

MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas A&M University, MS-4115 • College Station, Texas 77843 • 979/845-3854 • FAX 979/845-7525

For Immediate Release: September 10, 2012

For more information contact:
Jim Hiney,
Communications Coordinator
Office: (979) 862-3773
bohiney@tamu.edu



Science At Work For Texans
<http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu>

Texas Sea Grant duo funded to find better BRDs

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — A federal grant to Texas A&M University may lead to more efficient testing, certification and adoption of improved commercial shrimp fishing gear that will also contribute to the sustainability of the nation's other fisheries.

The Texas Sea Grant College Program's (TXSG) Gary Graham and Tony Reisinger will use the \$83,571 award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to identify and test promising models of bycatch reduction devices and then choose the designs that are most likely to pass the rigors of full federal certification testing, thus eliminating time and money lost testing designs that fail to meet federal standards. TXSG is a research center within the College of Geosciences at Texas A&M.

The grant was one of 14, totaling \$2.5 million, awarded in a national competition by the NOAA Fisheries Service for projects that employ innovative methods to decrease bycatch. Bycatch is the common term used for non-targeted species caught and discarded during commercial and recreational fishing activities. In addition to sea life, bycatch includes marine mammals, seabirds and sea turtles. Bycatch of various species — whether fish, marine mammals, or turtles — can have significant biological, economic, and social impacts on the nation's fisheries, according to the *U.S. National Bycatch Report*, released in 2011 by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. Reducing bycatch can help fishermen increase their fishing opportunities and efficiency and can also increase catch rates for target species, the report said.

"Bycatch impacts living marine resources worldwide and occurs in both commercial and recreational fisheries. It is of particular concern if bycaught species are overfished, threatened, or endangered," according to the report.

The federal government requires that commercial shrimp fishermen use bycatch reduction devices (BRDs), which are pieces of equipment placed in trawl nets that create openings which allow the unintentional catch to escape, reducing the non-shrimp mortality rate. BRDs also allow some shrimp to escape and "shrimp lost from the net equals money lost for the fisherman," said Reisinger, TXSG's Cameron County Coastal and Marine Resources Agent.

Of the four BRDs currently approved for use, the most popular is the "fisheye" because it is the least expensive and least complicated to install, "but its drawback is that it also allows 10 percent to 15 percent shrimp loss," said Graham, TXSG's Marine Fisheries Specialist.

Each of the other three types of approved BRDs have the potential to decrease shrimp loss while complying with the federal requirement that they reduce bycatch by at least 30 percent, but they are not widely used because they are more expensive than the fisheye BRD and shrimp fishermen view them as more complex to use, Graham said.

Shrimp fishermen would welcome low cost and simply built alternatives to fisheye BRDs that would also increase shrimp retention, but all new or modified BRD designs must go through rigorous and expensive testing that results in at least 30 problem-free tows at sea. During normal testing, boats must make many more than 30 tows in order to log 30 that are problem free, Graham said. In many cases, proposed gear fails to meet the 30 percent bycatch reduction mandate, effectively making the testing period a waste of money and time, he said.

- More -



Better BRD take 2-2-2-2

Beginning next spring, Graham and Reisinger plan to solicit ideas for new or modified BRD designs from the federal government (through the National Marine Fisheries Service), people in the U.S. commercial shrimping industry and international fisheries sources and then, with the help of other gear experts, rank the ideas from most to least promising.

The pair will then spend about a month at sea conducting preliminary tests on as many different BRDs as possible, starting with the most promising design. When the cruise ends, Graham and Reisinger will make recommendations for new and/or modified BRD designs that are most likely pass the federal certification tests and be used by commercial shrimp fishermen.

The research award comes about a month after Graham was recognized by the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation for more than 40 years of work on fisheries issues. He previously received the Distinguished Service Award from the Foundation, which is a private, regional nonprofit research and development organization for the commercial fishing and seafood industries.

"The Foundation is immensely appreciative of the efforts Gary has put forth and we look forward to continuing the cooperative relationship and friendship that has developed," said Judy Jamison, Foundation Executive Director.



MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas A&M University, MS-4115 • College Station, Texas 77843 • 979/845-3854 • FAX 979/845-7525

For Immediate Release: September 17, 2012



Science At Work For Texans
<http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu>

For more information contact:
Jim Hiney,
Communications Coordinator
Office: (979) 862-3773
bohiney@tamu.edu

Marine safety, science information now online in Spanish

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — One of the state's best online resources for marine and coastal science information is now available in Spanish.

In conjunction with National Hispanic Heritage Month, the Texas Sea Grant College Program (TXSG) has launched a Spanish language version of its popular website "to be more inclusive and reach out to the Spanish-speaking population that we serve," said Dr. Pamela Plotkin, TXSG Director. National Hispanic Heritage Month runs from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

The Spanish language site can be found by going to TXSG's English language homepage — <http://texasseagrant.org> — and clicking on the "En Español" link at the top of the page.

Through texasseagrant.org, the program offers valuable beach and hurricane safety information, as well as publications and programs designed to help improve the understanding, wise use and stewardship of the state's coastal and marine resources. Plotkin said it is important for the growing number of Spanish speaking Texans to have access to this information in their native language.

Most of the pages featured on TXSG's English language page are available in Spanish and new content will be translated as it is developed and posted. Some of the archived information on the site will remain English only.

Otherwise, the Spanish language site will mirror TXSG's English language site and will be viewable using any web browser.

Texasseagrant.org is also a portal to information about a variety of coastal and marine science, resource and safety issues, including monofilament recycling, aquaculture, fisheries and the Clean Texas Marinas Program. There are also links to marine education activities like the National Ocean Sciences Bowl and TXSG's Floating Classroom Program.

For web surfers looking for more technical information, texasseagrant.org features abstracts of research currently funded by TXSG, and a listing of the program's past funded research and the resulting scientific papers. TXSG currently funds about \$800,000 per year in research conducted by respected scientists at universities across the state.

The site also features TXSG's bookstore and links to the Program's social media pages on Scoop.it!, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and YouTube.

The Texas Sea Grant College Program is a partnership of university, government and industry focusing on marine research, education and outreach. It is administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and is one of 33 university-based Sea Grant Programs around the country. Texas Sea Grant is based at Texas A&M University.

-30-

— Hiney 9/17/2012
NR-12-23



MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas A&M University, MS-4115 • College Station, Texas 77843 • 979/845-3854 • FAX 979/845-7525

Para Publicación Inmediata: 17 de septiembre 2012



Science At Work For Texans
<http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu>

Para más información contacte a:
Jim Hiney,
Coordinator de Comunicaciones
Oficina: (979) 862-3773
bohiney@tamu.edu

Seguridad y ciencia marina ahora en línea en español

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Uno de los mejores recursos en línea del estado con información sobre las ciencias marinas y costeras está ahora disponible en español.

Conjuntamente con el Mes Nacional de Herencia Hispana, el Programa Universitario Texas Sea Grant (TXSG) ha lanzado una versión en español de su popular sitio web para, según la Directora de TXSG Dra. Pamela Plotkin, “ser más inclusivos y alcanzar a la población de habla hispana que servimos”. El Mes Nacional de Herencia Hispana dura desde el 15 de sept. hasta el 15 de oct.

Para acceder el sitio en español se debe visitar la página de inicio de TXSG en inglés — <http://texasseagrant.org> — y hacer clic en el enlace denominado “En Español” en la parte superior de la página.

A través de texasseagrant.org el programa ofrece información valiosa sobre la seguridad playera y en casos de huracanes, así como publicaciones y programas diseñados para asistir al mejoramiento de la comprensión, uso inteligente y administración de los recursos costeros y marinos del estado. Plotkin dijo que era importante que el número creciente de tejanos de habla hispana tuviera acceso a esta información en su lengua vernácula.

La mayoría de las páginas ofrecidas en la página en inglés de TXSG ya están disponibles en español y el contenido nuevo se irá traduciendo a la vez que se desarrolle y publique en línea. Parte de la información archivada en el sitio permanecerá disponible solamente en inglés.

Por lo demás el sitio en español duplicará el sitio en inglés de TXSG y será visible en cualquier navegador web..

Texasseagrant.org sirve también de portal para información sobre una variedad de temas relacionados a la ciencia, recursos y seguridad marinas, incluyendo el reciclaje de monofilamentos, acuicultura, pesquerías y el Programa de Puertos Deportivos Limpios de Texas. Existen además enlaces a actividades de educación marina como por ejemplo el Concurso Nacional de Ciencias Oceánicas y el Programa de Salón de Clases Flotante de TXSG.

Para los navegadores en la red buscando información más técnica, texasseagrant.org ofrece resúmenes de estudios apoyados actualmente por TXGS y un listado de estudios apoyados en el pasado y los artículos científicos resultantes. El apoyo de TXSG consiste actualmente de \$800,000 cada año para estudios realizados por científicos respetados en universidades a través del estado.

El sitio también ofrece una librería y enlaces a las páginas de redes sociales del Programa en Scoop.it!, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest y YouTube.

El Programa Universitario Texas Sea Grant es una asociación de universidad, gobierno e industria enfocada en el estudio, educación y discurso marino. Se administra a través de la Administración Nacional Oceánica y Atmosférica y es uno de 33 Programas Sea Grant basados en universidades a través del país. Texas Sea Grant está basado en Texas A&M University.

-30-

— Hiney xx/xx/xx
NR-12-23



MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas A&M University, MS-4115 • College Station, Texas 77843 • 979-845-3854 • FAX 979-845-7525

For immediate release: November 12, 2012



AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TexasSeaGrant.org

For more information contact:

Jim Hiney,
Communications Coordinator
Office: (979) 862-3773
bohiney@tamu.edu

Research seeks to determine if fish are linked to specific bays

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — A Texas A&M University geneticist will test whether red drum populations are genetically linked to specific bays or estuaries along the U.S. Gulf of Mexico Coast, which could possibly increase the profitability of fish farming and streamline governmental permitting processes.

Dr. John Gold, Regents Professor in the university's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, has received a \$218,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Sea Grant Program Office to use recent advances in technology that should show the extent of the genetic differences between populations of red drum living in different bays and estuaries.

The two-year grant is part of the 2012 National Sea Grant Aquaculture Research Program, which funds projects that support the development of environmentally and economically sustainable ocean, coastal or Great Lakes aquaculture in states with Sea Grant Programs. The Texas Sea Grant College Program is based at Texas A&M University.

Previous technology showed there are genetic differences between red drum living along the upper and lower Texas coast and "strongly suggested that there are differences in stocks between individual bays and estuaries, but this technology was not sufficiently robust to determine this unequivocally," Gold said. "New technology allows us to look at the red drum genome in much greater detail and answer the question as to whether there are localized genetic adaptations."

Gold will study red drum — a popular sportfish also called "redfish" — from Texas' various bays and estuaries as well as specimens taken from central and eastern Gulf of Mexico waters. If present, these "localized genetic adaptations" make the fish best suited to survive in the range of conditions, like salinity levels and temperature, that are common to the particular bay or estuary where the fish were born. This information would help regulatory agencies decide where new fish hatcheries should be built and where these hatcheries — be they commercial fish farms or government-run operations that provide fish for restocking programs — get their brood stock, Gold said.

Currently, the State of Texas requires that red drum hatcheries, regardless of their location, get their brood stock from Texas waters. Gold's research may lead regulators to require that brood stock come from waters that are local to the hatcheries, which will benefit both commercial fish farms and the state's stock enhancement operations. Both types of facilities use water from nearby sources and they should see greater survival rates by using fish that are genetically adapted to thrive in this water, Gold said. There will also be a greater survival rate among the fish released back into the local waters for stock enhancement, he said.

Increasing the survival rate in a commercial aquaculture facility will lower the cost of running the operation, he said, and "hopefully it will lower the price of redfish and make a good protein source more readily available."

-More-



According to a report by Texas Sea Grant Aquaculture Specialist Granvil Treece for the Texas Aquaculture Association, red drum accounted for the third highest yield of commercially farm-raised finfish in the state, behind freshwater species catfish and hybrid striped bass, in 2011. About 3.25 million pounds of red drum, valued at \$9 million, were produced by five facilities in Texas. There is virtually no commercial red drum aquaculture outside of Texas, Treece said.

Catfish by far accounts for the most finfish produced commercially in Texas, with 14.4 million pounds valued at about \$14.4 million produced in 2011. About 3.5 million pounds of hybrid striped bass valued at \$9.4 million were produced in Texas in 2011.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) currently collects red drum brood stock offshore for its stock enhancement program, says Dr. Robert Vega, TPWD's Stock Enhancement Program Leader. Fish caught along the upper Texas coast are sent to the TPWD hatchery in Lake Jackson and those caught in the lower Texas coast region go to the hatchery in Corpus Christi. If Gold's research confirms the connection between fish and particular estuaries, TPWD will most likely modify its stock enhancement management plan to match brood stock and hatcheries with particular estuaries and to require that juvenile fish be released into the same bodies of water that spawned their parents.

TPWD already aligns hatcheries and brood stock for spotted sea trout and southern flounder with specific estuaries, Vega says. Since the state's stock enhancement program began in 1983, TPWD has released almost 621 million red drum fingerlings and 65 million juvenile spotted sea trout into Texas waters. About 19,000 southern flounder fingerlings have been released since its stock enhancement program began in 2006.

The Texas Sea Grant College Program is a partnership of university, government and industry focusing on marine research, education and outreach. It is administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and is one of 33 university-based Sea Grant Programs around the country. Texas Sea Grant is based in the College of Geosciences Texas A&M University.



MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas A&M University, MS-4115 • College Station, Texas 77843 • 979-845-3854 • FAX 979-845-7525

For immediate release: January 10, 2013



AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TexasSeaGrant.org

For more information contact:
Jim Hiney,
Communications Coordinator
Office: (979) 862-3773
bohiney@tamu.edu

Texas Sea Grant team earns 2012 Superior Service Award

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Ten Texas Sea Grant College Program outreach professionals who joined forces to help shrimp fishermen cope with competition from imported seafood have received the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's 2012 Superior Service Award in the team category.

The annual Superior Service Awards recognize AgriLife Extension faculty and staff members who provide outstanding performance in Extension education or in service to the organization. Texas Sea Grant's Extension Program is operated jointly with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

The team has helped Texas commercial shrimp fishermen and aquaculturists who raise catfish and shrimp earn about \$10 million through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (TAA). TAA provides money to participants in industries that can document that they have been injured by imports. The amount of money per person is relatively small, up to \$12,000, but the program requires that participants receive training that teaches them how to make their operations run more efficiently.

"For shrimp fishermen reeling from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, high fuel prices, and increased competition from imports, TAA cash benefits have been a godsend," said Logan Respess, Texas Sea Grant's Extension Program Leader. "At best, this 'found money' provided a modest, short-term boost to their businesses, but the intensive training they received as part of TAA will ensure the future success of the wild-shrimp fishery."

The team comprises Seafood Specialist Michael G. Haby, Marine Fisheries Specialist Gary Graham, Environmental Quality Specialist Dr. Russ Miget and Aquaculture Specialist Granvil Treece; and County Coastal and Marine Resource Agents Terrie Looney (Chambers/Jefferson counties), Julie K. Massey (Galveston County), John P. O'Connell (Brazoria County), Rhonda D. Cummins (Calhoun County) and Tony Reisinger (Cameron County); and Aransas County Extension Agent Ginger Easton Smith.

Haby developed the original document that allowed 5,500 commercial shrimp fishermen from the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic to apply for TAA assistance. Haby and the rest of the team provided training and other activities fishermen needed to meet TAA requirements. The team's effort was adopted as a regional project by the Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant Region, which includes the Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi-Alabama and Florida Sea Grant Programs.

Treece worked exclusively with 60 aquaculture operations, most of them small family-run enterprises. He provided required training and helped them develop business plans focused on improving operating efficiency.

"There is no other group that could have achieved the extraordinary level of success that Sea Grant has generated for the shrimp industry," said John Williams, Executive Director of the Southern Shrimp Alliance, an industry group representing commercial shrimp fishermen in coastal states from North Carolina to Texas. "I believe TAA for the shrimp industry was destined for success because of the strong commitment the Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant programs have to the seafood industry. This group exemplifies the 'can do' spirit the industry I represent has come to expect and appreciate."

The regional Sea Grant effort helped Gulf and South Atlantic shrimp fishermen receive \$46 million in TAA payments and earned the Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant Region's Superior Outreach Programming Award for 2010-2012.





Texas A&M Extension Service Director Dr. Doug Steele (far left) presented team Superior Service Awards to, from left, Julie Massey, Terrie Looney, Rhonda Cummins, Dr. Russ Miget, Gary Graham and Mike Haby. Team members John O'Connell, Tony Reisinger, Granvil Treece and Ginger Easton Smith did not attend the awards ceremony. (Photo by Jim Hiney)



MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas A&M University, MS-4115 • College Station, Texas 77843 • 979-845-3854 • FAX 979-845-7525

For immediate release: January 10, 2013



AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TexasSeaGrant.org

For more information contact:

Jim Hiney,
Communications Coordinator
Office: (979) 862-3773
bohiney@tamu.edu

Cutting-edge work earns Jacob Superior Service Award

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Dr. John Jacob's visionary approach integrating research, outreach and education to address coastal resource conservation and sustainable development issues has earned him the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's 2012 Superior Service Award in the specialist category.

Jacob, the Texas Sea Grant College Program's Coastal Community Development Specialist and a professor in the Texas A&M University Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences (RPTS), received the award on January 8 during an awards presentation that was part of the 2013 Texas A&M AgriLife Conference. The conference was held at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center, which is part of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum complex at Texas A&M.

"I was delighted to see John being recognized for his body of work in taking the 150-year-old Extension model and using it to address coastal resource conservation and sustainable development," said Logan Respass, Texas Sea Grant Extension Program Leader. "It is easy to take sustainable development for granted today, but it wasn't so long ago that John's cutting edge work was met with quite a bit of resistance from some of his peers. Today, John's work is the model for other states to follow."

The annual Superior Service Awards recognize AgriLife Extension faculty and staff members who provide outstanding performance in Extension education or in service to the organization. Texas Sea Grant's Extension Program is operated jointly with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

"Dr. Jacob's inspirational leadership, brilliant innovation and entrepreneurial talent has established him as a model faculty member for the future of Extension," said Dr. Gary Ellis, RPTS department head and one of two department faculty members who nominated Jacob for the award. "He has built an innovative, cutting-edge and virtually self-sustaining program that embodies the kind of successful urban programming that Extension needs more of in the future. His work is a splendid example of how the Extension model can be adapted to a much broader urban audience that we have hitherto reached."

The "self-sustaining program" Ellis mentioned is the Texas Coastal Watershed Program (TCWP), which provides education and outreach to local governments and citizens on the impacts of land use on watershed health and water quality.

Jacob created the Houston-based TCWP 15 years ago and has received grants from both traditional and non-traditional funding sources to build the program from a one-man operation into a multi-discipline team comprising seven full-time staff and three graduate student interns. The Texas Coastal Watershed Program is also a cooperative effort of Texas Sea Grant and Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

"I am very gratified that our work in the TCWP is getting this recognition," Jacob said. "This award is a reflection of my team's effort as much as it is mine."

In his nomination letter, Ellis cited one particular TCWP team effort that exemplified how Jacob used the Land and Sea Grant platforms to serve the public.

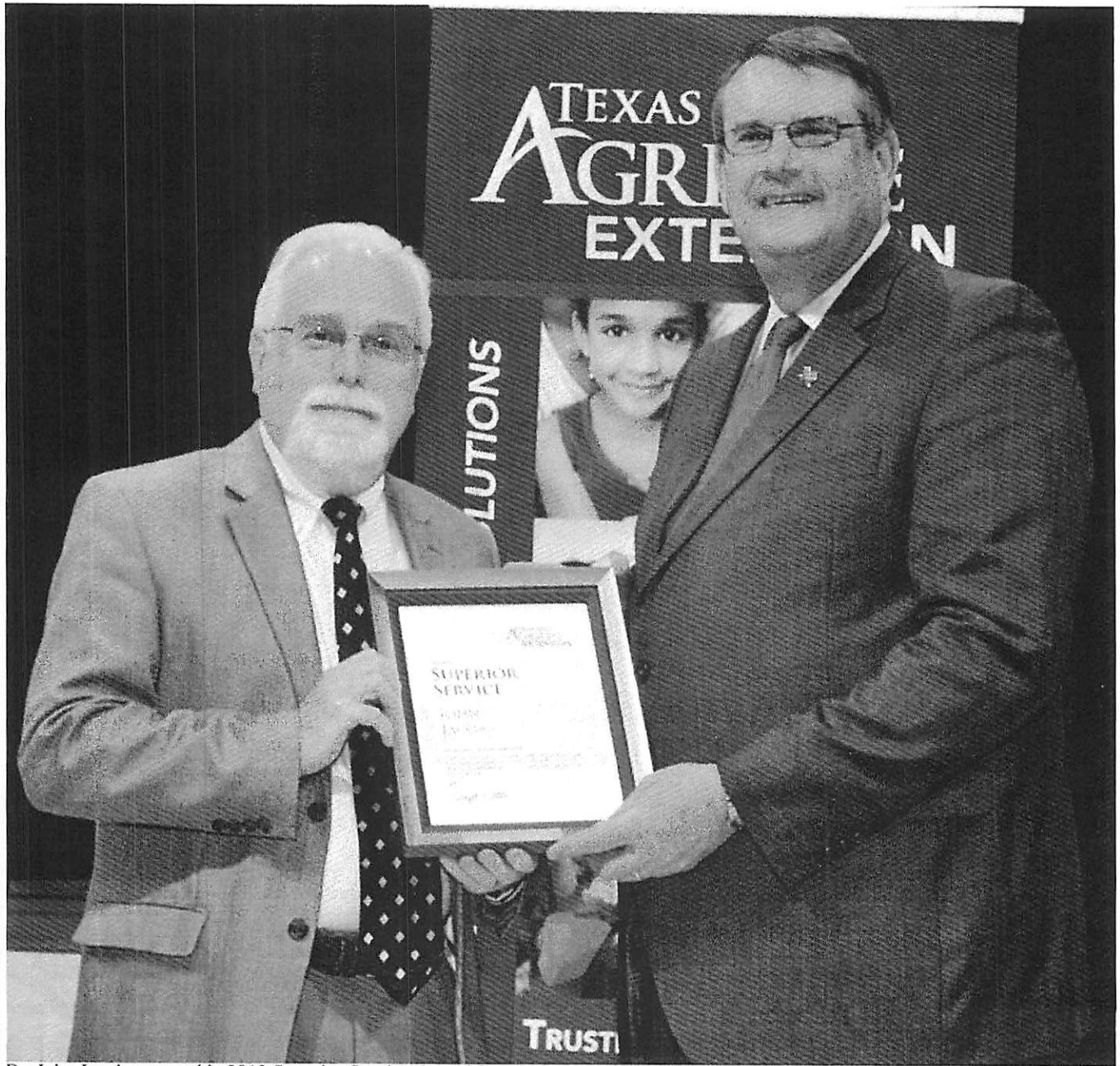
"Because of his direct involvement in state and regional wetland issues, Dr. Jacob was well aware of a lack of data that would clarify how freshwater wetlands protected water quality in estuaries such as Galveston Bay," Ellis wrote. "Dr. Jacob engaged his research team to address this issue. The research was published in the premier scientific journal on wetlands. Dr. Jacob subsequently produced an accessible fact sheet that became an invaluable resource to scientists and decision makers throughout the region. The results of the research are under review by the (U.S. Army) Corps of Engineers, and promise to have a major impact on how wetlands



are regulated.”

Jacob's impressive body of work integrating conservation and sustainable community development also earned him the prestigious 2012 Terry Hershey Award for Excellence from the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University. Named in honor of Houston's grande dame of conservation, the Hershey Award recognizes excellence in park, recreation or natural resources contributions to Texas, the region and/or the nation, as well as support for education and innovations as a leader in natural resource protection.





Dr. John Jacob accepts his 2013 Superior Service Award from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Director Dr. Doug Steele during a presentation ceremony Jan. 8 at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center of the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M University. (Photo by Jim Hiney)



MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas A&M University, MS-4115 • College Station, Texas 77843 • 979-845-3854 • FAX 979-845-7525

For immediate release: January 22, 2013



AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TexasSeaGrant.org

For more information contact:
Steven Mikulencak,
Conference co-chair
Office: (281) 218-6128
smikulencak@tamu.edu

Innovative public engagement tool focus of conference

HOUSTON —The WeTable — a do-it-yourself portable touch table system — can help universities and agencies engage communities for public input in a whole new way. The tool allows meeting organizers to turn any table top into an interactive computer interface for mapping, brainstorming and other activities for a fraction of the cost of using a manufactured system.

Now, a two-day, hands-on training conference is available for professionals who want to make their workshops more dynamic by using this innovative technology. The conference agenda features hands-on challenges and case studies of its use in actual projects from around the country.

Seats remain for the WeTable Conference Feb. 26-27 at the Rice Lofts Ballroom, located 909 Texas Ave. in downtown Houston. The Texas Sea Grant College Program at Texas A&M University is co-sponsoring the conference.

The WeTable comprises a laptop computer, a projector, a light pen and a Nintendo Wiimote. Up to 10 people can stand around an ordinary table and interact with maps, data and documents without having to crowd around a computer screen.

“If the participant can hold a pen and talk around a table, then they can use this technology,” says Steven Mikulencak, conference co-chair and Texas Sea Grant staff member. “You don’t need to be a whiz to use it, but it takes some knowledge to set up the system.”

Participants use the light pen like a wireless computer mouse on an image projected onto the tabletop. The Wiimote picks up changes in the pen’s location and updates the touch table image. Participants exchange control of the table by simply handing off the light pen to another user.

Using conventional equipment in an unconventional way opens up new methods to collect group input and facilitate public meetings, says Mikulencak an early adopter of the technology. The goal is to put the supporting technology in the background so that participants directly engage in the workshop exercise. “When we bring the public together at these workshops where we use the WeTable, we see that people are interested in the data and they happen to be learning a lot about what other participants at the table think,” he says.

Land- and resource-planners have used the WeTable with great success to involve the public in crafting plans around the country. Texas Sea Grant used a six-table setup at a coastal development workshop in Galveston last year that allowed about 45 people to participate at the same time. The program will use the WeTable during a workshop this summer in Rockport, Texas, so area residents and community planners can discuss impacts from future development scenarios.

“It is clear from our experience that watershed groups and public agencies could be using WeTable technology to better engage the public on issues like public safety or water management,” Mikulencak says.

During the February conference, experts and planners will teach participants how to build and use WeTable hardware and software. The training agenda also includes WeTable presentations on the future direction of participatory planning and technology.

Attendees who are members of the American Institute of Certified Planners will be eligible for 10 certification maintenance credits.

-More-



The conference is being organized by Texas Sea Grant, PlaceMatters and the Delaware Sea Grant Program. Early bird registration is \$175 until Jan. 31, and after that will be \$200 until Feb. 22. Limited support is available to registrants employed with public agencies to defray travel expenses. For more information about travel support or the conference, contact Mikulencak by phone at 281-218-6128, or by email at smikulencak@tamu.edu.

The agenda and hotel information are available at the conference website, <https://sites.google.com/site/wettableconference/home>.

Based on the Land Grant concept, Texas Sea Grant is a unique partnership that unites the resources of the federal government, the State of Texas, universities across the state and marine-related industries to create knowledge, tools, products and services that benefit the economy, the environment and the citizens of Texas. Based at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas Sea Grant is a non-academic research center in the College of Geosciences.

The University of Delaware was designated as the nation's ninth Sea Grant College in 1976 to promote the wise use, conservation, and management of marine and coastal resources through high-quality research, education, and outreach activities that benefit the public and the environment. The University's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment administers the program, which conducts research in priority areas ranging from seafood safety to coastal hazards.

The Texas and Delaware programs are two of 32 university-based Sea Grant Programs around the country that are part of the National Sea Grant Network. The National Sea Grant Program is administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

PlaceMatters is a Colorado-based independent 501(c)3 organization supporting the creation and maintenance of sustainable, vibrant communities through improving decision-making.



MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas A&M University, MS-4115 • College Station, Texas 77843 • 979-845-3854 • FAX 979-845-7525

For immediate release: January 28, 2013



AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TexasSeaGrant.org

For more information contact:

Jim Hiney,
Communications Coordinator
Office: (979) 862-3773
bohiney@tamu.edu

Shell Oil to co-sponsor ocean science competitions in Texas

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Shell Oil Company is bringing its commitment to community, education and the environment to the two 2013 Texas regional competitions of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB®), both sponsored annually by the Texas Sea Grant College Program at Texas A&M University.

The company will provide half of the funding for the Loggerhead Challenge and the Dolphin Challenge, and will recruit volunteer competition officials from within its workforce because the events mirror Shell's social investment mission, says Shell's Ian Voparil, who is leading the company's NOSB efforts.

"When we consider potential partnerships for social investment opportunities, we like to focus on activities that benefit the communities where we work and our employees live; those involving education, especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education; and those benefitting the environment. NOSB focuses on all three of these areas and is a natural fit for our organization," Voparil says.

NOSB is a rigorous high school academic competition requiring students to answer questions about biology, chemistry, physics, geology, geography and the social sciences. It is intended to increase knowledge of the oceans on the part of high school students, their teachers and parents, and to raise the visibility and public understanding of the national investment in ocean-related research.

The Loggerhead Challenge, scheduled Feb. 9 in Port Aransas, is open to teams from west and south Texas. The Dolphin Challenge, scheduled Feb. 23 in Galveston, is open to students in the northern and eastern parts of the state.

"I am most excited that Shell will participate with us and I look forward to working with their volunteers," says Terrie Looney, regional coordinator for NOSB in Texas and Texas Sea Grant's coastal and marine resources agent for Chambers and Jefferson Counties. "Moreover, I believe our NOSB students will benefit greatly from the opportunity to interact with professionals who are currently working in science-related fields that some of these kids aspire to join someday."

Voparil is not a stranger to NOSB. He volunteered for the Nor'easter Bowl regional competition in Maine in the late 1990s and remembers the caliber of students involved.

"I've always been impressed with the kids who participate in NOSB," he says. "They are hard working, smart, diligent and creative. They are the kind of people that we hope to hire one day and have help us solve the energy challenges of the world."

NOSB is managed nationally by the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, a nonprofit organization representing 94 of the leading public and private ocean research and education institutions, aquaria and industry with the mission to advance research, education and sound ocean policy.



MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas A&M University, MS-4115 • College Station, Texas 77843 • 979-845-3854 • FAX 979-845-7525

For immediate release: February 7, 2013



AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TexasSeaGrant.org

For more information contact:
Jim Hiney,
Communications Coordinator
Office: (979) 862-3773
bohiney@tamu.edu

Texas Sea Grant names new research coordinator

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — The Texas Sea Grant College Program welcomes Dr. Mona Behl as its new Research Coordinator, effective Monday, Feb. 4, 2013. She will oversee the program's research grant, scholarship and fellowship opportunities, and will contribute to Texas Sea Grant's state and federal reporting efforts.

Texas Sea Grant is a partnership of university, government and industry focusing on marine research, education and outreach. It is administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and is one of 32 university-based Sea Grant Programs around the country. The program's mission is to develop a better understanding of Texas coastal resources in support of sustainable use and conservation of these resources for the benefit of the economy and environment.

Behl earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in physics at Panjab University in Chandigarh, India. She received her doctorate in physical oceanography from Florida State University. Before joining Texas Sea Grant, Behl was a visiting fellow at the American Meteorological Society Policy Program in Washington, D.C. She was also an adjunct professor at American Public University in nearby Charles Town, W.Va.

Her research interests include air-sea interaction, large-scale ocean circulation driven by differences in water densities and its role in global climate change, ocean policy, coastal restoration and management, decision making under uncertainty, climate change risk communication, mitigation and adaptation, water resources management, science policy and education.

Behl is based at Texas Sea Grant's headquarters on the campus of Texas A&M in College Station. Anyone interested in learning more about Texas Sea Grant's research grant, scholarship or fellowship opportunities can contact Behl by phone (979-458-0449) and email (monabehl@tamu.edu).

-30-

— Hiney 2/7/13
NR- 13-05





Dr. Mona Behl in her office at Texas Sea Grant



MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas A&M University, MS-4115 • College Station, Texas 77843 • 979-845-3854 • FAX 979-845-7525

For immediate release: February 11, 2013



AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TexasSeaGrant.org

For more information contact:
Jim Hiney,
Communications Coordinator
Office: (979) 862-3773
bohiney@tamu.edu

Annapolis Christian Academy wins Loggerhead Challenge

PORT ARANSAS, TX — Annapolis Christian Academy's "A" Team defended its championship on Saturday by winning the 2013 Loggerhead Challenge Regional Competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB), and advancing to the National Finals Competition.

The team of Emily Borchardt, Andrew Hanks, Austin Jones, Colton Garrett and Sam Stephens emerged at the top of the nine-team field after a day of head-to-head matches where the high school students demonstrated their knowledge of marine and coastal science by answering questions from biology, physics, chemistry, geology, geography, mathematics and the social sciences. Annapolis Christian Academy, from Corpus Christi, defeated second place finisher Gregory-Portland High School "A" Team in the final match, earning the right to face the winners of the other 24 NOSB regional competitions in Milwaukee April 18-21.

This year's Loggerhead Challenge was held on the campus of The University of Texas Marine Science Institute for the first time.

As the runner-up, the Gregory-Portland team of Jose Guardiola, Chelsea Temple, Austin Partridge, Rayva Minor and Megan Holden is an alternate for the NOSB National Finals if Annapolis Christian Academy cannot compete. Third place went to Chaparral Star Academy's (Austin) "A" Team of Brady Romero, Randi Cannon, Alex Clarke, Addison Kliewer and Yessica Gaona-Morales.

Corpus Christi's Foy H. Moody High School was honored with the Dr. Wes Tunnell Sportsmanship Award, which is given to the team judged by competition officials to best embody the spirit of earnest competition while demonstrating exemplary decorum. Tunnell is a widely respected ocean scientist renowned as much for his integrity, honesty and work ethic as he is for his expansive body of research. Tunnell is currently associate director of the Harte Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Members of the Moody High School team were Cristian Carlos, Roger Guerra, Victor Mendoza, Michael Salazar and Emmitt Silguero.

The rest of the Loggerhead Challenge field comprised Annapolis Christian Academy "B" Team, Chaparral Star Academy "B" Team, Gregory-Portland High School "B" Team, and James Madison High School "A" and "B" teams (San Antonio).

NOSB, hosted in Texas by the Texas Sea Grant College Program at Texas A&M University, is intended to increase knowledge of the oceans on the part of high school students, their teachers and parents, and to raise the visibility and public understanding of the national investment in ocean-related research, said Terrie Looney, regional coordinator for NOSB competitions in Texas. Looney is also the Texas Sea Grant Extension Program's Coastal and Marine Resources Agent for Jefferson and Chambers counties.

The Loggerhead Challenge, held annually in the Coastal Bend area, is one of two NOSB regional competitions hosted by Texas Sea Grant each year and it is open to high school teams from south and west Texas. The other competition is the Dolphin Challenge, open to teams from north and east Texas. This year's Dolphin Challenge, scheduled Saturday, Feb. 23, will be held at Ball High School in Galveston.

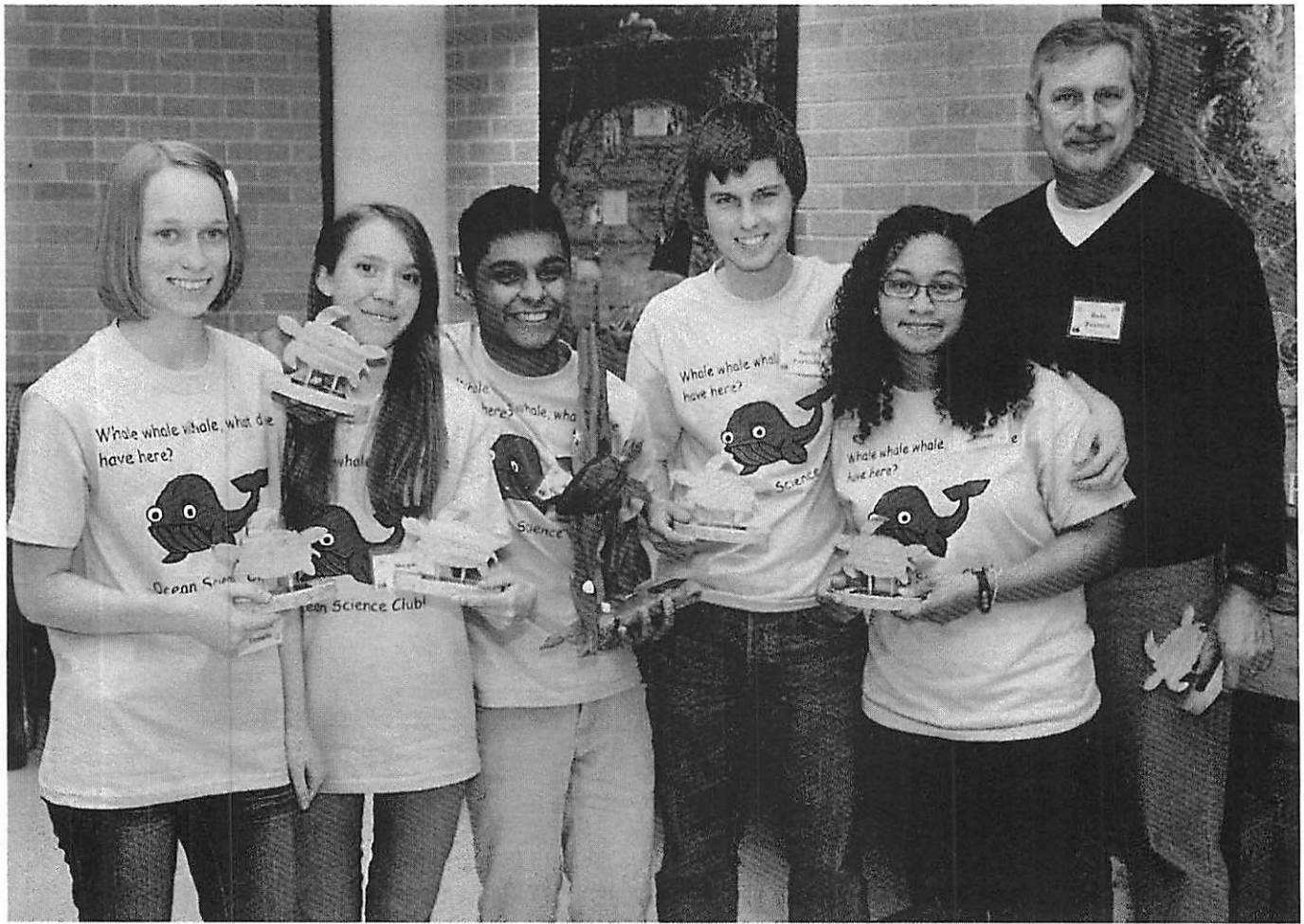
NOSB is managed nationally by the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, a nonprofit organization representing 94 of the leading public and private ocean research and education institutions, aquaria and industry with the mission to advance research, education and sound ocean policy.





Annapolis Christian Academy's A Team won the 2013 Loggerhead Challenge regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, held on the campus of The University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas. Team members are (L to R) Sam Stephens, Colton Garrett, Andrew Hanks, Austin Jones, Emily Borchardt and Coach Sarah Borchardt. (Photo courtesy Texas Sea Grant)





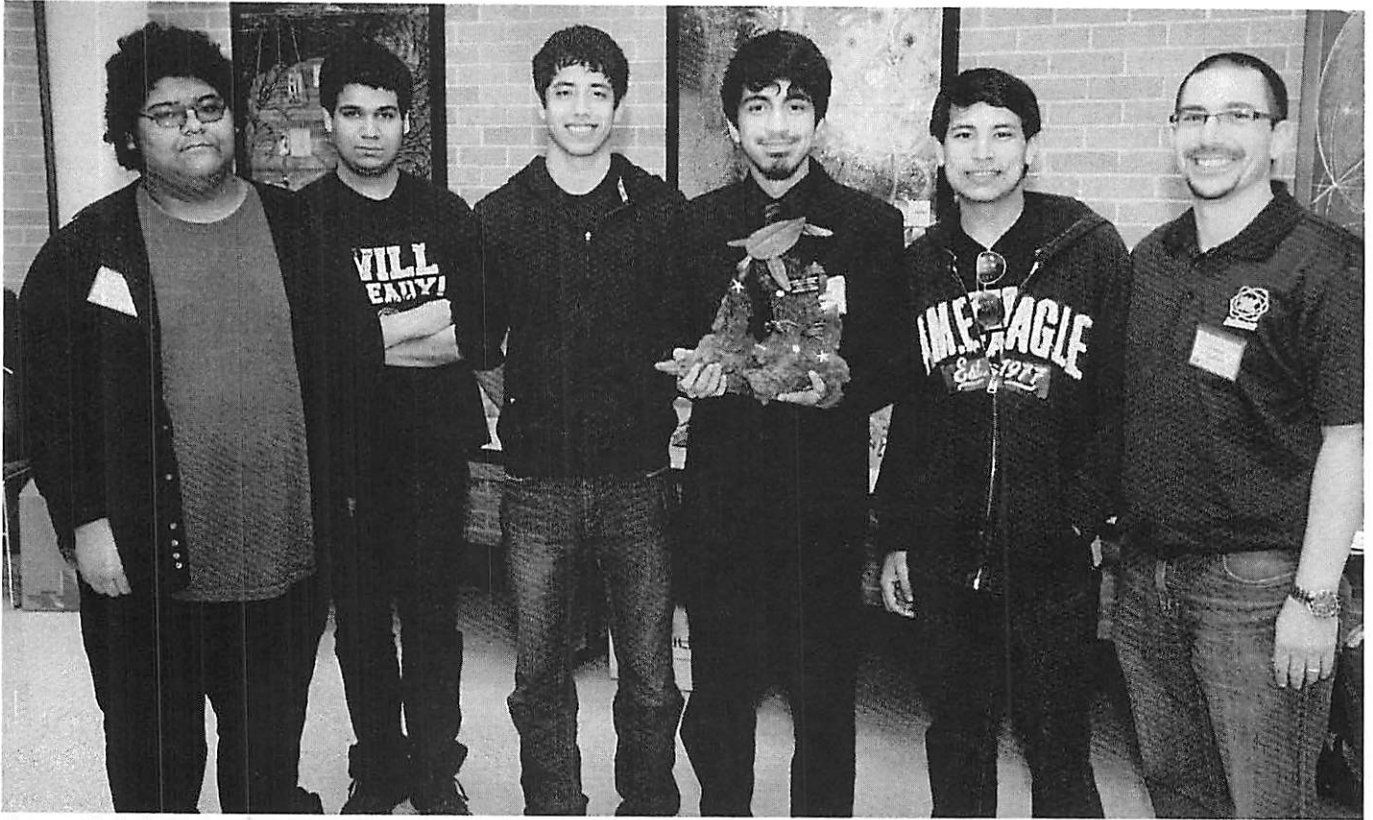
Gregory-Portland High School A Team was runner-up at the 2013 Loggerhead Challenge. Team members are (L to R) Chelsea Temple, Megan Holden, Jose Guardiola, Austin Partridge, Rayva Minor and Coach Ross Tuxhorn. (Photo courtesy Texas Sea Grant)





The Chaparral Star Academy A Team, from Austin, won third place in the 2013 Loggerhead Challenge. Team members are (L to R) Addison Kliewer, Brady Romero, Randi Cannon, Yessica Gaona-Morales, Alex Clarke and Coach Kris Barnett. (Photo courtesy Texas Sea Grant)





Corpus Christi's Foy H. Moody High School received the Dr. Wes Tunnell Sportsmanship Award. Team members are (L to R) Victor Mendoza, Michael Salazar, Cristian Carlos, Emmitt Silguero, Roger Guerra and Coach Jason James



MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas A&M University, MS-4115 • College Station, Texas 77843 • 979-845-3854 • FAX 979-845-7525

For immediate release: February 18, 2013



AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TexasSeaGrant.org

For more information contact:
Jim Hiney,
Communications Coordinator
Office: (979) 862-3773
bohiney@tamu.edu

Rhonda Patterson to lead local outreach efforts

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — A veteran biologist has been chosen to lead local outreach efforts for the Texas Sea Grant College Program at Texas A&M University.

Rhonda Patterson is Texas Sea Grant's new outreach specialist, effective today, and will be responsible for raising awareness of ocean issues and Texas Sea Grant both on the Texas A&M campus and in the surrounding communities.

"I am pleased to have Rhonda joining Texas Sea Grant as our first ever Brazos Valley Outreach Specialist," says Dr. Pamela Plotkin, Texas Sea Grant Director. "She will help us build bridges across this great valley from our Texas A&M University scholars and students, to the public schools, museums, civic organizations and others, and build connections among us all to the Texas Gulf coast."

Texas Sea Grant is a unique partnership that unites the resources of the federal government, the State of Texas, universities across the state and marine-related industries to increase knowledge about the state's coastal and marine environments and to create tools, products and services that benefit the economy, the environment and the citizens of Texas. Within the university, Texas Sea Grant is a non-academic research center in the College of Geosciences.

Patterson comes to Texas Sea Grant from Texas A&M's Biology Department, where she began working as an undergraduate student in 1990 and since 1995 has supervised care of all of the department's aquatic animals that were used in teaching and research.

Part of her animal care duties included outreach in the form of educating tour groups visiting the Biology Department about aquatic animals and she sometimes traveled to school classrooms with one of the department's most famous residents — a Kemp's ridley sea turtle named "Pepita."

Pepita was born in captivity with a deformed shell that would have made catching food difficult and made her easy prey had she been released into the wild. She was placed at Texas A&M with Biology Department faculty member Dr. David Owens. She lived in her own tank in the Biology Building until 1999, when Owens moved to a marine science facility on the East Coast and Pepita was transferred to the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi.

"I've always enjoyed outreach work," says Patterson, a 1991 Texas A&M graduate with a bachelor's degree in biology. "It's a passion for me."

Among her more immediate and visible projects will be supervising operation of a 300 gallon saltwater aquarium that Texas Sea Grant has purchased and will place in Texas A&M's Memorial Student Center. The aquarium will be located in the student lounge area on the east side of the building's lower level, immediately beneath the "Memory Cloud" that is now being installed. The aquarium is on track to be installed and operating by early summer of this year.

Anyone interested in learning more about Texas Sea Grant's Brazos Valley outreach program can contact Patterson at r-patterson@tamu.edu or 979-845-3857.





Rhonda Patterson (Texas Sea Grant photo)



MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas A&M University, MS-4115 • College Station, Texas 77843 • 979-845-3854 • FAX 979-845-7525

For immediate release: February 23, 2013



AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TexasSeaGrant.org

For more information contact:
Jim Hiney,
Communications Coordinator
Office: (979) 862-3773
bohiney@tamu.edu

The Village School's "B" Team wins 2013 Dolphin Challenge

GALVESTON, Texas — The Village School "B" Team got the best of its "A" Team compatriots to win the 2013 Dolphin Challenge Regional Competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) and advance to the National Finals Competition.

The team of Alexander Kiehn, Brian Xu, Michael Wong, Alexander Pastora and Tony Sun emerged at the top of the 14-team field after a day of head-to-head matches where the high school students demonstrated their knowledge of marine and coastal science by answering questions from biology, physics, chemistry, geology, geography, mathematics and the social sciences. They defeated The Village School "A" team in a tight final match, earning the right to face the winners of the other 24 NOSB regional competitions in Milwaukee April 18-21. The Village School is a private school located in west Houston's "Energy Corridor."

The Dolphin Challenge, hosted by the Texas Sea Grant College Program at Texas A&M University, was held at Ball High School

As the runner-up, the The Village School "A" team of Andrei Bonteanu, Thanh Hong, Thuy Liem, Anirudh Pillutla and Minh Nguyen is an alternate for the NOSB National Finals if the "B" cannot compete. Third place went to Sanger High School's "A" Team of Carlos Valls, Cullen Bounds, Mary Katherine Kearney, Andrew Bradley and Bethany Mitchell.

Pearland's Glenda Dawson High School was honored with the Ralph Rayburn Sportsmanship Award, which is given to the team judged by competition officials to best embody the spirit of earnest competition while demonstrating exemplary decorum and character. The award is named in honor of host Texas Sea Grant's late Associate Director and Extension Program Leader, who worked tirelessly throughout his career to help promote the wise use and stewardship of Texas' marine resources. Rayburn's work ethic was legendary and he was widely respected as a man of great integrity, intelligence and generosity.

The rest of the Dolphin Challenge field comprised Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts; Coppell High School "A" and "B" Teams; Langham Creek "A," "B" and "C" Teams from Houston; New Caney High School; Rains High School from Emory, Texas; and Sanger High School "B" and "C" Teams.

NOSB is intended to increase knowledge of the oceans on the part of high school students, their teachers and parents, and to raise the visibility and public understanding of the national investment in ocean-related research, said Terrie Looney, regional coordinator for NOSB competitions in Texas.

There are two NOSB regional competitions held in Texas each year and both are hosted by Texas Sea Grant. The Dolphin Challenge, held in Galveston, is open to high schools from north and east Texas. The Loggerhead Challenge, held in the Coastal Bend area, is open to high schools from south and west. Annapolis Christian Academy from Corpus Christi won this year's Loggerhead Challenge, held Feb. 9 at The University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas.

NOSB is managed nationally by the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, a nonprofit organization representing 94 of the leading public and private ocean research and education institutions, aquaria and industry with the mission to advance research, education and sound ocean policy.

-More-



Based on the Land Grant concept, Texas Sea Grant is a partnership of university, government and industry focusing on marine research, education and outreach. It is administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and is one of 32 university-based Sea Grant Programs around the country. The program's mission is to develop a better understanding of Texas coastal resources in support of sustainable use and conservation of these resources for the benefit of the economy and environment.



The Village School B Team won the 2013 Dolphin Challenge. Team members are, from left, Tony Sun, Alexander Pastora, coach Mila Bersabal, Brian Xu, Michael Wong, Alexander Kiehn and assistant coach Brian Lamore. (Photo by Jim Hiney/courtesy Texas Sea Grant)





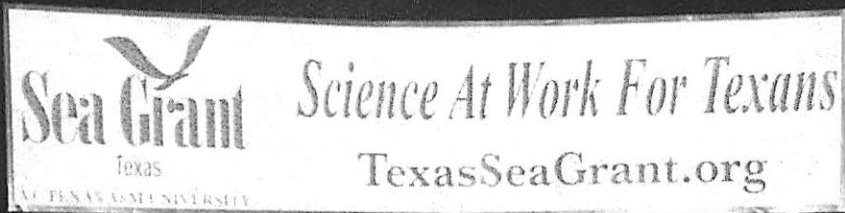
The Village School A Team was the 2013 Dolphin Challenge runner-up. Team members are, from left, Minh Nguyen, coach Mila Bersabal, Thanh Hong, Anirudh Pillutla, Thuy liem and Andrei Bonteanu. (Photo by Jim Hiney/courtesy Texas Sea Grant)





The Sanger High School A Team won third place at the 2013 Dolphin Challenge. Team members are, from left, assistant coach Kathy Vidourek, Cullen Bounds, Mary Katherine Kearney, Andrew Bradley, Bethany Mitchell, Carlos Valls and coach Lori Bradley. (Photo by Jim Hiney/courtesy Texas Sea Grant)





Glenda Dawson High School won the Ralph Rayburn Sportsmanship Award at the 2013 Dolphin Challenge. (Photo by Jim Hiney/courtesy Texas Sea Grant)



MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas A&M University, MS-4115 • College Station, Texas 77843 • 979-845-3854 • FAX 979-845-7525

For immediate release: March 12, 2013



AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
TexasSeaGrant.org

For more information contact:
Dr. Wendy Gordon, Founder and Principal
Ecologia Consulting
(512) 924-2731
wendy@ecologiaconsulting.com

Dr. John Jacob, Extension Program Director
Texas Sea Grant College Program
(281) 218-0565
jjacob@tamu.edu

Report a call to action about sea-level rise in Texas

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Sea-level rise is not the type of looming coastal natural hazard that announces itself with the roaring bravado of a hurricane, but it is there, in the details of the storm, and will only get worse in the absence of public sentiment to address the issue.

“It is in the extreme events where people will be noticing the effects most in the short term,” says Dr. John Jacob, Extension Program Director with the Texas Sea Grant College Program at Texas A&M University. “Hurricane storm surge will be much more significant. A half-foot increase in storm surge elevation can mean tens to hundreds of square miles of additional flooding. Storm tides will be reaching farther inland flooding areas that have not been flooded before. In the longer run, what is today’s storm tide will be tomorrow’s high tide.”

Sea level along the Texas Gulf Coast is rising by a fraction of an inch each year, but this increase is expected to accelerate and possibly inundate one of the state’s most profitable and environmentally diverse regions. As a first step in addressing the problem at the state level, The University of Texas’ Bureau of Economic Geology and Energy Institute recently released a report from a workshop it held last year at the university’s Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas to identify the current status of sea level rise along the Texas Gulf Coast and to assess risks to the region’s ecosystems, communities and economy.

The Risk of Rising Sea Level: Texas Universities Ready and Able to Help Coastal Communities Adapt presents the findings of the workshop’s 28 participating scientists from six of Texas’ leading academic institutions, including Texas Sea Grant, along with representatives from the nonprofit, governmental and private sectors.

The report is available online at <http://texasseagrant.org>

“Our intention with this white paper is to be educational,” says Dr. Wendy Gordon, founder and principal of Ecologia Consulting in Austin, who was hired by The University of Texas to organize the workshop and summarize its finding in a report. “We want to initiate a dialog among interested parties and these parties should span the entire state because the coast is important to all Texans. We want to raise the awareness about and profile of the issue, and hopefully build public support for more dollars being appropriated for sea level rise research and adaptation.”

Sea-level rise is not a “someday” event. It is already a fact of life in Texas. Current data show coastal water levels are rising about one-fifth of an inch per year, which is about five times the rate seen during the previous 4,000 years and one of the highest rates reported globally. The current rate of sea-level rise in Texas is expected to accelerate further, doubling or even tripling by the end of the 21st century as a warming atmosphere fuels further expansion of the oceans and threatens to melt significant portions of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets.

By 2100, much of the Texas coast will most likely be under at least a foot of water and as much as six feet of water.

-More-



“We stand to lose a very large amount of one of our most productive environments in all of Texas — the coastal salt marsh,” Jacob says. “All of our significant fisheries depend in one way or another on this environment. As sea level rises, marshes can migrate inland if the land is available, but there are many places on the coast lined with sharp rises or bluffs. In these areas marshes will drown as water rises. Much of the remaining areas are becoming urbanized with shoreline protection that will also hinder marsh migration.”

The rising Gulf of Mexico will directly impact Texas’ 18 coastal counties that account for less than 6 percent of the state’s landmass but are home to almost a quarter of its 2010 population. According to the report, Texas’ coastal population is growing more than twice as fast as the rest of the state.

“As we just saw with Hurricane Sandy on the East Coast, one of the outcomes of what was a pretty unusual confluence of weather events was a storm surge that was made worse by a century’s worth of sea-level rise,” Gordon says. “People living up and down the Texas coast and also living inland in low-lying regions are looking not only at incremental sea-level rise but also the fact that 10, 20 and 30 years hence, hurricanes that come ashore are going to push the tide even further inland. That becomes a risk to businesses, property owners, residents, and communities all along the coast and in turn it then becomes an economic risk throughout the state.”

The coastal zone is one of the state’s primary economic engines, fueled by oil and gas production and petrochemical refining operations, four of the country’s 10 busiest ports and the considerable infrastructure needed to keep these enterprises running. Texas ports generate about \$5 billion in local and state tax revenues and \$48 billion in personal income. They also create 1 million direct jobs and 1.3 million indirect jobs annually, *The Risk of Rising Sea Level* states.

