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Formosa Adds to Expansion Staff

Advocate News Service

POINT COMFORT — Formosa Plastics has hired a marine biologist and a communications manager for its expansion project now under construction at Point Comfort.

Steve Marwitz has joined the environment protection department at Formosa while Jim Shephard had been hired as communications manager and will focus on community relations and public affairs.

Marwitz's duties will include research on the impact of Formosa's discharges into the state's bays and estuaries, a Formosa spokesman said.

Marwitz will help insure that there are not any detrimental effects from those discharges and will make recommendations to Formosa to enhance the marine ecosystem.

Prior to joining Formosa Plastics, Marwitz was employed as a marine biologist by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, coastal fisheries division in Port O'Connor.

Marwitz is familiar with the local Gulf Coast, having spent 10 years supervising and analyzing the fisheries programs in the Matagorda and San Antonio Bay systems.

In his last assignment with TP&WD, Marwitz was responsible

for analysis of fisheries data for the entire Texas Gulf Coast.

He has also been appointed to the technical advisory committee for the Port Lavaca beach project.

Shephard in an initial assignment will provide the area with updated information on construction progress and environmental protection programs for Formosa's \$1.3 billion expansion project at Point Comfort.

Shephard was a marketing consultant for KAVU-TV in Victoria, and worked in Houston for Tunnell Publications which produces three national business magazines.