

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

COMMITTEE: Culture, Recreation & Tourism
TIME & DATE: 10:00 AM, Wednesday, September 30, 2026
PLACE: E2.012
CHAIR: Rep. Will Metcalf

The committee will meet to hear invited testimony only on the following interim charges:

Cultivated Oyster Mariculture - Evaluate the status of Texas' oyster mariculture industry, including various challenges such as barriers to obtaining insurance, access to capital, the lack of in-state hatcheries, additional research needs, and market access. Consider the public benefits of sustainable oyster farming and long-term industry stability on water quality and coastal ecosystems. Make recommendations to support the expansion and advancement of oyster mariculture in Texas.

Voluntary Commercial Oyster License Buyback - Study the current health of Texas' wild oyster reefs along with the impact of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) voluntary Commercial Oyster Boat License Buyback Program. Review TPWD's conservation strategy plans and determine whether additional state support is necessary to improve oyster habitat and achieve conservation goals.

Monitoring - Monitor the implementation and associated rulemaking of all legislation passed by the Committee and enacted by the 89th Legislature to ensure that legislative purposes are properly implemented, including the following:

- HB 1397, relating to the care, custody, and display of the letter known as the victory or death letter, the Texas Constitution, and the Texas Declaration of Independence

Online submission of public comments will be available on the following topics:

Cultivated Oyster Mariculture
Voluntary Commercial Oyster License Buyback
Implementation of 89(R) House Bill 1397

Texas residents who wish to electronically submit comments related to agenda items on this notice without testifying in person can do so until the hearing is adjourned by visiting:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c430>

For those persons who will be testifying, information for in-person witness registration, can be found here:

<https://mytxlegis.capitol.texas.gov/HWRSPublic/About.aspx>

A live video broadcast of this hearing will be available here:

<https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/>

Instructions related to public access to the meeting location are available here: <https://house.texas.gov/committees/public-access-house-committee-meetings/>

NOTICE OF ASSISTANCE AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need assistance, such as a sign language interpreter, are requested to contact Stacey Nicchio at (512) 463-0850, 72 hours prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.