



State of Alabama

Unified Command Joint Information Center Mobile, Alabama

Press Advisory #11
May 21, 2010

Governor Riley Appoints Noted Marine Scientist Dr. Bob Shipp to Conservation Advisory Board

MONTGOMERY – Governor Bob Riley on Friday appointed noted scientist Dr. Bob Shipp to the state’s Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Board.

The board assists in formulating policies for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, reviews all rules and regulations, and makes recommendations for their change or amendment.

“Dr. Shipp is recognized around the world as the foremost authority on fishes in the Gulf of Mexico. As a marine biologist, his knowledge of our coastal environment is second to none,” said Governor Riley. “Especially during this time when our coast is threatened by an oil spill, the board needs someone with his high level of expertise. There’s no question that Dr. Shipp will be an outstanding addition to the board.”

Barnett Lawley, the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, called Dr. Shipp “the best there is.”

“This oil spill should make everyone realize what great treasures we have in our coastal waters and how much they need to be protected. Nobody better understands what steps this board needs to take to protect that area better than Bob Shipp,” said Commissioner Lawley.

Dr. Shipp is chairman of the University of South Alabama’s Department of Marine Sciences and president of the federal Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. He is also the director of the Alabama Center for Estuarine Studies. He was associate director of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab for 10 years.

“Obviously my prime interest is in our coastal resources. Because of the current situation with the oil crisis, I’m especially pleased to be involved in working on the board to make decisions that best benefit our state,” said Dr. Shipp.

He served on the Board of Governors of the American Society of Ichthyologists and

Herpetologists, was appointed to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council in 1991 and served as the council's chairman from 1996-1997 and again from 1999-2000.

Dr. Shipp was also director of the Alabama Coastal Conservation Association and continues to serve as the association's senior scientist.

Dr. Shipp replaces Ross Self on the board.

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*For more information, contact the **Governor's Press Office** at 334-242-7150.*