

The Future of San Antonio Bay

An aerial photograph of a coastal wetland area, likely San Antonio Bay. The image shows a vast expanse of green marshland with a winding waterway or canal cutting through it. The sky is clear and blue, and the water reflects the light. The overall scene is a natural, undeveloped landscape.

***Could a:
Stakeholder-based,
Collaborative,
Non-Regulatory
Management Program
Make a Difference?***

January 12, 2010

The *Future* of San Antonio Bay

Purpose and Goals:

Purpose:

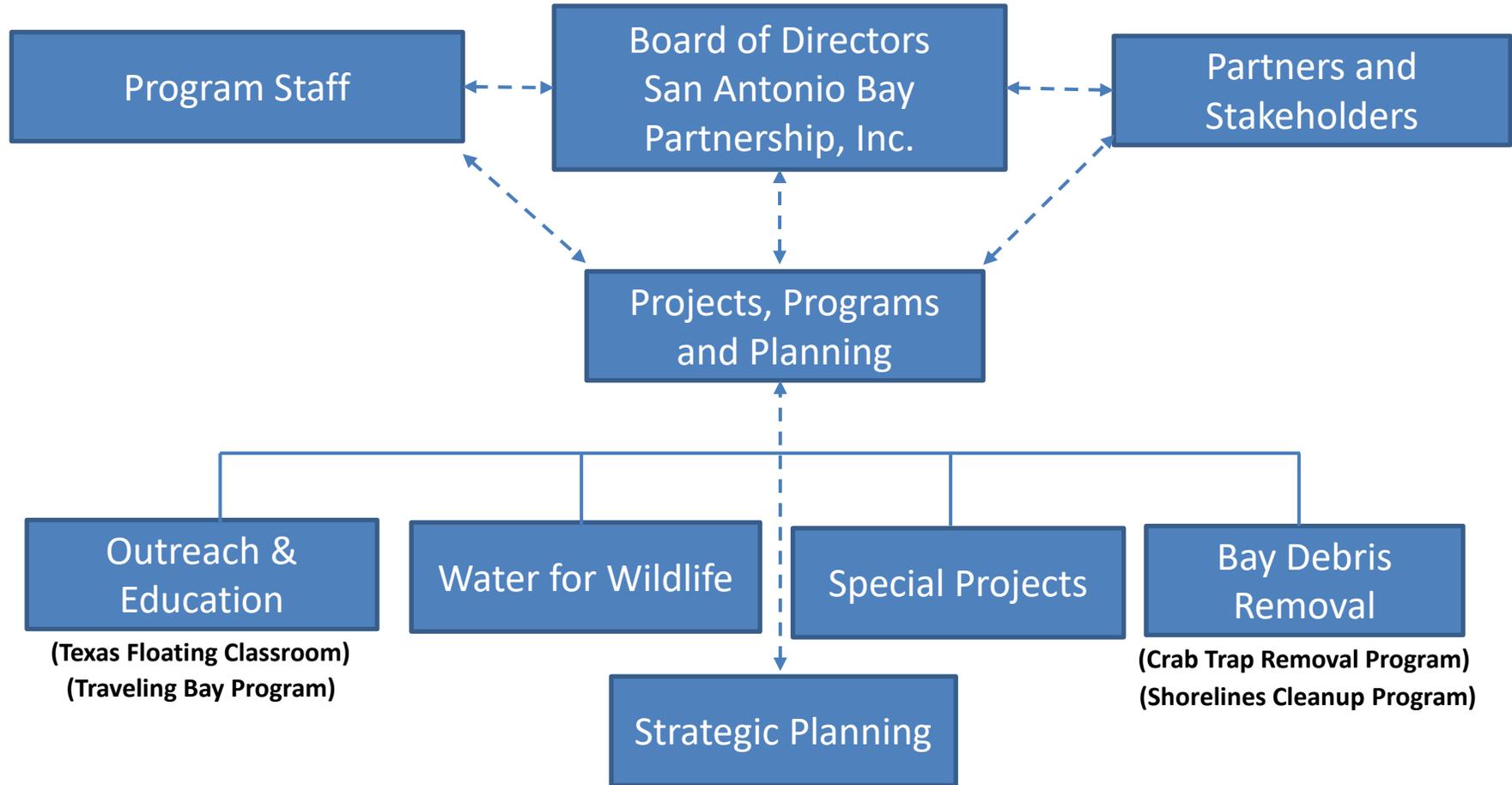
The purpose of the San Antonio Bay Partnership is to create and sustain a working partnership of committed stakeholders in order to *protect, restore and enhance* the natural resources of the San Antonio Bay/Guadalupe Estuary System for the benefit of the ecosystem and its human uses.

