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## **News Release - 1991-10-03**

E. De la Garza

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# news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D C

3 October 1991 -- Rep Kika de la Garza today announced he has joined together with several of his House colleagues to introduce legislation to designate 1992 as the "Year of the Gulf of Mexico." The south Texas Congressman said "having been successful in efforts to enact legislation to address the problems of pollution of the Rio Grande, I feel we must now also direct our efforts toward protecting this most valuable natural environmental and economic resource."

The resolution which the Congressman is co-sponsoring calls on all federal and state agencies which have responsibilities for matters affecting the Gulf to take an active role in increasing the public's awareness of its value. For instance, 40% of the nation's seafood comes from the Gulf. 90% of the U S offshore oil and gas is produced here. Millions of tourists from across the country and around the world come to this region to enjoy its beauty.

The public must also, however, be aware of the current conditions which pose an imminent menace to the Gulf. There is an accumulation of trash which threatens the purity of the waters and the shores. There is contamination which is affecting wetlands, estuaries and fisheries. The environmental stress on the region is tremendous.

"If we are to preserve this national and natural treasure," said Rep de la Garza, "then we cannot allow the habitat and ecosystems of the Gulf to be ravaged by pollution and neglect. We must keep this a treasure for generations to come, and I feel this resolution will, in fact, raise the consciousness necessary to do just that."

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