

News Release

Contact:
Judy Slocum
Port of Galveston
409-766-6119
jslocum@portofgalveston.com

For Immediate Release

COMPLETION OF PIER 19 REFURBISHMENT PROJECTED FOR JULY 2001

Galveston, Texas...April 26, 2001...The Port of Galveston announces the completion of a \$3 million Capital Improvement Project at the commercial marina at Pier 19 and the return of the Galveston shrimping and fishing fleet to Pier 19 on July 12, 2001.

The extensive renovation and refurbishment effort encompasses the Pier 19 though Pier 20 boat basin where commercial shrimpers and fishermen make their living. The complex also includes a restaurant, several wholesale/retail seafood operations, and deepsea fishing and charter boats.

“We are extremely happy to be able to finalize the completion of this project and announce the return of the commercial shrimping and fishing fleet to their new home at Pier 19 on July 12, 2001,” stated Katherine D. Moore, Port Director. “The total modernization of this area has been a long time coming and we are glad to be able provide this extensive restoration at this time.”

The project, which began in October 1998 with the initial award for the design of the project, includes repairs and improvements to the docks and the vehicle parking areas including

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construction of a new main pier, new finger piers, and bulk heads; installation of new lighting; and refurbishment of the parking lot for customers of the fish, shrimp, charter and party boat businesses.

The commercial shrimping and fishing boats and the charter and party boats were provided alternate berths by the Port of Galveston during the renovation project. The Port reassigned the party boats to Pier 15 for overnight berthing and to Pier 21 for loading passengers for deepsea fishing charters. The Port also shifted the home base for the shrimp fleet to Pier 41 so that operations would continue uninterrupted until new accommodations were completed.

In an article from the *Port Galveston* magazine dated July 1964, the writer referred to Pier 19 as “Galveston’s famed old Mosquito Fleet”. The writer related...“Galveston’s famed old Mosquito Fleet has been in existence for longer than a century, and for the past seventy-five years – longer than the memory of any man living connected with it – has been in its present location at Pier 19-20. The Mosquito Fleet has been a delight to tourist and Galvestonians alike over the years.”

The article continued “The sight of hundreds of fishing nets, crewmen repairing their boats, and a good look at a real commercial fisherman has always intrigued visitors to Galveston. Old-timers say the Mosquito Fleet acquired its name because of the large number of small boats usually jammed into the slip.”

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