

January 13, 2000



news release

From The Texas Department of Health

1100 West 49th Street Austin, Texas 78756

TDH Web Site: www.tdh.state.tx.us

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TDH Reopens Cox Bay to Taking of Fish and Crabs

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) today reopened Cox Bay to the taking of fish and crabs, lifting a ban the department issued in 1988. The ban was prompted by elevated mercury content in fish and crabs.

The 1988 closure applied to Cox Bay and to a portion of Lavaca Bay near an Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA) plant in Point Comfort. ALCOA used mercury in the late 1960s and early 1970s in its manufacturing process.

The portion of Lavaca Bay closed in 1988 to the taking of fish and crabs remains closed.

TDH reopened Cox Bay after laboratory tests of fish and crabs from the bay showed acceptable levels of mercury.

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(For more information contact Kirk Wiles, TDH Seafood Safety Division, at 512-719-0215; or Doug McBride, TDH Public Information Officer, Austin, at 512-458-7524.)

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SEAFOOD SAFETY DIVISION