

MATAGORDA BAY UPDATE

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Water Quality, LCRA

Matagorda Bay

- Second largest estuary in Texas
- Commercial Fishery
 - Shrimp
 - Crab
 - Oysters
- Recreational Fishery
 - Red Drum, Speckled Trout

Importance of Freshwater Inflows

- Estuaries are a nursery for many species
 - Lower salinity than seawater
 - Habitat provides protection from predators
 - Provide nutrients and food
 - Sediments build and nourish habitats
- Timing and magnitude of inflows are important
 - Many species life cycles are timed to inflows

Habitat



Critical Flow Refuge

- Goal of the critical flow is to maintain low-salinity area within the Colorado River Delta
- Provides some habitat for all species, which is very important for oysters



Reef Type

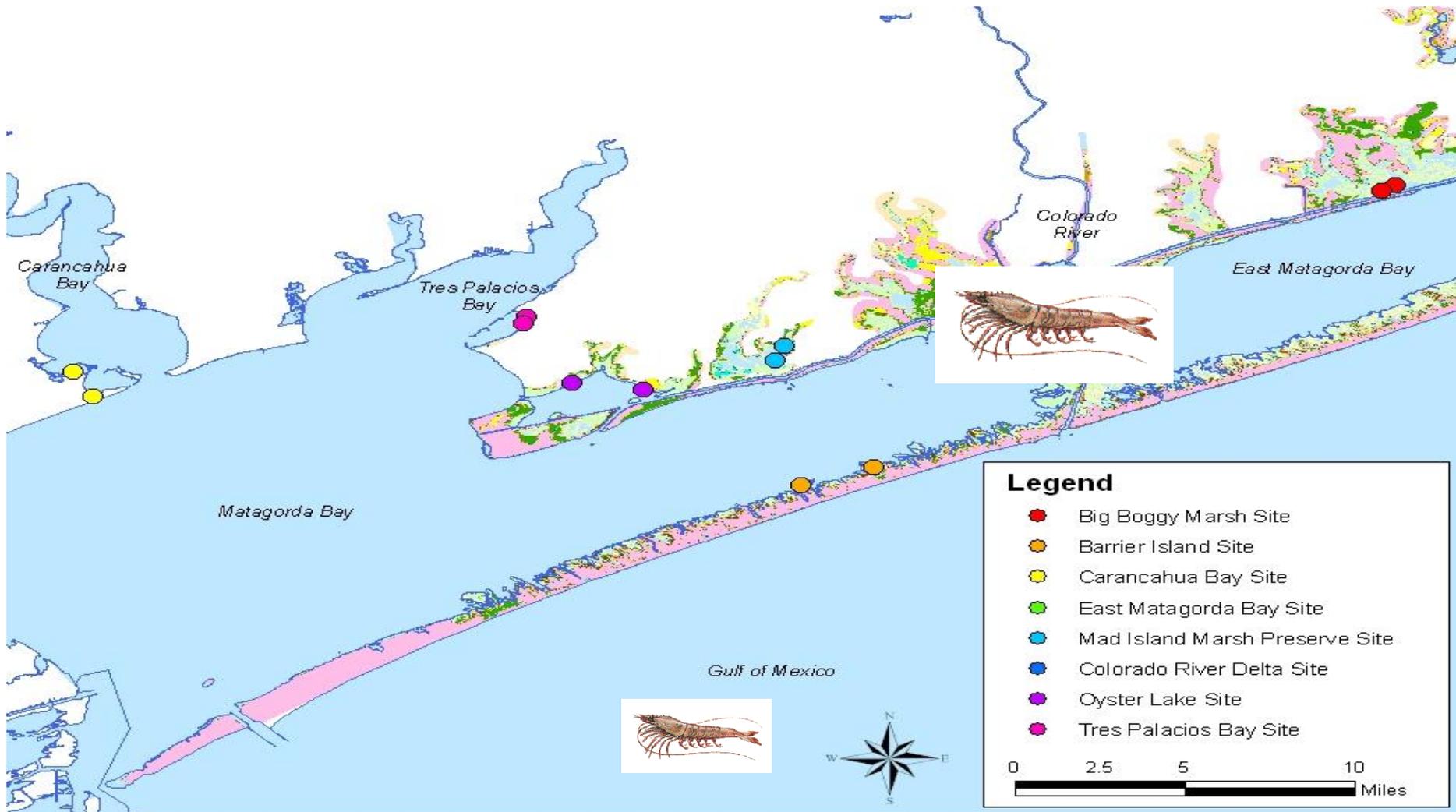


Natural Reefs



Tire Reefs

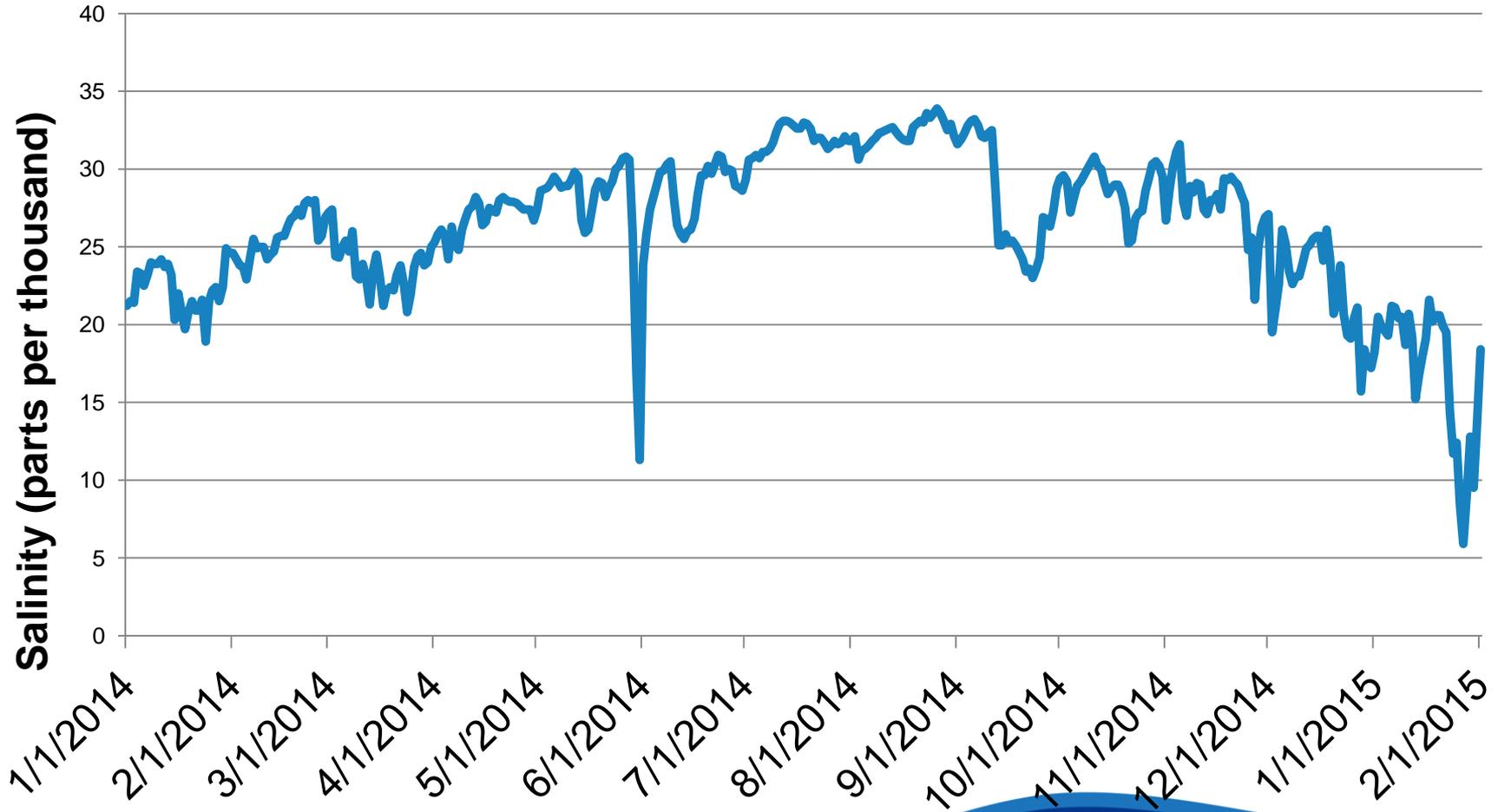
Migration



Critical Criteria

- Releases from the Highland Lakes are made when two conditions are met
 - 1) Monthly inflow to the bay is less than 14,260 acre-feet
 - 2) Storable inflow into the Highland Lakes are available
- Storable inflow are flows into the lakes minus senior demands (e.g., municipal)

Bay Salinity 2014



Delta Salinity

