GALVESTON BAY INFORMATION CENTER AND THE GULF OF MEXICO BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM – COASTAL MANAGEMENT RESOURCES DESIGNED WITH THE USER IN MIND

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Hello! My name is Cathy L.P. Palmer, research associate for the Texas Institute of Oceanography and coordinator of the Galveston Bay Information Center. I have been asked to make presentations on two subjects concerning marine information resources – the Galveston Bay Information Center, highlighting the Galveston Bay Bibliography, and the Gulf of Mexico Program’s Bulletin Board System.

I will begin with the Galveston Bay Information Center. The Center was initiated about four years ago with funding from the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program and presently continues with the support of the Texas Institute of Oceanography and Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG). The Center is operated in cooperation with the Jack K. Williams Library, TAMUG.

A 6-minute Galveston Bay Information Center video was presented at the conference to provide an overview of the issues concerning Galveston Bay users and subsequently the Center as it develops as the community’s resource on the bay. The following is the text of the video:

THE GALVESTON BAY INFORMATION CENTER
Providing for Better Stewardship of the Bay

The Galveston Bay system is the largest estuary in Texas and one of the largest in the United States. Along its shores and within its waters, hundreds of species of wildlife and plant life make their home. Millions of people are drawn to this unique natural resource to live, work and play. Recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, boating, windsurfing and diving are enjoyed by residents and visitors throughout the year.

The bay area is not only an important source of recreation, but is also a vital economic resource. The Houston Ship Channel, which crosses the Bay, carries 139 million tons of commerce yearly. On the north side of the Bay is a line of industrial complexes which produce and refine more than 30% of the United State’s petroleum and 50% of its chemicals. Commercial fishermen have made their living from these waters for centuries, selling their catches of fish, crab and shrimp.
Through the years, scientists have studied different parts of the Bay to learn more about how the Bay functions, how humans influence the condition of the Bay, and how the Bay’s condition, in turn, affects people.

Until recently, no one has taken a comprehensive look at the Bay as a system of interrelated influences -- natural and manmade. It is only with the advent of the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program that Bay research has taken on a bay-wide perspective. Now, important questions can be posed and meaningful answers be sought.

The Galveston Bay Information Center, located in the Jack K. Williams Library at Texas A&M University at Galveston, is an integral part of this new comprehensive approach to the Bay.

Supported with funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Water Commission, the Texas Institute of Oceanography and Texas A&M University at Galveston, the goal of the Galveston Bay Information Center is to be a clearinghouse of Bay information.

The Center serves members of the public, industry, the scientific community and government agencies -- anyone with a question about the Bay.

What are the recreational facilities at Stewart Beach?
Can you tell me which permits have been issued for Trinity Bay?
I’m looking at beach erosion in Galveston. Can you show what the Army Corps of Engineers has done in the last ten years?

The Galveston Bay Information Center exists to answer such questions. The Center’s holdings include books, papers, audiovisual materials, maps and aerial photographs -- many of which are available through the standard interlibrary loan process.

The Center houses both the information itself and the tools to finding information about Galveston Bay. Two unique computer systems are used by the Center: 1) the Galveston Bay Bibliography, which resides on a microcomputer database, and 2) COMPAS-Texas, a Macintosh-based computer information management system.

The Galveston Bay Bibliography is a comprehensive index of more than 5400 works relating to Galveston Bay. The bibliography and associated reference collection provide information needed to characterize Galveston Bay and to create the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, an objective of the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program. The bibliography cites published literature as well as many state, federal and private documents which are often difficult to locate and obtain. The bibliography is available in printed format and as a computerized database. The database can be accessed using terminals located in the Texas A&M University at Galveston library, and via modem or networks from remote sites.
The Center continues to acquire works cited in the bibliography for inclusion in a permanent reference collection.

The Center is the initial public access point to COMPAS-Texas, the Coastal Ocean Management, Planning and Assessment System developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. COMPAS-Texas now has inland information as well as coastal information. COMPAS-Texas combines mapping and relational database technology to provide statistics, graphs, maps, etc., on a selected estuary. Information about land use, recreation, pollutant sources, wetland permits, monitoring, housing and population, water rights, and other pertinent topics is easily accessible using COMPAS-Texas.

