

# GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE

**MEDIA ADVISORY:** June 7, 2005

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## **STATE, FEDERAL LEADERS FORGING AHEAD WITH GULF OF MEXICO PLAN**

*--Five Gulf states and White House collaborating for environmental protection --*

**NAPLES, FL --** Top environmental officials from the White House and five neighboring states are gathering in Naples to firm up a plan to strengthen protection for the Gulf of Mexico. Hosted by Florida, the five Gulf states and the federal government are partnering on a shared ecosystem-based approach for protecting the health of the more than 3.7 billion acres of Gulf water through coordinated coastal research, ocean education and water quality improvement.

A press conference will be held with Council on Environmental Quality Chairman James L. Connaughton, Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Colleen M. Castille, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Chairperson Kathleen Hartnett White, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Executive Director Charles Chisolm, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Senior Environmental Scientist Dugan Sabins and Alabama Department of Conservation Coastal Section Director and Chair of the Coastal States Organization Philip Hinesley.

**Thursday, June 9, 2005**

**11:30am**

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Palmetto Room  
300 Tower Road  
Naples, Florida 34113

A press conference call in number has been established for media that would like to attend via telephone:

**(850) 922-2904**

**Participating media should RSVP to Renee Wilson at (239) 417-6310 x213.**