

# **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**High Resolution Photo: ["Gulf of Mexico Origin, Waters, and Biota"](#)**

## **Volume One of Harte Research Institute Sponsored Inventory of Gulf of Mexico Biodiversity Published Book is first of seven updates of Fish and Wildlife Service Information**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Texas A&M University Press has published volume one (Biodiversity) of the “Gulf of Mexico Origin, Waters, and Biota,” a comprehensive update of knowledge of the Gulf of Mexico sponsored by the Harte Research Institute (HRI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Part of a seven-volume set updating “Bulletin 89: The Gulf of Mexico- Its Origin, Waters, and Marine Life” published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1954, the first-of-its-kind reference book was edited by Dr. Darryl Felder, professor of biology and head of the Laboratory for Crustacean Research at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette and Mr. David Camp, a former research scientist at the Florida Marine Research Institute. Drs. Wes Tunnell, HRI scientist and associate director, Sylvia Earle, chair of the HRI Advisory Council, and Dr. Felder are overall editors of the seven volume set. The book’s 1,393 pages provide information on each species’ habitat, biology, and geographic range, along with full references and a narrative introduction to the group, which opens each chapter.

“This first-of-its-kind reference source provides data and information essential to the scientists, researchers, managers and students of marine biology who study and assess the economic and environmental sustainability of the Gulf of Mexico,” said Tunnell. “When complete, the volumes will present a synthesis of knowledge about the Gulf to encourage an ecosystem view of its waters among scientists, business and policy-makers in the United States, Mexico and Cuba.”

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## **Page 2, Comprehensive Inventory of Gulf of Mexico Published**

Volume one presents a comprehensive summary of knowledge of Gulf biota through 2007. It includes 79 chapters, which list 15,419 species in 40 phyla or divisions and were written by 140 authors from 80 institutions in 15 countries.

“This volume is one of only a handful of complete marine biodiversity inventories anywhere in the world,” said Dr. Thomas Shirley, HRI endowed chair for Biodiversity and Conservation Science. “It is sure to become the definitive source for biota of the Gulf of Mexico for the next 20 years and will be heavily resourced and referenced until another version is compiled, if ever.”

The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi was established in 2000 to support and advance the long-term sustainable use and conservation of the Gulf of Mexico through research, public policy initiatives and public education. The Institute encourages a tri-national responsibility and approach to understanding the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem involving the United States, Mexico and Cuba.

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