

## Quarterly Progress Report

### Mercury and Plastic in Commercial and Recreational Fisheries in Lavaca, Matagorda, and San Antonio Bays: Risk Assessment and Interaction between the Two Contaminants

#### September 2021 Quarterly Report

##### Work Performed in Previous Quarter

During the previous quarter, the PIs and graduate students at TX State and TAMUCC met remotely on 06/04/21, 06/29/21, and 08/11/21 to discuss research progress and logistics. Efforts at TAMUCC are still being slowed by the delayed hiring of our postdoc. Dr. Oluniyi Fadare received his Ph.D. from the Chinese Academy of Science (one of the top schools in China) and has officially accepted the position. He is in the process of securing their visa, but there was a delay in paperwork processing on our campus due to an administrator missing 2 weeks to recover from COVID. This issue was resolved late last week, and our postdoc candidate has now scheduled his visa interview with the consulate in Nigeria. We do not have an estimated start date, but it could be from 15 to 60 days and is outside of our control at this point. He will however participate in all upcoming project meetings remotely until he arrives.

Objective 1. Beach sampling for the first quarterly sampling at 13 sites took place from July 14-16, 2021. These samples are stored in the lab and awaiting processing. Some preliminary sampling of fish for stomach contents and mercury were collected.

Objective 2. No activities started.

Objective 3. No activities started.

Objective 4. Fish samples for the mercury to selenium ratio determination were collected across 6 sampling trips. Fish collected included red drum, black drum, spotted sea trout, flounder, striped mullet, and Atlantic croaker. Blue crabs were also collected at a few sites.

##### Invoice Amount

##### Work Anticipated in the Next Quarter

In the upcoming quarter projects meetings will continue and our Dr. Fadare should arrive to help advance the work for Objectives 1 and 3 in Dr. Conkle's lab. This will include the processing of beach and fish samples. Dr. Dutton's work on Objective 4 will continue. In the upcoming quarter, we will also be discussing plans for Objectives 2 and 3.