

3.6 Outreach

3.6.1 Charting the Course Issue Papers

The Galveston Bay Status and Trends Project was given the task to write a volume of topic based and geographically focused issue papers for use by Dr. Kent Butler of the University of Texas. Dr. Butler serves as PI of the Charting the Course (CtC) project for the GBEP. This task was completed in the Summer of 2005 when the Status and Trends Project submitted six topic-based issue papers and seven geographically focused watershed papers.

Topic-Based Issue Papers:

1. Spills and Dumping
2. Species Protection
3. Shoreline
4. Public Health
5. Freshwater Inflows and Circulation
6. Habitat Protection

Geographically Focused Watershed Papers:

1. Gulf Margin
2. Houston Bayous I
3. Houston Bayous II
4. Houston Bayous III
5. Lower Galveston Bay I
6. Lower Galveston Bay II
7. Trinity Bay

The thirteen issue and watershed papers are loaded onto the www.galvbaydata.org website (<http://www.galvbaydata.org/projects/reports/Viewreport1.html>) and are available as PDF files.

3.6.2 Website Development: www.galvbaydata.org

Web-based Data Tools

In previous project years (2002-2003), the Galveston Bay Status and Trends Project manually created water and sediment quality trend graphs using Microsoft Excel software. The format allowed the Status and Trends team to manually work with the data and gain an understanding of the trends in water and sediment quality from a research perspective. The disadvantage of this type of trend creation is that the trend information was in the end “locked” away in final reports that may not have been very accessible to the public via the internet.

During the 2004-2006 project years, the Status and Trends Project made a methodological shift in how the water and sediment quality data was presented. The Status and Trends Project switched from creating static Excel trend graphs to a dynamic, web-based format using Microsoft SQL database and ASP.net web technologies. The result is the online [Water and Sediment Quality Data Portal](http://www.galvbaydata.org/projects/wq/water1.html) (<http://www.galvbaydata.org/projects/wq/water1.html>) and the [Fisheries Data Portal](http://www.galvbaydata.org/projects/fisheries/Fisheries1.html) (<http://www.galvbaydata.org/projects/fisheries/Fisheries1.html>).

Water and Sediment Quality Data Portal

The Water and Sediment Quality Portal allows users to query the water and sediment quality database for sampling years 1969-2004 by geographic area (subbay and tributary level) and parameter. Results include dynamic trend graphs with drill down (allows for finer temporal resolution by clicking on a year, month, or day) and raw data download capabilities.

Proposed improvements to the Water and Sediment Quality Data Portal for the next project period include 1) adding corresponding water and sediment quality screening levels to the trend graphs and 2) adding the ability to drill down to a finer geographic spatial scale (the water quality station level).

