



Gulf of Mexico Region Virtual Book Club
Gulf: The Making of an American Sea by Jack E. Davis
7:00 PM CT/8:00 PM ET on **May 18th, 2022**

Meeting Schedule

Parts	Chapters	Date	# of pages
Part Four: Saturation and Loss: Post-1945	Chapter Fourteen: The Growth Coast	18-May	134
	Chapter Fifteen: Florida Worry, Texas Slurry		
	Chapter Sixteen: Rivers of Stuff		
	Chapter Seventeen: Runoff, and Runaway		
	Chapter Eighteen: Sand in the Hourglass		
	Chapter Nineteen: Losing the Edge		
	Epilogue: A Success Story Amid So Much Else		

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Chapter Fourteen: The Growth Coast

1. Discuss the unique role mangrove trees have in the history and survival in some areas of the Gulf.
2. The Gulf American Land Corporation, owned by the Rosen brothers, was the largest land sales business in the United States. How did they build Cape Coral and convince people to move there? What ecological damages resulted from the development?
3. Why did islanders form the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation?

Chapter Fifteen: Florida Worry, Texas Slurry

1. Why did the 1988 issue of Time declare “the oceans are sending out an SOS”?
2. What did you think of when you read about the “death tombstone”?
3. Discuss the impacts of Alcoa, Union Carbide, Formosa, Dupont, and British Petroleum Chemicals on the Texas Coast.
4. What are red tides and how did they affect Gulf states like Texas and Florida?
5. Why was there a battle in Texas over redfish?

Chapter Sixteen: Rivers of Stuff

1. Why is important to understand that rivers are “restless wanderers”?
2. What impact did the utilization of fertilizer on grain and corn have on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers?

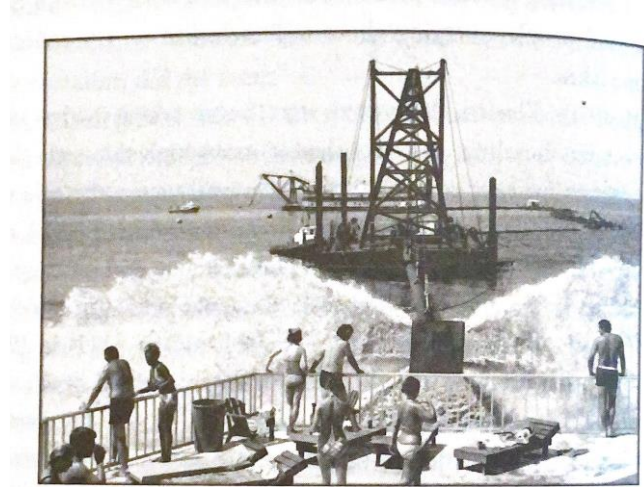
3. What was the Gulf Dead Zone?

Chapter Seventeen: Runoff, and Runaway

1. Discuss the growth of Destin and Gulf Shores versus a city like Ocean Springs.

Chapter Eighteen: Sand in the Hourglass

1. Discuss the photo on page 476 – pictured at right.
2. In 1987, Congress required state governments to adopt protective measures for sea turtles. Why was this important and which state passed a law to oppose the federal mandate?



Beachgoers stranded poolside as a dredge rebuilds their sand playground in the 1970s. Beach erosion and expensive restoration projects were common events by the post-World War II period.

Chapter Nineteen: Listing the Edge

1. Describe the importance of coastal marshes.
2. What is so impressive about marsh grass?
3. The late 1960's study by LSU geographer showed that Louisiana was disappearing at a rate of 16.5 square miles per year. What was causing this startling figure?

Epilogue: A Success Story Amid So Much Else

1. What are some of the points in the book that stuck out the most to you?
2. What do you see as positive actions these days for conserving the Gulf? What are biggest challenges?