



in the water column. Streams with lower flows tend have lower dissolved oxygen. Low flow coupled with high temperatures can result in low dissolved oxygen. Nutrients/organic matter can also decrease oxygen through bacteria/microscopic organisms can also reduce the amount of dissolved oxygen through respiration by consuming those nutrients.

### **Fish Tissue Sampling in Caddo Lake**

Mike VanBuskirk                      TCEQ Region 5

TCEQ collected fish tissue samples in Caddo Lake in 2024 and 2025. Sampling targeted all assessment units in the lake along with a portion of the lower part of Big Cypress Creek near Caddo Lake State Park. Samples were collected to address the impairments in the lake, but TCEQ cannot remove a consumption advisory issued by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). All but one sample was below the criteria. One drum filet collected in Big Cypress Creek exceeded the criteria. For Goose Prairie, tissue from two bass were composited and had a result near the threshold. VanBuskirk suspects that the larger bass was possibly over the limit.

Results from sampling in other reservoirs around the region were detailed. Sampling in other reservoirs in the Cypress Creek Basin is planned for the summer of 2026.

A. Kilpatrick: Have these data been sent to DSHS?

M. VanBuskirk: He is working with TCEQ management to communicate findings

A. Kilpatrick: Trinity River Authority completed a similar type of study to prompt DSHS to respond to their findings, but no responses were received.

L.A. Overdyke: To confirm - one fish in Goose Prairie and one in Big Cypress Creek near the State Park were high?

M. VanBuskirk: We had netted 20 - 30 drum in Big Cypress Creek, but we were targeting catfish. Due to the high water levels, the catfish weren't responding well to the shocker. Once we switched to drum, we only collected one drum. All of the other fish were composites.

For Goose Prairie, this was a composite of two bass. The 8 pound bass was probably over the limit but cannot say for sure since it was a composite sample instead of an individual filet.

L.A. Overdyke: Maybe Caddo Lake Institute or Parks Foundation could fund additional sampling?

M. VanBuskirk: That's a great idea. Unfortunately, only DSHS can remove the consumption advisory, and DSHS will want to collect their own data.

L.A. Overdyke: Bister, what are your thoughts?



## **IN-PERSON ATTENDEES**

David Weidman	Sulphur River Basin Authority
James Howell	Pilgrim's Pride/JBS
Tyson Clark	Pilgrim's Pride/JBS
Marsha Gipson	U.S. Geological Survey
Darrell Grubbs	Titus County Freshwater Supply District
Tim Bister	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Mike Vanbuskirk	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Lauren Pulliam	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Cody Berry	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Randy Rushin	Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.
Wendy Rushin	Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.
Angela Kilpatrick	Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.

## **VIRTUAL ATTENDEES**

Paul Prange	Ark-Tex Council of Governments
Laura-Ashley Overdyke	Caddo Lake Institute
Jeff Shiflet	City of Irving
Wendyl Herigon	Harrison County, Texas
Jason Woods	Lower Colorado River Authority
Teressa Sullivan	North Texas Municipal Water District
Kristen Suprobo	North Texas Municipal Water District
Sarah Burns	North Texas Municipal Water District
Keith White	North Texas Municipal Water District
Robert Speight	Northeast Texas Municipal Water District
Reeves Hayter	Sulphur River Basin Authority Director
Rakshya Basnet	Texas A&M Commerce
Jenna Wadman	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Leslie McSpadden	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Ross Morgan	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Dylan Thompson	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Kirian Brown	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Michael Kingston	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Ed Motley	Upper Trinity Regional Water District
Stella and Ted Barrow	
Jamie Clark	
Trish Jones	
Hugh Lewis	
Judye Patterson	
Nelson Roach	