



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

Office of Communications • Mark Dallas Loeffler, Director
1700 N. Congress Ave. • Austin, TX 78701-1495 • 512-463-5339 • Fax: 512-475-1415

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2009

Contact: Jim Suydam
(512) 463-5339
(512) 417-5382 cell

Coastal experts come together in Galveston

Land Office hosts Coastal Conference 2009: Caring for the Coast

AUSTIN — Top coastal experts from across the nation will converge on Galveston Island Convention Center June 4-5 for the Coastal Conference 2009: Caring for the Coast, hosted by the Texas General Land Office. Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson will be the keynote speaker.

The conference begins Thursday, June 4, with a field trip to Bolivar Peninsula, one of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Ike. It will then continue along the Galveston Seawall highlighting the recent beach nourishment project and conclude across from the Galveston Island Convention Center with a presentation of the newly constructed ADA compliant beach access ramp and a seaweed raking demonstration by the Galveston County Park Board and Rockland Manufacturing.

The tour will be followed by a welcome reception beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Convention Center. Former State Senator A.R. Babe Schwartz, who helped pass the Texas Open Beaches Act, a law that protects the public's right to access Texas beaches, will briefly speak about the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Texas Open Beaches Act this October. Various exhibitors involved in a wide range of coastal topics will be available for attendees to visit during this time.

The conference will begin with a welcome from the City of Galveston Mayor, Lyda Ann Thomas, followed by a panel discussion by America's Energy Coast. The conference will then feature breakout sessions that will cover the latest on the shoreline changes left by Hurricane Ike, hazard mitigation, Ike's impact on natural resources, coastal vulnerability in a changing global climate, storm impacts on Texas gulf beaches and coastal resources, coastal erosion, beach nourishment, coastal habitat restoration, regulatory updates and the always popular topic of Sargassum maintenance on the beach. Commissioner Jerry Patterson will deliver the keynote speech during the luncheon.

For on-line registration or more information on the conference, visit: www.TexasCoastalConnection.com.

Late registration begins May 27, however, on-site registration will be available at the conference.

WHO: Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office
WHAT: Coastal Conference 2009: Caring for the Coast
WHEN: June 4-5
WHERE: Galveston Island Convention Center, 5600 Seawall Blvd.
WHY: To discuss planning and recovery methods regarding our Texas coast.

###