The report goes on to cite a recent study by Entergy, a power-generating utility based in Louisiana that serves East Texas, which estimated that the current value of Gulf Coast energy assets is \$800 billion.

“As people understand the issues here, we will see more consensus around the need to conduct additional studies and to start developing adaptation strategies,” Gordon says. “This is a long-term issue. We’re trying to get it in front of people now while we still have time to start responding to the threat.”

-30-

Based on the Land Grant concept, Texas Sea Grant is a unique partnership that unites the resources of the federal government, the State of Texas, universities across the state and marine-related industries to increase knowledge of Texas’ coastal and marine environments and to create tools, products and services that benefit the economy, the environment and the citizens of Texas. Based at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas Sea Grant is a non-academic research center in the College of Geosciences.

Hiney 3/11/13
NR 13-09



Appendix H

Share 0 More Next Blog»

Create Blog Sign In

Ideas, Inventions And Innovations

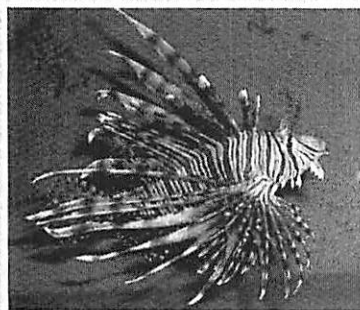
IIAI is dedicated to all things science

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012

40 Alien Species Invading Gulf Of Mexico

There's an unseen foreign invasion going on in the Gulf of Mexico. Its stealth and speed are matched only by the uncertainty it has created among scientists and the people who make their living from the Gulf's waters, warn scientists with the Texas Sea Grant College Program, based at Texas A&M University.

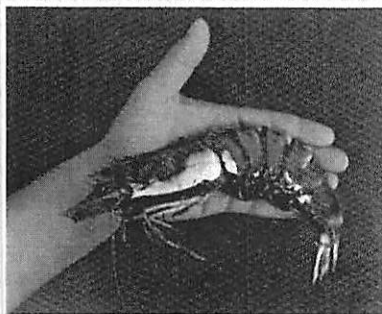
Lionfish



Credit: Texas A&M University

Lionfish and black tiger shrimp are only two of more than 40 species of non-indigenous sea life known to be spreading through the Gulf of Mexico from their native waters, but they are seen by many resource experts as the most threatening. Lionfish have been a growing problem in the South Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean area for most of a decade, but black tiger shrimp are a relatively new phenomenon. A few were captured in the Gulf of Mexico each year beginning in 2006, but the numbers rose significantly in 2011.

Black Tiger Shrimp



Credit: Texas A&M University

This year, more than 60 of the shrimp were brought by shrimp boats to one dock alone in Louisiana and the first captures off Texas' coast were reported to the federal government. Three black tiger shrimp were caught in Aransas Bay, one was caught in Sabine Lake and one was caught in federal waters about 70 miles offshore from Freeport.

Lionfish are strikingly colored, brightly striped and venomous fish that can quickly populate an area and decrease native populations through either eating them or chasing them away. Black tigers are the largest species of shrimp in the world. Females are slightly larger than males and can grow to an average of about a foot in length and weigh close to three-fourths of a pound. Black tiger shrimp eat the same types of food as native shrimp species, but as they grow they also eat their smaller cousins.

Invasive species often find themselves in foreign ecosystems devoid of the natural predators and

LJIT AD WIJIT

GOOGLE TRANSLATE

IRAP, INC

- Innovative Research and Products, Inc. provides indepth market reports on nanotechnology and cutting edge technologies.

SEARCH THIS BLOG

Loading...

REPORTS

Production And Application Of Carbon Nanotubes, Carbon Nanofibers, Fullerenes, Graphene And Nanodiamonds: A Global Technology Survey And Market Analysis, 2010-2015
Available December 10, 2010

Fuel Cells, Hydrogen Energy And Related Nanotechnology – A Global Industry And Market Analysis

Nanolithography Equipment For It, Electronics And Photonics – A Technology, Industry And Global Market Analysis

PRESS RELEASES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS WELCOME

Nano Patents and Innovations welcomes press releases concerning nanotechnology and science innovations from corporations, universities and research laboratories. Please send them to the email address at the top of this page. Thank you.

PERMISSION TO REPRINT

Original articles from Nano Patents and Innovations may be republished on other websites with an active link back to Nano Patents and Innovations website posted at the beginning or end of the article as an active link:

diseases that kept their populations under control in their native ranges. Free of these challenges that plague native wildlife, invasive species can turn all of their energy toward feeding and reproducing, Sea Grant officials explain. In some cases, the manner in which invasive species live can physically damage their adopted ecosystems to the point where it becomes poor habitat for native species.

"We just don't know what the long-term impacts are going to be," says Gary Graham, Texas Sea Grant's fisheries specialist. "I don't know whether these shrimp will establish themselves in the Gulf of Mexico or play themselves out, but I think they could become a more serious problem than anyone originally thought."

"The biggest concern we have is what are the ecological impacts of these invasive species?" says Dr. James Morris, an ecologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) who has been working with lionfish for about 10 years and is now taking the lead in NOAA's efforts to study black tiger shrimp. "When you look across the history of invasive species, there have been some very extreme impacts that have resulted from invasions."


For more of this story, go to the Sea Grant website.

Contacts and sources:
Texas A&M University

Posted by Alton Parish at 1:22 PM 

No comments:

Post a Comment

Comment as: Select profile... 

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

Source: Nano Patents and Innovations

Source:

<http://nanopatentsandinnovations.blogspot.com/>

BLOG ARCHIVE

- ▶ 2013 (643)
- ▼ 2012 (8622)
 - ▶ December (173)
 - ▶ November (369)
 - ▶ October (524)
 - ▶ September (449)
 - ▶ August (577)
 - ▶ July (938)
 - ▶ June (700)
 - ▶ May (818)
 - ▶ April (770)
 - ▶ March (366)
 - ▶ February (361)
 - ▼ January (781)

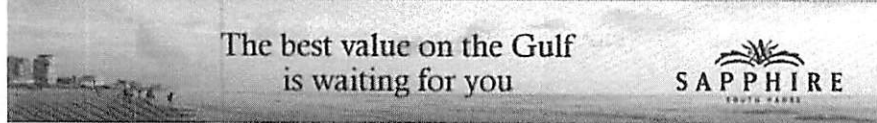
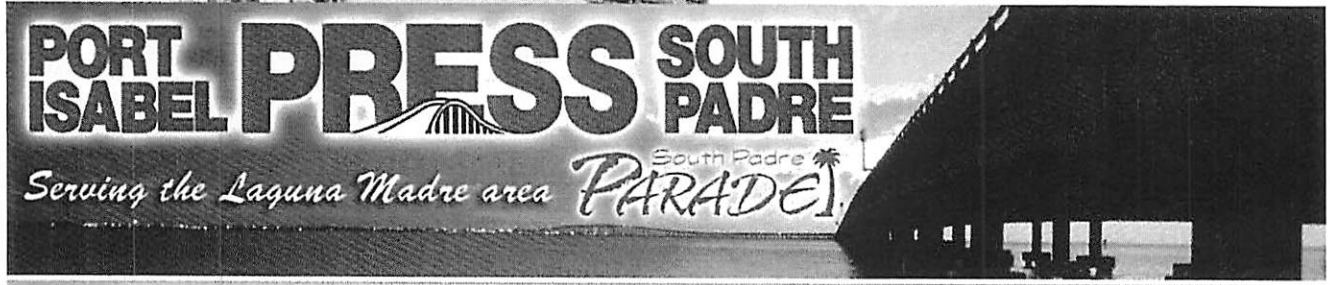
- [Egyptian Mummy And Prostate Cancer: 2nd Oldest Cas...](#)
- [Origin Of Life: New Pathway To Life's Chemical Bu...](#)
- [Satellite Study Reveals Critical Habitat And Cor...](#)
- [Ultra-Fast Photodetector And Terahertz Generator U...](#)
- [New Observations Of Interstellar Maltor: Raw Mater...](#)
- [TSA Methods Make Air Travel Less Safe: Risk-Based ...](#)
- [Hot Molecule Explains Cold Chemistry Among Inter...](#)
- [Study: Vast Majority Of EU Citizens Are Marginaliz...](#)
- [Facebook Can Get You Fired: UC Research Reveals Th...](#)
- [Top '5 US Terror Hot Spots' Are Urban Counties, Bu...](#)
- [Short-Term Memory Is Based On Synchronized Brain O...](#)
- [ORNL Microscopy Reveals 'Atomic Antenna' Behavior ...](#)
- [Perfect Carbon Nanotubes Shine Brightest](#)
- [Online News Portals Get Credibility Boost From Tru...](#)
- [Protein Study Gives Fresh Impetus In Fight Against...](#)
- [Ancient DNA Holds Clues To Climate Change Adaptati...](#)
- [Many Bodies Make 1 Coherent Burst Of Light](#)
- [Surprise Finding Redraws 'Map' Of Blood Cell Produ...](#)
- ['Cool' Gas May Form And Strengthen Sunspots](#)
- [Consuming Fish During Pregnancy Improves Offspring...](#)
- [Researchers Visualize The Development Of Parkinson...](#)
- [4-Week Vaccination Regimen Knocks Out Early Breast...](#)
- [Cooked Tomatoes Slow Cancer Growth And Even Kill P...](#)
- [Nanomedicine : "Russian Doll" Polymer Vesicles Mim...](#)
- [Researchers Identify Key Peptides That Could Lead ...](#)
- [Are Diet Soft Drinks Bad For You?](#)
- [Severe Python Damage To Native Everglades Animals](#)
- [Terahertz Polarizer Nears Perfection: Rice U. Res...](#)
- [10 Four Letter Words Describing Parenthood](#)
- [10 Telling Studies Done On Longer School Days](#)
- [10 Weirdest And Worst Ads For Lawyers](#)
- [10 Interesting Ways U.S. Troops Have Used The Inte...](#)
- [20 Terrific Twitter Chats For Every Kind Of Educat...](#)
- [10 Weirdest TV Ads In History](#)
- [Music Slows Aging: Music Training Has Biological I...](#)
- [NASA: Greenhouse Gases Generated By Human Activity...](#)
- [Reducing Ion Exchange Particles To Nano-Size Shows...](#)
- [Ferroelectric Switching Discovered For First Time ...](#)
- [Scientists See 'Sloshing' Galaxy Cluster](#)
- [Radiation Experts Begin Assessment Of Effects Of F...](#)
- [Bright Lights Of Purity: Why Pure Quantum Dots And...](#)
- [Shakespeare's Skill 'More In Grammar Than In Words...](#)
- [Smart Paint Could Revolutionize Structural Safety](#)
- [NASA's THEMIS Satellite Sees A Great Electron Esca ...](#)
- [10 Crazy College Secret Societies](#)



DON'T MISS AN ISSUE AGAIN [CLICK HERE](#)



ENTERTAINMENT • MUSIC
ART • NEWS • BUSINESS
CULTURE • SPORTS • LEISURE



6.800 - -0.74% ^AXJO 4950.200 -40.000 --0.80% AUDUSD=X 1.0486 USDJPY=X 94.175 WP Stock Ticker

Floating classroom cruising to SPI

Categories: News

by Editor

February 16, 2012



Willacy County students are shown with the tools they used on Wednesday to explore aquatic ecosystems in Port Mansfield. (Photo by Andres Garcia)

PRESS Staff Report

For the first time, Karma is coming to the Port Isabel/South Padre Island area, at least in the form of a sea vessel.

The Texas Sea Grant College Program's floating classroom, also known as Karma, is currently cruising the waters of the Laguna Madre near here, introducing public school students to a marine ecosystem.

An invitation from Dr. Richard Kline at The University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) and a grant from Willacy County allowed the RV Karma to travel from its homeport in Corpus Christi to Port Mansfield to provide fourth through eighth grade students from the Lasara, San Perilita and Lyford school districts, as well as Ichthyology students from UTB, with a unique opportunity to learn about the Laguna Madre first hand. The Karma is scheduled to complete the student trips and sail for the City of South Padre Island on Friday, Feb. 17, where it will host Texas Master Naturalists and other school groups on cruises through next Wednesday.

Want the whole story? Pick up a copy of the Feb. 16 edition of the Port Isabel-South Padre Press, or subscribe to our E-Edition by clicking here.

0 0 0

Like Tweet Share XING

This post has no tag



Dr. Russ Miget, Texas Sea Grant Environmental Quality Specialist, supervises Willacy County students as



HEALTHCARE EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT
LEARN MORE



San Antonio's Home Page

Traffic Weather Subscriber Services e-edition Register Sign In
Tuesday, March 26, 2013
61° F San Antonio, TX
Partly Cloudy

Search mySA Web Search by YAHOO! Businesses

Home News Opinion Sports Spurs Business Life Food A&E Obituaries Shopping Jobs Autos Homes Classifieds Index

Tiger shrimp hunted in Gulf

By Lynn Brezosky
Updated 1:49 am, Thursday, March 1, 2012

VIEW: Larger | Hide

9 of 10

PREV NEXT



Coastal biologist Tony Reisinger displays a frozen 10¼-inch female tiger shrimp caught off Morgan City, La. Experts fear that the tiger shrimp represent a threat to the food chain in the Gulf of Mexico. Photo: EDWARD A. ORNELAS, SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS



Latest News Slideshows

- Services set for mom, twins killed in fire
- Kim Spradlin
- Passenger who jumped from van ID'd

From Around the Web

- Brazilian Toddler Wakes Up at His Funeral (Web2Carz)
- Britney Spears Flashes Her Bare Bottom at Sons' Soccer Game & Wins Most Embarrassing Mom (CafeMom)
- The "Wealth Tax" Contagion Is Rapidly Spreading: Switzerland, Cyprus And Now (InvestingChannel)
- Inappropriate questions during a medical exam (AARP)

2 36 0
 Tweet Like Share
 Comments (0) Email This
 Larger | Smaller Font
 Printable Version

BROWNSVILLE — When the shrimp boat Captain Wallace pulled into port last week, it carried something sinister in its catch: a nearly 11-inch black tiger shrimp.

Characterized by their super size and tiger-like striping, the nonnative monster to the Gulf of Mexico was the 10th this year to meet the measuring stick of coastal biologist Tony Reisinger.

More Information
The underwater threat

- **Scientific name:** Penaeus monodon
- **Common name:** Black tiger or Asian tiger shrimp
- **Size:** up to 11.8 inches and 11 ounces (females are larger than same-age males)
- **Native to Indo-West Pacific oceans but has now been found from North Carolina to Texas.**
- **Survival and growth are optimal at**

Those who study the Gulf's ecology fear one or more breeding populations have been established, and that the tigers may spread unchecked, toppling the food chain and wiping out native shrimp and other Gulf species.

Native and prized among chefs in Indo-West Pacific areas of East Africa, South and Southeast Asia, the Philippines, and Australia, the species Penaeus

Most Read | Most Commented

temperatures between 82°F and 91°F.

- A rapid growth rate and broad tolerance to salinity help this species thrive. Perhaps, too well. Tiger shrimp aggressively consume food sources like small crabs, shrimp, bivalves and gastropods
- Also susceptible of several viral diseases and are capable of transmitting them to native shrimp and other crustaceans
- Probably introduced into wild by being flooded out of shrimp farms after storms and hurricanes

Source: USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database, Gainesville, Fla.

monodon wasn't recorded in the Gulf of Mexico until 2006.

That year, there was one, caught in Mississippi Sound near Dauphin Island, Ala. In 2007, came another, in Vermilion Bay, La. In 2008 and 2009, they started appearing off the coasts of Georgia, Mississippi and Texas. Then, in 2011, there were hundreds. At least 25 have been collected in the first two months of 2012.

"These are predacious shrimp, vs. our shrimp which are scavengers," Reisinger said. "They get up to over a foot in length and a pound in size. All shrimp are cannibalistic, but this one, because it's a predator, I think it will probably eat our species."

Thomas Shirley, a Gulf of Mexico expert at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, said the tiger population may have been growing geometrically in recent years but are only recently being recognized.

"The numbers have been increasing, and not just in Texas but all along the coast and the Southeastern United States," he said. "If there were more than 100 reports of tiger prawns being caught in Louisiana in 2011, that means there are probably a thousand."

"It's more of a problem of outcompeting our shrimp for habitat or resources," he added. "We really don't know what their effect will be on the food web. We won't know until after the fact."

There's also potential the tigers will spread any one of about 16 diseases, much in the way European settlers set off a smallpox epidemic among Native Americans. And there's concern the tigers are too much of a mouthful for native Gulf fish, leaving the tigers without predators.

Reisinger in recent months has been working with Texas Sea Grant and the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife to get the word out among shrimpers and urge them to bring them to scientists for study.

Sea Grant has created "Wanted" posters in English and Spanish and is making a third version in Vietnamese.

The posters, distributed to shrimp docks around the Gulf, urge captains and crew to record the date, location, and depth where the tigers were caught.

A new line will be added urging the shrimpers to keep an eye out for juveniles, the best indication the tigers are multiplying.

The majority so far are being brought in off the coast of Louisiana. Five have been caught off Texas.

Carlton Reyes, president of the Brownsville-Port Isabel Shrimp Producers Association, said shrimpers are all doing their best to support the research and hoping dire predictions don't come true.

"They're all out there looking for them," he said. "We just don't know what's going to happen. We just have to wait and see."

The more specimens the better, said Leslie Hartman, Matagorda Bay ecosystem leader for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Genetic testing, she said, could rule out if the shrimp originate from a 1988 outbreak off the coast of South Carolina, caused by a breach of a research farm.

"If we find out that they're all closely related, then certainly it's more likely it was a single introduction from South Carolina," she said. "If we find out they're scattered genetically and not related, then we know there were multiple outbreaks and then we have to track down the origin of them."

1. USAA lawyer accused of seeking sex with minor
2. Alleged blackmail behind A&M professor's suicide
3. The trouble with Manu
4. Scooter Store could close its headquarters by Sunday
5. Unknown why Jefferson High student lost control in fatal crash
6. Sumlin on The Shove: 'Things happen all the time in football'
7. Man killed after jumping from truck

Recent Headlines

Man charged in extortion scheme against professor

Services set for mom, twins killed in fire
SpaceX Dragon cargo ship splashes into Pacific

Plea hearing set in immigrant smuggling case
Court OKs inmate appeal of cell phone conviction

NEWS



Services set for mom, twins killed in fire

ENTERTAINMENT



'Goodnight' book features S.A. landmarks

SPORTS



McIlroy texts with Tiger after losing top ranking

A leading theory is that Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 breached a Caribbean aquaculture facility where tigers were being cultivated.

“When it was just one in 2006, it was a very minimal concern,” Hartman said. “As the population grows and we’re not sure where the heck they’re coming from, that’s where our concern lies.”

“When critters are transplanted or plants are transplanted to someplace new, you’re never quite sure what’s going to happen. Some species are nonnative; they’re just not from around here. Others species go invasive.”

Stopping new introductions may be the best thing biologists can do, she said.

“What we could potentially do, if we find out where they’re coming from, we can stop any new introductions.” she said.

lbrezosky@express-news.net

Printable Version Email This Like Tweet 2 0 Share

From Around the Web

- How to Get Biker Babe Beautiful (Makeup.com)
- Tipper Gore Before & After Split with the VP (Third Age)
- Diary of a First-Year Teacher: The Trouble With Being White (Take Part)
- Drop Dead Gorgeous Hair: Keira Knightley's Face-Framing Bob (StyleBistro)
- The 20 Richest Musicians of All Time (You'll Never Guess the... (Pop Dust)
- 13 Things Your Pizza Guy Won't Tell You (Reader's Digest)

We Recommend

- Man's sentence extended for beating fellow inmate
- Shocked show shut down over gay slur
- Houston man accused of impregnating 11-year-old
- WOAI's Collister leaving for TV job in Houston
- Evolutionists lose debate with creationists
- Maintenance man says he took church offerings for drugs

[what's this?]

Subscribe to the San Antonio Express-News and receive access to the San Antonio Express-News for iPad App



Add Your Comment

New to the site?

Already a member?

To use commenting, you need to sign up.

Please log in.

(Forgot Password?)

Register

Email

Password

Remember Me

Sign In

Top 2013 Biotech Stock

Fast, Sustainable Gains Likely With This Play--Find Out www.RainbowBioSciences.com

Mortgage Rates Hit 2.50%

If you owe under \$729k you may qualify for 2.90% APR Govt www.SeeRefinanceRates.com

No-Salt Water Softener

Hard Water Conditioner System. Free Ship. www.equinox-products.com



MYSAN Home

Life Events Calendar

TOPICS Community

MARKETPLACE Autos

COMMUNITY SUBMITTED Calendar

ABOUT US About Us

March 26, 2013

Search



- SEARCH
- LIVE STREAM
- WHAT'S ON
- MYCWB
- LOGIN

News Weather Sports Business Health BVTM Moms Everyday FN@4 Features KBTX Cares Inside KBTX Contests Video

Recommend Be the first of your friends to recommend this. [Social sharing icons]

Posted: Mon 11:41 AM, Mar 12, 2012 [Font size controls]

Updated: Mon 11:41 AM, Mar 12, 2012

[Back to HomePage](#)

Beware The Rip Or Prepare To RIP, Sea Grant Officials Warn

The State of Texas is warning thousands of spring breakers to avoid traveling to Mexico because of increasing drug-related violence, but an equally dangerous threat lurks in the salty surf along the state's popular beaches.



Nine out of 10 beachgoers cannot identify a rip current that is happening right in front of them, said Chris Houser, associate professor of geography at Texas A&M University, who received a grant from the Texas Sea Grant College Program to study the public's perceptions of rip currents and identify ways to improve the ability of beach users to identify them.

A rip current is a horizontal current that moves perpendicular to the shore, frequently forming around man-made structures like jetties, piers and groins. It does not pull people under the water — it pulls them away from shore. At least 100 people die along the nation's coasts and Great Lakes beaches each year when rip currents pull them offshore, where they are unable to keep themselves afloat and cannot swim to safety.

Rip currents are more likely to form when there are heavy surf conditions, which combine with human nature to increase the danger.

"People tend to gravitate to areas where the waves are less intense, but those also happen to be where rip currents are most prevalent," Houser said, adding that most incidents involving people and rip currents happen around 4 p.m., "When you are sunbaked, tired and, in the case of adults, possibly affected by alcohol consumption."

If you are caught in a rip current:

- Remain calm to conserve energy and think clearly.
- Don't fight the current by trying to swim straight to shore.
- Escape the current by swimming in a direction following the shoreline. When free of the current, swim at an angle — away from the current — toward shore.
- If you are unable to escape by swimming, float or tread water. When the current weakens, swim at an angle away from the current toward shore.
- If you feel you will be unable to reach the shore, draw attention to yourself by facing the shore and calling or waving for help.

Signs of a possible rip current include a channel of churning, choppy water; an area with a noticeable difference in water color; a line of foam, seaweed or debris moving steadily seaward; and a break in the incoming wave pattern. However, some rip currents occur with no visible signs.

Many people have died trying to rescue rip current victims. If you see someone in trouble, get help from a lifeguard. If there is no lifeguard, yell instructions on how to escape the current, throw the victim something that floats and have someone call 9-1-1.

More information about rip currents is available from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov. Posters and other printed materials in English and Spanish are also available by contacting Texas Sea Grant at sgpublications@tamu.edu.

[Next Story >](#)

Highlights



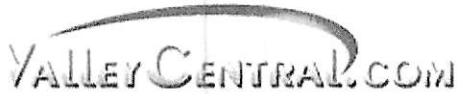
Trending on KBTX.com

1. Online Sex Scam Led to Texas A&M Instructor's Suicide

Tuesday, March 26, 2013

66° Mostly Clou

Mostly cloudy with
View Brett Cranda



Home

News

Sports

Weather

Neighborhood

Marketplace

Mexico/Border

Food 4 Thought

Pay It 4Ward

The Nature Report

U-Report

Money Talks

Action 4 Dea



Thousands of jellyfish wash ashore on South Padre Island

by Daisy Barrera

Posted: 02.21.2012 at 7:17 PM

Updated: 02.22.2012 at 11:55 AM

Daisy Barrera

Daisy is a reporter for Action 4 News.

[read more »](#)

Friend Daisy

Follow Us

Contact Daisy

Daisy's feed

8

59

415

278

6

Tweet

Recommend 422

Video

Images

Read more: Local, State, Weather, Environment, Water Issue, Jellyfish, Thousands of Jellyfish Wash Ashore, Portugues Man O War, Catherine Penz, Pat Rakowski, Winter Texans, Tony Reisinger, Biologist, South Padre Island, Cameron County, Rio Grande Valley, Texas

save

send

print

Catherine Penz and her husband Pat Rakowski are Winter Texans from Canada.

They love visiting South Padre Island because they enjoy the fishing but they spotted something strange while reeling in their catch near Beach Access Six on Monday.

"I dont know why, but everywhere on the beach here there were quite a few of them, Rakowski said. "I was kind of surprised."

Rakowski said he and his wife have been coming to South Padre Island for five years and have never seen so many.

Viewer Louis Balderas sent a picture of what happened to the Action 4 News Facebook Fan Page.

It shows what seem to be hundreds of Portuguese Man-O-War jellyfish - on the shores of the north end of South Padre Island.

The photo has been circulating among Rio Grande Valley residents on Facebook and Twitter.

Tony Reisinger is a coastal resources agent with the State of Texas.

He told Action 4 News that the concentration of man-o-war jellyfish was in an isolated area several miles north of Beach Access Six

Reisinger said that the jellyfish likely washed ashore after preying on fish in the area.

"They go where there's food and they depend on the wind and we usually have what we call blooms in different areas and right now there's a lot of fish that are spawning," he said.

Reisinger warns people not to touch the man-o-war because even out of the water, certain parts of the jellyfish are poisonous and could sting..

"If you touch the tentacles, they will stick little tiny harpoons into your body with a toxin on them so that it will affect you," he said.

Anyone who gets stung is asked to remove any part still stuck to their skin and try soothing the sting with meat tenderizer.

Reisinger said although it may not have been a typical site, there's nothing unusual about the amount of jellyfish that washed up to shore.

He said there's nothing to do at this point, but let mother nature take its course.

City of South Padre Island officials told Action 4 News that the jellyfish are not on city beaches and that they are safe to visit.

City of South Padre Island Statement:

The City of South Padre Island beaches are clear from the presence of jellyfish and are safe to visit. The concentration of jellyfish that was reported was in an isolated area several miles north of County Beach Access #6.

An extensive patrol was conducted by city staff and a minor presence of jellyfish was visible along City beaches.

"City beaches are currently not being impacted by the influx of jellyfish that washed up yesterday at the county beaches to the north," said Coastal Resources Manager, Reuben Treviño.

As a precaution, City staff recommends being careful while visiting the beach and enjoying the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

If encountering a jellyfish, please avoid contact. For more information please contact Coastal Resources Manager, Reuben Treviño at (956) 761-3035 or at

terms of protection.”

The larger lesson, for Walther, is that there can be incredible power not just in creating general models of species behavior, but in understanding the ways that individual behavior deviates from that model.

“You want to understand the mean, but also the variation around the mean. I think that has been my guiding principle as a scientist, to characterize the variation.”

Posted in: [Main Page](#) , [Research](#)

© College of Natural Sciences, The University of Texas at Austin

Subscribe to the Enterprise
Customer Care Center
Advertise with us
Our partner sites

Weather Traffic e-Edition Register Sign In
Tuesday, March 26, 2013
54°F Beaumont, TX
Clear

Search beaumont enterprise Web Search by YAHOO! Businesses

News Entertain cat5 Sports Biz Obits Opinion Photo Video Blogs eEdition Autos Shopping Jobs Homes Index

Maritime training vessel gives glimpse of a seafarer's life

By Sarah Moore
Published 8:48 am, Tuesday, July 10, 2012

VIEW: LARGER | HIDE

1 of 21 < PREV NEXT >



Captain Jack Smith left, gives a tour of the Bridge to Tammy Kotzur, middle, and Jeanette Sanders, right, explaining how they communicate with the engine room. The Texas Maritime Academy of Texas A&M Galveston was at the Port of Port Arthur giving free tours of its new training vessel, the TS General Rudder Monday July 9, 2012. The purpose of the visit is educational, providing information about the Maritime Academy to the general public and students who might be interested in exploring the many career options. Dave Ryan/The Enterprise



1 4 0
Tweet Like Share
Comments (0) Email This
Larger | Smaller Font
Printable Version

ENTERTAINMENT

Students participating in Camp Sea Port will learn many fascinating things about a maritime career.

