



Marine Enforcement Section

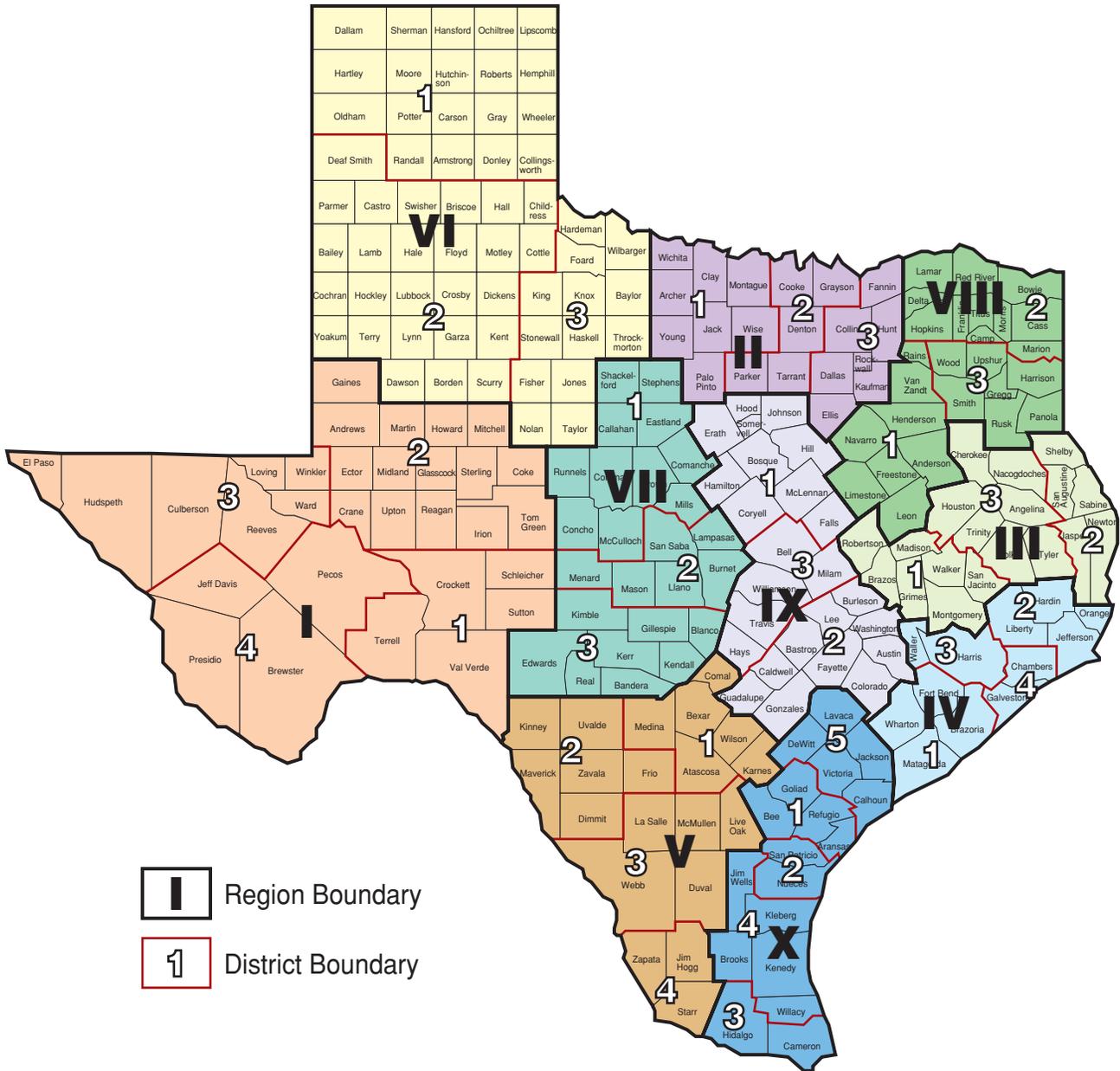
VESSEL ASSETS

Law Enforcement Off the Pavement



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department • Law Enforcement Division
4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744

TPWD Law Enforcement Regions and Districts



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Colonel Pete Flores
Lieutenant Colonel Craig Hunter
Chief of Staff David Sinclair

MARINE ENFORCEMENT SECTION

Assistant Chief and Boating Law
Administrator Jeffery T. Parrish

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SECTION

Major Willie Gonzalez



TPWD MISSION

To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

MARINE ENFORCEMENT POLICY

To promote recreational water safety for persons and property in and connected with the use of all recreational water facilities in the state, to promote water safety in the operation and equipment of facilities, and to promote uniformity of laws relating to water safety.

