

Access to the Bay

To generate competitive proposals for extramural funding, researchers need the opportunity to get onto the water to collect preliminary samples and data for initial creative efforts. Starting 1 September 2025, *Access to the Bay* will provide more opportunities for researchers to get onto Galveston Bay and nearby areas. Through the *Access to the Bay* initiative, the cost for the day-rate for vessel usage will be covered by administrative accounts overseen by Research and Graduate Studies (RGS). *Access to the Bay* will cover the expense of vessel use (current market day-rate for vessel usage and fuel, and operator if required). Any other additional research-related costs to be covered by the researcher.

Instructions & Process: Please complete the following form for reporting purposes and to promote quality and equity in the *Access to the Bay* program. When complete, please submit to the Secretary of the Research Advisory Council (RAC, Mrs. Patty Gonzales, gonzalepa@tamug.edu) for RAC evaluation and approval. Following RAC approval, the Secretary will provide the Director of MESSO (Mr. Vernon Camus, gamusv@tamug.edu) with the signed form, and researchers will organize field operations and logistics following standard operating procedures in MESSO. At conclusion of field operations, MESSO will invoice RGS for vessel usage.

1. Proposal. Please describe research problem or question, and hypotheses to be tested (2-3 paragraphs max).

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2. Brief description of your plan for sample and data analysis, desired outcome to benefit your research program (2 paragraphs max), and contribution to future proposal development.

3. Vessel, ship time requested, and proposed location of work. 4. Signatures

Faculty Requestor:	Date:
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RAC Approval:

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