

## Coastal Marine Resource Agents Receive National Recognition

From left: Logan Respress, Texas Sea Grant Extension (TXSGE) Leader; Terrie Looney, Texas Sea Grant Extension's Marine Agent for Jefferson and Chambers counties; and Dr. Peter Rowe, New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium's Research and Extension Director and chair of the Sea Grant Extension Program Leader's Awards Selection Committee.



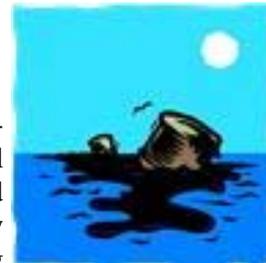
NEW ORLEANS — They were hurricane victims themselves, had no formally defined role in the post-storm response and lacked the financial resources, manpower and authority that governmental agencies had to implement large-scale relief efforts, but a team of Texas Sea Grant Extension (TXSGE) staff knew they had to do something to help their neighbors recover from Hurricane Ike. For their work, county Coastal Marine Resource Agents (CMA) Terrie Looney, Rhonda Cummins and Julie Massey and Seafood Marketing Specialist Mike Haby received national recognition from their peers. The four have been named winners of the prestigious Assembly of Sea Grant Extension Program Leaders' Superior Outreach Award. Looney accepted the award on Tuesday night during a banquet at the bi-annual Sea Grant Week meetings here. The quartet had the clarity of vision and purpose to see through the post-storm chaos and their own Ike-induced hardships to identify four critical needs that were not being addressed by other responders and fill these gaps. The four critical needs they identified were: reuniting boats found scattered inland with their owners; conducting an economic and environmental impact survey of the oyster and charter boat industries; ensuring the largely Vietnamese-American crab fishing community of Oak Island received much needed government assistance; and restoring the facilities and habitat of Galveston Island State Park. "I was, and still am, amazed at the amount of work these four people did in a short amount of time following the storm," said Logan Respress, Texas Sea Grant's Associate Director and head of TXSGE. "The number of lives they touched and the impacts they made are truly stunning, especially considering that there is no field manual for what they did. They relied on their creativity, perseverance and resourcefulness to successfully do jobs that others either could not or would not tackle. Because of their work, Texas Sea Grant is



TXSGE agent Terrie Looney (third from left) stands with (from left) her husband, Larry Looney, daughter Victoria, Texas Sea Grant Director Dr. Robert Stickney, and TXSGE Leader Logan Respress

now seen as an integral player in the state's hurricane recovery efforts." "There is a story about a boy walking along a beach, picking up starfish stranded by the tide and tossing them back into the surf," said Looney. "A man watching the boy takes him to task for the futility of his efforts, saying, 'Why are you wasting your time? There are millions of starfish and you can't possibly make a difference.' As the boy picks up another starfish and flings it into the surf he replies, 'It makes a difference to this one.' Well, we don't have money to spread around, and we can't do much for a whole lot of people at once, but maybe we can help this one."

## B P Oil Spill Update



Building upon the extensive testing and protocols already in use by federal, state and local officials for the fishing waters of the Gulf, NOAA and FDA have developed and are using a chemical test to detect dispersants used in the Deep-water Horizon-BP oil spill in fish, oysters, crab and shrimp. Trace amounts of the chemicals used in dispersants are common, and levels for safety have been previously set. Experts trained in a rigorous sensory analysis process have been testing Gulf seafood for the presence of contaminants, and every seafood sample from reopened waters has passed sensory testing for contamination with oil and dispersant. Nonetheless, to ensure consumers have total confidence in the safety of seafood being harvested from the Gulf, NOAA and FDA have added this second test for dispersant when considering reopening Gulf waters to fishing. Using this new, second test, in the Gulf scientists have tested 1,735 tissue samples including more than half of those collected to reopen Gulf of Mexico federal waters. Only a few showed trace amounts of dispersants residue (13 of the 1,735) and they were well below the safety threshold of 100 parts per million for finfish and 500 parts per million for shrimp, crabs and oysters. As such, they do not pose a threat to human health. “The rigorous testing we have done from the very beginning gives us confidence in the safety of seafood being brought to market from the Gulf,” said Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., Under Secretary for Commerce and NOAA Administrator. “This test adds another layer of information, reinforcing our findings to date that seafood from the Gulf remains safe.” “This new test should help strengthen consumer confidence in Gulf seafood,” said Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D., Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. “The overwhelming majority of the seafood tested shows no detectable residue, and not one of the samples shows a residue level that would be harmful for humans. There is no question Gulf seafood coming to market is safe from oil or dispersant residue.” The 1,735 samples tested so far were collected from June to September and cover a wide area of the Gulf. The samples come from open areas in state and federal waters, and from fishermen who brought fish to the docks at the request of federal seafood analysts. The samples come from a range of species, including grouper, tuna, wahoo, swordfish, gray snapper, butterfish, red drum, croaker, and shrimp, crabs and oysters. Nearly 9,444 square miles, or about 4 percent of the federal waters in the Gulf are still closed to commercial and recrea-

