

Conference Agenda

The 2007 Law of the Sea Institute Conference
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies
March 22-24, 2007 · Corpus Christi, Texas



| Thursday, March 22, 2007 | | | | |
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| 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm | Side-meeting on Improving U.S./Mexico Cooperation in Commercializing Ultra-Deepwater Hydrocarbon Resources in the Gulf of Mexico (by invitation) Omni-Marina Hotel, Padre A Room | | | |
| 6:15 pm | Transportation from Omni-Marina Hotel to Town Club (Meet in Hotel Lobby) | | | |
| 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm | Welcome Reception for all Conference Participants Town Club, Crystal Room | | | |
| 8:30 pm | Transportation from Town Club to Omni-Marina Hotel | | | |
| Friday, March 23, 2007 | | | | |
| 7:00 am | Transportation from Omni-Marina to Harte Research Institute (Meet in Hotel Lobby) | | | |
| 7:30 am to 8:00 am | Continental Breakfast Harte Research Institute Conference Center Room 127 | | | |
| 8:00 am to 8:30 am | Welcoming Remarks Dr. John Tunnell , Associate Director Harte Research Institute Prof. Harry Scheiber , Co-Director Law of the Sea Institute | | | |
| 8:30 am to 10:00 am | First Panel: Emerging Energy Issues in the Gulf of Mexico The Gulf of Mexico is one of the world's most important oil and gas provinces. As many shallow-water fields are being depleted, important new discoveries are occurring in the deepest portions of the Gulf. In this panel, we look at these trends from the perspectives of the United States, Mexico and Cuba. We will also examine why UNCLOS is important to the continued development of these deep-water resources. | | | |
| Mr. Paul Kelly <i>Sr. Vice President Rowan Offshore (retired) Member U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy</i> | Mr. Richie Baud <i>Deputy Regional Supervisor Office of Production & Dev., MMS Gulf of Mexico OCS Region</i> | Mr. Jorge Piñon <i>Sr. Research Associate Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies University of Miami</i> | Ms. Aurora Pierdant <i>Manager of Contracts of the Vice Presidency of New Ventures Pemex Exploración y Producción</i> | Mr. Antonio de la Garza Xavier <i>Legal Advisor for International Affairs Pemex Exploración y Producción</i> |

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| 10:00 am to 10:15 am | Mid-morning Break | | | | |
| 10:15 am to 12:00 pm | <p>Second Panel: Western Gap and Transboundary Resources in the Ultra-Deepwaters of the Gulf of Mexico</p> <p>On June 9, 2000, the United States and Mexico agreed to divide the Western Gap, a region that lies beyond the 200 mile limits of either nation. Treaty negotiations were premised on the assertion by both nations that the seabed and subsoil met the legal requirements described in Article 76 of UNCLOS. In recent years, there have been a number of major oil discoveries near the Western Gap, along the U.S.-Mexico maritime boundary. This panel explores the history of this little known region and begins the important task of examining the legal and political impediments to the efficient development and conservation of transboundary hydrocarbons in the deepest portions of the Gulf.</p> | | | | |
| | Prof. Richard McLaughlin <i>Endowed Chair Harte Research Institute</i> | Dr. Robert Smith <i>Geographic Consultant U.S. Department of State (retired)</i> | Prof. Ted McDorman <i>Faculty of Law University of Victoria</i> | Mr. Francisco Mendez <i>General Counsel's Office Exxon Mobil Corp.</i> | |
| 12:15 pm to 1:45 pm | <p>Luncheon</p> <p>Welcoming Remarks: Dr. Flavius Killebrew, President Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi</p> <p>Introduction of Speaker: Mr. Paul Kelly, Member U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Leon Panetta, Co-Chair Joint Ocean Commission Initiative</p> <p>University Center, Lone Star Ballroom</p> | | | | |
| 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm | <p>Third Panel: Unresolved Maritime Boundary Problems in the Caribbean</p> <p>This panel will examine the principles that have emerged from the resolved boundary disputes in the Caribbean and the competing positions that have been taken on those that remain unresolved. Quite a few boundaries have been resolved through negotiations, one dispute (between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago) has recently been resolved by an arbitral panel, the dispute between Suriname and Guyana remains pending, several (involving Nicaragua and its neighbors) have been presented to the International Court of Justice, and others are still in the discussion stage. Panelists involved in some of these disputes will provide background and analysis for the disputes.</p> | | | | |
| Judge Tullio Treves <i>Judge, International Law of the Sea Tribunal</i> | Prof. Jon Van Dyke <i>University of Hawaii School of Law</i> | Mr. Chris Carleton <i>Head, Law of the Sea Division UK Hydrographic Office</i> | Mr. Mark Feldman <i>International Lawyer Garvey Schubert Barer</i> | Prof. Seokwoo Lee <i>Professor of International Law College of Law Inha University, Korea</i> | |
| 3:30 pm to 3:45 pm | Mid-afternoon Break | | | | |
| 3:45 pm to 5:15 pm | <p>Fourth Panel: Maritime Transportation of Hazardous Materials</p> <p>This panel will examine the environmental challenges resulting from the shipments of hazardous materials through the Caribbean and through the Panama Canal. The</p> | | | | |