TPWD MARINE ENFORCEMENT SECTION

TEXAS WATER SAFETY ACT

Acts 1975, 64th Legislature, Effective Sept 1, 1975



Texas game wardens have authority granted under the Texas Water Safety Act to provide law enforcement, boating safety and education, and resource protection for all of the public waters of the state and the Gulf of Mexico out to nine nautical miles. All Texas game wardens are certified Marine Safety Enforcement Officers. In addition to enforcing laws with regard to boating safety and resource protection, all Texas game wardens are certified peace officers of this state and are responsible for the enforcement of all laws that govern Texas.

BOATING SAFETY

Through education, high visibility, encouragement and enforcement, game wardens provide a very important role for the Texas boating community.

To manage our waterways, promoting boating safety is a core component of TPWD's Marine Enforcement mission, and this holds especially true along the Texas coast and lakes and rivers that are in and around major metropolitan areas. To safely integrate both commercial and recreational activities on Texas waters, constant monitoring and water-borne patrols are essential. TPWD incorporates a Boater Education Instructor Certification program into each game warden's basic training plan, and that knowledge is taken to the field and used in outreach and development programs throughout the state.



RESOURCE PROTECTION



TPWD is responsible for the protection of all of Texas' natural resources. The enforcement of regulations regarding the commercial fishing and shrimping industries, oyster reef and harvest management, invasive species, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, recreational sport hunting and fishing activities, and the protection of water quality is an immense undertaking and responsibility of the Marine Enforcement Section. TPWD assists in the enforcement of federal regulations, working hand in hand with the National Marine Fisheries, U.S. Coast Guard, and other federal resource protection agencies.

Game wardens along the Texas coast also carry an added commission from the National Marine Fisheries Service.



This authorization enables game wardens to enforce federal laws pursuant to the terms of the current Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement between the NMFS Office for Law Enforcement and the TPWD Law Enforcement Division.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) maintains a working relationship with Texas under the Joint Enforcement Acts (JEAs). Currently, the NMFS has 27 partners: Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, California, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, Delaware, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington. These state partners play a vital role in assisting the NMFS to enforce federal laws and statutes on the open seas throughout our country's border waters and territories.



BORDER PROTECTION



With the enhancement of Homeland Security responsibilities in the climate in which we now live, TPWD is now more than ever before engaged in cooperating with other agencies such as the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Texas Department of Public Safety, Port Securities, and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. TPWD game wardens continue to conduct enhanced operations and add tremendously to Operation

Border Star efforts to deter and interdict border-related crime. TPWD brings land, water, and air assets to bear, as well as the ability to assist multiple local, state and federal agencies when called on.



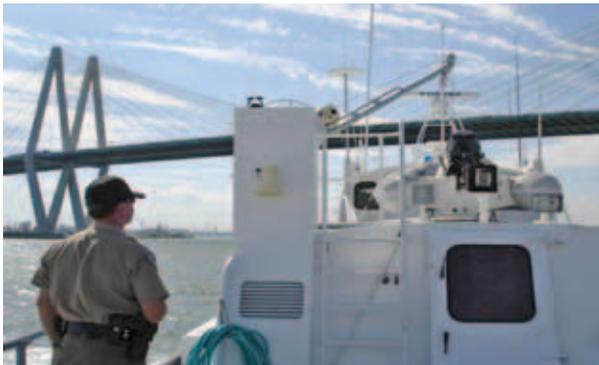
Through this cooperation, TPWD's Marine Enforcement Section and the Emergency Management Section are able to provide to its officers the latest in anti-terrorism technology, specialized training, and the sharing of information that is vital to protecting our citizens, borders and waterways.



Grant programs allow the acquisition of specialized equipment to assist in enforcement efforts and make a tremendous impact on this agency's ability to promote, maintain and enhance our mission. TPWD has also been successful in acquiring donations from private and public associations for specific localized concerns.

