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Press Release

Press conference scheduled by concerned organizations in one of the largest fishing ports in the State of Texas to reassure consumers about the quality of the Gulf Seafood available in our local markets and the steps that are being taken to guarantee that Texas Wild Caught Shrimp remain clean, safe and delicious

Port Arthur, Texas, June 1, 2010: A press conference is scheduled for Friday, June 4, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., at the Port Arthur International Seafarer's Center, 401 Houston Avenue, Port Arthur, Texas. Invited to participate/attend will be Governor Rick Perry's office, State of Texas General Land Office, Texas Department of Agriculture, U. S. Coast Guard, Southeast Texas Chef's Association, Port Arthur Area Shrimper's Association, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Port of Port Arthur, local (city and county) representatives, state representatives and senators, as well as U. S. Congressman Ted Poe. Following the press conference, a tasting of delicious Gulf seafood caught post-Deepwater Horizon oil spill will be served.

Texas fishermen have been struggling since 2001, when foreign, farm-raised shrimp were dumped on the US-market, and caused the collapse of the wild caught shrimp market. This economic challenge was followed by the rise of diesel fuel to more than \$4/gallon. This translated into outlays of \$80,000 for many fishing families before their boat could even leave the dock. For many families, the low prices, combined with the high fuel costs forced them to near poverty. However, instead of relief, the Gulf fishermen faced the Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Wilma in 2005, and Hurricane Ike in 2008.

After these challenges, the recent catastrophe of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill now threatens to economically punish our Texas fishermen in two ways. First, our Texas fishermen may be punished by the reduction of fertile fishing grounds, and therefore the reduction in their catch and income. Second, our Texas fishermen may be punished by the loss of the reputation for their shrimp and fish from one that is clean, safe and delicious, to one that is tainted and unhealthy

Concerned organizations in one of the largest fishing ports in the State of Texas are holding a press conference to reassure consumers about the quality of the Gulf Seafood that is available in our local markets, and the steps that are being taken to guarantee that Texas Wild Caught Shrimp remain clean, safe and delicious.

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