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| | panelists will examine the international and regional treaties governing such transports and the response of regional organizations such as CARICOM to such shipments. Panelists will discuss the unique environmental conditions of Caribbean communities and the regional environmental bodies formed to protect their fragile resources. | | | |
| Prof. Jon Van Dyke <i>University of Hawaii School of Law</i> | Capt. Lincoln Stroh <i>Deputy Sector Commander U.S. Coast Guard</i> | Prof. Luis Rodriguez-Rivera <i>Professor School of Law University of Puerto Rico</i> | Prof. Daniel Suman <i>Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science University of Miami</i> | |
| 5:15 pm to 5:30 pm | Transportation from Harte Research Institute to Omni-Marina Hotel | | | |
| 7:00 pm to 7:15 pm | Transportation from Omni-Marina Hotel to Art Museum of South Texas | | | |
| 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm | Reception & Dinner - Speaker: Judge Tullio Treves Art Museum of South Texas | | | |
| 9:00 pm to 9:15 pm | Transportation from Art Museum of South Texas to Omni-Marina Hotel | | | |
| Saturday, March 24, 2007 | | | | |
| 7:30 am | Transportation from Omni-Marina to Harte Research Institute (Meet in Hotel Lobby) | | | |
| 8:00 am to 8:30 am | Continental Breakfast Harte Research Institute Conference Center Room 127 | | | |
| 8:30 am to 10:00 am | Fifth Panel: Fisheries Issues One of the most urgent issues facing us today in regard to the world's ocean resources to is a dramatic decline of fish stocks and the persistent weakness of regulatory regimes to control against threatened depletions. The papers on this panel will examine regional and global issues in fisheries management, including the problems of regional coordination, fisheries management in coastal waters of the EEZ, and new initiatives being taken globally under the terms of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and its implementation through the FAO and international management organizations organized both bilaterally and regionally. | | | |
| | Prof. Harry Scheiber <i>University of California at Berkeley School of Law, Co-Director Law of the Sea Institute</i> | Prof. Mario Aguilar <i>Embassy of Mexico Washington D.C.</i> | Prof. Donna Christie <i>College of Law Florida State University</i> | Mr. Gene Proulx <i>Chief, Southeast Enforcement Division NMFS (retired)</i> |
| 10:00 am to 10:15 am | Mid-morning Break | | | |
| 10:15 am to 10:45 am | Speaker: Dr. Sylvia Earle | | | |

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| 10:45 am to 12:15 pm | <p>Sixth Panel: Marine Biodiversity and Protected Areas</p> <p>Like other areas of the world's oceans, large portions of the Gulf of Mexico have been seriously impacted by a combination of natural and anthropogenic stresses. Destruction of coastal and ocean habitats, depleted fish stocks, introduction of invasive species, degraded water quality and other problems have seriously affected ocean health and biodiversity. This panel will explore strategies aimed at protecting biodiversity including innovative programs that emphasize "hotspots" and set aside intact ocean wilderness as protected areas.</p> <p>Ms. Kristina Gjerde <i>IUCN Global Marine Program</i></p> <p>Ms. Lisa Speer <i>Director Water and Oceans Program National Resources Defense Council</i></p> <p>Mr. Warner Chabot <i>Vice President Regional Operations The Ocean Conservancy</i></p> <p>Dr. Elliott Norse <i>Marine Conservation Biology Institute</i></p> |
| 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm | Lunch Harte Research Institute Foyer |
| 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm | <p>Seventh Panel: Ecosystem-based Management in Enclosed and Semi-Enclosed Seas</p> <p>Traditionally, coastal and ocean areas have been managed and governed at isolated levels with little cooperation or coordination across local, state, tribal, federal or international boundaries. In recent years, this traditional approach has been rejected in favor of ecosystem-based management which considers the cumulative impacts on the entire ecosystem. In this panel we focus on cooperative and adaptive management strategies to provide a foundation to advance a more effective ecosystem-based approach to coastal and ocean policy.</p> <p>Mr. John Briscoe <i>Briscoe Ivester & Bazel, LLP</i></p> <p>Mr. Billy Causey <i>Regional Director Southeast Atlantic Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Region National Marine Sanctuary Program</i></p> <p>Mr. Arlo Hemphill <i>Conservation Fellow Deep Search International</i></p> <p>Mr. Chris Dorsett <i>Gulf of Mexico Fish Conservation Director The Ocean Conservancy</i></p> |
| 3:15 pm to 4:00 pm | Transportation from Harte Research Institute to Welder Wildlife Refuge |
| 4:00 pm to 7:45 pm | Reception, Tours & Barbecue Dinner Welder Wildlife Refuge |
| 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm | Transportation from Welder Wildlife Refuge to Omni-Marina Hotel |