

Dr. Larry McKinney

Dr. McKinney received his doctorate from Texas A&M University in 1976. He is the Senior Executive Director of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, leading an interdisciplinary team that integrates science, policy and socio-economic expertise to assure an economically and environmentally sustainable Gulf of Mexico.

Dr. McKinney has over fifty years' experience working in the Gulf of Mexico as a researcher and resource manager. His publications and reports reflect a diverse range of expertise from benthic ecology to fisheries to ecosystem health. He is currently working on a Report Card for the Gulf of Mexico and leading biodiversity studies in Mexico and conservation projects in Cuba. Dr. McKinney is a recognized national leader on recreational fisheries issues, leading the Morris - Deal Commission on Recreational Fisheries Management. Dr. McKinney has led the State of the Gulf Summits in 2011, 2014 and 2017 bringing 400 Gulf leaders together in common cause. Dr. McKinney chairs Texas OneGulf, a consortium of Texas' nine leading marine research institutions and the first RESTORE Center of Excellence designated as such in the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. McKinney is a founding board member and former chair of the Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative (GOMURC), an organization of 80+ marine research institutes from across the Gulf of Mexico. He also chairs the GOMOSEs Program Committee for 2018, 2019 and 2020. Dr. McKinney serves on the Florida Institute of Oceanography Board of Visitors and Florida's RESTORE Center of Excellence; Texas State Audubon Board of Directors; and the Consortium for Ocean Leadership's Policy Committee. He has served as a member and chair of the Texas Sea Grant Advisory Committee, NASA's SSC Applied Sciences Steering Committee, the EPA Science Advisory Committee for the Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf Alliance's Ecosystem Assessment and Integration Team, the Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Committee (a former chair); and the Texas Academy of Science, where he was also a past President.