Much valuable research on the Bay is underway. As this information is gathered by scientists, industry, government agencies and environmental organizations, the Galveston Bay Information Center will seek to collect and preserve this information for the future.

I would like to present an update regarding the Galveston Bay Bibliography -- it has been published by the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program as: *Galveston Bay Bibliography*, GBNEP-26, Volumes 1-4, published August 1993; and *Galveston Bay Bibliography Supplement - June 1993*, GBNEP-26, Volume 5, published February 1994. The bibliographies have been distributed to libraries and agencies in the estuary community as well as certain national libraries and agency offices.

A one-page guide was developed for on-site and remote users of the online bibliography, which utilizes Inmagic, Inc. software. VT100 emulation is required for successful connection to the bibliography.

**See one-page Galveston Bay Bibliography Computer Access Guide [at end of paper]**

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the many people from within and beyond the bay community who have contributed to the development of the bibliography, the Galveston Bay Collection and the Center as a whole. Also significant support has been provided to the Center from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program, the Texas Water Commission, the Texas Institute of Oceanography and Texas A&M University at Galveston.

I appreciate this opportunity to share our Galveston Bay Information Center resources with you. And I hope to hear from many of you in the future whenever we may be of assistance with your research.
THE GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM, BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM (GOMP-BBS)

I've also been asked to present information regarding the Gulf of Mexico Program’s Bulletin Board System (GOMP-BBS), representing one of the unique marine information resources on the Gulf.

When I considered the importance of sharing the GOMP-BBS with you, I felt that the people behind the GOMP-BBS rather than a typical user like myself, would be the best presenter for this conference. I contacted Mr. Bob Glass, Project Leader for the GOMP-BBS. However, Mr. Glass has been unable to join us here today due to an unfortunate schedule conflict. He did provide me with a few points regarding their progress as well as the one-page flyer I have distributed to you. So, I will present a brief introduction to the GOMP-BBS, their information flyer, and a hearty recommendation to make use of this resource.

The GOMP-BBS, an electronic bulletin board system which is accessible by modem, serves the Gulf of Mexico region and has more than 4000 registered users. The GOMP-BBS supports a toll free 1-800 number for users. The system is accessible 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. It has been online for 3 years and has received 35,000 telephone calls.

Users of the GOMP-BBS may send and receive electronic messages; share documents such as planning documents, reports, and news articles; and provide remote access to a wealth of information about the Gulf, the Gulf of Mexico Program, people, organizations, environmental databases, etc.

The GOMP-BBS is a wonderful regional resource for the Gulf. The GOMP-BBS serves as an example of what well-developed electronic communication systems can mean to those of us working in the often geographically separated, yet crucially common marine world.

Please refer to the GOMP-BBS flyer for more information. [at end of paper]

Cathy L.P. Palmer is a research associate for the Texas Institute of Oceanography, TAMUG, and coordinator of the Center. Dr. William E. Evans is President of the Texas Institute of Oceanography and Administrator of the Center. Ms. Natalie Wiest is Director of the Jack K. Williams Library, TAMUG and coordinates library support for the Center.
**Galveston Bay Bibliography Computer Access Guide**

**Galveston Bay Information Center**
Jack K. Williams Library
Texas A&M University at Galveston
200 Seawolf Parkway - Galveston, TX 77553
(409) 740-4703

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTIONS/TERMINOLOGY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrow Keys</strong> Use to access commands along bottom of screen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PF2 Use for on-screen help with searching.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; Use to combine words in a field when a match for all of the words is desired. Narrows your search strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>: Comma: Use to combine words in a field when a match with one of the words is desired. Broadens your search strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>: Asterisk: Use at the end of a word stem to search various forms of a word. Example: comput* for a search for computers, computing, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ (Plus) Place to the left of a brief citation to view complete citation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- (Minus) Place to the left of a citation you wish to remove from your search result.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term</strong> A series of words separated by blank spaces. Example: &quot;Houston Ship Channel.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KP</strong> Indicates the number pad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KP4</strong> Produces a list of available words for a particular field in which a cursor resides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KP5</strong> Produces a list of available terms for a particular field in which a cursor resides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Control-Z</strong> Use to quit program, go back one screen, or to log-off from modem or networks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Key</strong> Is PF1 on the number pad.</td>
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See Center or Library staff for assistance.