During a tour today of the General Rudder, a training ship for Texas A&M University's Texas Maritime Academy, students will see the inner workings of a seagoing ship. That includes the bridge, at the top of the vessel, where pilots navigate and the engine room, where engineers control speed and tend to the roaring machinery that propels it forward.

They will see the cramped living, cooking and eating quarters and visit a decidedly low-tech ship lounge equipped with two stationary bicycles, television and small library of VCR movies.

Life at sea is clearly not for everyone, but the fact Texas



BURKES Outlet savings 70% off
Now Open Near You!
Post Oak Square Shopping Center
Click Here

PHOTO GALLERIES



Beaumont's Most Wanted



School children's artwork featured at SETX State Fair



SETX State Fair Quilting competition

Were you Seen?



FROM OUR HOMEPAGE



Shedding 500 pounds



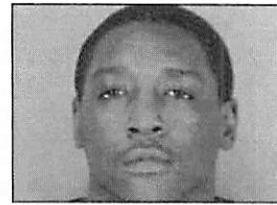
Our cameras were at Southeast Texas State Fair on Thursday. Did we see you there?

JDEnriquez@beaumontenterprise.com Twitter.com/josedenriquez3

Marine Academy graduates can command entry-level salaries of \$80,000 per year or more, according to information provided by Texas A&M University, might command their attention.

"People who go through the program get very good jobs," said Capt. Jack Smith of the General Rudder, during a tour of the vessel Monday.

Read this story in Tuesday's Beaumont Enterprise.

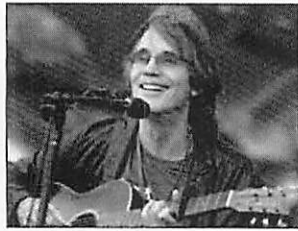


Beaumont's Most Wanted



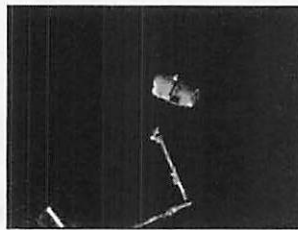
1920s to today

CELEBRITIES



Usher, Fogerty sign on for Rock Hall ceremony

TEXAS



SpaceX Dragon cargo ship splashes into Pacific

WGU TEXAS.
College of Business

LEARN MORE

Flyerboard



Dentures
Replacement Full
DENTURES \$395
EXTRACTIONS \$49
FREE
Dentures & 11111 Flyer

CARSON & BRANES
CROCKERY
The Table Dressing...
The Table Dressing...
The Table Dressing...
The Table Dressing...

ZUMBA
Shen Richard

Printable Version Email This Like Tweet 1 0 Share

From Around the Web

- First Look at the Amazing Cabins in This New Cruise Ship (*Vacation Cruises Info*)
- 7 Biggest Cruise Myths (*AARP.org*)
- Kristen Stewart's Astounding Black Lace Jumpsuit Turns Heads... (*StyleBistro*)
- The Top 100 Cruise Ships in the World (*Condé Nast Traveler*)
- Tiger Woods and Elin Nordegren Attend Daughter Sam's Soccer... (*E! Online*)
- Steve Jobs's Yacht (*Men's Journal*)

We Recommend

- Groves children scramble to find eggs at Easter celebration
- Old Kountze bank will tell the history of Hardin County
- Al Caldwell sprints past 50 years on air
- 'Judas pig' being used to eradicate feral hogs
- LETTERS: BISD board must get along; church shouldn't stop...
- BISD vote as complex as seat fight

[Sponsored links]

Add Your Comment

New to the site?

To use commenting, you need to sign up.

Register

Already a member?

Please log in.

(Forgot Password?)

Email

Password

Input fields for email and password.

Local advertising by PaperG

Subscribe to the Houston Chronicle | Shop | Classifieds | Obits | Notices | Place an Ad | La Voz

Like

27k

Register | Sign In

Tuesday March 26, 2013

58°F Clear | Houston Weather

Search

Chron.com Web Search by Yahoo! Local Directory

Home

Local

US & World

Sports

Business

Entertainment

Lifestyle

Jobs

Cars

Real Estate

News > Houston & Texas

Report finds Texas lags in preparing for climate change

By Matthew Tresaugue | April 5, 2012 | Updated: April 5, 2012 9:58pm

Comments 15

E-mail

Print

Recommend 55

Tweet 9

0

Texas lags behind most states in planning for the unavoidable impacts of climate change on its landscape and economy, according to a national report released Thursday.

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which prepared the report, said Texas must work not just to curb emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases, but to prepare for rising sea levels and declining water supplies.

The environmental group lumped Texas with 11 other states that have no strategy for responding to the effects of climate change, particularly those related to water. Texas' ongoing drought clearly shows its vulnerability to higher temperatures and changes in rainfall, said Steve Fleischli, director of the NRDC's water and climate program.

"This is a call to action, not a call for alarm," Fleischli said.

"Past is not prologue"

The report noted that Texas has some policies, including increasing water conservation, that could be beneficial in adapting to a warming planet. Yet, Texas officials missed a key opportunity by not giving "explicit consideration" to the impacts of climate change in the 2012 version of the state's long-range water-supply plan by calling it an "ambiguous risk," Fleischli said

Texas officials also unwisely use the 1950s drought as the marker for the worst-case dry spell in state history - even while acknowledging the possibility of warmer and drier conditions because of climate change, he said.

State water planners "need to understand that the past is not prologue," Fleischli said.

The Texas Water Development Board said it used the 1950s drought as a benchmark because there was not enough information available to determine the impacts of climate change over the next 50 years.

The plan is updated every five years, allowing the state to adjust "when sufficient information is available to warrant change," said Carolyn Brittin, deputy executive administrator of water resources planning and information at TWDB.

The \$53 billion plan calls for more reservoirs, desalination plants and pipelines, among other projects, to avoid grave water shortages over the next half-century.

The NRDC said the state instead should prioritize more aggressive water conservation and reuse strategies to meet long-range needs.

At the same time, Texas should do more to plan for rising sea levels caused by climate change, the group said. The risk includes increasingly frequent flooding and greater coastal erosion.

"Texans deserve more"

While the Texas Sea Grant program has helped the Galveston Bay area prepare for the ocean's rise, the state does not have a comprehensive strategy, the report said.

REGISTRATION CLOSING SOON FOR
THE BIGGEST GLOBAL
GAS EVENT IN 2013
16-19 APRIL * HOUSTON, TEXAS
www.LNG17.org

Making Most of Employee's Time



Sponsored Content
Competitively priced
employee management
software helps companies
save time and money

2013 Shell Eco-marathon Americas



Sponsored Content
Start your engines:
Everything you need to
know about Shell
Eco-marathon Americas
2013

Featured Galleries



News
Destiny's Child: Best and
worst matching outfits



Cars
You can fix these car
repairs yourself



News
Headlines for tonight's
World Cup qualifier



News
How to apply Jamberry
Nails.



Jobs
What successful people
were doing at 25

"Texans deserve more and should demand that their state government address climate change risks like many other states are doing," Fleischli said.

The environmental group ranked California, Maryland and New York among the nine most prepared states.

In addition to Texas, the least prepared states included Alabama, Iowa, Missouri and Ohio.

matthew.tresaugue@chron.com

Contribute to this story: Send us a tip | Suggest a Correction

Comments 15 | E-mail | Print | Recommend 55 | Tweet 9 | 0



Matthew Tresaugue | Environment reporter
Email Me



From Around the Web

Beyonce's Beach Mansion - How Does It Compare to Others? (Lonny Magazine)

5 Dog Breeds That Are Sadly Losing Popularity (Vetstreet)

Your Parents & Their Long-Term Care: 8 Do's and Don'ts for... (Women&Co.)

Tubby Smith fired by Minnesota (Sports Illustrated)

Jack Nicholson Rejects Nina Dobrev, Says No to Picture at Lakers Game (E! Online)

Bullied teen says school forced access to her Facebook page (The Daily Dot)

[what's this?]

We Recommend

Selena Gomez wanted to get graphic in threesome scene

Pemis theft reported on the rise in Africa

Exclusive analysis: If Texas Latinos had same turnout rate as...

Chevron strikes oil more than 6 miles below sea level

Gerard Butler admits sleeping with 'Real Housewife' Brandi Glanville

Life is lonely in Eagle Ford "trailerhood"



Homes
201 Shasta Drive

Home Care, Maintenance & Protection



Sponsored Content
Your home's electrical system: What's your responsibility?

Guide to Social Security Disability



Sponsored Content
Social Security and the GDP

More Local News



News
SpaceX Dragon cargo ship splashes into Pacific



News
1 arrested, 1 on run after woman's death

News
Repeat copper thefts prompt all-night vigil at historic black Houston church

News
Camp manager charged with sex assault

News
High-speed chase ends on a house's front porch

Latest Videos



Subscribe to the Houston Chronicle and receive access to the Chronicle for iPad App

Add Your Comment

New to the site?

Already a member?

To use commenting, you need to sign up.

Please log in.

Forgot Password?

Sign up

Email

Password

Remember Me

Log in

Most Popular Comments



CheeryEyed 9:02 PM on April 5, 2012
The climate changes twice a year. We've been prepared for this change for a long time.

What the climate zombies never tell you is that the climate change they're talking about is negligible compared to the change that happens between January and August.

REPLY

(9)

(5)

POPULARITY: 4

[Report Abuse]

"Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."
- A well-known Native American quote

Berkley Conservation Institute, a conservation organization founded by the Berkley company, one of the largest manufacturers of monofilament fishing lines, began a recycling program to eliminate this hazard from the marine and aquatic



With volunteer assistance, Berkley has jointly installed and collected from 17,000 monofilament canisters, recycling over 9 million miles of fishing line. By introducing monofilament line recycling canisters at heavily fished areas, first in the Galveston area, then hopefully along the Texas Gulf Coast, it is hoped that discarded fishing line can be cleaned from area waters and eventually eliminated as a hazard in the marine environment.

The Monofilament Recovery and Recycling program, a statewide organization founded by a group of 7th and 8th grade students, is part of the Texas Sea Grant Program and is working to identify strategic locations at which to install these 6" x 3' PVC monofilament recycling canisters in the area. Surfrider, a group of environmentally conscious surfers, has offered to help collect monofilament from the bins as well as participate in an initial mass cleanup effort, while a local fishing group has offered to help purchase materials for the bins and build them, as well as identify locations for the bins. The Park Board has offered to install and help maintain the canisters.

How to Get Involved

While initial efforts are underway, assistance is always appreciated, either through buying or donating the materials for the recycling bins or assisting in the bin fabrication. An initial cleanup has been proposed and could be in the works soon. For additional information, please contact Jessica Digiulio at jessicadigiulio@tamu.edu, John P. OConnell at j-oconnell@tamu.edu, or the Sea Grant Program at 979.845.3854. More information can also be

swallowed baited hooks or became wrapped in line on overhead power lines. Unable to escape and exhausted from their struggle, the birds died hanging from the ends of their snares.

Making a Difference

A recent study conducted at Texas A&M Galveston attempted to determine the amount of monofilament along approximately 800 feet of the East Lagoon waterfront area. Within a month of collections, over 10 pounds of monofilament line was recovered from the rocks and shorelines of East Lagoon and the adjacent jetty boulders. This amounts to over 76 thousand feet-or 14.4 miles of line. The quantities around Galveston Bay must be staggering.

While monofilament fishing line waste is a serious local concern, TAMUG's efforts have also been directed at finding a way to offset

found at the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program at <http://mrrp.tamu.edu/>.

If you happen to come across an entangled animal, please call the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network at 1-800-9MAMMAL or the Sea Turtle Stranding Network at 1-866-TURTLES.

The Texas General Land Office initiated the Texas Coastal Cleanup and Adopt a Beach Programs in 1986, picking up 46.6 tons in Galveston County last year alone. Beach cleanups are held twice a year and are great opportunities to help all marine and human life in the Galveston Bay area. The next one is on April 28.

Let's all help do our part to leave a better place for our children. Helping remove monofilament and trash from our marine environment is an outstanding place to start.

Coastal Services Center

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Search



[Home](#) [About](#) [Data](#) [Tools](#) [Training](#) [How-To Guides](#) [Publications](#) [Partnerships](#) [Technical Assistance](#)

[Center Home > Publications >](#)

Coastal Services, May/June 2012

NEW TOOLS ARE ENHANCING THE PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN TEXAS

"It's just like using a pen and paper to engage the full power of GIS."

Steven Mikulencak, Texas
Coastal Watershed Program

The Houston-Galveston region of coastal Texas could grow by well over 3 million people in the next 25 years. Coastal resource managers in the state are harnessing new technology to enable residents and local officials to easily see the impacts of different development and climate scenarios.

"Simply, this is putting tools of sustainability into the hands of citizens," says John Jacob, professor and extension specialist with Texas Sea Grant and Texas AgrLife Extension Service, and director of the Texas Coastal Watershed Program. "These tools help facilitate participatory democracy and enable nonexpert citizens to engage complex data sets in new and meaningful ways."

One of the tools developed by the Texas Coastal Watershed Program is the Coastal CHARM (Community Health and Resource Management) model, which is built on CommunityViz, a modeling software plugin for ArcGIS software. The model allows users to quickly test a variety of possible futures.

The second tool is the "weTable," which uses Wii gaming technology to transform an ordinary tabletop into an interactive computer interface. This affordable participation tool allows teams to collaboratively explore and use computer-based data and programs, such as CHARM, in a workshop setting.

The Texas Coastal Watershed Program piloted the weTable and Coastal CHARM tools at a workshop funded by the Sea Grant Coastal Community Climate Adaptation Initiative.

"These tools have the ability to shift public meetings and workshops from contested narratives about the science of coastal change to a self-evaluation of how prepared communities are," says Steven Mikulencak, program coordinator for the Texas Coastal Watershed Program.

Pulling Back the Curtain

While most planners have access to GIS and robust data that are used to model future development scenarios, it's often challenging to present that information in meaningful ways during public meetings, Mikulencak says.

"It's usually only the expert planners that look at the intersection of multiple parameters and can see what the implications are for a development in terms of flooding and storm surge, for example," he says.

The weTable and CHARM tools "really open up a community conversation," Jacob says. "It's pulling back the curtain on planning and allowing people to see all the ramifications. It takes away the implied message to 'trust us, it's too complex for you.'"

Changing Scenarios

While coastal resource managers and planners have been working with GIS a long time, new tools in CommunityViz are making it easier to "play with scenarios," Jacob says. "You can really look at what happens when you put a type of development in a certain location and what that will do to runoff or water consumption or storm surge damage, etc. You can play with the assumptions and factors and make changes on the fly."

He adds, "We were aware of the CommunityViz software potential and wanted to do something with the projected population growth scenario related to climate change."

Wide Spectrum

The new Coastal CHARM model is built to display a wide spectrum of coastal natural resource and demographic data in a user-friendly framework.

Using previously developed data sets associated with the Texas Coastal Community Planning Atlas, the CommunityViz interface instantly calculates impacts of various development and climate-change scenarios on community resilience and natural resources.

"People could stand around a computer and look at a screen and try to do that, but the weTable makes that process interactive," Mikulencak says.

Table Talk

The weTable configuration works by projecting a computer screen onto a table surface. Participants interact with the computer data on the table using a "light pen," much like using a computer mouse, Mikulencak says.

The pen tip's location on the table is detected by a Nintendo Wii remote that then sends a signal to a connecting laptop using a Bluetooth connection. This allows the

participants at the table to control the computer, open files, move windows, and run programs. Participants can hand over control of the tabletop interface to other participants as easily as handing over a marker.

"What makes this different," Mikulencak says, "is it basically makes the technology so transparent people don't even know it's there. Citizens don't have to be technophiles or have a lot of knowledge. It's just like using a pen and paper to engage the full power of GIS."

Test Drive

To pilot the weTable-CHARM model, a daylong resilience workshop was held.

"We spent a full day prepping the workshop and testing all the equipment to make sure the setup was just right," Mikulencak says.

The result was five tables of five to seven people each, plus facilitators, that were easily able to engage with the data to try out different planning scenarios.

In addition to each group being able to create a scenario, the CHARM model also enabled the comparison of all five scenarios, along with prepared scenarios showing "business as usual" and compact urban development. "That really enriches the conversation," Mikulencak says.

Off the Shelf

To set up a weTable, coastal managers use equipment that they probably already have—a laptop computer and projector, Mikulencak says. The rest of the equipment totals less than \$200.

By researching different types of equipment and testing them before putting them to public use "we've done a lot of the heavy lifting for other managers, Mikulencak says.

Other Sea Grant programs around the country are already developing their own CHARM models to use with weTables.

"These are ideal tools," Jacob says, "for use in community projects where participants use data and maps to help define planning priorities and strategies."

He adds, "This is really a key part of participatory democracy, in which we're putting decision-making tools into people's hands. That's why it's so powerful."



For more information on the weTable or Coastal CHARM model, contact John Jacob at (281) 218-0565 or jjacob@tamu.edu, or Steven Mikulencak at smikulencak@tamu.edu. You can also point your browser to www.urban-nature.org, where you will find a weTable technical "how-to" factsheet.

-
- [View Issue Contents](#) • [Go to Next Article](#) •
 - [Subscribe to Magazine](#) • [View Other Issues](#) •

NOAA Coastal Services Center
2234 South Hobson Avenue
Charleston, SC 29405-2413
843-740-1200 (phone) • 843-740-1224 (fax)

[Directions to the NOAA Coastal Services Center](#)

[United States Department of Commerce](#)
[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)
[National Ocean Service](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)
[Contact the NOAA Coastal Services Center](#)



*The
Online
University
for
Texas*

LEARN MORE →



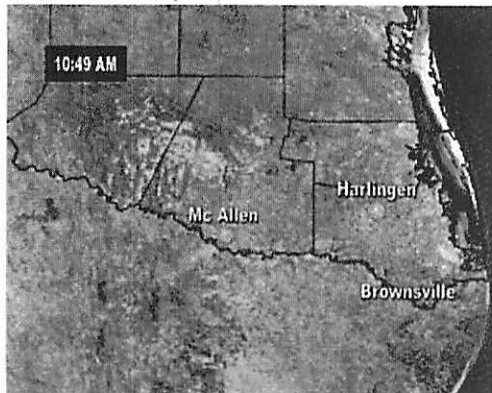
WGU TEXAS.

Thursday, June 14, 2012 - 09:45

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND — Despite 100 dolphins being found dead along the Texas coast during November 2011 to March of this year researchers say there isn't a dolphin problem, but believe that red tide may have been the cause of those dolphins deaths. On South Padre Island, experts say two dolphins died this year and one of those from a shark attack. Tony Reisinger from the Texas Sea Grant stated, "We have got a good resident population in the lower Laguna Madre and people go and take advantage of that by looking at them. Participating in dolphin watches we have offshore populations and they seem to be healthy too from everything I have seen."

Comments News Comments

Weather in the Valley



More Weather | Radar |
ADVERTISEMENT



Science At Work For Texans

Google Search The Web

Who We Are

What We Do

Our Programs

News and Events

In the News - Houston Chronicle, June 10, 2012

Studies show garden sanctuaries promote healing

By Chris LeChance

Click on the image below to download the pdf.

R16 | Houston Chronicle | Homes | Advertising Supplement | Sun-ly, June 10, 2012

For more information, go to chron.com/homes or text HHomes to 97778

IN THE GARDEN WITH URBAN HARVEST

Studies show garden sanctuaries promote healing

By Chris LaChance
HOMES CORRESPONDENT

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night and spring after winter." — Rachel Carson, author "Silent Spring."

You had a rough day at work, your child seems unusually anxious, or perhaps you are recovering from a serious illness. What might the prescription look like if you visited a health professional? I rather doubt it would read, "Take a stroll down a garden path" or "Sit on a bench and watch butterflies sip nectar." Yet, that is exactly

what might help cure or at least lessen what ails you, according to recent studies that affirm the role of our connection to nature in the healing, restorative process.

As far back as the Middle Ages, European monasteries set aside cloistered areas to grow herbs used in healing remedies, and where patients might surround themselves with living, growing things during their journey back to health. Fast forward to 1984 when Dr. Roger Ulrich, professor and director of the Center for Health Systems and Design at Texas A&M University, found surgical patients with views of nature had shorter hospital stays, took less pain medication and had a more positive sense of well-being upon discharge.

Dr. Evangeline Lausier, staff

physician in internal medicine at Duke Integrative Medicine in Durham, N.C., said, "Today we know being surrounded by nature plays a significant role in patient outcome. Research shows that incorporating greenery, flowers and water into the [healing] environment ... encourages stress reduction, elevates positive feelings and reduces negative emotions."

Your own garden sanctuary can be as simple as container plants on a balcony or as elaborate as a backyard with meandering garden pathways. Whatever you decide to create, there are certain elements to include as you design your "healing" space. Key to the overall scheme is making sure interaction between people and plants can take place.

Provide a quiet place to sit and contemplate, taking care the chair or bench is comfortable and is shady during the summer (or you won't sit there very long) and warm and sunny during cooler months. The sitting area might be at the end of a path, giving you a destination for your walk.

Engaging all the senses in your garden oasis can begin with the addition of colorful plants that add focal points and create mood. Colors such as red, orange and yellow are stimulating and energetic, while cool colors such as blue, purple and white are soothing and peaceful. Plants that give off fragrance when brushed against or rubbed may include herbs such as rosemary, lemon balm, basil and a variety of mints. Plants such as Night Blooming Jasmine, Cestrum nocturnum, can emit heady, exotic scents when enjoying a moonlit retreat to the garden.

Plants that beg to be touched



A monarch butterfly rests on mist flower in a garden oasis.

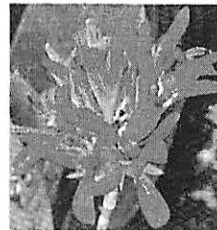
can include those with fuzzy or succulent leaves, trees with smooth or rough bark, and those with interesting seed pods. Edible plants added to the garden oasis stimulate the sense of taste. Culinary herbs, blueberries and grapevines to cover an arbor are a few examples.

Incorporating sound brings a different dimension whether it is the gentle flapping of dove wings or the melody of a bubbling fountain. The slightest breeze rustles grasses such as Inland Sea oats, Chasmanthium latifolium, with its arching stalks and dangling seed heads.

Your garden sanctuary, that space to escape to find respite and restore mind, body and spirit, might offer those life-affirming experiences you seek.

Chris LaChance is WaterSmart coordinator for Texas AgriLife Extension and Texas Sea Grant, part of the Texas A&M University System. Wa-

terSmart is funded by a grant from Houston Endowment Inc. Contact LaChance at c.la@tamu.edu. This column is sponsored by Urban Harvest. To find out more about community gardens, school gardens, farmers markets and gardening classes, visit www.urbanharvest.org.



Colorful plants add focal points and create mood.



Making sure interaction between people and plants can take place is key to any garden sanctuary.

Privacy Policy | Webmaster | © 2012 Texas Sea Grant College Program
This page was last updated September 2012



BREAKING NEWS • BREAKING STORIES • RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TX



RADAR
12 HR
7 DAY

Enter Search/Keyword ...

- News
- Weather
- Sports
- Programming
- Community
- Connect With Us



5 NEWS abc
BREAKING NEWS BREAKING STORIES

CLICK HERE TO SEE
LIVE STREAMING NEWS

Home » News » View News

Latest News

New Gear Helping Shrimpers Save Money

Like **11**

Tweet **4**

0

2

Posted: Jun 25, 2012 5:23 PM
Updated: Jun 25, 2012 6:09 PM

BROWNSVILLE - A breakthrough could save Rio Grande Valley shrimpers cash at the pump.

Tony Reisinger with the Agrilife Marine County Extension says shrimping is a \$50 million industry in the Lower Valley. The cost of fuel is a major factor in determining if shrimp boat owners can survive.

"One of the biggest challenges for shrimpers is to save money and produce their shrimp for a price that can compete with foreign imports," explained Reisinger.

He's helping shrimp boat owners get better gas mileage at the gas pump. Last year, more than 80 percent of shrimpers started using a metal door, instead of a traditional wooden door, to shrimp. It's estimated to have saved shrimpers nearly eight million dollars in fuel costs.

Reisinger also convinced shrimpers to start using super fiber nets compared to the nylon nets when fishing. He explained the super fiber nets had less drag.

"We have one fleet owner who has saved 39 percent by adopting this new gear," the researcher told us.

It's believed the gas savings meant more than 200 jobs were saved at the shrimp basin. With the start of Texas shrimping season a few weeks away, Reisinger believes saving money means saving jobs.

Do you have
THE EMPLOYEES YOU NEED
 for 2013?



POST A JOB

caller.com | monster

Login | Manage Account | Mobile | Site Map | Subscribe | e-Edition | Contact Us | Breaking News

site

GO

Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

News Sports Business Opinion Entertainment Lifestyles Media Jobs Homes Cars Classified

Today's Photos Photo Archive Photo Galleries Photo Galleries by Topic Videos Your Photos Upload!

COST OF DIABETES



Stories • Resources • Healthy Recipes • Videos • Share your story

Corpus Christi Photos

SEE LARGER



PHOTO BY RACHEL DENNY CLOW, CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER-TIMES

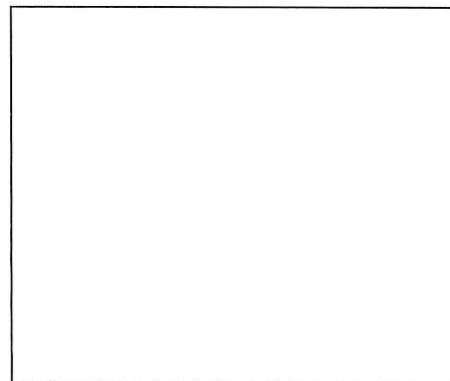
Erica Salazar, an educator from Kingsville, examines a variety of fish collected from Corpus Christi Bay on Wednesday during a trip aboard the Karma, which is a Texas Floating Classroom Program through Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. It was one of several field trips area teachers took during the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries summer teacher program, Learning on the Edge.

Buy this photo

Photo Rating:

Recommend Send

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.



Videos

Recent



Hit-and-run family finds support



Crime Stoppers 2013 #12



Raw Video: Fire at Weber Creek Storage



Students get amped up for the STAAR exam



Robstown Historical Museum



Top 5 features "Bark for Life"

All Videos »



July 10, 2012

Maritime Academy's ship comes in (<http://panews.com/local/x2004686222/Maritime-Academys-ship-comes-in>)

Brooke Crum
The Port Arthur News (<http://panews.com>)

PORT ARTHUR — For Tabitha Wood, her journey on the General Rudder began in Alaska, not Galveston.

The 30-year-old Texas Maritime Academy student boarded the Rudder in Galveston with her fellow shipmates, but her voyage began long before July 5. Wood fell in love with the sea on a summer trip to Alaska when she was supposedly running from responsibility with a sorority sister. She had been in nursing school, but it didn't quite capture her attention the way being aboard a ship did.

"It's a different world out there," she said.

Wood got a job on a boat that took tourists to see glaciers and otters and other Alaskan treasures while she was there. After that, she just hasn't been the same.

"I'm a fish out of water on land," Wood said.

As the Corps Executive Officer of the Rudder, Wood prepares paperwork, plans out the day and performs inspections regularly. She had just completed room inspections before arriving in Port Arthur. She said they were cleaner than she expected.

Out of the 50 cadets, Wood is one of four women. She was selected for Corps Executive Officer because she had the second highest GPA out of the cadets. Corps Commander Carey Harriot had the highest.

As Corps Commander, Harriot is in charge of the cadets. But he did not anticipate this responsibility. He was chosen as Corps Commander because of his high GPA and was informed of this opportunity after he arrived on board the General Rudder.

