



*Texas Chapter
Surfrider Foundation
Press Release*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SURFRIDER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES PADDLE TEXAS

An Ultra-Long Distance Paddle and Fundraiser for the
Surfrider Foundation's Education Program in Texas

(Houston, Texas) Starting May 1, 2004 Gene and Rachel Gore of South Padre Island, Texas will paddle the entire length of the Texas Gulf Coast on a 12' paddleboard. They will paddle a distance of approximately 375 miles to support the Surfrider Foundation's "Respect the Beach" education program in Texas and to raise public awareness about environmental issues on state beaches.

"PADDLE TEXAS" will begin at the mouth of the Rio Grande on the Texas/Mexico border Saturday May 1, 2004 and end at the mouth of the Sabine River at the Texas/Louisiana border 10-14 days later.

Gene and Rachel will take turns paddling in 1-hour shifts averaging 8-10 hours a day, with vehicle escort along stretches of drivable beach and boat escort along the areas where vehicles cannot travel. Check Gene and Rachel's progress online (www.surfrider.org/texas/) with daily reports, photos, and media alerts.

All of the funds raised by pledges to "PADDLE TEXAS" will go to support the Surfrider Foundation's "Respect the Beach" education program for Texas schools.

There will be designated stops and press events at:

- South Padre Island (Isla Blanca Park — Sat. May 1, 10 a.m.);
- Corpus Christi (Bob Hall Pier — Tues. May 4);
- Port Aransas (Horace Caldwell Pier — Wed. May 5);
- Surfside Beach (Jetty Park — Sun. May 9);
- Galveston (51st Street Jetty — Mon. May 10);
- Sabine Pass (Wed. May 12) Finish.

(All dates and times are tentative due to varying weather conditions).

Surfrider Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches, for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education. The Texas Chapter of Surfrider Foundation, founded in January 1999 with over 1,000 members statewide, is dedicated to protecting Texas' public beaches.