

Estuarine Research Federation Conference Forum

Monday

17 October 2005 at 8:00 pm

Norfolk, Virginia

Picking Up the Pieces After Katrina and Rita

What: **An evening forum to share understanding and discuss activities resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.**

Striking in late August and September, 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita severely affected the ecosystems and associated human communities over 1000 km of the U.S. coast. This region includes ecosystems under intensive research, management and restoration activities in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, east Texas and the Florida panhandle.

Building on John Day's overview in the opening plenary session on Sunday, the forum will cover the dynamic forces of the hurricanes on coastal ecosystems, early impact assessments, critical science needs, and how the hurricanes might change management and restoration strategies.

Who: Coastal scientists and managers who are working on or providing guidance for environmental research, management and restoration in the northern Gulf are particularly encouraged to attend.

Many key scientists from the region and members of federal agency and National Research Council review boards will participate in open discussion and exchange, but there will be no formal presentations.

Other ERF conferees interested in learning and contributing are welcome to attend.

Don Boesch of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science will moderate the discussion.

When: 17 October, Monday evening, 8:00 – 9:30 pm

Where: Sheraton 3rd floor, Providence Hall

Why: The Federation's conference is the greatest real-time collection of brainpower regarding the science of coastal ecosystems that is likely to be assembled in the near future.

This forum will facilitate dialog and coalesce information and perspectives that will be useful in subsequent assessments and responses by federal agencies, the Estuarine Research Federation and other scientific organizations.