

Matagorda Bay Ecosystem Assessment 2nd Annual Public Meeting Summary

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020

If you missed the meeting, you can watch [the recording](#) (password: Mbea2020; presentations start at 5:00 time-stamp). For more information on the ecological and economic significance of the Matagorda Bay Ecosystem Assessment, explore our [StoryMaps](#). Visit the [Comptroller's website](#) and the [Sportfish Center's website](#) for additional resources.

- I. **Welcoming Remarks** – Robert Wood, Associate Deputy Comptroller, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
- II. **Natural Resources Program Overview** – Chelsea Jones, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
- III. **Matagorda Bay Ecosystem Assessment Updates** – Assessment research team

Dr. Greg Stunz: Presented a project overview and progress; this year's planned work.

Dr. Jim Gibeaut: Shared updates on mapping intertidal and upland environments using lidar and satellite imagery and tracking changes in the Colorado Delta through a time series of vertical aerial photography beginning in 1943.

Ed Oborny: Shared the project area side scan imagery showing bottom hardness; project area bathymetry contours; oyster reef validation sampling; project area potential oyster habitat map; project area seagrass map. Provided a coastal bird survey update.

Dr. Jenni Pollack: Discussed the organic matter sources in bay and the oyster sampling process/progress.

Dr. David Wells and Dr. Jay Rooker: Discussed food web work and preliminary findings; early life stage fish work/seagrass habitat preliminary findings.

Dr. Mike Wetz: Shared the preliminary findings from the first year of sampling in Matagorda Bay, as well as plans for the long-term water quality trend analysis that will begin in early 2021.

Dr. Natalie Wildermann: Presented the transmitter deployment and results during 2019; transmitter deployment planned for 2020; iSeaTurtle app citizen science and associated outreach in 2020.

- IV. **Q & A Session** – moderated by Lauren Borland, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Additional discussion:

- Harmful algal bloom monitoring
- Spotted sea trout lab trials
- Sea turtle tracking

Want to get involved? Have more questions about the research? Contact [Chelsea Jones](#) or reach the project investigators directly using the emails below:

[Dr. Greg Stunz](#)

[Dr. Jim Gibeaut](#)

[Ed Oborny](#)

[Dr. Jenni Pollack](#)

[Dr. David Wells](#)

[Dr. Jay Rooker](#)

[Dr. Mike Wetz](#)

[Dr. Natalie Wildermann](#)