The *Future* of San Antonio Bay: *Would you like to be a part?*



Courtesy of Steve Raabe, P.E.
San Antonio River Authority

January 12, 2010



Outreach & Education

2021-2022 Archimedes Mid-Coast Reach



60 Trips
15 Schools

1093 Students
134 Teachers

60 Trips – 15 Schools – 1,093 Students – 134 Teachers!

2021-2022 Traveling Bay Mid-Coast Reach



6318 Students
396 Teachers

288 Trips
40 Schools

288 Trips – 40 Schools – 6,318 Students – 396 Teachers!!!

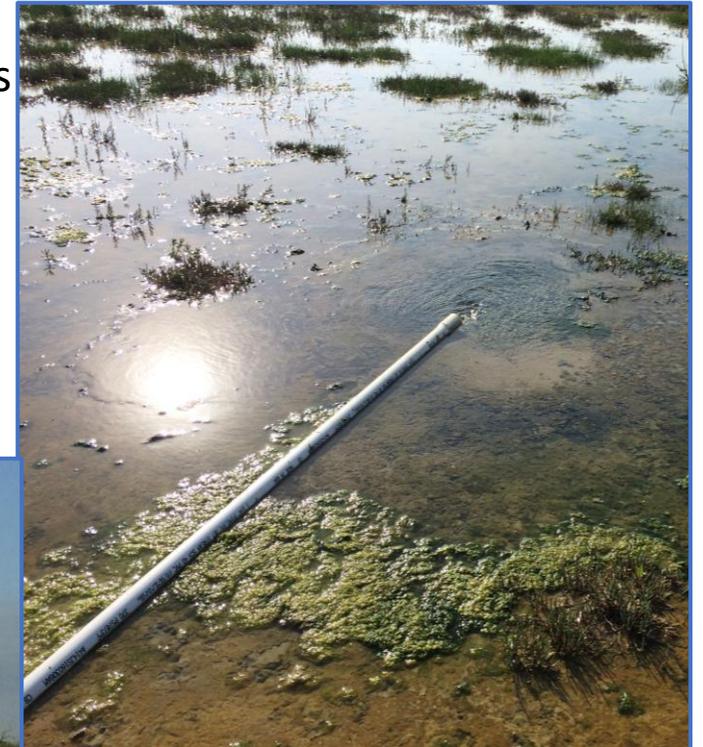


Water for Wildlife

- **Managing our water resources is one of the most critical issues facing Texas today.**
- **The state's population is growing rapidly, and the threat of drought is increasing, putting pressure on limited water supplies.**
- **The availability of fresh water supplies to meet the basic physiological and habitat needs of wildlife is a growing issue in wildlife and natural resource conservation.**
- **The San Antonio Bay Partnership is collaborating with other conservation partners on a "Water for Wildlife" initiative, which currently includes the following components: (1) installation of water wells to provide water for wildlife during times of drought, (2) completion of a water well suitability analysis to determine the ideal locations for water well installations, and (3) examination of strategies to secure environmental flows for wildlife.**

Water for Wildlife

Since 2012, SABP has been working with the International Crane Foundation, the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program and many other organizations to provide Whooping Cranes with access to fresh “drinking water” for their use during drought conditions. This program has installed solar powered water wells near Whooping Crane territories across their wintering grounds in the Texas mid-coast area.



