

1.9.8 Trinity River

The Trinity River upstream of Lake Livingston has steep muddy banks lined with elm (*Ulmus* sp.), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) and willow (*Salix* sp.) trees. The river meanders through isolated areas and is fed by numerous scenic creeks that provide habitat to abundant fish and wildlife. The channel is wide and contains many sandbars that can be utilized for camping and day use (Belisle and Josselet 1974). A variety of game fishes can be caught upstream of Lake Livingston including freshwater drum (*Aplodinotus grunniens*), striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), white bass (*Morone chrysops*), yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*), flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*), channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*), as well as a number of sunfish (*Lepomis*) species. Additional fish species collected from the Trinity River Basin are presented in Appendix C. This section of the Trinity River flows primarily through the Post Oak Savannah ecoregion of the state. The Big Lake Bottom WMA was purchased to preserve the rapidly disappearing bottomland hardwood habitat associated with this ecoregion. The ecologically significant stream segment is from the Houston/Trinity County line upstream to the Anderson/Henderson County line (within TCEQ classified stream segments 0803 and 0804).

- **Riparian conservation area-** fringed by the 4,071-acre Big Lake Bottom Wildlife Management Area.
- **Threatened or endangered species/unique communities-** One of the two largest populations of rare, endemic Texas heelsplitter (*Potamilus amphichaenus*) (SOC) remaining in the state (Howells et al 1996, Howells 1997).



Figure 16. Trinity River north of SH 21 in Houston County (8/15/01).



Figure 17. Trinity River south of SH 21 in Houston County (8/15/01).