



**Fall 2012 meeting agenda
Corpus Christi, Texas**

November 7, 2012:

Meeting of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council

Location: Harte Research Institute
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, TX

****Meeting held in the 1st floor conference room – HRI 127**

Light refreshments will be provided outside the meeting room.

8:00 a.m. Light morning refreshments outside the meeting room

8:30 a.m. **CONVENE**

Welcome & Introductions

- Thom Dammrich, SFBPC Chair

Welcome comments of Fish & Wildlife Service leadership

- Jeff Underwood, Acting Assistant Director for Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

8:45 a.m. **Welcome to Texas & Corpus Christi**

- Welcome to Corpus Christi
- Mark Scott, Member, Corpus Christi City Council
- Welcome to and briefing on Harte Research Institute
- Dr. Larry McKinney, Executive Director
- Overview of the Boating in Corpus Christi and State of Texas
- Peter Davidson, Marina Superintendent, Corpus Christi Municipal Marina

- Overview Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife activities and Recreational Fishing in Texas
 - Dale Shively, Leader, Artificial Reef Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
 - Mark Ray, Coastal Conservation Association

9:45 a.m. **BREAK**

10:00 a.m. **Update on Gulf of Mexico & Ocean issues**

- **Update briefing on the Removal of Inactive Oil/Gas Production Infrastructure from the Gulf of Mexico (“Idle Iron” policy) & relationship between Rigs to Reefs Program & Idle Iron Policy implementation**
 - Director James Watson, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior
 - Dr. Larry McKinney, Executive Director, Harte Research Institute, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
 - Drew Hunger, Decommissioning Manager, Apache Corporation
 - Ted Venker, SFBPC member & Conservation Director, Coastal Conservation Association
 - Dale Shively, Leader, Artificial Reef Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

12:00 p.m. **National Ocean Policy implementation: National and regional perspectives
Update on the National Ocean Policy (via conference line)**

- Deerin Babb-Brott, Director, National Ocean Council
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance rep TBD

12:30 p.m. **Lunch sponsored by the Harte Research Institute**

1:00 p.m. **Reconvene**

Deepwater Horizon recovery: Status of Environmental and Natural Resource Restoration (via conference line)

- Lael Butler, Gulf of Mexico Office, Environmental Protection Agency
- Linda Walker, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1:30 p.m. **Update on NOAA Fisheries activities & issues**

- Russell Dunn, National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries

2:00 p.m. **Update on the activities of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF)**

- Frank Peterson, Jr., President, RBFF

- 2:30 p.m. **Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration program Update**
- TBD, Fish & Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program,
Branch of Programs
- 2:45 p.m. **Potential impact of Budget Control Act of 2011 on funding for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs**
- Ron Regan, Executive Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- 3:00 p.m. **BREAK**
- 3:15 p.m. **Briefing on Establishment of the National Blueways System**
- Susan Wells, National Blueways Team, Department of the Interior
- 3:45 p.m. **Refuge Vision Implementation Plan update**
- Anna Harris, Division of Visitor Services & Communications
National Wildlife Refuge System
- 4:15 p.m. **Briefing on Tread Lightly Respected Access is Open Access campaign**
- Lori McCullough, Executive Director
- 4:30 p.m. **Public comment / Open Council discussion**
- T.J. Marshall, The Ocean Conservancy
- Lori LeBlanc, Gulf Economic Survival Team
- Andy Radford, American Petroleum Institute
- 5:00 p.m. **ADJOURN**

Dinner plans TBD

November 8, 2012

- 8:00 a.m. Light morning refreshments outside the meeting room
- 8:30 a.m. **CONVENE** – Thom Dammrich, SFBPC Chair
- Welcome and introductions
- 8:45 a.m. **Outreach and Communications Committee**
- Scott Kovarovics, Chair
- Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation update
- Presenter TBD
 - RBFF Triennial Assessment
 - SFBPC Recommendations to New or Returning Administration

- 9:30 a.m. **Boating Issues Committee**
 - *John Sprague, Chair*
- Boating Infrastructure Grant Program regulations
 - Discussion: Why are fewer BIG funding requests?
 - FY 2013 BIG project funding review & ranking
 - Prep for CVA Regulations
 - Discussion: Ad Hoc team to look at why some CVA funding is going unobligated, and why there is an increase in BIG projects receiving awards and then not going forward.

- 10:00 a.m. **Fisheries Issues Committee Chair**
 - *Mike Nussman, Chair*
- Update on the activities of the National Fish Habitat Partnership
 - *Ron Regan, Executive Director, AFWA*
 - Briefing on the National Fisheries Friends Partnership (NFFP)
 - *Kirk Otey, Board member, NFFP*
 - SFBPC Fish & Aquatic Resource Conservation Strategic Vision and Needs Assessment: Background on expansion (Nussman)
 - FWS update on status of Fisheries Program
 - *Jeff Underwood, Acting Assistant Director, Fisheries & Habitat Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
 - Update on outreach and products (Hobbs / Tilt)
 - Fish chiefs survey summary, summary of AFWA statement & NFHP statement
 - Ground-truth & definition of fish and aquatic resources

- 12:30 p.m. **Public comment period / Open Council discussion / consider action items**
 - *T.J. Marshall, The Ocean Conservancy*

1:00 p.m. **ADJOURN**