



Redfish Bay State Scientific Area consists of sensitive habitats such as shallow seagrass flats. Airboats, jonboats, shallow water boats or trolling motors are recommended when entering shallow water area. During low tide it is important to follow the deeper water access routes to prevent any destruction to the seagrasses. Be aware of pleasure craft and fishing vessels traffic.

**For more information:**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

- Coastal Fisheries  
Rockport (361) 729-2328
- Law Enforcement  
Rockport (361) 790-0310  
Corpus Christi (361) 289-5566
- Call (800) 792-GAME to report any violation of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department code.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

- Corpus Christi, TX (361) 994-9005

# Redfish Bay State Scientific Area

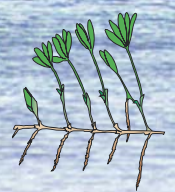


4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744  
(800) 792-1112  
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

## Seagrasses are Protected by Law in this Area

**It is unlawful to allow any rooted seagrass plant to be uprooted or dug out from the bay bottom by a submerged propeller.**

**Use of trolling motors and anchoring is not a violation.**



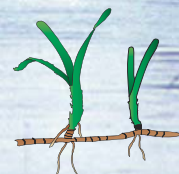
**Star Grass**  
*Halophila englemannii*



**Manatee Grass**  
*Syringodium filiforme*



**Shoalgrass**  
*Halodule beaudettei*



**Turtle Grass**  
*Thalassia testudinum*



**Widgeon Grass**  
*Ruppia maritima*

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# Boating in Redfish Bay State Scientific Area



Seagrass Bed

Redfish Bay State Scientific Area contains unique, fragile biological communities including seagrass beds, oyster reefs, marshes and mangroves. Seagrass growing in shallow water provides valuable feeding and nursery habitat and critical refuge for shrimp, crabs and juvenile game fish. Seagrasses also provide food for sea turtles, shorebirds and waterfowl. Wading birds use mangroves and marshes for roosting, feeding and nesting habitat. The habitats in Redfish Bay support commercial and recreational fishing and hunting. All seagrasses in the state scientific area are protected by law.



Oyster Reef

Motorboat propellers cause prop scars that damage seagrasses by uprooting or digging them up. Because propeller scars can persist for years, boaters should avoid running in shallow areas.

To minimize potential impacts to seagrasses while operating a boat in Redfish Bay, you should:

- Know the running and takeoff depth limitations of your boat;
- Check tide charts and weather so you can plan trips around higher tides;
- Consider wind speed and direction;
- Make sure your prop wash is white, not brown;
- Use existing channels and watch for preferred access lanes;
- Remember to **lift, drift, pole or troll** when over seagrass beds.



Propeller Scars

The boundary of Redfish Bay State Scientific Area is marked with signs.



Preferred Access Lanes

Preferred access lanes are marked by paired PVC poles with yellow striping, use these lanes whenever possible.



Access signs mark major entry points into Redfish Bay State Scientific Area.

Seagrasses support not only a valuable fishery but also provide other recreational benefits. The shallow areas are ideal for canoeing and kayaking.

The Lighthouse Lakes Paddle Trail is a series of loops marked with numbered signs, offering low impact canoe and kayak access to the fragile ecological communities.



Kayaker



## WARNING

Uprooting and digging out seagrass plants from the bay bottom of Redfish Bay State Scientific Area is:

- Class C Misdemeanor
- Carries a fine from \$25 to \$500 plus court costs.

