Harte Research Institute Holds First International Summer Workshop on International Governance for the Gulf of Mexico
Three Cuban scientists visit Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – A week-long international workshop to examine obstacles to creating marine protected areas in the Gulf of Mexico will be hosted by the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) from June 21-25 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Participants of the first “Summer Workshop on Governance for the Gulf of Mexico: Overcoming International Obstacles to Create Marine Protected Areas in the Gulf of Mexico” include U.S. and Mexican graduate students and representatives from international agencies, academic institutions, governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations from Mexico, the United States and Cuba.

Three scientists from Cuba, among others from across the nation and Mexico, will visit the HRI and participate in the workshop. The Cuban scientists include:

- Dr. Guillermo García Montero, director of the National Aquarium of Cuba and the president of the National Committee on Oceanography, who is an expert in coastal zone science and management and serves on the HRI Advisory Board.
- Dr. Maritza García García, director for the National Center for Protected Areas (CNAP) in Cuba, who is leading efforts to expand the network of marine protected areas along Cuba’s southern coast with funding from the Global Environmental Facility.
- Dr. Roberto Perez de los Reyes, a former director of the Institute of Oceanology in Cuba and current scientist for the Agency for the Environment, who is a highly-respected expert on ocean frontal zones, coastal zone rehabilitation, design
The workshop represents collaboration through a cooperative agreement between Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and the University of Veracruz in Mexico. In addition, the workshop is a landmark to provide training for future environmental and community leaders who work internationally in the integration of science and policy in the Gulf of Mexico region.