



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

**USGS
Center for Aquatic Resources Studies**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Barry Drucker

FROM: Allen Brooks
352-378-8181 ext. 307

CC: Ken Sulak

RE: Interim Report – The Fish Community of Sabine Bank

DATE: 3 March, 2003

Barry,

I wanted to catch you up on the progress we have made so far regarding the sand resource study. We have been talking with Dr. Tim Dellapenna, Texas A&M University at Galveston, regarding the side scan mapping of Sabine Bank. Dr. Dellapenna has given us a tentative proposal. The proposal calls for mapping the bank during the summer of 2003 and providing a map of the area before fish sampling would begin in the early spring of 2004. Dr. Dellapenna proposes to map the seabed using a dual frequency echo sounder, digital side scan sonar, and CHIRP sub-bottom profiler. Additionally, sediment samples will be taken to provide a detailed interpretive map relating bottom types and areas of roughness. The details are still being negotiated with the goal of implementing a cooperative agreement between USGS and Texas A&M University once the project's money has been secured at our center.

Ken Sulak conducted a site visit to Texas A&M marine station, Galveston in February 2003. He met with Dellapenna and worked through collaborative objectives, logistics, budgets, and most importantly the anticipated products. Details of the mapping including scan frequency, swath width, survey speed were also finalized.

We have also been in communication with Dr. Jay Rooker, a fish biologist at Texas A&M University. He is currently working on juvenile red snapper in the Texas area. Ken met with him as well and he appears very willing to collaborate.

A target area for the side scan mapping is being delineated and the mapping will be conducted in early-mid August. A short cruise is currently being scheduled for late July 2003. The cruise details are still in the planning stage but should be finalized in the



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near future. The goal of the cruise is "gear testing" in an effort to work out any bugs in the sampling gear, and Arc view programmable navigation system. We plan to do any necessary sediment collection during this cruise and begin fish sampling.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cheers,

Allen Brooks