

We are pleased to welcome these two experienced professional mariners to the Flower Garden Banks staff. Our vessel operators and crew are under contract by C-Port Marine Services.

Captain Chuck Curry

Licensed U.S. Coast Guard 1600 ton Master Oceans

Forever a lover of the sea, Chuck has been sailing for almost 30 years. With a Marine Corps Honorable Discharge and degree from Temple University in Structural Engineering, he engaged upon the maritime field. Chuck has numerous years working aboard research vessels, tugboats, ferries, oil support vessels, and delivering vessels around the world. Chuck looks forward to applying his extensive experience to the challenges of facilitating management of sanctuary resources.

Captain Deborah K. Brock

U. S. Coast Guard Licensed 200 Ton Master Near Coastal

Deborah is a Texas native. After working in the building design field and running her own business, she spent time managing vessel operations in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. The past 10 years, she broadened her sailing experience on 50 to 250 foot vessels in the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and delivering vessels all over the world. Deb is very excited to be joining the sanctuary program to promote research and protection of ocean resources.

Degree: University of Florida, Bachelor of Arts degree in Graphic Design.

R/V *Manta* Dedication

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary



June 27, 2008
Galveston, Texas



Special thanks to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for sponsoring this event and for their continuing support of education and research at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

Special thanks to the U.S. Coast Guard for honoring the R/V Manta with an escort.

Pier 21 venue made available by Port of Galveston.

*Music provided by Texas Brass Ensemble
Houston, Texas*



Presenting the R/V *Manta*

Master of Ceremonies

[George P. Schmahl](#)

Site Superintendent

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Mission of R/V *MANTA*

The mission of the NOAA vessel *Manta* is to conduct research, monitoring, education, public outreach, enforcement and emergency response-related operations in Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary and the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. Designed with flexibility in mind, the *Manta*'s ability to adapt to the goals of a project will make it a valuable tool for the sanctuary and its partners. The *Manta* will greatly enhance the staff's ability to respond to natural events such as hurricanes, coral diseases, and bleaching, and also to respond to human disturbances such as oil spills, anchoring, and illegal fishing activities.

The *Manta* will facilitate a variety of projects that will contribute to effective management of sanctuary resources. Projects include detailed sea floor mapping, habitat characterization, collection of critical real-time data to enhance the sanctuary's ability to predict larval dispersal, and respond to potential threats from coastal and industrial impact events, description of the input of larval fish and other marine inhabitants from northwestern Gulf of Mexico reefs and banks, tracking regional movements of key species, monitoring the health of the coral reefs and communities, educating volunteers, sanctuary visitors, teachers and students about the sanctuary, provide practical experience for university students.

The *Manta* will leverage the resources of many partners, including Texas A&M University, University of Texas, University of Calgary, University of Houston, Florida International University, Smithsonian Institute, NOAA Fisheries, George Mason University, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bainbridge College, Minerals Management Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Moody Gardens, Florida Fish and Wildlife, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Mote Marine Laboratory, Harte Research Institute and Gulf of Mexico Foundation.

The *Manta* will be housed on Pelican Island, home of Texas A&M University – Galveston.

Presentation of Colors

[Boy Scout Troop 207](#)

Dickinson, TX

Invocation

[LCDR Joseph R. Primeaux](#)

CHC, US Navy

Welcome and Opening Remarks

[G. P. Schmahl](#)

Site Superintendent, Flower Garden Banks NMS

Honorary Speakers

[James Connaughton](#)

White House Council of Environmental Quality

[Albert Cheng](#)

Representative for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson

[Delores "Dodie" Armstrong](#)

Representative for Congressman Ron Paul

[John W. Boerstler](#)

Representative for Congressman Nick Lampson

Presentation of Environmental Hero Award

[Timothy Keeney](#)

NOAA, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere

Keynote Speaker and Sponsor of R/V *Manta*

[Dr. Sylvia A. Earle](#)

National Geographic Explorer in Residence and Trustee Emerita, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Presentation of Plaque

[Ted Lillestolen](#)

Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Christening of R/V *Manta*

[Dr. Sylvia A. Earle](#)

National Geographic Explorer in Residence and Trustee Emerita, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Benediction

[LCDR Joseph R. Primeaux](#)

CHC, US Navy

Closing Remarks

[G. P. Schmahl](#)

Site Superintendent, Flower Garden Banks NMS

Reception and R/V *Manta* Tours

Guests holding "boarding passes" are invited to a harbor tour aboard R/V *Manta*. Please board immediately following closing remarks

All invited guests, please join the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the Flower Garden Banks NMS for refreshments at Willie G's, followed by guided tours of the R/V *Manta* immediately upon its return to Pier 21. Your name badge is your entry ticket to the reception at Willie G's.

General public, please enjoy tours of the R/V *Manta* between 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.