### ACCESSING THE SYSTEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERMINAL IN LIBRARY</th>
<th>MODEM ACCESS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Prompt</td>
<td>Telephone Numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enter Resource or ?&gt;</td>
<td>(409) 740-4578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Username&gt; TAMUG (RTN) [RTN]</td>
<td>(409) 740-4579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBAY (RTN)</td>
<td>Baud Rate: 1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Bits: 8 Stop Bits: 1</td>
<td>Parity: None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>NETWORK ACCESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet Address: TAMUG.TAMU.EDU</td>
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<tr>
<td>DECnet: TAMUG2:</td>
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<th>Computer Prompt Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Username&gt; GBAY (RTN)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Computer Prompt Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blank Screen &gt; [RTN]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| TAMUG                         |
| Channel 01/100                |
| Enter Resource or ?> TAMUG (RTN) |

| Connected to... > [RTN]      |
| Username > GBAY (RTN)        |

### PRINTING
Search results may be printed by choosing the print option from on-screen menus. Request your printouts from the circulation desk.
SEARCHING OPTIONS

TEN SEARCH FIELDS: Available search fields, with example entries, are listed below:

Author/Editor: ALDRICH
Title: ENVIRONMENT* & COMPUT*
Source: PROCEEDING*
Date: 1990
Subject (s): WATER QUALITY
Geographic Location: HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL
Accession Number: 1234
Index Number: 5678
Combination: ENVIRONMENT*,COMP*

Geographic and subject terms are assigned to each citation. Use KP4 or KP5 for online help with choosing your field entries:
- place the cursor in a field
- press KP4 or KP5
- browse the list by moving the cursor up or down using the arrow keys
- press [RTN] to place the highlighted word/term in the chosen field and begin search

The geographic and subject term fields are the only fields where words may be combined without the aid of the ' & ' or '.' signs.

The source field contains the title of the larger work or the name of a journal. For example, in the case of a chapter cited from a book, the chapter title would be found in title field, and the book title would be found in the source field.

Use of the combination field will give you the broadest search because several fields are searched at once, including author, editor, title, source, geographic location, subject, abstract, and series.

SEARCH RESULTS: The total number of citations in your search result may be found in the top right portion of the computer screen. Use arrow keys or [RTN] to browse through citations in search result.

Your search results first appear in a brief format:

AUTHOR: Landry, A.M., Jr. and K. Strawn
DATE: 1974
TITLE: Number of individuals and injury rates of fishes caught on revolving screens at P.H. Robinson Generating Station
ACC# 41 Archives Room

For complete citations, place a + (plus sign) next to the brief citation:

[99211838] [A41]
AUTHOR: Landry, A.M., Jr. and K. Strawn
DATE: 1974
TITLE: Number of individuals and injury rates of fishes caught on revolving screens at the P.H. Robinson Generating Station
EDITOR: L.D. Jensen
SOURCE: Proceedings of the Second Entrainment and Intake Screening Workshop
PUBLISHER: Baltimore, Maryland: John Hopkins University Press
DESCRIPTION: p. 263-271
No abstract
ACC# 41 Archives Room
The Gulf of Mexico Program's electronic bulletin board system (GULFLINE) is a modern communications tool that YOU may use to:

- Send and receive electronic messages instantly. Messages can be sent to an individual or "tacked up on the board" for all to see and answer. A great way to request needed help or information!
- Share documents such as planning documents, reports, and news articles. They are uploaded from your computer to the BBS as electronic files which can then be made available for browsing and downloading from the BBS by other users. You may want to download some files yourself!
- Provide remote access to a wealth of information about the Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf of Mexico Program, and information about people, organizations, environmental data bases, and reference documents that persons concerned about environmental issues in the Gulf Region will want to know!

