Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies to Hold Panel Discussions on Impact of Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
University’s scientists providing expertise to national and international media

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Scientists with the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will hold a series of panel discussions in June to discuss the long-term impacts of the ongoing Deepwater Horizon oil spill that has spewed millions of gallons of crude oil into the Gulf waters.

The first of four discussions will be held on Friday, June 4, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Harte Research Institute, Conference Room 127. Each panelist will make a brief presentation on a topic related to the disaster then open the floor to questions from the audience.

Following an overview of the catastrophe by Dr. Larry McKinney, HRI executive director and panel moderator, Dr. Wes Tunnell will draw comparisons to the June 3, 1979, Ixtoc oil spill 60 miles off Mexico's coast that released an estimated 200 million gallons of crude oil into the Gulf. Other panelists are Dr. Paul Montagna, who will speak on the environmental impacts of the Deepwater Horizon catastrophe, and Dr. David Yoskowitz, who will address the spill’s economic impacts.

Additional panel discussions will be held each Friday in June. Topics will include shoreline mapping and clean-up, the impact on fisheries, biodiversity impacts, and policy and legal issues. All four panel discussions are free and open to the public.

Since the April 20 blowout off the southeast coast of Louisiana, HRI scientists have been providing knowledge and information to national and international media about the consequences and long-term affects of the spill which may have already eclipsed the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill as the largest in U. S. history. To access the television, radio, Internet and print interviews, click on HRI in the News on Response to Deep Horizon Oil Spill.

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The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies was established in 2000 with a $46 million donation from philanthropist Edward M. Harte to support and advance the long-term sustainable use and conservation of the Gulf of Mexico through research, public policy initiatives and public education. Advisory board members represent leaders in academia, industry, and conservation from the United States, Mexico and Cuba, the three countries surrounding the Gulf of Mexico.

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