

## **Quarterly Progress Report**

### **Mercury and Plastic in Commercial and Recreational Fisheries in Lavaca, Matagorda, and San Antonio Bays: Risk Assessment and Interaction between the Two Contaminants**

#### **May 2021 Quarterly Report**

##### **Work Performed in Previous Quarter**

During the previous quarter the PIs at TX State and TAMUCC have met remotely twice (03/22/21 & 06/04/21) to discuss project start-up and logistics for our field work. During these meetings we discussed Setting up Field sites and approaches to collaboratively sample Lavaca, Matagorda, and San Antonio Bays. Both the Co-PI and PI's labs have scouted field sites in each bay system. At TAMUCC our master's student, Jessica Myers has led efforts in the field while we are in the process of hiring a post-doctoral researcher to lead research when they arrive on campus. An outstanding candidate has been identified and offered the position, but we are waiting their official acceptance. We anticipate that they will begin work on August 7. This hiring process has taken substantially longer than anticipated, which has slowed research progress. At TX State, Dr. Dutton has assigned research for this project to 2 master's students. Additionally, Dr. Conkle gave a presentation on the proposed work funded by this grant on March 4<sup>th</sup> at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium.

##### **Invoice Amount**

##### **Work Anticipated in the Next Quarter**

The project investigators will hold another meeting in late July to further discuss and plan out or sampling for the remainder of summer 2021. We will be ramping up sample collection for our 1<sup>st</sup> objective, which is to sample plastic debris on beaches, in the water and within the fisheries of each bay system.