When the cadets line up for formation every morning and every evening, Harriot is there to ensure accuracy and efficiency. He also plans the cadets' days and prepares paperwork with the help of Wood.



Jake Moore, 12, and Caitlin Moore, 10, look at different knots you would learn for Workboat Academy during a tour of the General Rudder ship at the Port of Port Arthur. The Workboat Mate Program at Texas A&M Galveston helps individuals have the training, support, knowledge and skills to attain a Mate's license. Students from the program gave tours in Port Arthur on Monday. Morgan Jones



July 12, 2012

Search

Camp SeaPort, 'a vast' learning experience for youth (<http://panews.com/local/x1146343431/Camp-SeaPort-a-vast-learning-experience-for-youth>)



Coast Guardsmen joke with campers about the dangers of not following protocol in front of a 25-foot RB-S (Response Boat - Short Class) at the U.S. Coast Guard small boat facility on Pleasure Island. TJ Wills

TJ Wills**The Port Arthur News (<http://panews.com>)**

— The Coast Guard calls their familiar small orange-rimmed interceptor boat the RB-S, but to the 18 kids in The Port of Port Arthur's Camp SeaPort who got to go for a spin in it at the U.S. Coast Guard station on Pleasure Island on Wednesday, it's the speedboat.

The week-long camp exposes area youth to maritime career opportunities, from seafaring to marine surveying to an expansive variety of Coast Guard careers. Field trips take them to the Port of Port Arthur's dock and terminals, a tour of Texas A&M's Training Ship General Rudder and out on a Waterborne Education Exercise to Trinity Bay.

Wednesday campers were taking in the Coast Guard's Small Boat Facility on Pleasure Island. They heard from officers and enlisted men about the wide variety of jobs available in that service and what one has to do to get into them.

Cameron Dorsey, a rising 9th-grader at Memorial High School, said his favorite part of camp so far was driving the speedboat through a "man overboard" drill. He explained the procedure, which involves sounding an alarm, throttling down and turning around.

Camp has made him look at the Coast Guard as a possible career, he said. He had been thinking he would like to be a doctor, possibly in a branch of the military.

"In the Coast Guard, I'd be saving lives," he said. "And that's why I wanted to be a doctor."

Terrie Looney is a coastal and marine resource agent for Texas Sea Grant who's been working with the campers this week. Today she'll take them out for the day on the Floating Classroom aboard the educational vessel Moss Bluff, a 45-foot retired Coast Guard buoy tender, out of Annahuac. They'll travel the Trinity River and bay, do environmental research, seine for shrimp, test water and learn about the area's history.

"They'll never look at a shrimp the same way again," she said smiling.

"I like to take kids who know nothing (about maritime life) and show them their own community,"

Looney said. "Most of these kids probably won't end up in maritime careers, but they will be voters and consumers, and what they learn here will inform both."

Most of the campers were interested in what they were learning but not necessarily sold on the career aspect. But some were.

Justin Rice, a rising 12th-grader at Nederland High School, said he grew up on the water and wants to build his life around it. He said he's learned a lot at the camp and it's re-enforces his goal to get into the Coast Guard Academy. His mother, Jackie Grayless, is a partnership in education coordinator for the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Unit on Turtle Creek Drive in Port Arthur.

Booker Daniels, who just graduated from Central High School in Beaumont, shares a love of the water. He's a lifeguard at Sterling Pruitt Activity Center in Beaumont. He said the camp has made him think the Coast Guard is the way to go. He's been accepted at Texas Southern University and plans to study maritime transportation. All he's deciding now is whether to enter the service as an officer or start as an enlisted man.

Today will be a full day on the water. Tomorrow they learn about GPS orientation, etiquette and professionalism, make a trip to the International Seafarers Center in Port Arthur, and have a graduation ceremony.

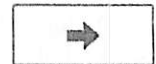
They will leave knowing a lot more about an industry and a life that permeates Port Arthur and gives it its name.



#1 Coast Guard Educator

www.AMU.APUS.edu/CoastGuard

#1 Education Provider to the USCG. Over 2,000 Coasties Enrolled.



AdChoices

PAnews.com, Port Arthur, Texas 3501 Turtle Creek Drive Port Arthur, TX 77642

tamuTimes

All Texas A&M news. All the time.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

News Search

- Home
- Faculty/Staff
- Campus Voices
- News Outlets
 - News Sources
 - A&M Newswire
 - A&M In the News
 - Campus News
 - Faculty Focus
 - Research News
- Contact Us
 - Contact Information
 - Feeds
 - Media Relations
 - Subscribe

July 24, 2012

Prof's Work With Coastal Planning Helps Conserve Resources, Educate Communities

The population of Texas is projected to double in the next 30 to 40 years, and at least a quarter of the new arrivals are expected to move to coastal cities. With these kinds of development pressures, coastal communities need to make plans now that will also incorporate the need to protect natural resources and quality of life, says Dr. John Jacob, Professor and Coastal Community Development Specialist with the **Texas Sea Grant College Program**.

"It's about coastal planning, about smart growth," Jacob said. "The dilemma is balancing the place we are now with where we're going in the future. If we grow the right way on the coast, we could be bigger and have a better quality of life to boot. Without smart growth, we could lose our environment."



John Jacob's Texas Coastal Wetlands Program crew partnered with TPWD and other groups to restore 25 acres of freshwater wetlands.

His impressive body of work integrating conservation and sustainable community development earned him the prestigious 2012 Terry Hershey Award for Excellence from the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences (RPTS) at **Texas A&M University**.

Named in honor of Houston's grande dame of conservation, the Hershey Award recognizes excellence in park, recreation or natural resources contributions to Texas, the region and/or the nation, as well as support for education and innovations as a leader in natural resource protection.

Jacob was chosen for his considerable work and achievements that "have helped to make people aware of bayou conservation, community development patterns and the value of open spaces," said Dr. Scott Shafer, RPTS Associate Department Head.

Jacob directs the **Texas Coastal Watershed Program (TCWP)**, leading efforts to educate communities and individuals about how their use of the land can influence water quality from their front door all the way to the coast. "Everyone lives in a watershed, which is simply where water drains from wherever you are into a river, lake, bayou or bay. Whatever you do where you live impacts those waterways."

Since 2000, Jacob and his group, which is headquartered in Houston, have been working on coastal community development using everything from cutting-edge technology to being "in the weeds" doing wetlands restoration work.

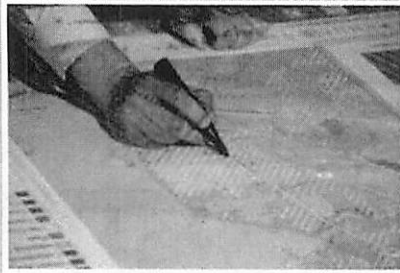
Two of their high-tech tools are the weTable and the Community Health And Resource Management (CHARM) software model. Jacob and his team recently received a \$100,000 federal grant to use these tools to help Rockport area leaders and citizens make far-reaching

A&M newswire

- Aggie Softball Hosts Texas State In Single Game
- AgriLife Extension's Lower Rolling Plains Agricultural Conference Set For April 3 In Snyder
- AgriLife Research Expert: Time To Scout Fields, Gardens For Psyllids
- Auction To Benefit Texas 4-H Summer Camps On April 27 In Early
- Bryan-College Station Community To Host The Texas 4-H Roundup In June
- Campus Voices: Ashley McNew

[More...](#)

decisions about the area's growth over the next quarter century.



A workshop participant uses a light pen on the innovative weTable.

The weTable combines a laptop computer, a projector, a light pen and a Nintendo Wii remote to transform an ordinary tabletop into an interactive computer interface. Participants use the light pen like a computer mouse on the projected image of the computer's desktop, which is shown on the tabletop. The Wii remote detects the pen's position on the table and sends the location to the laptop via Bluetooth connection so people can turn complex data into a color palette that allows them to paint different versions of future development, and the resulting picture

tells them the consequences of their decisions in terms of things like potential runoff pollution, flooding and flood damage, water consumption and even walkability. Participants exchange control of the weTable by simply handing off the light pen, allowing them to interact with data, maps and each other instead of trying to crowd around a computer monitor or passively sit through someone else's presentation. It's the kind of work that only highly-trained specialist would have been able to complete in the past

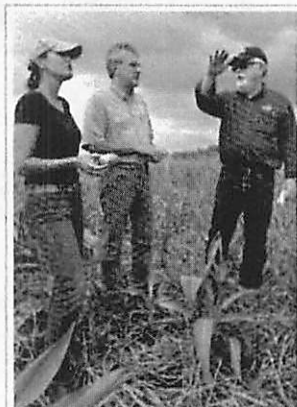
The CHARM model uses a variety of data — like demographics, average water consumption per dwelling type, and topographic and bathymetric measurements — from a number of sources, like NOAA, to calculate the end result of development based on parameters fed to it by workshop participants. These parameters can include locations for growth, anticipated numbers of new residents and predicted hurricane storm surges.

The TCWP also teaches sustainable landscaping techniques through workshops and brochures — "Landscapes that are both beautiful and non-polluting are our goal" — and the group is a partner in the Sheldon Lake State Park wetlands restoration, planting grasses to restore a critical freshwater wetland system. Under TCWP's guidance, the Clear Creek Independent School District is using newer technology to replicate nature with a constructed wetland, to demonstrate that nature can exist in the cities. "Smart growth includes walkable cities that will lead to resilient coastal cities," Jacob said.

TXSG is achieving these goals by also exploring new kinds of collaborations to leverage the resources of multiple entities. The creation of the state's first Coastal Community Development Specialist position was a partnership between TXSG and the **Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)** with funding from a NOAA grant. Heather Wade was hired to fill the position in mid-2011 and is headquartered at The University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas, the home of the NERR.

"Texas' population, particularly its coastal population, is growing and putting additional pressure on natural resources, but we're not getting any additional funding under the current economic situation to hire more county agents or specialists," said Logan Respass, TXSG's Associate Director and head of its Extension Program. "This partnership between Texas A&M and The University of Texas is a creative way to overcome this problem."

The Mission-Aransas NERR is one of the largest in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System of federally designated areas, which are designed to promote the sustainable use of the nation's coasts and oceans through scientific research, education and coastal stewardship. Wade's territory includes all or parts of Aransas, Refugio, Nueces, San Patricio and Calhoun counties, where she is working with small coastal communities with limited planning resources to support their efforts in sustainable development.



John Jacob meets with resource managers at Sheldon Lake State Park in Houston during a workshop he gave on wetland restoration.

#####

Media contact: Jim Hiney, Communications Coordinator, Texas Sea Grant, at (979) 862-3773

Share and Enjoy:



Tags: 12 Impacts for 2012, CHARM, coastal communities, coastal planning, John Jacob, NOAA, Texas Coastal Watershed Program, Texas Sea Grant, weTable

[Who We Are](#)[What We Do](#)[Our Programs](#)[News and Events](#)

Texas Sea Grant in the News

Burleson County Tribune, July 26, 2012

Poehl makes Ph.D program at Texas A&M

Caldwell resident and Texas Sea Grant assistant director Terry Poehl was recently accepted into the Ph.D. Program in the Texas A&M University Dept. of Ag Leadership and Development.

He was also named a recipient of a A&M staff scholarship for 2012-2013, funded by the Association of Former Students through the University Staff Council.

CELEBRITY SPA & SALON
 Instant giftcards available online at www.celebrityspa.net

Welcome to the site!
 Login or Signup below.

[Login](#) | [Signup](#)

Subscribe | Contact Us

51°
 Clear Advanced Search

[Aggie Sports](#) [Brazos Sports](#) [Gigem247](#) [Land & Livestock Post](#)

[ShopBrazos](#) [Jobs](#) [Autos](#) [Homes](#) [Place an Ad](#)

[Home](#) [News](#) [Blogs](#) [Sports](#) [Weather](#) [Multimedia](#) [Entertainment](#) [Obituaries](#) [Announcements](#) [Opinion](#) [Brazos Life](#) [Classifieds](#)

CLICK HERE TO ENTER YOUR PET INTO THE CUTEST PHOTO CONTEST FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$50 FROM LUCKY DOG DIY DOGWASH & GROOMING

[Home](#) [News](#) [Local News](#)

Local river may be the problem

Story [Comments](#)

Print [Font Size:](#)

2 0

Posted: Wednesday, August 8, 2012 12:00 am

0 comments

Texas A&M scientists with the Texas Sea Grant College Program recently discovered that the cause of hypoxic zones off the Texas Coast likely isn't caused by water pouring from the mouth of the Mississippi River into the Gulf of Mexico, as they'd previously believed.

Instead, they believe the real culprit is a local one: The Brazos River.

Hypoxic zones are areas of coastal waters where the oxygen level is too low to sustain many ocean species. Several have been identified for the past several years along the upper Texas coastline.

The oxygen-lacking areas are often referred to as "dead zones."

But Steven DiMarco, an A&M oceanographer who studies the zones in Texas waters, said labeling the areas "dead zones" is misleading.

"We tend not to use the term 'dead zone' anymore because it is a misnomer," he said. "'Dead zone' implies there is no life in it, and even though an area has low oxygen, it doesn't mean it is devoid of life."

DiMarco and Ruth Mullins-Perry, an A&M oceanography doctoral student, began taking a closer look at what caused hypoxic zones in the Texas Gulf about five years ago when National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration data revealed a large-scale hypoxia region about 70 miles southwest of Freeport.

Using Texas Sea Grant funds, the ocean researchers boarded a vessel and set out to examine the zone and sample the water.

What they discovered was that flooding from the Brazos River caused a high volume of freshwater to flow into the Gulf of Mexico, creating a layer on top of the existing saltwater that caused oxygen levels to fall.

"Just like oil and water, freshwater and saltwater have different densities so they don't mix," DiMarco said. "They remain in separate layers, and this stratification presents a barrier for getting oxygen from the atmosphere down to the lower layers of the ocean."

With the help of geologists, DiMarco and Mullins-Perry were able to confirm that the freshwater helping create the hypoxic zone came from the Brazos River through sample testing.

"The discovery changed the game and proved that, in some circumstances, you can have local Texas causes of the Texas hypoxia," DiMarco said.

DiMarco and Mullins-Perry will continue to work with other researchers to study the causes of hypoxia and how sea life and fisheries are affected by the low-level oxygen zones.

"If you like to fish or catch crabs, then you should care about hypoxic zones," she said. "They become a coastal

Submit Your News!

We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

[Submit news](#)

Twitter

Tweets

[Follow @theeagle](#)

The Eagle @theeagle 2h

Cont: Gov. Perry says center will add more than 6,800 direct and related jobs to Texas. #tam #bcstx

The Eagle @theeagle 2h

Cont: Gov. Rick Perry says center is expected to bring more than \$41 billion in expenditures to Texas over the next 25 years. #tam #bcstx

The Eagle @theeagle 2h

Cont: U.S. DHHS approves \$91 million manufacturing facility at system's Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing

The Eagle @theeagle 2h

Texas A&M announces partnership with GlaxoSmithKline to produce flu vaccines in Bryan-College Station. bit.ly/XE3gnc #bcstx #tam

The Eagle @theeagle 2h

ShopBrazos.com



Hope Cancer Center
 1602 Rock Prairie Rd., Ste. 130B
 College Station, TX
 (979) 693-2900

hazard to the benthic community and a stressor to the fisheries."

- IMAGE: Bryan golf course
- IMAGE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- IMAGE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- ARTICLE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- ARTICLE:
- IMAGE: Bryan golf course
- ARTICLE: King and queen crowned
- IMAGE: Bryan homecoming king and queen
- ARTICLE: Consol crowns its Homecoming Queen
- IMAGE: A&M Consolidated homecoming queen
- IMAGE: Bryan golf course
- IMAGE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- IMAGE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- ARTICLE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- ARTICLE:

Recommend 2 Tweet 0

Discuss

Print

Posted in Local on Wednesday, August 8, 2012 12:00 am. | Tags: 3-news, Local, 1-site, Theeagle.com, A&M, 2-sections, Top Stories

Similar Stories

- Texas A&M System partners with GlaxoSmithKline for influenza vaccine facility
- Police: Witness reports seeing drunken driver hit vehicles, crash through fence
- Funeral arrangements planned for cadet who died in wreck
- Texas A&M praised for drawing crowds at NCAA tournament
- Calendar for Tuesday

Most Read

- Two killed, several injured after trucks collide
- Woman arrested in College Station on prostitution charge
- Ex-Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service worker charged with theft
- Local coach making a 'Splash' on reality TV show
- Woman accused of stealing from mother-in-law

Rules of Conduct

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Keep it Clean.
Please avoid obscene, vulgar, lewd, racist or sexually-oriented language.</p> <p>2 Don't Threaten or Abuse.
Threats of harming another person will not be tolerated. AND PLEASE TURN OFF CAPS LOCK.</p> <p>3 Be Truthful.
Don't knowingly lie about anyone or anything.</p> | <p>4 Be Nice.
No racism, sexism or any sort of -ism that is degrading to another person.</p> <p>5 Be Proactive.
Use the 'Report' link on each comment to let us know of abusive posts.</p> <p>6 Share with Us.
We'd love to hear eyewitness accounts, the history behind an article.</p> |
|---|--|

Welcome to the discussion.

Find more businesses on ShopBrazos.com

Restaurants · Entertainment · Health · Real Estate · Home & Garden · Coupons

Calendar

March 2013						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
today's events		browse		submit		

BCScene Galleries



AggieCon 44

Photos from this year's AggieCon.

Popular Commented Facebook Activity

Stories

Two killed, several injured after trucks collide

Woman arrested in College Station on prostitution charge

Ex-Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service worker charged with theft

Local coach making a 'Splash' on reality TV show

Woman accused of stealing from mother-in-law

More

Photos

Homes Jobs Cars

Homes

BRYAN: NICE 1/1

Amy N. Restivo, CPA, LLC

**Tax Services • Bookkeeping
Payroll Services • Auditing**

Certified Public Accountant

4103 S. Texas Avenue, Suite 101 • Bryan • 979.271.1335
amy@restivocpa.com • www.restivocpa.com



Welcome to the site!
Login or Signup below.

Login | Signup

Subscribe | Contact Us |

51°
Clear



Advanced Search

GO

Aggie Sports Brazos Sports Gigem247 Land & Livestock Post

ShopBrazos Jobs Autos Homes Place an Ad

Home News Blogs Sports Weather Multimedia Entertainment Obituaries Announcements Opinion Brazos Life Classifieds

CLICK HERE TO ENTER YOUR PET INTO THE CUTEST PHOTO CONTEST FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$50 FROM LUCKY DOG DIY DOGWASH & GROOMING

Home News Texas

Tourney uses new saltwater fishing fraud law

Story Comments

Print Font Size:

Recommend 0 Tweet 0

Posted: Thursday, September 6, 2012 12:00 am

0 comments

PORT ISABEL - Game wardens inspecting the takes of the "Nice Tails" team at the annual Ladies Kingfish tournament last month knew something was up when they saw a trout with a mottled belly and a flounder whose appearance after the team's last inspection was fishy at best.

The unlikely "catches" to them were another example of a sort of open secret: Cheaters were among the competitors for the thousands of dollars in prizes awarded during one of South Padre Island's biggest events.

But this time, the wardens were armed with a new law that allowed them to press the state's first-ever felony charges of fraud in a saltwater fishing tournament. Seven people face up to 10 years in prison and fines up to \$10,000 if convicted.

While the state's Parks and Wildlife code already had a statute regarding freshwater competitions, it wasn't until last year that the Legislature added saltwater tournaments, which have become huge tourist draws for cities along the Texas coast.

In some tournaments, the total value of prizes exceeds \$100,000, and local and corporate sponsors are eager to make their brands part of the mix. Competitors also can win boats with trailers and pickups.

"There's a lot of money in fishing tournaments that is wagered, and it's an incentive for people to cheat," said Tony Reisinger, a marine biologist with Texas Sea Grant who has lent his scientist's eye to fishing tournaments.

"I've seen cut tails to fit within the slots. ... also flattened noses," he said, explaining that, for conservation purposes, fishermen generally aren't allowed to keep redfish longer than 28 inches. "We've seen fish stuffed with ice. Fish stuffed with other fish. It runs the gamut basically."

The legislation's author, state Rep. Dan Flynn, R-Van, chairman of the Texas Legislative Sportsman's Caucus, said Texas fishing competitions had become too big, too sophisticated and too lucrative to allow them to be tainted by cheaters.

Violation of the law, a first-degree misdemeanor, becomes a third-degree felony when the tournament's purse is more than \$10,000.

That fit the bill for the charges against the Nice Tails team, Kenedy County Game Warden Jason Duke said in an affidavit on the alleged Aug. 11 trickery.

Duke and fellow game warden Oscar Castaneda of Willacy County were approached at the Port Mansfield dock by a man waiting for the team who asked them to hurry and inspect their cooler so the team would make weigh-in.

"I noticed that two of the larger spotted sea trout that were placed in the cooler appeared to have red discoloration

Submit Your News!

We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

Submit news

Twitter

Tweets

Follow @theeagle



The Eagle @theeagle

2h

Cont: Gov. Perry says center will add more than 6,800 direct and related jobs to Texas. #tamu #bcstx



The Eagle @theeagle

2h

Cont: Gov. Rick Perry says center is expected to bring more than \$41 billion in expenditures to Texas over the next 25 years. #tamu #bcstx Expand



The Eagle @theeagle

2h

Cont: U.S. DHHS approves \$91 million manufacturing facility at system's Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing



The Eagle @theeagle

2h

Texas A&M announces partnership with GlaxoSmithKline to produce flu vaccines in Bryan-College Station. bit.ly/XE3ghc #bcstx #tamu Expand



The Eagle @theeagle

2h

Tweet to @theeagle

BCScene Galleries

on their bellies, anal fins and tails," Duke wrote. "This led me to believe that the fish were not caught during the tournament, but rather caught days prior and held in a device to keep them alive for the tournament."

The team members left the dock, toting the cooler into a car for a drive to the weigh-in point about an hour south in Port Isabel.

Duke radioed ahead to game wardens there, alerting them to be on the lookout.

"Shortly after that, maybe 15 minutes after the conversation with the other warden, he calls back and says he just got a tip that the father of the guide and the captain of the boat was seen in Arroyo City, which is about halfway, picking up a flounder. And he asked if I had seen a flounder in their catch, and I told him I did not," he said.

Duke is now finishing a report to submit to the Cameron County district attorney's office.

"The Legislature looked at it because when you get that much money involved, the cheating becomes an issue."

- IMAGE: Bryan golf course
- IMAGE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- IMAGE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- ARTICLE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- ARTICLE:
- IMAGE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- IMAGE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- ARTICLE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- IMAGE: Town's rental ban to get second hearing
- ARTICLE: Town's rental ban to get second hearing
- IMAGE: Bryan golf course
- IMAGE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- IMAGE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- ARTICLE: Cartel suspected in border prison break
- ARTICLE:

Recommend 0 Tweet 0

Discuss

Print

Posted in Texas on Thursday, September 6, 2012 12:00 am. | Tags: 3-news, Texas, 1-site, Theeagle.com

Similar Stories

- 3 killed, 4 injured in West Texas auto collision
- Court OKs inmate appeal of cell phone conviction
- Man charged in extortion scheme against professor
- Texas officials to announce \$91M vaccine center
- Brent faces fall trial in deadly wreck

Most Read

- Two killed, several injured after trucks collide
- Woman arrested in College Station on prostitution charge
- Ex-Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service worker charged with theft
- Local coach making a 'Splash' on reality TV show
- Woman accused of stealing from mother-in-law



AggieCon 44

Photos from this year's AggieCon.

ShopBrazos.com



Cancer Clinic
2215 E. Villa Maria Rd. Ste. 110
Bryan, TX
(979) 776-2000

Find more businesses on ShopBrazos.com

Restaurants · Entertainment · Health · Real Estate · Home & Garden · Coupons

Calendar

March 2013						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
today's events	browse	submit				

Popular Commented Facebook Activity

Stories

Two killed, several injured after trucks collide

Woman arrested in College Station on prostitution charge

Ex-Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service worker charged with theft

Local coach making a 'Splash' on reality TV show

Woman accused of stealing from mother-in-law

More

Photos

Coastal Services Center

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

[Home](#) [About](#) [Data](#) [Tools](#) [Training](#) [How-To Guides](#) [Publications](#) [Partnerships](#) [Technical Assistance](#)

[Center Home](#) > [Publications](#) >

Coastal Services, September/October 2012

RED TIDE RANGERS WRANGLE DATA DURING TEXAS HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

"Having trained volunteers who can give us accurate data helps us do our jobs."

Meridith Byrd, Texas Parks and
Wildlife Department

When a harmful algal bloom was detected in September 2011 in Texas waterways, state coastal resource managers called in the Red Tide Rangers. This band of about 30 volunteers—which has its own theme song and a secret handshake—does the sampling, cell counting, and site monitoring that state researchers neither have the time nor resources to do.

When the bloom turned into one of the largest and longest-lasting red tides in documented Texas history, state biologists relied on the Red Tide Rangers as "an invaluable part" of their red tide monitoring program.

"They're out there giving us daily data," says Meridith Byrd, the harmful algal bloom response coordinator at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "There's no other network like them along the Texas coast. Without them, we wouldn't be getting the kind of data we need."

The data the rangers provide are used by resource managers to issue warnings to citizens, ground-truth NOAA satellite imagery, and document the effects on resources and fisheries.

"I can't say enough about them," Byrd says. "Texas has a very long coastline. We just have painfully few biologists who can go out and collect data and come back and analyze it so that we can put it in a format that will be helpful to people."

Red Tides

While there are thousands of species of microscopic algae in our nation's coastal waters, only about a dozen cause harmful algal blooms that can result in massive fish kills, contamination of shellfish beds, and human illness.

These species are often called "red tides" because a bloom can turn the surrounding water red. But the name can be a little misleading since water can also be other colors or not have any color, and nontoxic species can also color the water.

The small photosynthetic plant *Karenia brevis* is an ever-present inhabitant of the Gulf of Mexico, but usually in extremely small numbers of cells per milliliter of water.

"Finding one cell here and there is not enough to cause a panic, but finding even a handful of cells can spur us into stepping up our monitoring to determine if the counts will continue to grow over time into a full-blown bloom," Byrd says.

Side Effects

Karenia itself is not harmful. The danger comes from a potent poison called brevetoxin that the alga carries, which can be released when the fragile cells break in waves.

When broken, the cells release their brevetoxin into the water, where it mixes with the salt spray to form an aerosol that irritates eyes and respiratory systems. Healthy people suffer little more than discomfort, but the aerosol can pose much greater danger to asthmatics and others who suffer from respiratory conditions.

Brevetoxin is also dangerous if it is ingested through eating tainted seafood, including oysters, leading to neurotoxic shellfish poisoning. Animals, particularly dogs and coyotes, have died from eating contaminated fish.

A harmful algal bloom can require the closure of oyster harvesting, creating significant economic impacts for local fisheries.

First Sign

The state's most recent bloom, which lasted five months, was first detected near the City of South Padre Island by a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff member who noticed fish swimming erratically and gulping for air near the water's surface.

Tony Reisinger, a county extension agent for coastal and marine resources at Texas Sea Grant, soon confirmed the presence of *Karenia* cells.

He immediately called in the squad of volunteers.

Calling In Reinforcements

Reisinger formed the Red Tide Rangers along with Don Hockaday, director at the University of Texas-Pan American's Coastal Studies Laboratory, during a 1996 harmful algal

bloom.

Coastal managers had already been through a bloom in 1986 that spanned the whole Texas coast, killed 22 million fish, and is still considered the largest and worst in state records, as well as several smaller blooms in the early 1990s.

Knowing they couldn't collect and analyze the number of samples needed to adequately monitor a bloom, Reisinger and Hockaday decided to train volunteers to collect water samples from locations around South Padre Island suspected of having red tide.

Reisinger dubbed the initial class of about 20 volunteers the Red Tide Rangers.

Too Much of a Good Thing

The volunteers did such a good job that they soon overwhelmed Reisinger and Hockaday with more samples than they could analyze in a timely manner. The solution, says Reisinger, was to train the volunteers to identify and count *Karenia* cells.

