

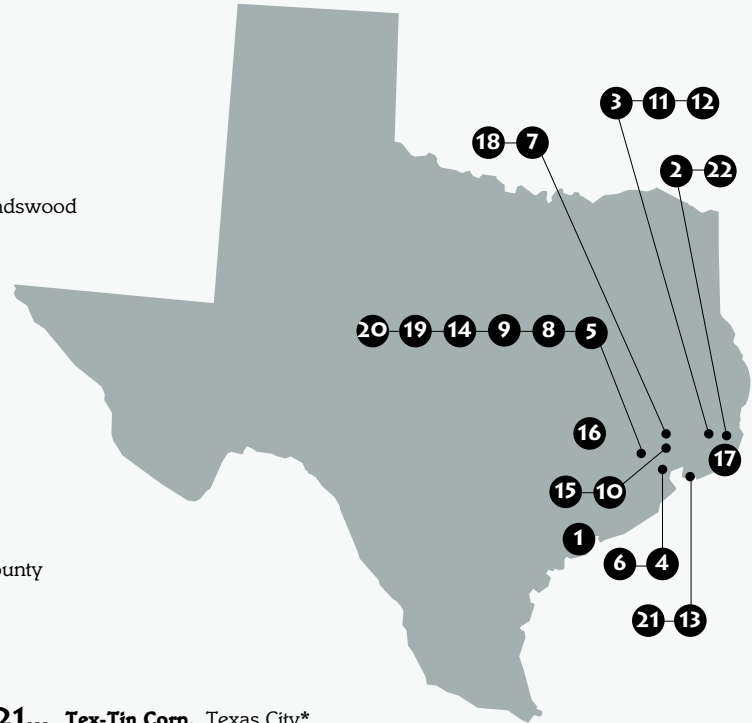
NOAA Coastal Resource Coordination Program Texas Sites

OFFICE OF RESPONSE AND RESTORATION

CRC PROGRAM MISSION...

NOAA acts on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce as a Federal trustee, under CERCLA and other laws, for natural resources in coastal and marine areas. NOAA's mandate is to protect and restore trust resources that are injured by Superfund site contaminants. NOAA fulfills its responsibilities through an effective network of Coastal Resource Coordinators (CRCs) placed in eight EPA regional offices, as well as an interdisciplinary support group located in Seattle. NOAA CRCs respond to local technical requirements by identifying risks to natural resources, recommending protective remedial measures, and designing projects to restore injured resources and habitats in cooperation with the U.S. EPA, the State of Texas, and other trustee agencies. Our goal is to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefit of healthy coastal ecosystems, abundant fishery stocks, and robust populations of marine mammals.

- 1... **ALCOA/Lavaca Bay** Point Comfort*
- 2... **Bailey Waste Disposal** Bridge City*
- 3... **Bethlehem Steel** Beaumont*
- 4... **Brio Refining, Inc.** Friendswood
- 5... **Crystal Chemical Co.** Houston
- 6... **Dixie Oil Processors, Inc./Brio Refining, Inc.** Friendswood
- 7... **French, Ltd.** Crosby*
- 8... **Geneva Industries/Fuhrmann Energy** Houston
- 9... **Harris (Farley Street)** Houston
- 10... **Highlands Acid Pit** Highlands
- 11... **International Creosoting** Beaumont*
- 12... **Keown Supply Company** Beaumont
- 13... **Motco, Inc.** La Marque
- 14... **North Cavalcade Street** Houston
- 15... **Petro-Chemical Systems (Turtle Bayou)** Liberty County
- 16... **Sheridan Disposal Services** Hempstead
- 17... **States Marine** Port Arthur*
- 18... **Sykes Disposal Pits** Crosby
- 19... **Soi Lynn/Industrial Transformers** Houston
- 20... **South Cavalcade Street** Houston
- 21... **Tex-Tin Corp.** Texas City*
- 22... **Triangle Chemical Company** Bridge City*



NOAA has developed a one-page fact sheet for sites marked with an asterisk. The fact sheets provide a physical description of the site and the contamination present, list the NOAA resources of concern, and summarize NOAA's involvement in the cleanup process.

NOAA TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITY IN TEXAS...

NOAA trust species in Texas include such fish as Atlantic croaker, Florida pompano, gulf kingfish, sand sea trout, southern flounder, bay anchovy, spotted sea trout, and striped mullet. Most of these fish serve commercial as well as

recreational interests. Other commercially important species are blue crab, eastern oyster, and brown, pink, and white shrimp. The common harbor porpoise, the Atlantic bottlenose dolphin, and the Atlantic sea turtle also inhabit the Texas coasts. Other important species found in Texas waters include the loggerhead turtle (federally listed threatened), Kemp's ridley turtle, and the leatherback turtle (federally listed endangered).

NOAA CRCs AND THE SITE CLEANUP PROCESS...

NOAA CRCs provide technical expertise to EPA on resources and ecological risk assessment, mitigative measures, and cleanup strategies to ensure protection of NOAA trust resources. Federal and state trustees' early involvement and coordination in the scoping of ecological risk assessments ensures that assessments and the entire remedial process adequately evaluate the risk to natural resources. Designing a cleanup that protects natural resources as well as human health is a cost-effective and efficient way to address the threat posed by coastal waste sites. Through CRC participation in the cleanup process, the government saves time and money by avoiding duplication of effort and litigation. Responsible parties benefit from an early resolution of natural resource damage liability. Best of all, environmental threats are addressed sooner, increasing the chances for effective protection, recovery and/or restoration of coastal and marine resources.

AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN TEXAS...

The NOAA CRC program works to protect and restore natural resources throughout Texas. However, Lavaca Bay is an area of special concern to NOAA since it provides protected nursery habitat for brown shrimp and habitat for green and Kemp's ridley turtles. Elevated levels of mercury have prompted closures of fisheries as a result of releases from the ALCOA Point Comfort operation. NOAA is working closely with ALCOA, EPA, and the State of Texas through an innovative cooperative agreement to address contamination and expedite restoration efforts.

The Galveston Bay/Houston area provides important estuarine habitat for a number of commercial and sport fisheries. Numerous waste sites are located in the area that affect NOAA trust species. NOAA is working to protect and restore fisheries in the area. For example, at the French, Ltd. site, treatment of contaminated sediment, surface water, and groundwater is underway. NOAA, DOI, and State of Texas trustees negotiated a settlement with responsible parties to implement a 60 acre wetland restoration project. Vegetation planting was completed in 1995 and the now-thriving wetland is used extensively by fish and birds.

FYI...

For more information about NOAA's CRC program in Texas, please contact:

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