



CONTACT: Emily Demmeck
281-332-3381, x213
edemmeck@galvbay.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

407 Abandoned Crab Traps Removed From Trinity Bay

February 19, 2011, Anahuac, TX – Each year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) closes crabbing in all Texas waters for a 10-day period in February. This year, those dates are February 18-27, 2011, and any trap left in the water during those ten days is considered litter under state law and is susceptible to being removed. TPWD and volunteers, statewide, have been removing crab traps during this closure since 2002, and have recovered nearly 28,000 traps. Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) aids the TPWD program to remove traps during the closed period by providing equipment and volunteers to help with the effort.

This year, GBF staff and over 50 volunteers pulled 407 abandoned crab traps from Trinity Bay and the Trinity River delta. This is more than double the amount of traps pulled last year!

The traps are left in the water for a variety of reasons. Some are misplaced, others are abandoned by crabbers no longer in business, and some are simply left out with the hope they will not be pulled during this annual 10 day period. The majority of traps found were empty, but several had dead crabs, a few had skeletons of some sort, and one had a Texas diamond terrapin shell, a turtle species that is federally listed as a “species of concern” and is unique to saltwater marshes and estuaries.

Not only are abandoned traps hazardous to wildlife, they are unsightly, problematic for fishers and boaters, and can even smother seagrasses. Crab traps can be picked up through February 27, and the drop-off locations for recovered traps can be found on the TPWD website, www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

GBF thanks all of the volunteers who helped make this event successful, especially the Anahuac Game Wardens, Chambers County Parks Department, Hurricane Club and the Texas Airboat Association.

About Galveston Bay Foundation

The mission of the Galveston Bay Foundation is to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural resources of the Galveston Bay estuarine system and its tributaries for present users and for posterity. The Foundation was incorporated in 1987, and is a non-profit organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. GBF is located at 17330 Highway 3 in Webster, Texas. For further information contact GBF at 281-332-3381 or visit the website at www.galvbay.org.

#