
CHARTER & PROCEDURES

FOR

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION TEAM

UPPER COAST GIWW: SABINE PASS TO MATAGORDA BAY

CHARTER

- Identify environmental concerns associated with maintenance dredging of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) from Sabine Pass to Matagorda Bay, Texas.
- Identify and investigate environmental restoration and beneficial use of dredged material (BU) opportunities.
- Develop scopes of work needed to address environmental concerns.
- Coordinate upcoming maintenance dredging plans and specifications before contract award.
- Ensure effective team work among State and Federal agencies.

PROCEDURES

Membership: The Upper Coast GIWW Interagency Coordination Team (ICT) will be organized and chaired by the Galveston District, Corps of Engineers (Corps). The ICT will consist of a core “voting” group with one representative from each interested State and Federal resource agency, the project sponsor (Texas Department of Transportation,) and the Corps. Agencies which have expressed an interest in participating are:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) - ?
- Texas Department of Transportation (TXDoT) - ?
- Texas General Land Office (TGLO)e
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Advisory Members: Other individuals may be included in regular ICT meetings and provided copies of all review materials in an advisory (non-voting) capacity. Advisory members can be added at any time.

Decision-Making Process: The ICT's decision-making process will be based, as much as possible, on reaching a consensus through open discussion. If it appears that a consensus is not possible, a vote will be taken with each agency, the Corps, and the project sponsor each allotted one vote. The decision will be then be based upon a two-thirds majority of those voting members present at the ICT meeting. If a voting member is unable to attend, the absent member should designate a proxy in writing.

Organization and Meeting Frequency: ICT meetings will be held as determined necessary. It is anticipated that meetings of the entire ICT may be held at least quarterly. The ICT may establish sub-committees or working groups to address specific concerns such as beneficial use of dredged materials, contaminants, and threatened and endangered species issues. These working groups will meet or confer as necessary to accomplish the sub-tasks identified by the ICT. The recommendations of working groups will be brought before the full ICT for decision-making.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of each meeting will be distributed to each ICT member for review and comment before the next meeting. Revisions will be made to the minutes as necessary and the minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Public Participation: Interested members of the public may attend ICT meetings and make a brief statement at the beginning of the meeting. A visitor protocol has been proposed that lays ground rules for this participation.