



Adapted from USGS Tyler, Texas. Original Scale 1: 250,000.

Figure 24. Map Location of the Sabine River



Figure 25. Sabine River east of SH 43

Sabine River

The Sabine River begins in Collin County in Northeast Texas and flows southeasterly 180 miles to the southeastern corner of Panola County, where it takes a southerly course for another 180 miles until it empties into Sabine Lake (TPWD, 1998a). This section of the Sabine River is part of a segment that was recognized as having scenic, wildlife, and historical values by the National Park Service as part of the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) (NPS, 1995). The NRI is a listing of more than 3,000 free flowing segments in the United States that are believed to possess one or more “outstandingly remarkable” natural or cultural values that are thought to be of national significance (NPS, 1995). Streams listed in the NRI can serve as a reference of a naturally-functioning system for restoration or monitoring activities. A broad, deeply cut channel with a low gradient streambed and associated marshes, sloughs, bayous, oxbows, and backwaters characterizes this section of the Sabine River. It has a near lack of riffle, rapid, and waterfall areas; a diverse mixture of bottomland hardwood forests; abundant plant and animal life; a minimum of human development within sight of the river; and outstanding scenic qualities (NPS, 1995). The area has high value to waterfowl, white-tail deer, furbearers, squirrels, raptors, turkeys, colonial waterbirds, and other migratory birds (USFWS, 1985). The candidate segment is from US 59 in south Harrison County upstream to Easton along the Rusk/Harrison County Line (within TNRCC stream segment 0505).

- (1) Biological Function- nominated as a Texas Natural Rivers System and contains a diverse riparian assemblage including hardwood forest wetlands and significant natural areas (NPS, 1995). Priority bottomland hardwood forest displays significant overall habitat value (USFWS, 1985).
- (2) Hydrologic Function- bottomland hardwood forest and associated wetlands perform valuable hydrologic function relating to water quality and flood control.
- (3) Riparian Conservation Area- none identified.
- (4) High Water Quality/Exceptional Aquatic Life/High Aesthetic Value- displays exceptional aesthetic value (NPS, 1995).
- (5) Threatened or Endangered Species/Unique Communities- significant due to presence of state threatened paddlefish (TPWD, 1998b)