

ALCOA-Lavaca Bay NPL

Case History: The [3,500 acre ALCOA facility](#) functions as an aluminum refining and manufacturing facility located on the east shore of Lavaca Bay, Texas. Since 1948, operations have included aluminum smelting and refining, and gas and chlor-alkali processing. The site was National Priorities Listed (NPL) in February 1994, primarily due to elevated mercury in sediments and fish, crabs, and birds; resulting in a 1988 fisheries closure in portions of Lavaca Bay. In January 1997, the Trustees and ALCOA entered into a MOA which provided a framework to conduct a cooperative NRDA at the site.

Responsible Party: Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA).

Trustees:

[NOAA](#) (administrative lead)

[Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#) (TPWD)

[Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#) (TCEQ)

[Texas General Land Office](#) (TXGLO)



[DOI-FWS](#)

Current Status: The Trustees used “reasonable worst case” (RWC) scenarios to determine injuries at the site. In January 2001, two final damage assessments and restoration plans were completed and a consent decree was completed in February 2005. To offset recreational fishing losses, Alcoa constructed three fishing piers and three boat ramps in Lavaca Bay. To compensate for injuries to aquatic resources and migratory birds, Alcoa built an 11 acre oyster reef, a 70 acre estuarine marsh and acquired the 729 acre Myrtle Foster Whitmire Ranch, comprised of a freshwater lake, freshwater and estuarine wetlands, coastal prairie and shrublands. This property will be preserved by transferring the property to USFWS for use to expand the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Total cost of all restoration projects and land acquisition is estimated at \$10 million.

Documents:

The links below will allow you to view documents concerning the Alcoa-Lavaca Bay NRDAR.

Some documents will be in PDF format and you will need [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) to view them. Some files may be large so note the file size before downloading.

[TPWD Lavaca Bay Restoration Fact Sheet](#)

[Final Damage Assessment and Restoration and Environmental Assessment for the Point Comfort/Lavaca Bay NPL Site for Recreational Fishing Service Losses](#)

[Final Damage Assessment and Restoration and Environmental Assessment for the Point Comfort/Lavaca Bay NPL Site for Ecological Injuries and Service Losses](#)

[Consent Decree](#), *United States and State of Texas v. Alcoa Inc. and Alcoa World Alumina L.L.C.*, Civ. No. V-04-119 (December 10, 2004)

[Marsh Implementation Plan](#), June 2004

[Oyster Reef Implementation Plan](#), June 2004

[Recreational Project Restoration Implementation Plan](#), June 2004

[Administrative Record](#) (compiled by NOAA)

Report: [Accumulation of Mercury in Sediments, Prey and Shorebirds of Lavaca Bay, Texas](#)

Contacts:

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Other Links:

[Region 2 Environmental Contaminants Program Homepage](#)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Environmental Contaminants Program Washington Office Homepage](#)