/university/etc., mailing address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address of presenter(s)/panelists. If multiple

- presenters are listed, indicate the primary presenter that will serve as the point of contact for subsequent communications. Panels must also include a primary contact/moderator.
2. Indicate if an oral or poster presentation or panel session is desired, and indicate if you would accept a poster presentation should your oral presentation submittal not be selected.
 3. Optional: Suggest the topical area(s) under which the presentation might best fit in the symposium; choose from the list of topics noted above.

Abstracts must be received in electronic format at the Estuary Program no later than May 15, 2015 via e-mail. Abstracts will be reviewed by a symposium committee, which will try to accommodate the authors' desire for an oral or poster presentation, or panel session. You will be notified if your presentation or session has been accepted for inclusion in the symposium by July 10, 2015. At that time, further information will be provided about event registration and submittal of biographical sketches, presentation slides and full papers.

Please send abstracts to:

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
17041 El Camino Real, Suite 210
Houston, Texas 77058
E-mail: gbep@tceq.texas.gov
Phone: (281) 486-1245

Important note for presenters/panelists: If you will attend the one or more days of the symposium, you will be required to register and pay the registration fee. If you will attend only to give your presentation or panel, you will not be required to pay the registration fee.

If you have questions, please contact Cynthia Clevenger at (281) 486-1245 or cynthia.clevenger@tceq.texas.gov.

Further information about the symposium will be placed on the [TCEQ website](#) at and the [Estuary Program website](#) at as it becomes available.