## What Is Sea Grant

Sea Grant was created by Congress in 1966 under federal law (PL 89-688) and modeled after the successful Land Grant College concept enacted by Congress in 1863 “to provide education and disseminate research for the common man.” The basic Land Grant concept was applied when Sea Grant was authorized, although while Land Grant focuses on agriculture, Sea Grant places its emphasis on coastal and marine issues. Sea Grant is a partnership consisting of academia, government and industry. The program operates through a university-based network of more than 300 institutions to address environmental and economic issues in the coastal and marine waters of the nation through research, outreach and education. In recent years, Sea Grant has dramatically increased its activities in the areas of coastal communities development and coastal hazards. Sea Grant promotes and sponsors research, education and outreach programs aimed at the wise utilization and conservation of the nation’s coastal and marine resources in order to develop and maintain a sustainable economy and a healthy environment. The Texas Sea Grant College Program serves a diverse array of clients. Examples include federal, state and local governments and agencies; environmental and industry trade organizations; institutions of higher education; K-12 teachers and students; numerous special interest groups involved with coastal issues; 4-H groups; tourists; senior citizens; and the general public. Any individuals or groups with an interest in the marine and coastal environment are viewed as stakeholders by the program. Texas Sea Grant has some level of contact with more than 100,000 people annually through telephone conversations, attendance at meetings, distribution of materials, individuals who take advantage of the Floating Classroom program, and other venues. These numbers do not include individuals who use the program’s website to access information about Texas Sea Grant, its programs and the materials it has available for the public.

### **How can I obtain additional information on the Texas Sea Grant College Program?**

You can call us at (979) 845-3854, fax us at (979) 845-7525, go to the website: <http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu/>, or mail your requests or questions to:

**Texas Sea Grant College Program**  
<http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu>

## WINTER SHUT DOWN

Winterizing your pond is an important step to ensure a safe and healthy start up next spring. Here are some easy tips to help you on your way.

**Netting:** As the leaves fall it is important to make sure they don't accumulate in the bottom of your pond. You could skim them by hand every day, but to make things easier, simply place a large net over the entire pond. Clean it weekly to prevent the net from falling or from leaves slipping through and discoloring your water.

**Fish Food** – As the days get colder, your fish will continue to go deeper into their dormancy state. Gradually reduce the amount of food the fish receive and when the water temperature falls below 60°, feed your fish food that contains wheat germ which is a natural vegetable and plant based food that is easily digested in the cold months when the fish's digestive tract is slowing. **Bacteria** – It is important to keep bacteria in the water column. Continue aeration until the water temperature reaches below 55°. This natural bacteria accelerates the decomposition of leaves, scum, and sediment that build up during the fall and winter months. In the spring, it replenishes winter bacteria loss, jump starts the filter and breaks down unwanted waste, making your pond water ready for a clean spring and summer. **Oxygen Exchange** – As organics decompose, they produce toxic gases. Normally these gases will escape out the pond's surface, but if your pond freezes over in the winter, they will stay in the water column and could eventually kill your fish. It is important to keep a hole in the ice so these toxic gases may escape. You can do this by either running a pond aerator, or floating a pond de-icer. In some cases it is necessary to have both a pond aerator and a de-icer. Avoid hitting the ice as concussion can hurt the fish. **Equipment Maintenance** – You may choose to run your system all winter, but be aware that circulating large amounts of water in the cold months can super cool the water. Water in motion can reach temperatures well below 32 degrees fahrenheit without freezing. Although colder water has more oxygen, your fish may not handle the freezing temperatures and die. If you choose to shut down your pump system, be sure to drain all water from your pipes, skimmers, and waterfall boxes and/or filters. Remove your pump, wash it thoroughly, place it in a five gallon bucket of water (this keeps the seals moist), and store it in your garage or basement. **Plant Maintenance** – Every type of plant needs to be taken care of in a different way. To keep it simple, trim all hardy and submerged plants to six inches above the root system and submerge at least three feet deep. Treat tropical lilies and lotuses as annuals or bring inside to store in a protected area away from freezing. Keep plants wet.



Source: "A-h-h-h Shrimp"  
Texas Sea Grant Program

### Lemon-Garlic Broiled Shrimp

2 pounds Texas shrimp	1/4 cup lemon juice
2 cloves finely chopped garlic	1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup melted margarine or butter	1/4 teaspoon black pepper
	Chopped fresh parsley

Clean and devein shrimp and set aside. In a small saucepan, cook garlic in margarine until tender. Remove from heat. Add lemon juice, salt and pepper. Arrange shrimp in a single layer on a baking pan. Pour sauce over shrimp. Broil about 4 inches from heat source for 6 to 8 minutes or until shrimp are pink and tender. Baste once during broiling with sauce in pan. Sprinkle with parsley. Serve with crusty bread to absorb sauce. Makes 4 hearty servings.



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Visit our website  
<http://Jefferson-tx.tamu.edu>



## TDA PESTICIDE APPLICATOR

Recertification Training

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011**  
**WHITE PARK EXHIBIT HALL**  
**ANAHUAC, TEXAS**

Registration 8:30 a.m.  
Beginning at 9:00 a.m.  
Ending approximately 3:30 p.m.

RSVP to (409) 374-2123



**FREE**

2011 Sea Grant Calendars  
available upon request!!!  
Contact (409) 835-8461

*Just  
for  
Laughs*



*"Relax, I'm not here for you. I'm here  
for the worm on the end of your hook,"*