NATURAL DISASTERS

Texas game wardens are Texas' first responders in the event of natural disaster. Their specialized training, equipment and readiness provide invaluable resources to access those affected areas to which most agencies have difficulty responding. Working with FEMA and other county, state and federal agencies, the TPWD Marine Enforcement Section is a lead player in the administration and deployment of equipment and manpower that is required for rescue operations, public safety and protection of property. TPWD has key members assigned to the Texas Security Operations Center and the Border Security Operations Center for Emergency Management.



PORT SECURITY

TPWD works hand in hand with port authorities along the Texas coast. Texas has 13 major seaports and many shallow water ports that depend on constant surveillance and protection to maintain their viability in international commerce. Texas is one of

the nation's leading importers and exporters of oil, gas and related petroleum products. Many of Texas' oil and gas refineries are located on or adjacent to major seaports, and the protection of these facilities is provided by joint exercises and marine patrols by Texas game wardens with local port authorities and other county, state and federal agencies. TPWD's relationship with the port authorities in this state is essential for the protection of these resources, shipping and related facilities.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT (SOU)

The SOU provides marine enforcement and utilizes marine vessels in a variety of ways to conduct successful overt and covert investigations involving marine, resource and environmental crimes. Marine theft investigations involve violations which occur at all levels, from manufactures to dealers to private sellers and boat owners. Major violations include theft, fraudulent titles and hull identification numbers, as well as tax fraud. Additionally, the SOU has the ability to strategically place vessels with electronic tracking devices in problematic areas, to serve as bait to catch would-be boat thieves. The SOU uses unmarked V-hull and flat-bottomed boats to blend in and conduct surveillance on possible suspects involved in resource-related crimes on both inland and coastal waterways. The SOU environmental crimes unit patrols ship channels and other waterways for illegal discharges that ultimately endanger public health and the water resources of the state. The SOU responds to border operations and natural disasters, which both require marine capabilities. Along with normal patrol the SOU is able to perform surveillance and counter-surveillance in an effort to provide safety and intelligence to other officers.





U.S. COAST GUARD MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Before, during and after the events of September 11, 2001, the U.S. Coast Guard has relied on state boating law administrators and their marine enforcement agencies and/or sections, who for decades have established themselves as true partners and force multipliers. In 2005 TPWD entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard to support the security of our nation's ports and waterways. These enforcement agreements strengthen the already-close relationship and represent a major step forward in the creation of a seamless national maritime blanket. These cooperative efforts build a preventative maritime security program rather than just a response capability.

These state partners assist with search and rescue, recreational boating safety education and enforcement, fisheries and wildlife enforcement, and homeland security/emergency response missions.



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS (NASBLA)

TPWD's Assistant Chief of Marine Enforcement is the Boating Law Administrator (BLA) for Texas. Federal legislation and policies can have a significant impact on the success and productivity of state boating law administrator's programs. NASBLA assists the BLA by monitoring relevant activity in Congress, the White House and federal agencies, and updates the BLAs with timely information.

NASBLA also works in conjunction with other associations to communicate members' interests, views and needs to government policymakers.

TPWD VESSEL ASSETS



Texas Parks and Wildlife's Marine Enforcement Section has over 500 boats in its fleet across the state. With Texas being a highly diversified geological state, it is imperative that we employ the right boat for the right job. From the coastal waters and marshes along the Gulf of Mexico to the rivers and lakes in East and

West Texas, this diverse fleet affords game warden accessibility, maneuverability, and immediate response capabilities for all water-related enforcement situations.

Across the state TPWD has strategically located Marine Enforcement Storage facilities to house and maintain its fleet. Within a moment's notice TPWD can deploy any number of assets to any part of the state to respond to natural disasters, homeland security enforcement, or search and rescue operations.



Flat Bottoms –
Versatile and rugged.

Total in fleet – 241





V-Hulls – All-around performance and abilities, from lakes and rivers to the open gulf.

Total in fleet – 267



Air Boats –

Readiness and versatility for a wide range of uses, from resource protection to natural disasters.

Total in fleet – 20



Special Ops and Offshore Vessels –

Ability to respond to offshore events using the latest in marine technology.