**How can I benefit from GULFLINE?**

- News Flashes—what's new in the Gulf of Mexico Program. Displays automatically if you have not read it.
- Bulletins—Information from the Gulf of Mexico Program Office. Dynamic information on current events, agendas, and activities of the Program. You may submit information to be posted as a bulletin!
- Messages from other users about various subjects—you can leave messages too!
- "DOORS"—enter, and SEARCH the Gulf Program's "Catalog of Environmental Data Bases" and "Directory of Gulf Specialists." These interrelated data bases allow you to locate knowledgeable individuals in the scientific, regulatory, and legislative communities in your locale or in your field of interest. Other sources of data and information on the Gulf of Mexico environment such as organizations, reference documents, data bases, and points of contact are included! Try TIES (Text Information Retrieval System) to find relevant news.
- FIRST TIME USER? - The System Operator (SYSOP) will ASSIST you during normal working hours on your first dial-in! When you first call the Bulletin Board, you will be asked to fill out a brief on-line questionnaire providing your name, address, telephone number and a password you'll use to log on again. You will be able to use limited features of the BBS immediately, and will have full access to the BBS after your identity has been verified.

**To Use GULFLINE You NEED:**

**Hardware & Software**
- a personal computer
- a modem & communications software
- a telephone line

**Communication Parameters**
- Speed = 9600 baud or less
- Parity = None
- Data Bits = 8
- Stop Bits = 1
- Full Duplex (FDX)
- ASCII BBS on VT100 Emulation

**Telephone Numbers**
- Toll Free (800) 335-4662
- FTS (800) 688-2677
- FTS (800) 688-7018
- Commercial (601) 688-2677
- Commercial (601) 688-7018
- SEC (9600 only) Ext. 7018

**What can I do to help?**

1. Call the BBS at least once a week! Important messages and other items are updated frequently.
2. Search the Directory of Specialists to verify that you and others in your organization are properly listed.
3. Donate information you know to be of value to the BBS. Examples of information of great value are: meeting or symposium announcements, meeting agendas, events calendars for your organization, corrections or additions to names of persons, organizations, data/information sources, and reference documents.
The BBS Main Menu below, and a brief explanation of each command will help you get started.

**IF YOU NEED HELP, CALL the SYSSOP at (601) 688-7671.**

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**[MAIN MENU HELP]**

- **Answer Questionnaire**: Submit information about yourself.
- **Byelim listing**: Information from the Gulf of Mexico Program.
- **Comment for SYSSOP**: Private message to the GULFLINE operator.
- **Doors**: Search for people, organizations, and data.
- **Enter message**: Leave mail for someone or everyone.
- **Files menu**: Files and Listings may be downloaded or uploaded.
- **Goodbye**: Log off this system; Hang up the telephone.
- **Help**: Help for any command, section, or topic.
- **Initial welcome**: Repeat the logon message.
- **Join a conference**: Topic oriented messages and information.
- **Kill a message**: Erase a message you left before.
- **Operator page**: Page the SYSSOP for 30 seconds.
- **Quick**: Go elsewhere (e.g., to files or utilities menu) in system.
- **Personal mail**: List messages directed to you by name.
- **Read message(s)**: Select messages that you want to read.
- **Scan messages**: Check messages by date, topic or by sender or addressee.
- **Topic scan**: Check messages for topics or for key words.
- **Utilities**: (band rate, case, graphics, line feeds, message margin, multi, file transfer protocol, password, statistics, time, userlog, prompt bell)
- **View**: Scan for mail across both main board and conferences.
- **Who**: See who else is on GULFLINE with you (it can support 6 callers).
- **Xpert mode**: Toggle between novice (menus) and expert (no menus).

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**TIPS: CAREFULLY READ the "MAIN COMMAND" prompts at the BOTTOM of the SCREEN. Your optional responses are the CAPITALIZED FIRST LETTERS! The BBS will assume a DEFAULT VALUE for your response if you don’t type one of the allowed optional letters. The BBS DEFAULT is enclosed in SQUARE BRACKETS. For example, [Y]es would mean Y is the default. EXPERIMENT! You CANNOT HURT the BBS, so TRY OUT ALL COMMANDS!**