The volunteers also note the number of dead fish, if any, and gauge the severity of the irritating aerosol created when red tide cells break apart in the surf.

Ranger training is held every summer, and a secondary volunteer program was created called the Texas Coastal Naturalists to engage the rangers between red tides.

Big but Not So Bad

In terms of geographical size, the latest red tide was on par with the 1986 bloom, but it was much less severe in terms of fish mortality, only killing about 4.5 million fish.

While it was an inconvenience at times to coastal residents, it devastated the state's oyster industry, which was closed along most of the coast through February 2012, costing oyster fishermen about \$7 million.

Byrd says most of the information she uses to track red tide in the South Padre Island area comes from the Red Tide Rangers. The raw data they provide not only help state and federal agencies monitor and predict blooms, but also aid officials in determining fisheries closures and in updating the public so people can better judge health risks.

"When a red tide hits, you pretty much just have to drop everything," Byrd says. "Having trained volunteers who can give us accurate data helps us do our jobs."

She adds, "It's really amazing to have something in place like this that works so well. I'm very confident in them."



For more information on the Red Tide Rangers, contact Tony Reisinger at (956) 493-8129 or e-reisinger@tamu.edu. For more information on the state's harmful algal bloom response, contact Meridith Byrd at (361) 575-6306 or meridith.byrd@tpwd.state.tx.us.

-
- [View Issue Contents](#) • [Go to Next Article](#) •
 - [Subscribe to Magazine](#) • [View Other Issues](#) •

NOAA Coastal Services Center
2234 South Hobson Avenue
Charleston, SC 29405-2413
843-740-1200 (phone) • 843-740-1224 (fax)

[Directions to the NOAA Coastal Services Center](#)

[United States Department of Commerce](#)
[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)
[National Ocean Service](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)
[Contact the NOAA Coastal Services Center](#)



ABC Choices

Subscribe to the Houston Chronicle | Shop | Classifieds | Obits | Notices | Place an Ad | La Voz

Like 27k

Register | Sign In

Tuesday March 26, 2013



59°F Clear | Houston Weather

Search

Chron.com Web Search by Yahoo! Local Directory

Home | Local | US & World | Sports | Business | Entertainment | Lifestyle | Jobs | Cars | Real Estate

Houston & Texas > News > Houston

Dead fish symptom of ailing bayous

By Harvey Rice | November 18, 2012 | Updated: November 19, 2012 2:45pm

Comments 26 | E-mail | Print | Recommend 51 | Tweet 27 | 0



SAN LEON - Powering his small boat across Dickinson Bay, Steve Hoyland Sr. worries about fish kills near the mouth of Dickinson Bayou every summer for the last six years.

"I've lived here my whole life, but in the last two years you can't catch (anything)," said Hoyland, 61, part owner of the monthly San Leon Seabreeze News.

Hoyland points to the depth finder to show how silt has clogged the mouth of the bayou and prevented the tide from cleansing it with oxygenated water. "We've got a serious problem here," he said.

Officials charged with overseeing water quality say that fish kills, where

Steve Hoyland Sr., co-owner of the monthly SeaBreeze News, runs his boat through Dickinson Bayou. Concerned over fish kills, he hired a lab to test the quality of the water.

Photo: Brett Coomer, Houston Chronicle / © 2012 Houston Chronicle

thousands of fish die for lack of oxygen in the water, are a symptom of urban encroachment on bayous like Dickinson that lace the Houston region. The urbanized area in the Dickinson Bayou watershed more than doubled between 2002 and 2008.

The 27 miles of Dickinson Bayou that snake through Galveston and Brazoria counties are plagued with low oxygen levels that occasionally kill fish. The bayou is filled with bacteria that can cause illness to swimmers and pollutants such as oil, pesticides, human waste from septic tanks and animal waste washed into the bayou through storm drains.

Of 139 water bodies in Harris and Galveston counties, 91 have excessive bacteria levels that make them unsafe for human contact, 21 have low dissolved oxygen levels and in 33 the cancer-causing toxic contaminants dioxin and PCB have been found in fish tissue, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The bacteria levels in Buffalo Bayou, for example, are generally higher than Dickinson Bayou and pesticides are found in the tissue of fish there in addition to dioxin and PCB, the TCEQ says.

In Dickinson Bayou, E. coli and enterococcus bacteria levels are more than double the federal standard, said Todd Running, clean rivers program manager for the Houston-Galveston Area Council. The federal standard for E. coli is 126 colonies per 100 milliliters of water, Running said, but the levels in the bayou range from 247 to 1,645. The standard for enterococcus, a bacteria measured in the tidal area of the bayou because of its resistance to saltwater, is 35, he said, but bayou levels range from 373 to 8,485.

Public not aware

State and local agencies are working on plans to reduce pollution in the bayous, but they take years to complete and rely on the cooperation of a public that is largely unaware that seemingly unimportant things like

STAPLES that was easy? Don't miss the savings in our Weekly Ad. See our Weekly Ad

Making Most of Employee's Time



Sponsored Content Competitively priced employee management software helps companies save time and money

2013 Shell Eco-marathon Americas



Sponsored Content Start your engines: Everything you need to know about Shell Eco-marathon Americas 2013

Featured Galleries



News Destiny's Child: Best and worst matching outfits



Cars You can fix these car repairs yourself



News Headlines for tonight's World Cup qualifier



News How to apply Jamberry Nails.



Jobs What successful people were doing at 25

leaving pet waste in the yard contribute to the thousands of small incidents that add up to tons of pollution washed through storm drains into the bayou. The TCEQ says that the most common sources of bacteria are wastewater treatment plants, stormwater runoff, septic tank overflows and failures, and broken sewer lines.

Runoff from residences

"All of our urban streams have issues and it's a result of more people living in the area, more pipes that are more likely to break, plus it's runoff from our yards and our streets and our parking lots," said Charris York, stormwater projects coordinator for the Texas Coastal Watershed Program.

Excess yard fertilizer, household chemicals, septic tank leakage and illegal discharges from wastewater treatment plants add to the load of pollutants draining from 106 square miles of Dickinson Bayou watershed.

There are 11 wastewater treatment plants on Dickinson Bayou. The TCEQ issued its most recent violation notice to KC Utilities in August. The commission fined Meadowland utilities \$132,000 in December for seven violations.

The TCEQ estimates that there are 1,546 failing septic tanks in the Dickinson Bayou watershed.

Hoyland published several articles calling attention to the poor water quality at the mouth of the bayou.

He took two experts from Eastex Environmental Laboratory Inc. out on his boat to take water samples at the mouth of Dickinson Bayou and a nearby intake channel cut for the now abandoned Houston Power & Light generating plant that once pulled water from Dickinson Bay for cooling.

"We found areas of concern with dissolved oxygen levels," said Mark Bourgeois, one of the Eastex analysts who took the samples.

Low oxygen levels are typical during the summer on the sluggishly flowing bayou, said Winston Denton, upper coast assessment team leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The long list of documented fish kills because of low oxygen stretches back to the 1970s when federal clean water laws first required reporting.

Call for dredging

Hoyland believes that dredging the mouth of the bayou would allow tidal flows to wash oxygen into the bayou mouth. TCEQ oxygen readings show that on average the bayou's tidal area, unlike the rest of the bayou, meets state oxygen level standards.

Oxygen levels fluctuate, however, and Running said that dredging has improved water quality at the mouth of other bayous, but that there is no guarantee that it would work on Dickinson Bayou.

The TCEQ and local agencies are developing a plan to reduce the pollution to acceptable levels that likely will combine regulations with voluntary compliance. The plan is being written with the assistance of local businesses, cities and residents. "We have a lot of input from different folks who have knowledge," York said. The plan has been in the works for about two years and the draft is expected to be ready for public review early next year, she said.

Meanwhile Hoyland continues to write about water quality problems and hopes that a plan to build a new wastewater treatment plant nearby will include dredging the mouth of Dickinson Bayou. "It would be a great thing if they do something good for the environment," he said.



Homes
201 Shasta Drive

Home Care, Maintenance & Protection



Sponsored Content
Your home's electrical system: What's your responsibility?

Guide to Social Security Disability



Sponsored Content
Social Security and the GDP

More Local News



News
SpaceX Dragon cargo ship splashes into Pacific



News
1 arrested, 1 on run after woman's death

News
Repeat copper thefts prompt all-night vigil at historic black Houston church

News
Camp manager charged with sex assault

News
High-speed chase ends on a house's front porch

Latest Videos

Comments 26 | E-mail | Print | Recommend 51 | Tweet 27 | 0

By Harvey Rice

From Around the Web

We Recommend

Subscribe to the Houston Chronicle | Shop | Classifieds | Obits | Notices | Place an Ad | La Voz

Like 27k

Register | Sign In

Tuesday March 26, 2013



59°F Clear | Houston Weather

Search

Chron.com Web Search by Yahoo! Local Directory

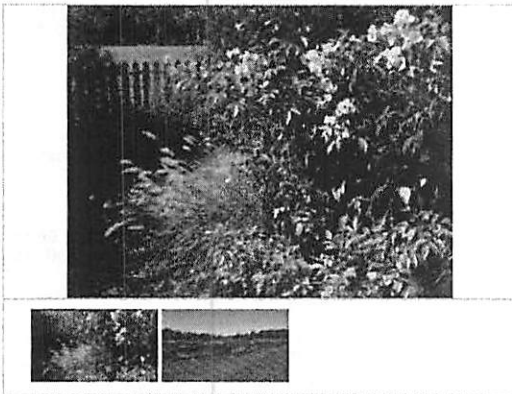
Home | Local | US & World | Sports | Business | Entertainment | Lifestyle | Jobs | Cars | Real Estate

Homes > Real Estate Resource

In the Garden with Urban Harvest: Bay-friendly landscaping begins at your watershed address

By Chris LaChance, Homes Correspondent | November 21, 2012

Comments 0 | E-mail | Print | Recommend 0 | Tweet 3 | 0



What is your watershed address? If you do not have an answer then it probably means you are not sure how or if you are connected to Galveston Bay. Actually, everyone lives in a watershed whether or not a body of water is in view. Simply put, a watershed is the land from which water drains on its way to the nearest bayou, river, lake or bay. Your watershed address bears the name of that accepting water body. For example, I live in the White Oak Bayou watershed. Water from my yard makes its way into the storm drain and flows, unfiltered, to White Oak Bayou and ultimately empties into Galveston Bay.

Create a wildlife habitat.

Galveston Bay is a complex mixture of saltwater and fresh water and is teeming with life. On the land, it is surrounded by prairies and marshes which form rich estuaries, or nurseries, for marine species like crabs, shrimp and oysters. The entire area supports a vibrant, diverse wildlife population. Galveston Bay also ends up being a repository for pollutants found in urban runoff. Stormwater, or rainwater, flows from surfaces that cannot absorb water - impervious surfaces such as roofs, streets and parking lots - and from our own landscapes, carrying with it motor oil, litter, fertilizers, pesticides and pet waste that end up in the bay. One way we can make a difference in the health of our watershed and of Galveston Bay is to use landscaping practices that are bay-friendly, working with, not against nature.

Start with healthy soil. The best way to accomplish this is with the addition of organic matter in the form of compost, which provides a steady supply of nutrients, releasing them slowly when plants need them. Compost adds sponginess to the soil, which retains moisture and helps plants survive our periods of drought. In clay soils, compost helps improve drainage. Healthy, organically enriched soil is better at filtering out pollutants before water reaches the storm drain.

Conserve water. Plant and animal life in Galveston Bay depend on a critical balance of saltwater and fresh water. With continued development, more demands are being placed on fresh water supplies - drinking water for an increasing population, water needs for expanding industry, and more irrigation going to agriculture and thirsty landscapes. Landscapes alone can consume 50 percent or more of municipal water supplies during summer month. To help keep freshwater inflows entering Galveston Bay, reduce the size of your lawn, plant native and noninvasive adapted plants, and water landscapes deeply and less often. Established landscapes can survive with 1 inch of water applied once or twice a week.

Reduce waste in the garden. Grass-cycling is a great way to feed your lawn while you mow. Using a mulching mower allows the grass to be cut into smaller pieces which can be left on the ground. As the clippings decompose they will add nutrients to the soil. Grass clippings that are collected can be added to the

My Perfect Hous(e)ton



Get more insider glimpses into Houston's neighborhoods
Sponsored Content

Featured Property

Featured Galleries



Homes
201 Shasta Drive



Homes
Prefabricated homes show their beauty



Homes
Open Homes in Houston

compost bin or once they are no longer green they can be used as mulch. Use recycled materials when building raised beds, edging a garden bed or creating a walkway. Reclaimed lumber can be used for fencing or garden benches.

Create spaces for wildlife. Watershed protection means preserving and creating wildlife habitats. Maintaining native vegetation, especially along bayous, creeks and rivers, helps stabilize soil to help prevent erosion. Such natural areas act as buffers to filter stormwater with the added benefit of attracting diverse wildlife populations.

Galveston Bay may seem like a long way from your physical address. Visualizing your connection to the bay becomes easier once you understand your watershed address. Making the choice to have a bay-friendly landscape is the "watersmart" thing to do. To find your watershed address, go to http://www.hcfcfd.org/ME_hcwc.html for Harris County or search your county name plus watershed address.

Chris LaChance is WaterSmart Coordinator for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Sea Grant. WaterSmart is funded by a grant from Houston Endowment, Inc. Contact Chris at c-lachance@tamu.edu. This column is sponsored by Urban Harvest. To find out about community gardens, school gardens, farmers markets and gardening classes, visit www.urbanharvest.org.

Comments 0 | E-mail | Print | Recommend 0 | Tweet 3 | 0

By Chris LaChance, Homes Correspondent



Subscribe to the Houston Chronicle and receive access to the Chronicle for iPad App

Add Your Comment

New to the site? Already a member? Please log in. Forgot Password? To use commenting, you need to sign up. Email: [input] Password: [input] [Remember Me] [Log In] [Sign up]

Ads by Yahoo!

- Today's Top Stock Pick: Hot Company Set to Capitalize on \$60 Billion. www.OTCStockPick.com
- Mortgage Rates Hit 2.50%: White House Program Cuts Up to \$1k off Monthly Payments! www.SeeRefinanceRates.com
- Houston Astros Tickets: Just Buy Houston Astros Tickets For All Games Astros. Astros.JustBuyTickets.com



Homes Spanish-style villa on the market



Homes Gorgeous new home is on the market



Homes Elegant home set in The Woodlands

More Real Estate News



Homes Lakes of Bella Terra showcase home features entertaining areas



Homes On the Move: Houston Relocation Professionals gain insight into Washington's effect on global mobility in 2013

Homes Price vs. dream in remodeling

Homes In the Garden with Urban Harvest: Use of basic practices can produce success

Homes Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Gary Greene recognizes top performers from its 20 area offices

Top Videos

Home and Garden

Listing News Releases



International Bank of Commerce

We Do More



Calhoun County's Newspaper

As Constant As The Waves - Since 1890



59° Clear

Advanced Search

GO



WITH NO TRANSFER FEES!

APPLY NOW

Offer ends April 30, 2013

Subject to credit approval. Federally insured by NCUA.

Home > News

Sea Grant to host seafood cooking demonstrations

Tweet 0 Like 0

Posted: Sunday, January 13, 2013 8:57 pm

By MELONY OVERTON | 0 comments

For those who think preparing a seafood meal is difficult, Sea Grant and the Calhoun County Extension Agency will provide cooking tips during a series of free demonstrations this month.

The seafood cooking demonstrations are every Monday in January at 6 p.m. at Big Bear Shrimp & Seafood, located at 2241 State Hwy. 35 North in Port Lavaca. It is owned by Mark and Terri Dietzel.

LOWEST HOME RATES
OR WE'LL GIVE YOU \$250.

APPLY NOW

TDECU
Your Credit Union

Lowest rates on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages. Subject to credit review. See TDECU.com for complete details. ©2013 TDECU

Welcome to the site!
Login or Signup below.

Login | Signup

Submit Your News!

We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

Submit news

Popular

Commented

Facebook Activity

Stories

UPDATE: Identities released of 3 that died in Hwy. 185 crash

3 dead in 2-vehicle accident on Hwy. 185

Police Report



Join us and start doing your life's best work. SM

Domestically created a healthier atmosphere equal opportunity employer M/F/D/V

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP Customer Service careers at UnitedHealth Group Learn More >>>

Email Alerts | Online Edition | Subscribe to Paper

64° Cloudy



Welcome to the site! Login or Signup below.

Login | Signup

Navigation menu: Home, News, Sports, Obituaries, Life, Brides 365, SIE, Education, Entertainment, Community, Contact Us, Classifieds

DON'T MISS: COMMUNITY CALENDAR VIEW TODAY'S NEWSPAPER LOTTERY NUMBERS LOCAL GAS PRICES



Home News Local News

Venomous creatures lurk at local beaches

Story Comments

Print Font Size:

Recommend 1 Tweet 0

7



This file photo shows visitors at the beach at South Padre Island on July 2, 2012. (Dina Arevalo/Valley Morning Star)

Buy this photo

Posted: Friday, February 15, 2013 10:50 pm

By LAURA B. MARTINEZ The Brownsville Herald

Another round of Portuguese men-of-war, similar to jellyfish, has made its way onto county beaches and county officials are urging beachgoers to be cautious around them.

The creatures have washed ashore on Boca Chica Beach, Isla Blanca Park, Andy Bowie Park and Beach Access No. 5 and No. 6 on South Padre Island.

"We're asking beachgoers to simply not touch the jellyfish-like marine creature," said Humberto Barrera, the county's emergency management coordinator.

"The venomous tentacles can deliver a painful sting."

The creatures are identified by a pink and purple gas-filled, bubble-like bladder above and long, venomous tentacles below.

Officials said the severe pain from the stinging tentacles will subside after about an hour, while the welts on the skin will last about two days. Allergic reactions are possible.

Although stings can cause death, this is extremely rare.

Cameron County Extension Agent Tony Reisinger said the emergence of the men-of-war is "actually a normal occurrence seasonally worldwide."

Officials advise that anyone stung by a Portuguese man-of-war should take the following action:

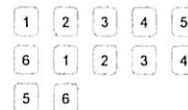
- Avoid any further contact with the Portuguese man-of-war and carefully remove any remnants of the organism from the skin. Make sure they do not touch other parts of the fingers and skin.
- Apply salt water to the affected area. Fresh water tends to make the affected area worse.
- Follow up with the application of hot water to the affected area from anywhere between 15 to 20 minutes.

Search bar with Site and Web radio buttons.

FAIRWAY Independent Mortgage Corporation advertisement for Minerva Simpson, Branch Manager, NMLS 226069, (956) 495-4815, MinervaSimpson.com

Marketplace

Service Now Heating ... La Feria, TX






Find Local Businesses

Search input field with a GO button.

Popular Searches | Browse By Category

Calendar

March 2013						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa

Email Alerts | Online Edition | Subscribe to Paper

64°
Cloudy



Welcome to the site!
Login or Signup below.

Login | Signup

Home	Entertainment	News	Outdoors	Community	Brides 365	Multimedia	RGVSports.com	Contact Us	Classifieds
------	---------------	------	----------	-----------	------------	------------	---------------	------------	-------------

DON'T MISS: VIEW THIS WEEK'S NEWSPAPER

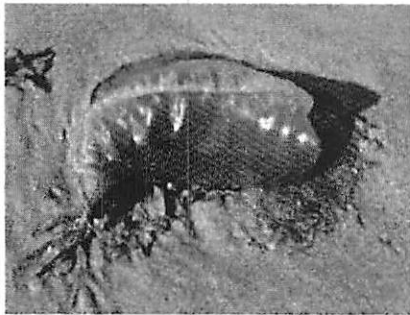


Men of war attack beaches

Story Comments

Print Font Size:

Recommend 0 Tweet 0



Posted: Saturday, February 16, 2013 9:31 am

LAURA B. MARTINEZ

Another round of Portuguese men-of-war, similar to jellyfish, has made its way onto county beaches and county officials are urging beachgoers to be cautious around them.

The creatures have washed ashore on Boca Chica Beach, Isla Blanca Park, Andy Bowie Park and Beach Access No. 5 and No. 6 on South Padre Island.

"We're asking beachgoers to simply not touch the jellyfish-like marine creature," said Humberto Barrera, the county's emergency management coordinator. "The venomous tentacles can deliver a painful sting."

The creatures are identified by a pink and purple gas-filled, bubble-like bladder above and long,

venomous tentacles below.

Officials said the severe pain from the stinging tentacles will subside after about an hour, while the welts on the skin will last about two days. Allergic reactions are possible. Although stings can cause death, this is extremely rare.

Cameron County Extension Agent Tony Reisinger said the emergence of the men-of-war is "actually a normal occurrence seasonally worldwide."

Officials advise that anyone stung by a Portuguese man-of-war should take the following action:

-- Avoid any further contact with the Portuguese man-of-war and carefully remove any remnants of the organism from the skin. Make sure they do not touch other parts of the fingers and skin.

-- Apply salt water to the affected area. Fresh water tends to make the affected area worse.

-- Follow up with the application of hot water to the affected area from anywhere between 15 to 20 minutes.

Recommend 0 Tweet 0

Discuss


Print

Posted in News on Saturday, February 16, 2013 9:31 am.

Search

 Site Web

Click here for details!



Award Winning
Pastas & Seafood
Great Wine & Beer Selection

Marketplace

Party Time
Liquors
Harlingen, Tx
956-622-5815

1	2	3	4	5
6	1	2	3	4
5	6			

Find Local Businesses

Search GO

Popular Searches | Browse By Category

Calendar

March 2013						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2

Email Alerts | Online Edition | Subscribe to Paper

64°
Cloudy



Welcome to the site!
Login or Signup below.
Login | Signup

- Home
- News
- Sports
- Obituaries
- Life
- Brides 365
- SIE
- Education
- Entertainment
- Community
- Contact Us
- Classifieds

DON'T MISS: COMMUNITY CALENDAR VIEW TODAY'S NEWSPAPER LOTTERY NUMBERS LOCAL GAS PRICES



Home News Local News

Students get lesson in marine life

Story Comments

Print Font Size:

Recommend 5 Tweet 5 0

3



Allen Essex/Valley Morning Star

Posted: Friday, February 22, 2013 2:45 pm

By ALLEN ESSEX Valley Morning Star

PORT MANSFIELD — Students from Lasara High School escaped their classrooms Thursday and went to sea.

They were cruising aboard the Karma, a 57-foot refurbished fishing trawler, as part of Texas A&M University's Floating Classroom Program.

Nearly 1,000 students from the fourth grade through college and graduate school are taking classes on board the Karma in a project that includes a University of Texas at Brownsville extension center classroom at Port Mansfield.

Professor Rick Kline of the University of Texas at Brownsville wades in the Port Mansfield channel while showing a group of Lasara High School junior girls shrimp he has caught near a UTB study center in the fishing village in Willacy County.

"It's my first time. I've never been in a boat, except in a little paddle boat with water only up to here (his waist)," R.J. Garcia said laughing.

Buy this photo

One of a group of Lasara High School junior boys, he said, "I'm scared. But he was only half joking, admitting he cannot swim.

The group of boys had just learned that high winds had kept a boatload of girls inside the Port Mansfield harbor during the morning. But winds had died down enough to allow the Karma to venture much farther out into the Laguna Madre.

Classmate Joe Mendiola said he has been out in a Dolphin Watch boat at South Padre Island, so he is more familiar with boats.

During the 12 days the Karma is visiting Port Mansfield, students will learn about marine biology, ecology and related science topics.

Combined with a visit to Port Isabel, nearly 1,000 students will benefit from the boat's visit, UTB Professor Rick Kline said. He taught a group of Lasara High School girls about fish and turtles in the morning, and a group of Lasara boys about sand dunes and barrier islands in the afternoon at a UTB extension center near the Port Mansfield Chamber of Commerce, where the Karma docked.

Accompanied by Lasara High School teachers Robert Peynado and Terry Buse, and Assistant Principal Jose Orozco, the boys group was briefed on safety by Whitney Curry, a Texas A&M professor, before they boarded the boat.

She told the boys that, since the wind had died down, the boat would go out of the harbor and into the Laguna Madre. The net would be hoisted up briefly so they could see the various fish and marine creatures that live in the bay.

Search [input] Site Web

Marketplace

Premier Laser
And Ae...
Harlingen, TX
956-412-3223

- 1 2 3 4 5
- 6 1 2 3 4
- 5 6

Find Local Businesses

Search [input] GO

Popular Searches | Browse By Category

Calendar

March 2013						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
today's events		browse		submit		

Submit Your News!

We're always interested in hearing

They were told they should pay close attention, because the catch would be quickly returned into the water alive.

Texas A&M Professor Russ Maget said the Karma has operated since 2000, first at Matagorda. For the past five years it has been ported at Corpus Christi.

This year is the second year it has operated in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, increasing the length of its visit from five days at Port Mansfield last year to 12 workdays this year.

Girls studying fish and several species of turtles in the afternoon classroom session also were taken to a seawall by Kline, who showed them how to sample the channel for sea life.

The girls, accompanied by school nurse Suzanne Kraatz and school librarian Maricella Salinas, took turns donning waders to accompany Kline into the water to explore the various types of fish and shrimp by scooping them up with a net.

Kline said that getting students out of the classroom and into the outdoors makes their learning experience about marine life much more vivid and real.

"We may get to come back here again this summer," he said. "It will be mostly for teacher workshops, but we'll probably take along some students, too," Maget said.

Last week Raymondville students were taken out onto the bay and more Willacy County students, including some from San Perlita, will make the trip next week, Maget said.

Earlier, the boat visited Port Isabel and students from Harlingen, Brownsville, La Feria and other Valley schools participated in the program, he said.

The Karma's extended trip is made possible by cooperation with Willacy County, whose officials used some of its Coastal Infrastructure Improvement Program funding from the state to assist in the cost of the visit, said Edward Gonzales, a staff member in County Judge John F. Gonzales' office.

allene@valleystar.com

Recommend 5

Tweet 5

0

3

Discuss

Print

Posted in Local news on Friday, February 22, 2013 2:45 pm.

Similar Stories

- Six arrested in Harlingen prostitution sting
- Web widens in federal case against former DA Villalobos
- Rio Hondo mayor, official owe back taxes
- Trooper finds child porn on driver's phone
- Custom Yolk Art: Woman creates colorful cascarnes

Most Read

- Trip ends in Tragedy
- Police Blotter for March 21
- Police Blotter for March 20
- Police Blotter for March 23
- Police Blotter for March 20



Add a comment...

Comment



Texas Coastal Naturalist

Texas Sea Grant Karma crew & Department of Biological Sciences University of Texas at Brownsville Educate Willacy County School Students in Port Mansfield TX....

Reply · 3 · Like · February 22 at 7:02am

Facebook social plugin

Ads by Google

about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

Submit news

Valley Morning Star Newsroom Feed



Adam_Lawson So App State and Idaho are going to be in the same conference? That makes sense.

about 1 hour ago · reply · retweet · favorite



Adam_Lawson This is the best FGCU rap video ever.

youtube.com/watch?feature=...
10 hours ago · reply · retweet · favorite



MaldonadoHerald Records: Feds to offer more evidence in Villalobos case
brownsvilleherald.com/news/local/art...
via @BrownsvilleNews #corruption #RGV

12 hours ago · reply · retweet · favorite



MaldonadoHerald High court gay marriage tickets cost time, money
bigstory.ap.org/article/high-c...
#gaymarriage #scotus

13 hours ago · reply · retweet · favorite

Join the conversation

Marketplace

Find Local Businesses

Search

GO

Popular Searches | Browse By Category

Calendar

today's events browse st...