65' Breaux Bay Craft

Total in fleet – 2





Safe Boats –

For offshore, inland bay, and large-lake patrols, seaworthiness in adverse weather conditions.

Total in fleet – 17



Mid-Range Vessels –

Mid-range boarding vessels for offshore, bay, and larger inland lakes.

Total in fleet – 13



Inflatable and Personal Water Craft (PWC) –

Rapid response capabilities and versatility.

Total in fleet – 5 Inflatable and 4 PWCs



TRAINING



Major Danny Shaw - Chief of Training

The new Texas Game Warden Training Center in Hamilton County is the premiere training site in the nation for the development of future game wardens to carry on TPWD's mission.

The seven-month, in-house training course is a physically rigorous and mentally challenging academy that ensures that TPWD has the finest, most qualified, and professional officers to serve and protect and to partner with other law enforcement agencies across this country.



Texas Game Wardens

Serving Texas Since 1895



The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department relies on collective actions of the public at large, the combined efforts of all law enforcement agencies, and the constituents TPWD serve to make sure that the agency provides the best service possible to our citizens. From protecting our natural resources to protecting our homeland, TPWD employs proactive and innovative pursuits to maintain and further its mission.

Law Enforcement Off the Pavement

If you think you have what it takes to be a Texas Game Warden, call our recruiter at (877) 229-2733 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/warden

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Regional and Field Law Enforcement Offices

Abilene, 281 North Willis (79603)
(325) 673-3333

Amarillo, 203 West 8th, Suite #200, LB14006
(79101) (806) 379-8900

Beaumont, 5550-K Eastex Freeway (77708)
(409) 892-8666

Brownsville, 5460 Paredes Line Road, Suite 201
(78526) (956) 546-1952

Brownwood, 301 Main, Suite D (76801)
(325) 646-0440

College Station, 12815 FM 2154 (Wellborn Road),
Suite 160 (77845) (979) 696-4148

Corpus Christi, 5541 Bear Lane, Suite 232
(78405) (361) 289-5566

El Paso, 401 East Franklin, Suite 520 (79901)
(915) 834-7050

Fort Worth, 5400 Airport Freeway, Suite E (76117)
(817) 831-3128

Freeport, 210 W. First Street, Suite C (77541)
(979) 233-7968 - hours 9 AM to 1 PM (boat
registration not available at Freeport office)

Garland, 346 Oaks Trail, Suite 100 (75043)
(972) 226-9966

Houston (north), 350 North Sam Houston
Pkwy E., Suite 100 (77060) (281) 931-6471

Houston (south), 10101 Southwest Frwy, #206
(77074) (713) 779-8977

Kerrville, 309 Sidney Baker South (78028)
(830) 257-7611

LaMarque, 14037 Delany Road (77568)
(409) 933-1947

Laredo, 5119 Bob Bullock Loop (78041)
(956) 718-1087

Lubbock, 1702 Landmark Lane, Suite 1 (79415)
(806) 761-4930

Lufkin, 4100 S. Medford Drive, Suite 204B (75901)
(936) 632-1311

Midland, 4500 West Illinois, Suite 307 (79703)
(432) 520-4649

Mt. Pleasant, 212 South Johnson (75455)
(903) 572-7966

Rockport, 715 South Highway 35 (78382)
(361) 790-0312

Rusk, 580 West 6th Street (75785) (903) 683-2511

San Angelo, 3407 South Chadbourne (76903)
(325) 651-4844

San Antonio, 858 West Rhapsody (78216)
(210) 348-7375

Temple, 3615 So. General Bruce Drive (76504)
(254) 778-8913

Tyler, 3330 South Southwest Loop 323 (75701)
(903) 534-0388

Victoria, 2805 N. Navarro, Suite 600A (77901)
(361) 575-6306

Waco, 1601 East Crest Drive (76705)
(254) 867-7951

Wichita Falls, 100 Fremar Valley (76301)
(940) 723-7327

Toll-free information: (Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) (800) 792-1112 or (512) 389-4800

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Website: www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Stop Poaching! For 24-hour reporting of violations, call
(800) 792-GAME, Austin (512) 389-4848, Houston (281) 842-8100



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