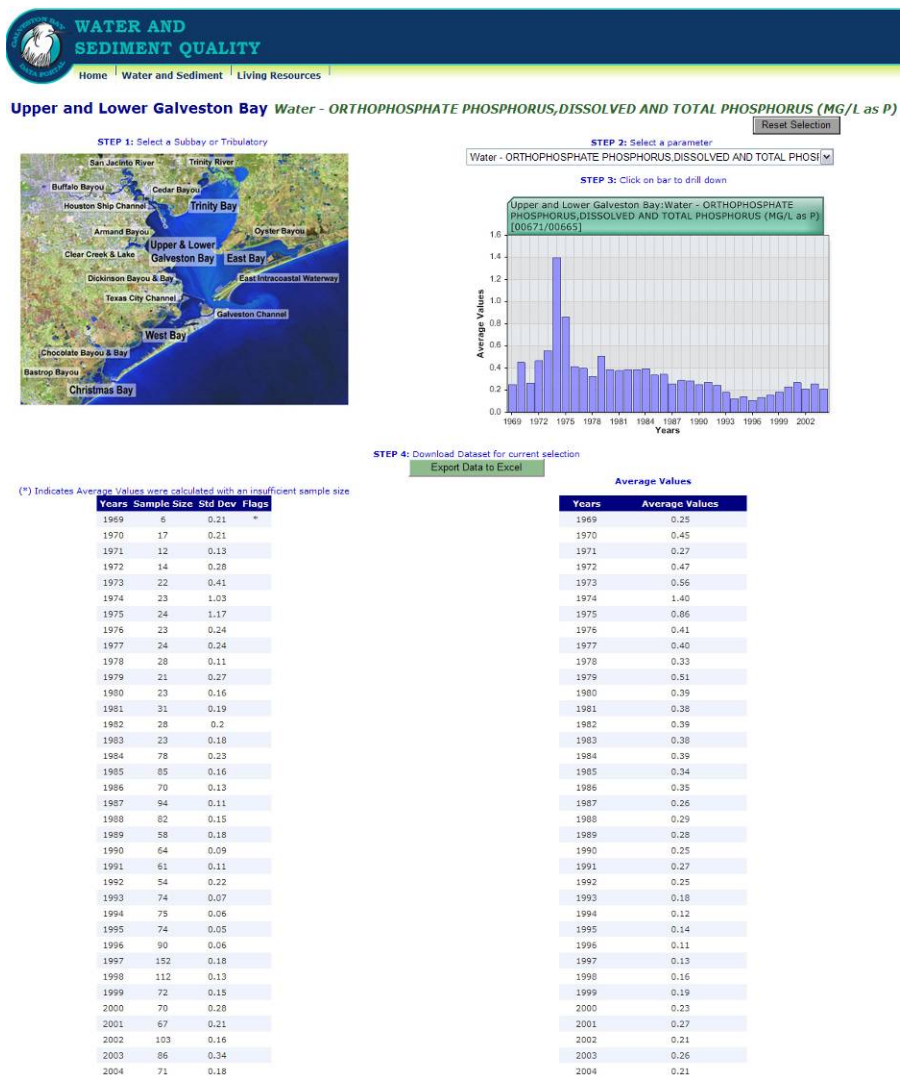


Figure 3.6.1. Water and Sediment Quality Data Portal query result as seen at www.galvbaydata.org. Users can click on the bar graph to drill down through time. Users can also click on the green button in the middle of the page to download the raw data behind the chosen query.

Fisheries Data Portal

During the 2004-2006 project years, the Status and Trends Project made a methodological shift in how the fisheries data was presented. The Status and Trends Project switched from creating static Excel graphs to a dynamic, web-based format using Microsoft SQL database and ASP.net web technologies. The result is the online [Fisheries Data Portal](http://www.galvbaydata.org/projects/fisheries/Fisheries1.html) (<http://www.galvbaydata.org/projects/fisheries/Fisheries1.html>).

Data for sampling years 1977-2004 can be viewed according to geographic area (subbay level), gear type, and species. The portal allows users to query the coastal fisheries Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) data for 190 species of finfish captured in three gear types (bag seine, gill net, and shrimp trawl) by TPWD. Data for Eastern oyster captured in oyster dredge are also available. Results include dynamic trend graphs with drill down (allows for finer temporal resolution by clicking on a year or month) and raw data download capabilities.

Visitors to the website can use the Fisheries Data Portal to:

- View population trends data for species of finfish and shellfish that inhabit Galveston Bay subbays (small bays that make up the larger bay system).
- Use the interactive graphs to browse annual and monthly catch per unit effort (CPUE) data for selected species.
- Download the raw data in Excel format

Proposed improvements to the Fisheries Data Portal for the next project period include adding the ability to drill down to a finer geographic spatial scale (the station level).

Step 1: First select Gear Type, followed by Subbay and Species Name

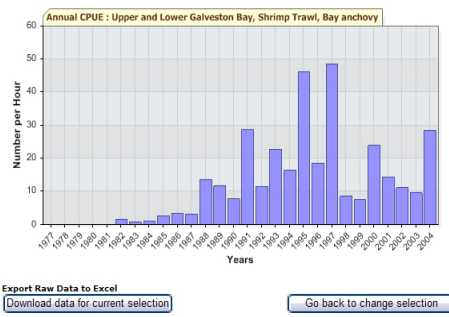
Gear Type:

Subbay:

Species Name:



Step 2: Click on the bar to see monthly data. Hover on bar to view CPUE



Year	CPUE	Sample #
1977	*	0
1978	*	0
1979	*	0
1980	*	0
1981	*	0
1982	1.60	110
1983	0.71	96
1984	0.93	107
1985	2.73	120
1986	3.31	105
1987	3.16	112
1988	13.58	118
1989	11.64	118
1990	7.74	100
1991	28.69	110
1992	11.56	110
1993	22.75	101
1994	16.43	103
1995	46.24	119
1996	18.62	116
1997	48.50	109
1998	8.54	123
1999	7.59	102
2000	23.89	105
2001	14.43	106
2002	11.18	102
2003	9.58	99
2004	28.53	106

(*) Indicates CPUE not calculated because of insufficient sample size

Figure 3.6.2. Fisheries Data Portal query result as seen at www.galvbaydata.org. Users can click on the bar graph to drill down through time. Users can also click on the green button in the middle of the page to download the raw data behind the chosen query.