- [Home](#)
- [Contact Page](#)
- [Find Us on Facebook](#)
- [Fishing Reports](#)
- [Subscriptions](#)
- [The Dolphin's Classifieds](#)
- [Tide Charts](#)

Potential Economic Loss to the Calhoun County Oystermen

Archived in the category: [General Info](#)

Posted by Joyce Rhyne on 23 Feb 12 - [0 Comments](#)

Report for November 2011 through January 2012

Developed by Rhonda Cummins, Coastal & Marine Resource Advisor – Calhoun County

Relevance:

Since 1991, Texas has consistently produced the second-largest Eastern oyster crop in the United States. Texas is also considered a primary, nationwide supplier of both live oysters, products such as shucked meats available both fresh and frozen, and a variety of individually-quick-frozen (IQF) convenience products. In 2007 Texas oystermen harvested 5.6 million pounds of oyster meat that netted \$19.2 million. Numbers were down in 2009 due to Hurricane Ike and the economy, but Texas still harvested 2.7 million pounds of oyster meat for which the fishermen were paid \$9.4 million.

Numbers for the 2011-2012 season are expected to be drastically down because of the statewide closure of all harvesting areas. The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) depicts 33 oyster harvesting areas along the Texas Coast. The public season is normally November 1 through April 30 and during this time, bay areas may be closed by the TDSHS for concerns about public safety. Closures vary in length and in magnitude. Water testing is strictly guided and performed to monitor various harmful algal blooms, such as *Karenia Brevis*, a.k.a. red tide, which prompted the initial closures this season.

Response:

Extreme drought in Texas helped created high salinity conditions in the bay systems by contributing to insufficient freshwater inflows, and the lack of local rainfall, resulting in prime conditions for the massive red tide which began in late September 2011. With the oyster season unable to open for week after week, the oystermen sought assistance from elected officials and several counties wrote disaster declarations for the fishery, forwarding their proclamations to Governor Perry's office. To assist with the body of knowledge needed to assess the economic impact to the fishermen, Texas Sea Grant Extension in Calhoun County has been working with information provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and local oystermen to calculate the potential economic loss at the first level of impact –sacks of oysters, and their value, landed on the local docks. This work is part of Sea Grant's ongoing outreach and research efforts for the Texas seafood industry.

Results:

The first bay in Texas to open for harvest was San Antonio Bay’s conditionally approved area on January 27th. This area was closed four days later due to bacterial concerns related to rainfall coming down the Guadalupe River and as such is not statistically significant for the monthly total. Likewise, Espiritu Santo Bay also opened on January 27th. Due to the past number of sacks harvested from this bay over the last five years, the January landings made would be insignificant. The following figures are calculated from commercial landings data collected by TPWD over the last 5 seasons for public reefs and based on sacks sold by fishermen to processors and the value in dollars of those sacks. These data were broken down into bays by location of landings and the reasonable expected area to be fished by a captain based in that area. Oyster boats based in Calhoun County could fish any and/or all of the following bays during a week, month, or season: Espiritu Santo, Lavaca, Matagorda, and San Antonio. As such the totals of the sacks harvested and dollar value were combined by month for this assessment. Looking at the chart below, the average number of sacks landed in these four bays in the month of November was 44,693.4. The average value paid for each sack in November across the four bay area was \$18.73 for a total of \$837,161.40.

Sum of Sacks Harvested in Espiritu Santo, Lavaca, Matagorda, and San Antonio Bays						
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	5 yr Avg
Nov	107,730	19,092	5,646	47,304	43,695	44,693.4
Dec	110,073	3,033	8,601	24,264	43,440	37,882.2
Jan	73,902	3,411	6,990	45,927	64,278	38,901.6
Total						121,477.2
Sum of Value Harvested in Espiritu Santo, Lavaca, Matagorda, and San Antonio Bays						
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	5 yr Avg
Nov	\$1,961,136	\$330,816	\$104,460	\$894,633	\$894,762	\$837,161.40
Dec	\$1,999,310	\$57,054	\$161,856	\$461,220	\$788,760	\$693,640.00
Jan	\$1,463,946	\$64,704	\$131,171	\$875,787	\$1,164,609	\$740,043.40
Total						\$2,270,844.80
Average price per sack during this 3 month period over the 5 year period across the four bays was \$18.69.						

For the license year 2012, 110 oyster boat licenses were sold to Calhoun County residents. Since all the bays were closed, no trip tickets were filed for landings, so it is not possible to accurately determine how many boats would have been fishing if the bays were open. Thus, it is logical to use the last license year to determine possible active vessels. In the 2011 license year, 111 oyster boat licenses are sold to Calhoun County residents and 80 actually reported landings during the 2010-2011 oyster season. Therefore over the last three months, considering only active oyster boats licensed in Calhoun County, during an average year, each boat could have possibly harvested 1,518 sacks of oysters with an estimated value of \$28,385.56. With the current 50 sack/day limit, the local oyster boats are working with one captain and two deckhands. The split of the day’s sale is 30% for the boat, 30% for the captain, and 20% for each deckhand, after expenses (includes oyster tags, diesel, etc.). Not considering expenses, the average losses for the first 3-month half of the 2011-2012 oyster season are \$8,515.67 per vessel, \$8,515.67 per captain, and \$5,677.11 per deckhand.

For more information on this study, or others like it: 361-552-9747; rdcummins@ag.tamu.edu

Leave a Reply

Name (required)

E-Mail(required)



DON'T MISS
AN ISSUE AGAIN
CLICK HERE




ENTERTAINMENT • MUSIC
ART • NEWS • BUSINESS
CULTURE • SPORTS • LEISURE

PORT ISABEL PRESS SOUTH PADRE

Serving the Laguna Madre area *PARADE!*

The best value on the Gulf
is waiting for you



00 --0.80% AUDUSD=X 1.0486 USDJPY=X 94.175 WP Stock Ticker

VALIANT EFFORT: Melon-headed whale euthanized

Categories: News

by Editor

February 28, 2013



Coastal Naturalist and President of the Rio Grande Valley Chapter Texas Master Naturalists, Alicia Cavazos of San Benito (left) and Sea Turtle Inc. Marketing Director Tiffany Anderson (right) of South Padre Island support a recently stranded melon-headed whale at the UT Pan American Coastal Studies Lab on South Padre Island. (Staff photo by Craig Alaniz)

By CRAIG ALANIZ
Reporter/Photographer
pre...@portisabelsouthpadre.com

An injured Melon-Headed Whale was found beached half a mile north of Highway 100 on South Padre Island Monday.

Cameron County Coastal Agent Tony Reisinger said the whale is the third most common beached mammal on the Texas Coast.

Reisinger said the whale had to be watched around the clock, adding that the mammal was smaller than average at 7 feet, 8 inches long. He said normally these animals are longer than 9 feet, travel in pods of 300 to 1,000 and consume squid.

The whale was treated by Dr. Tom DeMaar, Head veterinarian at Gladys Porter Zoo, in the University of Texas Pan American coastal studies lab on South Padre Island. The deep water whale was the first to appear beached on South Padre Island since 2007. That whale suffered from brain parasites. More tests will be done to figure out what happened to this whale, Reisinger said.

Reisinger said Dr. DeMaar did not think the whale would make it to a bigger tank in Corpus Christi, so the decision was made to euthanize the marine mammal. He said the whale was so weak that it passed when sedatives were administered.

Read this story in the Feb. 28 edition of the Port Isabel-South Padre Press, or subscribe to our E-Edition by clicking here.

18 1 2 4 0
 Like Tweet Share XING

Tags: beached, euthanized, melon-headed, stranded, whale

Permanent link to this article: <http://portisabelsouthpadre.com/2013/02/28/valiant-effort-melon-headed-whale-euthanized/>

1 comment



Anonymous

February 28, 2013 at 11:52 pm (UTC -6)

This animal should have been let to die in peace on the beach right where it washed up. Its natures way no matter how rare the whale or not. Those who took it from nature just prolonged its dying agony. The body could still be donated to science studied later and should be. They say messing with nature one becomes nature. But in this case I think the well intentioned good samaraitons and scientists should put themselves in the whales postion for just one minute. Two more gruelling days of unnessary agony prolonged by true ignorance and lack of fellow animal respect This all done by non family members administrating unwanted help adn drugs in the name of a not well thought out rescue. I hope all of you so called volunteers learned that a valiant effort is not always a positive good thing to attempt. Really.....most humans with no insurance dont get that bad of treatment in the end. Let them die in peace and get over yourselves playing God with Gods real plans for wildlife.

Valiant – Merriam-Webster Online

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/valiantShare>

possessing or acting with bravery or boldness : courageous . 2. : marked by, exhibiting, or carried out with courage or determination : heroic ...

Party with the Parade!



Don't miss an issue of the Valley's premier entertainment magazine...



Now you can read the e-edition before anyone gets it in print!

Just **CLICK HERE**

Get the full experience and like our sister publication, the San Benito News, on Facebook!

Email Alerts | Online Edition | Subscribe to Paper

64°
Cloudy



Welcome to the site!
Login or Signup below.

Login | Signup

Home	News	Sports	Obituaries	Life	Brides 365	Community	NIE	Opinion	Contact Us	Classifieds
------	------	--------	------------	------	------------	-----------	-----	---------	------------	-------------

DON'T MISS: CHARRO DAYS 2013 COMMUNITY CALENDAR LOTTERY NUMBERS NEW UT UNIVERSITY



Home News Local News

Beached whale euthanized

Story Comments

Print Font Size:

Recommend 18 Tweet 2 0



Tony Reisinger/Texas Sea Grant

Posted: Wednesday, February 27, 2013 9:45 pm

By RYAN HENRY The Brownsville Herald

A melonheaded whale that washed ashore Monday on South Padre Island was euthanized after officials determined its condition was no longer treatable.

Wildlife officials and volunteers, operating three-hour shifts in teams of two people, worked around the clock Monday through Wednesday morning to keep the whale afloat in a tank at the University of Texas-Pan American's Coastal Studies Lab at Isla Blanca Park. The hope had been to help the whale recover and return it to the Gulf of Mexico.

The effort to save the whale even included the Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

However, the whale's health had continued to worsen and the attending veterinarian determined it would not survive, and was suffering. Officials decided to euthanize the whale Wednesday morning.

Dr. Tom deMaar, right, a veterinarian from Gladys Porter Zoo, checks the vital signs of a melonheaded whale that washed ashore Monday on South Padre Island. Officials determined the whale needed to be euthanized on Wednesday.

"In the last 24 hours, the physiological parameters of this animal declined drastically," said Dr. Tom deMaar, a veterinarian from Gladys Porter Zoo. "What that means is the respiratory effort and respiratory noise had doubled.

"The lungs were having to work harder to pull the air in. Another thing is that the odor of the bubbles had gone from slightly sour to fetid. That essentially means that the lungs are disintegrating, rotting, on the inside."

Euthanasia was the humane course of action, said Tony Reisinger, a marine and coastal resources expert for the Texas Sea Grant program. "It was suffering a lot," he said.

The beached whale was found Monday afternoon about a half mile north of the end of Highway 100 on South Padre Island.

The chance of beached whales recovering is slim, and in the case of this species, unprecedented.

"The melonheaded whale has never been successfully rehabilitated," deMaar said. "They come in and they're in such bad shape. They also do not lend themselves well to captivity or to this form of rehab environment because they are known to be both nervous and aggressive creatures."

The whale measured 94 inches — almost 8 feet, deMaar said. Members of the species can live for 20 years, perhaps even 30, according to some estimates.

Melonheaded whales are the third most-commonly stranded sea mammal on the Texas coast, behind the bottlenosed dolphin and the pigmy sperm whale, Reisinger said.

This melonheaded whale was the second of its species to wash ashore on South Padre Island in recent years. The

Search box with "Site" and "Web" radio buttons.

@BrownsvilleNews The Newsroom

Herald_crime NOT CLOSING: Greater Brownsville Incentive Corp. agrees to help #airport: brownsvilleherald.com/news/local/art... #RGV #sequester
7 seconds ago · reply · retweet · favorite

Herald_City Who is on #God's side of the marriage debate? - CNN Belief Blog - CNN.com Blogs religion.blogs.cnn.com/2013/03/25/who...
3 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite

MelissaMontoyaO I fully intend on listening to the #SCOTUS arguments on #prop8 once I'm finished with work today. SCOTUS season makes me happy! #nerd
51 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite

MelissaMontoyaO Supreme Court justices wary of sweeping vote on gay marriage - Jennifer Epstein and Josh Gerstein: politics.com/news/2013/03/27/...
Join the conversation

Submit Your News!

We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

Submit news

Real Estate



Stylish stairs: Five can-do ideas tha...



Go green and live comfortably all yea...



Five tips to take your home from 'for...'



Staging on a shoestring: Tips from th...

1 2 3 4

previous whale, found in 2007, also did not survive.

A post-mortem evaluation, known as necropsy, will be conducted in Galveston to determine why this whale washed ashore this week.

"The most common reason for melonheaded whales to be beached, that has been investigated, is that they get parasites in their ear," deMaar said. "That affects their balance and their ability to know where they're going, and also their ability to right themselves. So this animal is listing to one side, is breathing from the top of the head and not fully in control."

Water enters the whale's blowhole, and aspirational pneumonia can set in.

"This is not based on this animal," deMaar said. "I have no way to diagnose that without a post-mortem diagnosis."

henry@brownsvilleherald.com

Recommend: 18 | Tweet: 2 | 0 | 3

Discuss Print

Posted In Local on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 9:45 pm.

Similar Stories

- GBIC agrees to help airport keep control tower open
- Indictment: Officer made wrongful arrest
- Records: Rio Hondo candidates owe back taxes
- Woman turns cascarones into tiny works of art
- Records: Feds to offer more evidence in Villalobos case

Most Read

- Police: Mexican cartels seek vehicles; urge residents to secure vehicles
- Marchan's death might void conviction
- Man charged with sexual misconduct with girl, 13
- Mariachi director accused of sexual relationship with high school student
- Man pleads guilty to sex crimes



Add a comment...

Comment



Eberto Bert Presas

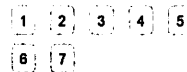
Hey FB friend sad day a work weren't able to save her. By the way that's me in the middle.

Reply · 1 · Like · February 28 at 11:16am

Facebook social plugin

Ads by Google

Rio Valley
Dermatology
Brownsville, Tx
956-546-7546



Find Local Businesses

Search GO

Popular Searches | Browse By Category

Calendar

March 2013						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
today's events		browse		submit		

Popular Commented Facebook Activity

Stories

Police: Mexican cartels seek vehicles; urge residents to secure vehicles

Marchan's death might void conviction

Man charged with sexual misconduct with girl, 13

Mariachi director accused of sexual relationship with high school student

Man pleads guilty to sex crimes

More

Photos

Videos

Welcome! [Login](#) | [Signup](#)
yourHoustonNews.com

[CLASSIFIEDS](#) [JOBS](#) [AUTOS](#) [HOMES](#) [FIND A BUSINESS](#) [PLACE AN AD](#)

[Home](#) [News](#) [Sports](#) [Living](#) [Opinion](#) [Photos](#) [Celebrations](#) [HerEntertainment](#) [Ad Services](#) [Obituaries](#) [Contact Us](#)

Tuesday March 26, 2013

[National News](#) [World News](#) [Storm Center](#) [Archives](#)

Expert: Sea level rise in Texas will get worse without action



Advanced Search
Search the Archives

[Story](#) [Comments](#)

[Print](#) [Font Size:](#)

[Recommend](#) [Tweet](#)

Posted: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 4:00 am

COLLEGE STATION — Sea-level rise is not the type of looming coastal natural hazard that announces itself with the roaring bravado of a hurricane, but it is there, in the details of the storm, and will only get worse in the absence of public sentiment to address the issue, says a Texas A&M University researcher and one of the state's leading coastal development experts.


"It is in the extreme events where people will be noticing the effects most in the short term," says John Jacob, Extension Program Director with the Texas Sea Grant College Program at Texas A&M. "Hurricane storm surge will be much more significant. A half-foot increase in storm surge elevation can mean tens to hundreds of square miles of additional flooding. Storm tides will be reaching farther inland flooding areas that have not been flooded before. In the longer run, what is today's storm tide will be tomorrow's high tide."

Sea level along the Texas Gulf Coast is rising by a fraction of an inch each year, but this increase is expected to accelerate and possibly inundate one of the state's most profitable and environmentally diverse regions. As a first step in addressing the problem at the state level, The University of Texas' Bureau of Economic Geology and Energy Institute recently released a report from a workshop it held last year at the university's Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas to identify the current status of sea level rise along the Texas Gulf Coast and to assess risks to the region's ecosystems, communities and economy.

The report, "The Risk of Rising Sea Level: Texas Universities Ready and Able to Help Coastal Communities Adapt" presents the findings of the workshop's 28 participating scientists from six of Texas' leading academic institutions, including Texas Sea Grant, along with representatives from the nonprofit, governmental and private sectors.

Looking for PHLEBOTOMY COURSES?
Search our 8,000 School database

1. Expert advice & reviews
2. Extensive program & course descriptions
3. Valuable, FREE information



campus explorer
Get Started

The report is available online at <http://texasseagrant.org>.

"Our intention with this white paper is to be educational," says Wendy Gordon, founder and principal of Ecologia Consulting in Austin, who was hired by The University of Texas to organize the workshop and summarize its finding in a report. "We want to initiate a dialogue among interested parties and these parties should span the entire state because the coast is important to all Texans. We want to raise the awareness about and profile of the issue, and hopefully build public support for more dollars being appropriated for sea level rise research and adaptation."

Sea-level rise is not a "someday" event. It is already a fact of life in Texas. Current data show coastal water levels are rising about one-fifth of an inch per year, which is about five times the rate seen during the previous 4,000 years and one of the highest rates reported globally, according to the report. It goes on to state that the current rate of sea-level rise in Texas is expected to accelerate further, doubling or even tripling by the end of the 21st century as a warming atmosphere fuels further expansion of the oceans and threatens to melt significant portions of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets.

By 2100, much of the Texas coast will most likely be under at least a foot of water and as much as six feet of water.

The results are here!

BEST of PASADENA & DEER PARK
Annual Reader's Choice

Thank You For Your VOTE!

COMMUNITY FAVORITE
2012
Reader's Choice WINNER

A. C. COLLINS



www.acollinsford.com

[Calendar](#) | [Post Your Event](#)

Easter EGGstravaganza
Sat, Mar 30, 2:00 pm CDT
Bayshore Baptist Church, La Porte

"We stand to lose a very large amount of one of our most productive environments in all of Texas — the coastal salt marsh," Jacob says. "All of our significant fisheries depend in one way or another on this environment. As sea level rises, marshes can migrate inland if the land is available, but there are many places on the coast lined with sharp rises or bluffs. In these areas marshes will drown as water rises. Much of the remaining areas are becoming urbanized with shoreline protection that will also hinder marsh migration."

The rising Gulf of Mexico will directly impact Texas' 18 coastal counties that account for less than six percent of the state's landmass but are home to almost a quarter of its 2010 population. According to the report, Texas' coastal population is growing more than twice as fast as the rest of the state.

"As we just saw with Hurricane Sandy on the East Coast, one of the outcomes of what was a pretty unusual confluence of weather events was a storm surge that was made worse by a century's worth of sea-level rise," Gordon says. "People living up and down the Texas coast and also living inland in low-lying regions are looking not only at incremental sea-level rise but also the fact that 10, 20 and 30 years hence, hurricanes that come ashore are going to push the tide even further inland. That becomes a risk to businesses, property owners, residents, and communities all along the coast and in turn it then becomes an economic risk throughout the state."

The coastal zone is one of the state's primary economic engines, fueled by oil and gas production and petrochemical refining operations, four of the country's 10 busiest ports and the considerable infrastructure needed to keep these enterprises running. Texas ports generate about \$5 billion in local and state tax revenues and \$48 billion in personal income. They also create 1 million direct jobs and 1.3 million indirect jobs annually. "The Risk of Rising Sea Level" states.

The report goes on to cite a recent study by Entergy, a power-generating utility based in Louisiana that serves East Texas, which estimated that the current value of Gulf Coast energy assets is \$800 billion.

"As people understand the issues here, we will see more consensus around the need to conduct additional studies and to start developing adaptation strategies," Gordon says. "This is a long-term issue. We're trying to get it in front of people now while we still have time to start responding to the threat."

Recommend 1 Tweet 5 2 3

Discuss Print

Posted in News on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 4:00 am.

- Similar Stories**
- Left waiting: Deer Park resident lobbies for traffic light
 - DPCAC discusses health impacts from environmental exposure
 - Traffic control changes made on East 13th Street
 - City Council approves funding for vehicles
 - New direction on an old idea

- Most Read**
- UFOs spotted over Liberty County
 - Woman dies in auto-ped crash
 - Hospital administrators allegedly involved in assault
 - UPDATED: Four killed, one injured in car accident on Highway 105
 - SIU arrests 'significant' meth dealer in Willis

Comments Facebook

ADDICTION HURTS
We provide education & support for families & loved ones of those suffering from alcohol and/or drug addiction.

DACODA
 BAY AREA COUNCIL ON DRUGS & ALCOHOL

281-212-2900

United Way

Shell Deer Park



"Strides for Schools" 5K Fun Run/Walk
 Saturday, April 13, 2013

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

HOBBY LOBBY

HAPPY EASTER!

Start Here for Easter Savings!

40% OFF
 One Item at a Time

Click Now

FindIt Here

SEARCH LOCAL BUSINESSES:

- Deer Park Apartments
- Deer Park Automotive
- Deer Park Banks
- Deer Park Dentists
- Deer Park Dining
- Deer Park Doctors
- Deer Park Realtors
- Deer Park Storage

[More Businesses](#)
[Claim Your Business Listing Today](#)

Appendix I

Texas Sea Grant Publications, 2012-2013

2013

Floating Classroom. Hiney, J. February 2013. (TAMU-SG-13-101.)

This information card describes the activities and benefits of taking students aboard the Texas Sea Grant Floating Classroom, the R/V *Karma*, for hands-on educational cruises on Corpus Christi Bay. It also lists additional resources available for teachers on the Floating Classroom website and provides information about the vessel and crew.

Texas Sea Grant College Program Scorecard. Hiney, J. February 2013. (TAMU-SG-13-102.)

Every state dollar invested in Texas Sea Grant returns five times that amount to the Texas economy. These and other facts are provided in this two-sided, full-color card that gives the highlights of the Texas Sea Grant College Program and emphasizes its benefits to the people, businesses and communities of the state.

Loggerhead Challenge. Looney, T. February 2013. (TAMU-SG-13-103.)

This program for the Loggerhead Challenge, held in Port Aransas on February 9, 2013, includes a campus map of The University of Texas Marine Science Institute, a welcome from the regional coordinator, competition schedule, scoresheets, a list of competing teams and players, national sponsors, an advertisement for the National Ocean Scholarship Program, and descriptions of Texas Sea Grant and the Dr. Wes Tunnell Sportsmanship Award.

Dolphin Challenge. Looney, T. February 2013. (TAMU-SG-13-104.)

This program for the Dolphin Challenge, held in Galveston on February 23, 2013, includes a map of Ball High School, a welcome from the regional coordinator, competition schedule, scoresheets, a list of competing teams and players, national sponsors, an advertisement for the National Ocean Scholarship Program, and descriptions of Texas Sea Grant and the Ralph Rayburn Sportsmanship Award.

A Snapshot of Urban Planning in Texas Coastal Communities. Wade, H. March 2013. (TAMU-SG-13-501.)

For several years, the state of Texas has experienced very rapid urban growth, much of it in the coastal zone. Unlike many other states in the country where urban planning is mandated, however, the state only recommends that such planning be done. A survey was conducted in early 2012 of coastal community planning professionals about comprehensive planning, hazards planning, and planning for future environmental changes. This report gives the results of that survey and provides a snapshot of where coastal communities stand with respect to urban planning.

Texas Sea Grant Strategic Plan: 2014-2017. Plotkin, P. February 2013. (TAMU-SG-13-601.)

This Strategic Plan is designed to guide the Texas Sea Grant College Program during the period 2014-2017. It aligns with the National Sea Grant Program's priorities as outlined

in the National Sea Grant Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and NOAA's goals and objectives as articulated in NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan. The plan also capitalizes on Texas Sea Grant's unique capacities and strengths, and establishes a prioritized direction to guide Texas Sea Grant in addressing critical state needs.

2012

Outlook and Beyond 2012. Hollin, D. (TAMU-SG-12-101.)

This brochure describes the 35th Annual Marine/Offshore Industry Outlook Conference, and includes a mail-in registration form and websites for online registration access. It lists the agenda for the conference on March 29, 2012, and also information about an evening reception on March 28, 2012. The conference is sponsored by the Marine Technology Society-Houston Section, the National Ocean Industries Association, and Texas Sea Grant.

Loggerhead Challenge Regional Ocean Sciences Bowl. January 2012. Looney, T. (TAMU-SG-10-102.)

This program for the February 4, 2012, Loggerhead Challenge regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl includes the campus map of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, a welcome from the regional coordinator, competition schedule, scoresheets and the double elimination seeding chart, a list of competing teams and players, national and regional sponsors, an advertisement for the National Ocean Scholarship Program, and descriptions of Texas Sea Grant and the Dr. Wes Tunnell Sportsmanship Award.

Wanted: Tiger Shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*). January 2012. Powell, C. (TAMU-SG-12-103.)

This card was developed to support efforts by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to collect invasive tiger shrimp for genetic analysis. It was designed to be printed by Texas Sea Grant Coastal and Marine Resource Agents with their contact information and distributed to shrimp fishermen along the Texas coast. It includes photos and a description to aid identification of the invasive, a request for information about the trawl, instructions on how to store the specimen, and a request to call the agent to pick up the shrimp at dockside for transport to TPWD. Spanish- and Vietnamese-language versions are also available.

Wanted: Tiger Shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) Powell, C. March 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-104.)

This flyer was developed to support efforts by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to collect invasive tiger shrimp for genetic analysis. It was designed to be printed by Texas Sea Grant Coastal and Marine Resource Agents with their contact information and posted at dockside and in fish houses along the Texas coast. It includes photos and a description to aid identification of the invasive, a request for information about the trawl, instructions on how to store the specimen, and a request to call the agent to pick up the shrimp at dockside for transport to TPWD. Spanish- and Vietnamese-language versions are also available.

Dolphin Challenge Regional Ocean Sciences Bowl. February 2012. Looney, T. (TAMU-SG-12-105.)

This program for the March 3, 2012, Dolphin Challenge regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl includes the campus map of Texas A&M University at Galveston, a welcome from the regional coordinator, competition schedule, scoresheets and the double elimination seeding chart, a list of competing teams and players, national and regional sponsors, an advertisement for the National Ocean Scholarship Program, and descriptions of Texas Sea Grant and the Ralph Rayburn Sportsmanship Award.

Outlook and Beyond 2012 Program. Hollin, D. March 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-106.)

This program for the 2012 Outlook 2012 and Beyond (the 35th Annual Marine/Offshore Industry Outlook) Conference. It includes the conference schedule, sponsors, biographies of the seven guest speakers, and a historical review of the conference from its first meeting in 1977.

SE BUSCA: Camarón Tigre (*Penaeus monodon*). Powell, C. March 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-107.)

This card was developed to support efforts by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to collect invasive tiger shrimp for genetic analysis. It was designed to be printed by Texas Sea Grant Coastal and Marine Resource Agents with their contact information and distributed to shrimp fishermen along the Texas coast. It includes photos and a description to aid identification of the invasive, a request for information about the trawl, instructions on how to store the specimen, and a request to call the agent to pick up the shrimp at dockside for transport to TPWD. This is a Spanish translation of the English-language cards (TAMU-SG-12-103).

SE BUSCA: Camarón Tigre (*Penaeus monodon*). Powell, C. March 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-108.)

This flyer was developed to support efforts by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to collect invasive tiger shrimp for genetic analysis. It was designed to be printed by Texas Sea Grant Coastal and Marine Resource Agents with their contact information and posted at dockside and in fish houses along the Texas coast. It includes photos and a description to aid identification of the invasive, a request for information about the trawl, instructions on how to store the specimen, and a request to call the agent to pick up the shrimp at dockside for transport to TPWD. This is a Spanish translation of the English-language flyer (TAMU-SG-12-104).

Cần: Tôm Sú (*Penaeus monodon*). March 2012. Powell, C. (TAMU-SG-12-109.)