Bay Debris Removal

PACK YOUR TRAPS

Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program
San Antonio Bay • Espiritu Santo Bay • Mesquite Bay • Carlos Bay

OUR RESULTS

Locations of Abandoned Traps

Location	Percentage
Shoreline	50%
Bay	25%
Marsh	24%
Dumped	1%

San Antonio Bay Traps Removed

Year	Traps Removed
2017	575
2018	942
2019	764
2020	1,347
2021	944

What we found inside Abandoned CRAB TRAPS 2021

- 567 blue crabs
- 707 stone crabs
- 328 fish

Studies suggest Ghost Fishing reduces commercial landings by 27% annually OR \$170K per year

2021 Program Summary

944 Traps lost in San Antonio and adjacent bays

- Nearly half windblown to shore
- Over a quarter left in open bay - down significantly from last year despite weather issues
- Nearly a quarter left in shallow marsh with poor access during winter low tides
- Evidence of inappropriate disposal of traps in bay

Total Traps Lost in 5 Years = **4,572**

Replacement Cost = **\$138,000** (assumed \$30/trap)

In 2021 it took **60** boat days & **148** people to remove abandoned traps from our bays

For info regarding TPWD's License Buyback Program contact Zack Thomas at 512-389-8448

Abandoned traps cause problems:

- It costs money to replace lost traps
- Traps reduce commercial harvest due to self-baited 'ghost fishing'
- Traps are navigation hazards for boaters and shrimpers
- Traps litter our bays

Let's work together to reduce abandoned traps

Contact: RJ Shelly-County Marine Agent 361-552-9747 or Allan Berger-SABP 713-829-2852 to discuss your ideas to reduce trap dereliction.

Save the Date!

Abandoned Crab Trap Removal

Saturday, February 18, 2023

The crabbing closure period is Fri. Feb 17 to Sun. Feb 26. Help is needed throughout the closure, but Sat. Feb 18 will be the main mobilization day with the Celebratory Party in Port O'Connor. (Weather backup date: Saturday Feb 25)

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED THROUGHOUT OUR LOCAL BAYS!

Port O'Connor, Charlie's, Seadrift, & Austwell contact Allan 713-829-2852 allanberger@outlook.com

Port Lavaca contact Janet 361-920-0818 info@lavacabay.org

Palacios & Matagorda contact Bill 361-781-2171 bbalboa@matbay.org

Rockport contact Katie 361-749-3106 katie.swanson@utexas.edu

Full details and previous year's results, www.SABayPartnership.org

Bay Debris Removal

SABP Shorelines CLEANUP 2022

2276 (in a bottle icon)

11,883 Items Removed

725 (with plastic bags icon)

907 (with plastic bag icon)

873 (with beer and soda cans icon)

51 Balloons & Strings

495 (with coffee cups icon)

278 Shotgun Shells

405 Shoes & Clothing

401 Fishing Line, Nets & Gear

426 Crab Trap Floats

54 Miles Cleaned

183 People 33 Boats (Human Effort)

Bay R.A.T. Removing Awful Trash

What's Cleaner Now?

- ✓ San Antonio Bay
- ✓ Espiritu Santo Bay
- ✓ Aransas Refuge
- ✓ Powderhorn WMA

Help by refusing single use plastics

Help by securing all items on your boat

Help by disposing of fishing & hunting trash properly

Complete cleanup report SABayPartnership.org



Special Projects



Fordyce Holdings Sea-Dan Ranches, Ltd





Special Thanks

The San Antonio River Authority supported the creation and programs of the San Antonio Bay Partnership **from the very beginning!**

SARA's generous financial and programmatic support has been key to SABP's successes in many program areas.

SABP very much appreciates the opportunity to have a seat on, and participate in, SARA's Environmental Advisory Committee.

We hope you enjoy your time on the Mid-Texas Coast!