



The University of Texas at Austin  
**Marine Science Institute**

# Public Lecture Series

## *“Ike Wiped Entire Towns off of the Map. Are We Safer in Port Aransas?”*

Dr. Richard Watson

Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.  
(doors open at 6:30 p.m.)



Hurricane Ike ripped through the upper Texas coast on September 13, 2008. The damage on Bolivar Peninsula was severe; two towns were completely destroyed, and all other towns were heavily damaged, with over 3600 homes totally gone. Other than the seawall protecting the City of Galveston, only parts of the central Texas coast from North Padre Island to Matagorda Peninsula are protected by significant foredune ridges. The meager foredune ridges along the Texas coast from Freeport to the Louisiana border were destroyed, and the barrier island and peninsulas were over washed. Many homes were left standing on the beach seaward of the probably recovery vegetation line. They will likely have to be removed under state law and the Texas Open Beaches Act. Construction setbacks requiring new structures to be built further back from the beach should be considered. New rules should prohibit moving sand from the upper beach or dunes. The foredune ridges which serve as a natural dune seawall must be protected and enhanced.

Dr. Watson is a consulting geologist. To learn more about his work go to: <http://TexasCoastGeology.com>



**Where:** Visitor Center Auditorium (361-749-6806)  
Cotter Street (near the beach), Port Aransas  
**Info:** Free and open to the public  
[www.utmsi.utexas.edu](http://www.utmsi.utexas.edu)