



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mississippi Gulf of Mexico Alliance Public Meeting to Be Held January 31

BILOXI, Miss. –The Mississippi Gulf of Mexico Alliance in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR), the DMR's Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP), Mississippi State University (MSU), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Coastal Services Center (CSC), are sponsoring an information exchange meeting designed to inform the public and gain local perspectives on critical issues related to the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. Strategies for reducing nutrient loading, improving water quality, restoring coastal wetlands, identifying Gulf habitats and providing environmental education will be discussed at the public meeting, which will be held Tuesday, January 31, 2006 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center (CREC) auditorium located at 1815 Popp's Ferry Road in Biloxi. **The public is encouraged to pre-register for this meeting by contacting Marian Dicas at 228-475-7047 or marian.dicas@dmr.state.ms.us.**

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) was formed in response to the *U.S. Ocean Commission Report* (September 2004) and the *U.S. Ocean Action Plan* (December 2004). These reports noted specific ocean-related problems nationwide and, among other solutions, called for a regional collaborative approach to improve the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. This endeavor is particularly important now as we make a commitment to work together to rebuild the Gulf Coast after the devastating 2005 hurricane season. Information gathered during the meeting will be compiled and conveyed during the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Stakeholder Meeting on February 1, 2006 at the MSU CREC. Comments from the public will also be incorporated into an Action Plan that will be presented at the State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas in March 2006.

Textbox:

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