



## Celanese to fund community driven Baffin Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program



Celanese has committed \$150,000 over a three year period to a community-based volunteer water quality study in Baffin Bay. "Celanese has a long history of community involvement and interest in the protection of our natural resources and we are very pleased to have an opportunity to support this important research on Baffin Bay", said Brian Connelly, Site Director for Celanese Bishop Facility. The goal of the volunteer program, which started in 2013, is to document water quality

conditions in Baffin Bay and to understand what may be causing symptoms of water quality degradation in the system. Dr. Mike Wetz, Associate Professor of Marine Biology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) and Principal Investigator of the study, states "This funding will allow us to provide an objective, science-based assessment of water quality changes that are going on in Baffin Bay". The program comprises sixteen local stakeholders which include business owners, property owners, sport fishermen and commercial fishermen.

The Celanese funds will be administered through the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP), a non-profit organization that works to protect and restore bays and estuaries, with 100% of the donation going to TAMU-CC. Celanese has also committed to sit on the advisory board of the Baffin Bay Study Group to help guide future scientific studies within the Baffin Bay system. The Baffin Bay Study Group was formed in 2012 to bring together scientists, natural resource managers and interested stakeholders to support interests in resolving Baffin Bay water quality and biological productivity concerns. The Baffin Bay Study Group is Co-chaired by Jace Tunnell and Scott Murray. "The generous donation by Celanese will go a long way in helping to understand the Baffin Bay system and the water quality dynamics surrounding this important estuary, as well as expand our partnerships in the Baffin Bay Study Group." said Jace Tunnell, Director of Research and Planning at the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program. The group meets on a regular basis and interested parties are encouraged to attend. Learn more about the Baffin Bay Study Group at: <http://www.cbbep.org/baffin-bay/>

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