

News Release

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For Immediate Release

COMMERCIAL SHRIMPING AND FISHING FLEET TO RETURN TO PIER 19

Galveston, Texas...June 27, 2001...The Port of Galveston announces the signing of lease agreements for the newly refurbished boat slips at the historic Mosquito Fleet and the completion of the \$3.1 million Pier 19 Capital Improvement Project.

The signing of the agreements and the completion of the project allow for the return of the Galveston shrimping and fishing fleet to Pier 19 on July 12, 2001. Father Frank Fabj of Sacred Heart Church will mark the occasion with the Blessing of the Fleet at 4:00 p.m. The public is invited.

The extensive renovation and refurbishment effort encompasses the Pier 19 through 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 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.

Pier 19 is a historic site that dates back to the 1880s. The L-shaped boat slip was constructed prior to 1885. A plaque denoting the Pier 19 area as a Texas Historical Site is located at 19th Street.

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