This card was developed to support efforts by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to collect invasive tiger shrimp for genetic analysis. It was designed to be printed by Texas Sea Grant Coastal and Marine Resource Agents with their contact information and distributed to shrimp fishermen along the Texas coast. It includes photos and a description to aid identification of the invasive, a request for information about the trawl, instructions on how to store the specimen, and a request to call the agent to pick up the shrimp at dockside for transport to TPWD. This is a Vietnamese translation of the

English-language cards (TAMU-SG-12-103).

Cần: Tôm Sú (*Penaeus monodon*). March 2012. Powell, C. (TAMU-SG-12-110.)

This flyer was developed to support efforts by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to collect invasive tiger shrimp for genetic analysis. It was designed to be printed by Texas Sea Grant Coastal and Marine Resource Agents with their contact information and posted at dockside and in fish houses along the Texas coast. It includes photos and a description to aid identification of the invasive, a request for information about the trawl, instructions on how to store the specimen, and a request to call the agent to pick up the shrimp at dockside for transport to TPWD. This is a Vietnamese translation of the English-language flyer (TAMU-SG-12-104).

A Review of Palacios Shrimp Landings, Matagorda Bay Oyster Resources, and Statewide Economic Impacts from the Texas Seafood Supply Chain and Saltwater Sportfishing. Haby, M.B. May 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-201.)

The Sierra Club requested current information about the seafood industries in Matagorda County and an estimate of the economic impacts generated by commercial seafood production and sports fishing. Regarding Matagorda County seafood industries, offshore shrimp harvests dominate, making Palacios a perennial entry in the NOAA Fisheries roster of the nation's most valuable fish ports. In addition to shrimp, the Matagorda Bay system has historically been a steady supplier of oysters, the second most valuable Texas seafood. In 2009 the Texas seafood sector contributed \$430 million to Texas' gross domestic product (23 percent), while the sportfishing sector contributed \$1.435 billion (77 percent). Similar contributions from these sectors have been reported in other studies, which estimated the economic contributions of U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries.

Trash, Save, Return: 3 Steps to Protect your Septic System. York, C. 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-301.)

First in a series of two publications from the Texas Coastal Watershed Program, this mailer describes the best practices to protect a septic system and provides a list of do's and don'ts of septic maintenance and web addresses for additional resources.

Why Sewer is Better. York, C. 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-302.)

Second in a series of two publications from the Texas Coastal Watershed Program, this mailer explains how a septic system works, the drawbacks and alternatives such as aerobic, mound, trickling filter, sand filter and low-pressure dosing systems.

Help Us Help the Coast-Take Our Survey! Wade, H. 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-303.)

This card encourages members of the public to participate in a survey to help set the priorities for Texas Sea Grant's Strategic Plan for the next four-year period.

Stormwater Wetlands for the Texas Gulf Coast. Jacobs, J., M. Sipocz, F. Jaber and C. York. August 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-501.)

This publication introduces the concept of stormwater wetlands and explores how well they might work on the Texas Gulf Coast. The second edition includes new text not

included in the original 2009 publication about designing a stormwater wetland and retrofitting a detention basin.

Saltwater Fishes of Texas: A Dichotomous Key, Second Edition (McKee Key).

Merryman, M.S., K.C. Rainer, D.A. McKee and E.O. Murdy; illus. by J.D.

Fechhelm, K.C. Rainer, Bohlke and Chaplin. 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-601.)

This update to the previous edition by the same title prepared by Edward O. Murdy in 1995 provides information, with illustrations, for identifying adult estuarine and marine fishes found along the Texas coast. The area of coverage extends from Sabine Pass to the mouth of the Rio Grande and includes all estuarine waters and that part of the Gulf of Mexico above the continental shelf to a depth of 200 meters.

Examining the Impacts of Development Patterns on Flooding on the Gulf of Mexico Coast. Brody, S., H. Kim and J. Gunn. *Urban Studies*, 1-18, June 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-804.)

This article addresses this understudied aspect of development patterns and community resiliency by examining a five-year record of insured flood loss claims across 144 counties and parishes fringing the Gulf of Mexico. Linear regression models are employed to isolate the effects of five different development patterns on observed flood losses from 2001 to 2005 while controlling for multiple contextual variables. A novel approach is taken to measuring development form by using a series of landscape metrics usually reserved for ecological analysis. These measures enable the assessment of the form of the regional built environment with more specificity than has been possible in previous studies. Results indicate that more connected and concentrated development patterns lead to a reduction in the amount of observed flood losses. These findings illustrate the importance of regional planning and design for fostering flood-resilient communities.

Mapping social vulnerability to enhance housing and neighborhood resilience.

Zandt, S.V., W.G. Peacock, D.W. Henry, H. Grover, W.E. Highfield, and S.D. Brody.

***Housing Policy Debate*, 22(1):29-55. January 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-807.)**

Social factors influence the ability of coastal communities and their populations to anticipate, respond, resist, and recover from disasters. Galveston, Texas, offers a unique opportunity to test the efficacy of social vulnerability mapping to identify inequalities in the ways that different parts of the community may react to a disaster. We describe spatial patterns of social vulnerability prior to 2008's Hurricane Ike and compare them to outcomes related to response, impact, recovery resources, and early stages of the rebuilding. Households and neighborhoods identified using vulnerability mapping experienced negative outcomes: later evacuation, a greater degree of damage sustained, fewer private and public resources for recovery, and slower and lower volumes of repair and rebuilding activity. Findings support using community vulnerability mapping as a tool for emergency management, hazard mitigation, and disaster recovery planning, helping communities to reduce losses and enhance response and recovery, thereby strengthening community resilience and reducing inequalities.

Ecological indicators of flood risk along the Gulf of Mexico. Brody, S.D., W.G. Peacock, and J. Gunn. *Ecological Indicators*, 18:493-500. January 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-810.)

Despite mounting economic losses from both acute and chronic flood events in coastal areas of the U.S., little empirical research has been conducted on the importance of existing landscape-level ecological components in mitigating the economic impacts to vulnerable coastal communities over the long term. In recognition of this lack of knowledge base, we examine several ecological indicators across 144 counties bordering the Gulf of Mexico. Specifically, we identify and measure the following four indicators: floodplain area, soil porosity, naturally occurring wetlands, and pervious surfaces. We then statistically test the degree to which these indicators reduce insured flood losses observed across the study area over a five-year period from 2001 to 2005. Results based on multiple regression models controlling for various environmental and socioeconomic characteristics support the notion that certain features of the natural environment help mitigate the negative economic consequences that arise from floods. The findings provide guidance to local and regional policy makers on where to guide future development. Reducing the amount of flood losses helps building more flood-resilient human communities along the Gulf coast not only in terms of economic savings but also to reduce human loss.

An Informal Program Changes Science Perceptions. Bargmann, S., and C.A. McCollough. *Academic Exchange Quarterly* 15(1). 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-850.)

This mixed-method study evaluated changes in a student's perceptions of science after participating in an after school PBL science program. Students completed pre/post tests derived from VNOS form C to evaluate perceptions of science. Multiple choice questions were used to measure the student's content knowledge. The hypothesis tested whether inquiry based activities of the Science Club changed the students' perceptions of science when compared to a control group of students who did not participate. Participating students did show changes in their perceptions of science.

Regional attributes of hurricane surge response functions for hazard assessment. Song, Y.K, J.L. Irish and I.E. Udoh. December 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-872.)

Accurate quantification of hurricane surge probabilities is critically important for coastal planning and design. Recently, the joint probability method has been shown to yield statistically reliable surge probabilities and has quickly become the method of choice for extreme value surge analysis in the USA. A main disadvantage of the joint probability method is the requirement to have accurate computational surge simulations for a large array of hurricane conditions. Recently, this shortcoming has been overcome by using a variety of interpolation schemes to reduce the number of surge simulations required to an optimal sample for joint probability analysis. One interpolation scheme uses response functions, or physically based dimensionless scaling laws, that consider the relative impact of hurricane landfall position, central pressure, and storm size on surge magnitude at the location of interest. Here, the influence of regional changes in bathymetry on the physically based response function form is investigated. It will be shown that the influence of continental shelf width on surge generation along a continuous coast is coupled with the influence of storm size and that this coupled physical effect can be

treated within the response functions via dimensionless scaling. The surge response function model presented here has an algebraic form for rapid calculation. This model performs well for the entire 600-km Texas coast, yielding accurate surge estimates (root-mean-square errors less than 0.22 m and R^2 correlations better than 0.97) with virtually no bias (mean error magnitudes less than 0.03 m).

A method for estimating future hurricane flood probabilities and associated uncertainty. Irish, J.L., M. ASCE, D.T. Resio, and M. ASCE. April 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-873.)

Reliable hurricane flood probability estimates are essential for effective management and engineering in the coastal environment. Yet, uncertainty in future climate conditions presents a challenge for assessing future flood probabilities. Studies suggest that in the future sea-level rise may accelerate and hurricanes may intensify and occur less or more often. Here, methods are presented for incorporating sea-level rise and future hurricane conditions into extreme-value flood statistics analysis. By considering an idealized coast, surge response functions are used with joint probability statistics to define time-varying continuous probability mass functions for hurricane flood elevation. Uncertainty in the flood estimates introduced by uncertainty in future climate is quantified by considering variance in future climate and sea level projections. It will be shown that future global warming can increase the flood elevation at a given return period by 1 to 3% per decade, but that climate-related uncertainty only marginally contributes to the overall uncertainty associated with hurricane flood statistics. Finally, it will be demonstrated that adaptive management practices are the most effective means of optimizing future coastal engineering activities in the face of climate change.

Interactions Between Platform Terminal Transmitters and Turtle Excluder Devices. Seney, E.E., B.M. Higgins, and A.M. Landry Jr. August 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-887.)

Satellite telemetry is a common tool for examining sea turtle movements, and many research programs have successfully tracked adults. Relatively short satellite track durations recorded for juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtles, *Lepidochelys kempii*, in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico raised questions regarding premature transmission loss. We examined interactions between juvenile sea turtles outfitted with platform terminal transmitters (PTT's) and turtle excluder devices (TED's) and the potential for transmission loss due to this interaction. A pilot study was conducted with eight 34-month-old, captive-reared loggerhead sea turtles, *Caretta caretta*; a larger trial the following year used twenty 34-month-olds. Half of the turtles in each trial were outfitted with dummy PTT's (8x4x2 cm), and all turtles were sent through a trawl equipped with a bottom-opening Super-Shooter TED. No apparent damage was sustained by any PTT, but four of five PTT-outfitted loggerheads encountering the TED carapace-first exhibited increased escape times when the PTT wedged between the TED deflector bars (10.2 cm apart). Overall, 15 loggerheads (54%) impacted the TED carapace-first. Attachment of PTT's to smaller sea turtles may slow or, in worst cases, inhibit escape from TED's. Likewise, loose or poorly secured PTT's could impede escape or be shed during such an interaction. Researchers tracking small turtles in or near regions with trawling activity should consider PTT size and shape and the combined PTT/adhesive profile to minimize potentially detrimental interactions with TED's.

Formation of tidal starting-jet vortices through idealized barotropic inlets with finite length. Bryant, D.B., K.A. Whilden, S.A. Socolofsky, and K.A. Chang. January 2012. (TAMU-SG-12-892.)

This paper presents a surface particle image velocimetry study to investigate the dynamics of shallow starting-jet dipoles formed by tidal flow through inlets and their interaction with vorticity formed at the inlet channel lateral boundaries. Vortical structure in the flow field is identified using a local swirl strength criterion evaluated from the twodimensional flow field. The starting jet dipole vortices and vortices formed as the lateral boundary layers are expelled during flow reversal are characterized by their trajectory, size, and circulation. Using these quantities, a model is developed to predict the size and strength of the expelled lateral boundary layer vortices based on the inlet velocity, channel length, and width of the lateral boundary layer. The expelled boundary layer vortices are found to disrupt the formation of the primary tidal jet dipole through two mechanisms. First, because the boundary layer vortices themselves form a dipole with each half of the starting-jet dipole, the starting-jet vortices are pulled apart and advected away from the inlet mouth early in the tidal cycle, resulting in a reduction in the spin-up time and the amount of vorticity input during starting-jet vortex formation. Second, the advection of each dipole away from the inlet disconnects each starting-jet vortex from the starting jet; hence, the vortices are not fed by fluid in the jet or energized by shear in the jet boundary layers. These influences of the lateral boundary layer on the starting-jet vortices' formation and propagation are found to be a function of the channel length L , maximum velocity U , and tidal period T , resulting in a predictive value to characterize their trajectory, strength, and evolution.

Appendix J

Texas Sea Grant Advisory Committee Directory

April 2013

Keith Arnold

Chief Executive Officer
Corpus Christi Convention & Visitor's
Bureau
101 N. Shoreline Blvd., Ste. 430
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
361-331-1720
karnold@visitcorpuschristitx.org
January 2012 - December 2015

Jude Benavides, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Hydrology and Water
Resources
Chemistry & Environmental Sciences
Department
University of Texas at Brownsville
80 Fort Brown / MO 1.140
Brownsville, TX 78520
956- 882-5938
jude.benavides@utb.edu
January 2012 - December 2015

John Blaha

Assistant Director
Coastal Conservation Association Texas
6919 Portwest, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77024
713- 626-4222
jdblaha@ccatexas.org
January 2012 - December 2015

Edward Buskey, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Marine Science
Research Coordinator, Mission Aransas
NERR
University of Texas Marine Science Institute
750 Channel View Drive
Port Aransas, TX 78373-5015
361-749-6794
FAX 361-749-6774
ed.buskey@mail.utexas.edu
January 2012 - December 2013

Meridith Byrd

HAB Response Coordinator
Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
2805 North Navarro
Suite 600A
Victoria, TX 77901
361-575-6306
FAX 361-572-4134
meridith.byrd@tpwd.state.tx.us
January 2013 - December 2016

Charles W. Caillouet, Jr., Ph.D.

Fisheries Scientist and Conservation
Volunteer
119 Victoria Drive West
Montgomery, Texas 77356-8446
936-597-6871
Waxmanjr@aol.com
January 2012 - December 2015

Aimee Coates Marsh

Executive Director,
North and Central America
The EIC
11490 Westheimer #850
Houston, TX 77077
Phone: 713-783-1200
Fax: 713-783-0067
aimee.marsh@the-eic.com
January 2012 - December 2015

Debbie Danford

Grant and Proposal Coordinator
Institute of Renewable Natural Resources
1500 Research Parkway, Suite 110
2260 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2260
979-862-7205
dedanford@ag.tamu.edu
January 2012 - December 2013

Hudson DeYoe, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Subtropical Studies
Professor, Biology Department
University of Texas Pan American
1201 West University Drive
Edinburg, Texas 78541
956- 665-3538
FAX 956- 665-3657
hdeyoe@utpa.edu
January 2012 - December 2013

Chris Dorsett, Ph.D.

Director, Fish Conservation & Gulf
Restoration Program
Ocean Conservancy
106 E. 6th Street, Suite 400
Austin, TX 78701
512-542-3331
FAX 512-542-3332
cdorsett@oceanconservancy.org
January 2012 - December 2013

Ryan Fikes

Deputy Director
Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Inc.
PMB 51, 5403 Everhart Road (mailing)
3833 S Staples Street, S-214 (physical)
Corpus Christi, TX 78411
361-882-3939
ryan@gulfmex.org
January 2012 - December 2015

Linda Fuiman

Marine Education Outreach/Roads Scholar
Program Coordinator
University of Texas Marine Science Institute
750 Channel View Drive
Port Aransas, TX 78373-5015
361-749-6806
linda.fuiman@mail.utexas.edu
January 2012 - December 2015

Benny Gallaway, Ph.D.

President
LGL Ecological Research Associates
1410 Cavitt Street
Bryan, TX 77801
979-775-2000
FAX 979-775-2002
bjg@lgltx.com
January 2012 - December 2013

David A. Garza

Commissioner
Cameron County Precinct 3
1390 W Expressway 83
San Benito TX 78586
956-361-8209
FAX 956-361-8211
DAGarza@co.cameron.tx.us
January 2012 - December 2015

Karen Huber

Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer
Conservation District HCP Management
Advisory Committee; Hill Country Alliance
Water Team; former Travis County
Commissioner for the Lake Travis/Lake
Austin area
23020 Perdarnales Canyon Trail
Spicewood, TX 78669
512-854-9333
karenhuber@earthlink.net
January 2012 - December 2015

Steven Johnston

Monitoring & Research and Water &
Sediment Quality Coordinator
Galveston Bay Estuary Program
17041 El Camino Real, Suite 210
Houston, TX 77058
281-486-1244
FAX 281-218-6807
sjohnsto@tceq.state.tx.us
January 2012 - December 2013

Jim Lester, Ph.D.

Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Houston Advanced Research Center
4800 Research Forest Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77381
281-364-6041
jlester@harc.edu
January 2012 - December 2013

Carlos Marin, Ph.D.

President and Director
Ambiotec Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 2565
Harlingen, TX 78551
956-548-9333
cmmarin@ambiotec.com
January 2012 - December 2015

Larry McKinney, Ph.D. (Chairman)

Executive Director
Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico
Studies
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5869
Corpus, Christi, TX 78412-5869
361-825-2070
larry.mckinney@tamucc.edu
January 2012 - December 2013

Javier Mendez

Director
Cameron County Parks & Recreation
33174 State Park Road 100
South Padre Island, Texas 78597
956-761-3700
jmendez@co.cameron.tx.us
January 2012 - December 2015

Jim L. Munro, Ph.D.

Professor of Public Policy
University of West Florida (Retired)
110 Martin Road
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
Phone: 361-676-3414
jlmunro@msn.com
January 2012 - December 2015

Helen Paige

Manager
Marina Bay Harbor
PO Box 478
Kemah, TX 77565
281-535-2222

Helen@marinabayharbor.com

January 2012 - December 2015

Bonnie J. Ponwith, Ph.D.

Director
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
NOAA Fisheries Service
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149
305-361-4264

Bonnie.Ponwith@noaa.gov

January 2012 - December 2015

Melissa Porter

Grants Team Leader
Grant Program & Support
Texas General Land Office
1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78701-1495
512-475-1393

melissa.porter@glo.texas.gov

January 2012 - December 2015

Mike Ray, Ph.D.

Deputy Director, Coastal Fisheries
Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744
(512) 389-4649

mike.ray@tpwd.state.tx.us

January 2013 - December 2016

Carlton Reyes

President
Brownsville-Port Isabel Shrimp Producers
Assoc.

161 Village East Dr.
Los Fresnos, TX 78566
creyes4734@aol.com

Cell 956-572-1990

January 2012 - December 2015

Debbie Richards

K-12 Science Coordinator
Bryan Independent School District
101 N. Texas Avenue
Bryan, TX 77803
979-209-1078

debra.richards@bryanisd.org

January 2012 - December 2015

Cecilia Riley

Executive Director
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
103 West Highway 332
Lake Jackson, TX 77566
979-480-0999

criley@gcbo.org

January 2012 - December 2015

Patrick F. Riley

General Manager
Western Seafood Company
108 Silverbell Circle
Lake Jackson, TX 77566
979-481-2100

p.f.riley@comcast.net

January 2012 - December 2015

Gil Rowe, Ph.D.

Regents Professor
Chair of the Interdisciplinary Degree
Program (IDP) in Marine Biology, TAMUS
Texas A&M University-Galveston
Administration
P.O. Box 1675
200 Seawolf Parkway
Galveston, TX 77553
409-740-4847

FAX 409-740-4407

roweg@tamug.edu

January 2012 - December 2013

Ruben Solis, Ph.D.

Director, Surface Water Resources
Texas Water Development Board
P.O. Box 13231
Austin, TX 78711-3231
512-936-0820

ruben.solis@twdb.state.tx.us

January 2012 - December 2013

Joe Surovik

Owner
Coastal Safari Charters
PO Box 868
Port O'Connor, TX 77982
361-983-1407
Cell: 361-550-8552

January 2012 - December 2015

Reuben Trevino

Coastal Resources Manager
City of South Padre Island
4601 Padre Blvd
South Padre Island, TX 78597
956-761-3035
FAX 956-761-3898
rtrevino@myspi.org
January 2012 - December 2015

John W. (Wes) Tunnell, Jr., Ph.D.

Assoc. Director & Endowed Chair for
Biodiversity and Conservation Science
Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico
Studies
Regents Professor and Professor of Biology
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive, MS 5869
Corpus, Christi, TX 78412
361-825-2055
wes.tunnell@tamucc.edu
January 2012 - December 2013

Joe E. Vega

Mayor
City of Port Isabel Texas
305 E Maxan St.
Port Isabel, TX 78578
956-943-2682
Cell: 956-499-7901
JoeEVega@yahoo.com
January 2012 - December 2015

Robert Vega, Ph.D.

Director
Coastal Fisheries Enhancement Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
4300 Waldron Road
Corpus Christi, TX 78418
361-939-7784
Robert.Vega@tpwd.state.tx.us
January 2012 - December 2013

Wyndylyn von Zharen, Ph.D.

Regents Professor
Marine Science Department
Texas A&M University at Galveston
P.O. Box 1675
Galveston, TX 77553
409-740-4485
dr_vonzharen@msn.com
VonZharen@tamug.edu
January 2013 - December 2016

Appendix K

Texas Sea Grant Staff Directory

April 2013

Pamela T. Plotkin, Ph.D., Director
Texas A&M University
TAES Annex Building
730 Lamar Street
4115 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-4115
Phone: 979-845-3854, Fax: 979-845-7525
Email: plotkin@tamu.edu

Tanya Baker, Communication Specialist (Graphic Designer and Webmaster)
Texas A&M University
TAES Annex Building
730 Lamar Street
4115 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-4115
Phone: 979-862-3769, Fax: 979-845-7525
Email: tbaker05@tamu.edu

Mona Behl, Ph.D., Research Coordinator
Texas A&M University
TAES Annex Building
730 Lamar Street
4115 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-4115
Phone: 979-458-0449, Fax: 979-845-7525
Email: monabehl@tamu.edu

Karen Bishop, Research Assistant
UTMSI
750 Channel View Drive
Port Aransas, TX 78373
Mobile: 210-557-6795
Email: karen.bishop@tamu.edu

Peter Bruns, Student Technician for Communications
Email: sgpublications@seagrant.tamu.edu

Rhonda Cummins, Extension Agent-Coastal and Marine Resources, Calhoun County
186 Co. Rd. 101, Suite 1
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
Phone: 361-552-9747, Fax: 361-552-6727
Email: rcummins@tamu.edu

Karla Dunlap, Research Assistant
UTPA
1201 W University Drive
Edinburg, TX 78539
Mobile: 814-450-5732
Email: karla.dunlap@tamu.edu

Mary Carol Edwards, Wetland Program Assistant
1250 Bay Area Blvd., Suite C
Houston, TX 77058
Phone: 281-218-6253
Email: mcedwards@neo.tamu.edu

Peggy Foster, Assistant to the Director
Texas A&M University
TAES Annex Building
730 Lamar Street
4115 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-4115
Phone: 979-845-1245 Fax: 979-845-7525
Email: pfoster@tamu.edu

Eric Graham, Programmer/Analyst (IT Coordinator and Publications Distribution Manager)
Texas A&M University
TAES Annex Building
730 Lamar Street
4115 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-4115
Phone: 979-862-3774, Fax: 979-845-7525
Email: egraham@tamu.edu

Gary Graham, Professor and Extension Specialist, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science,
Marine Fisheries Specialist
P.O. Box 1125
West Columbia, TX 77486
Phone: 979-345-6131, Fax: 979-345-6131
Email: glgshrimp@embarqmail.com

Mike Haby, Professor & Extension Specialist, Department of Ag Economics, Seafood Specialist
10345 Hwy. 44
Corpus Christi, TX 78406-1412
Phone: 361-265-9203, Fax: 361-265-9434
Email: m-haby@tamu.edu

Jim Hiney, Communications Coordinator (Media Relations)
Texas A&M University
TAES Annex Building
730 Lamar Street
4115 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-4115
Phone: 979-862-3773, Fax: 979-845-7525
Email: bohiney@tamu.edu

John Jacob, Ph.D.,
Director of Texas Sea Grant Extension
Professor & Extension Specialist
1250 Bay Area Blvd., Suite C
Houston, TX 77058
Phone: 281-218-0565, Fax: 281-218-6352
Email: jjacob@tamu.edu

Chris LaChance, Watersmart Program Coordinator
1250 Bay Area Blvd., Suite C
Houston, TX 77058
Phone: 281-218-0721
Email: c-lachance@tamu.edu

Terrie Looney, Extension Agent-Coastal and Marine Resources,
Jefferson & Chambers Counties
National Ocean Sciences Bowl (Regional Coordinator)
1225 Pearl Street, Suite 200
Beaumont, TX 77701
Phone: 409-835-8461, Fax: 409-839-2310
Email: tslooney@ag.tamu.edu

Julie Massey, Extension Agent-Coastal and Marine Resources, Galveston County
4102 B Main St. (FM 519)
La Marque, TX 77568
Phone: 281-309-5063, Fax: 281-534-4053
Email: jmassey@ag.tamu.edu

Rhonda Meyer, Administrative Coordinator
1250 Bay Area Blvd., Suite C
Houston, TX 77058
Phone: 281-218-0570
Email: rhondameyer@tamu.edu

Russell Miget, Ph.D., Associate Professor & Extension Specialist,
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Environmental Quality Specialist
(Floating Classroom Program Coordinator)
NRC 2800 –Unit 5840
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5840
Phone: 361-825-3460, Fax: 361-825-3465
Karma Phone: 409-201-3357
Email: russ.miget@tamucc.edu

Steve Mikulencak, Highland Bayou Program Coordinator
1250 Bay Area Blvd., Suite C
Houston, TX 77058
Phone: 281-218-6128
Email: samikulencak@ag.tamu.edu

John O'Connell, Extension Agent-Coastal and Marine Resources, Brazoria County
21017 County Road 171
Angleton, TX 77515-8903
Phone: 979-864-1558, Fax: 979-865-1566
Email: j-oconnell@tamu.edu

Rhonda Patterson, Community/Campus Outreach Coordinator
Texas A&M University
TAES Annex Building
730 Lamar Street
4115 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-4115
Phone: 979-845-3857, Fax: 979-845-7525
Email: r-patterson@tamu.edu

Terry Poehl, Associate Director of Administration
Texas A&M University
TAES Annex Building
730 Lamar Street
4115 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-4115
Phone: 979-845-3854, Fax: 979-845-7525
Email: tlpoehl@tamu.edu

Cindie Powell, Associate Editor (*Texas Shores* Editor and Publications Coordinator)

Texas A&M University
TAES Annex Building
730 Lamar Street
4115 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-4115
Phone: 979-862-3770, Fax: 979-845-7525
Email: cpowell@tamu.edu

Tony Reisinger, Extension Agent-Coastal and Marine Resources, Cameron County

1390 W. Expressway 83
San Benito, TX 78586
Phone: 956-361-8236, Fax: 956-361-8289
Email: e-reisinger@tamu.edu

Logan Respass, Extension Program Leader

Texas A&M University
TAES Annex Building
730 Lamar Street
4115 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-4115
Phone: 979-845-7526, Fax: 979-845-7525
Email: l-respass@tamu.edu

Miranda Rubach, Reporting Coordinator

Texas A&M University
TAES Annex Building
730 Lamar Street
4115 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-4115
Phone: 979-845-3855, Fax: 979-845-7525
Email: m-rubach@tamu.edu

Marissa Sipocz, Wetland Program Manager

1250 Bay Area Blvd., Suite C
Houston, TX 77058
Phone: 281-218-6253
Email: m-sipocz@tamu.edu

Granvil Treece, Aquaculture Specialist
Texas A&M University
TAES Annex Building
730 Lamar Street
4115 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-4115
Phone: 979-945-7527, Fax: 979-845-7525
Email: g-treece@tamu.edu

Heather Wade, Coastal Planning Specialist
University of Texas Marine Science Institute
750 Channel View Drive
Port Aransas, TX 78373
Phone: 361-749-3049, Fax: 361-749-6777
Email: hbwade@tamu.edu

Charriss York, Stormwater Projects Coordinator
1250 Bay Area Blvd., Suite C
Houston, TX 77058
Phone: 281-218-6329
Email: cyork@tamu.edu