



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 9, 2008

Contact: Melissa Schneider
Communications Coordinator, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant
(228) 818-8838
melissa.schneider@usm.edu

Presenters invited to participate in coastal symposium

Scientists, resource managers, educators and members of community action groups that focus on environmental stewardship are invited to share information about their programs, education efforts or research at the 2008 Mississippi-Alabama Bays and Bayous Symposium, set for Oct. 28-29 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi.

People interested in presenting research, field experience or other information at the symposium should submit abstracts describing the content of their presentations to Bays and Bayous organizers. Go to <http://masgc.org/baysandbayous> for guidelines on submitting abstracts. Abstracts for oral or poster presentations must be received by Aug. 1.

The symposium will provide a forum for information exchange about solutions to coastal issues. These solutions should focus on minimizing human impact on the coastal environment and maximizing stewardship. Dozens of presenters will share their expertise in education, community action and research about issues important to the north central Gulf of Mexico. Session topics at the symposium will include coastal community action and stewardship; extension, outreach and education; habitat management and restoration; living estuarine resources; natural hazards resiliency and the ocean's role in climate; and water resources: supply and quality.

The Bays and Bayous Symposium is organized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Gulf of Mexico Program, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Northern Gulf Institute, Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Alabama Department of Marine Resources, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Legal Program, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center.

###