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Oceans and Wildlife Institute Contact:

Jennifer Vela

Chief Government Affairs and Marketing Officer

361.653.2655

jvela@gra.org

GULF RESPONSE ALLIANCE UNITES GULF COAST STATES AND LEADERS TO PROTECT AMERICA'S WATERS

Multi-State Coalition Brings Together Industry, Government, Emergency Response and Wildlife Experts to Strengthen Preparedness, Response and Recovery Across the Gulf, Bays, Estuaries and Coastal Waterways

Austin, TX — June 11, 2026 — Leaders from across the Gulf Coast are coming together to launch the Gulf Response Alliance (GRA) and host an inaugural event, September 28-30 in Austin, Texas as a growing coalition dedicated to protecting the Gulf of America, its bays, estuaries, coastal habitats and waterways through stronger preparedness, coordinated response, and environmental stewardship.

Emergency response professionals, government agencies, environmental organizations, wildlife experts, academic institutions and industry leaders will participate in the three day summit at the City of Austin Palmer Events Center to collaborate on a common mission: Safeguarding one of America's most important natural and economic resources.

Serving as coordinating sponsors of the GRA are the Oceans and Wildlife Institute (OWI), the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program, the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO), and the Spill Control Association of America (SCAA). Together, these organizations represent the public, private, environmental and emergency response sectors responsible for protecting the Gulf Coast's people, wildlife, waterways and economic infrastructure.

The Gulf Response Alliance is led by a distinguished group of Gulf Coast leaders, including Jesse Gilbert, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Oceans and Wildlife Institute; Michael Drieu, Chairman of the Gulf Response Alliance Steering Committee; Jimmy Martinez, Deputy Director of the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program; Marty Bienvenu, Executive Director of the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office; and Josh Clifford, representing the Spill Control Association of America.

"The Gulf Coast is one of America's most important environmental and economic assets," said Michael Drieu, Chairman of the Gulf Response Alliance Steering Committee. "From Texas through Louisiana and across the Gulf region, our communities, wildlife habitats, ports, fisheries and coastal economies depend upon strong partnerships and effective preparedness. The Gulf Response Alliance was created to strengthen those partnerships before incidents occur."

The GRA's work focuses on preparedness, prevention, response and recovery. By fostering cooperation among public agencies, private industry, environmental organizations and response professionals, the organization seeks to strengthen the region's ability to protect sensitive habitats, coastal wildlife and critical waterways while improving coordination during environmental incidents and natural disasters.

The Gulf Coast supports millions of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity annually through energy production, shipping, tourism, commercial fishing and recreation. GRA leaders recognize that environmental protection and economic vitality are interconnected and that effective preparedness helps safeguard both natural resources and coastal communities.

"Protecting the Gulf requires more than responding to emergencies," said Jesse Gilbert, President and CEO of the Oceans and Wildlife Institute. "It requires building relationships, sharing expertise and ensuring that government agencies, industry, environmental organizations and response professionals are working together toward a common goal. The Gulf Response Alliance provides that forum."

The GRA will convene stakeholders from across the Gulf Coast to share best practices, strengthen partnerships, advance training opportunities and improve regional resilience through collaboration and information sharing. For more information, visit www.gulfresponsealliance.org.

About the Gulf Response Alliance

The Gulf Response Alliance is a collaborative coalition of government agencies, emergency response professionals, industry leaders, environmental organizations, academic institutions and wildlife experts dedicated to strengthening preparedness, response and recovery capabilities throughout the Gulf Coast region. Through collaboration, training and information sharing, the Alliance works to protect the Gulf's waters, bays, estuaries, wildlife and coastal communities while promoting environmental stewardship and operational excellence.

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