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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Galveston Bay Oyster Reefs Get a Boost from Aramco Services Company Volunteers

(Houston, TX –) September 8, 2016 – More than 40 Aramco Services Company (ASC) employee volunteers, family and friends joined the Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) at its Sweetwater Preserve on Galveston Island today to help restore oyster reef along the shores of Sweetwater Lake.

Oyster reefs are vital in maintaining the Galveston Bay ecosystem. A limiting factor in restoring oyster reefs in Galveston Bay is a lack of hard substrate in the Bay on which oyster larvae can attach, grow, and continue to build reef structure. To solve this, GBF has been collecting discarded oyster shells from local seafood restaurants and reusing them in oyster reef restoration projects around Galveston Bay. ASC has been a GBF partner for many years in this oyster shell recycling initiative, and it has become a favorite program of the company's active volunteer corps.

“Getting involved in this initiative was a natural step for us because of Aramco’s commitment to preservation and protection of the environment,” said Jamal Khudair, Director of Public Affairs, ASC. “When we heard about the immediate need for help to maintain the oyster reefs, our employees were eager to jump in and make a difference.”

A number of efforts have been launched over the past several years to restore Galveston Bay’s oyster reefs. This particular project on Galveston Island aims to restore 2,000 feet of reef along the shoreline of Sweetwater Lake using a method in which mesh bags of recycled oyster shells are stacked to create a stable structure on which oyster larvae will settle and grow. A project such as this is well-suited to being accomplished with the ongoing help of community volunteers such as those from ASC.

About Galveston Bay Foundation

The mission of the Galveston Bay Foundation is to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural resources of the Galveston Bay estuarine system and its tributaries for present users and for posterity. The Foundation was incorporated in 1987, and is a non-profit organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. GBF is located at 1100 Hercules Avenue, Suite 200 in Houston, TX. For further information, contact GBF at 281-332-3381, or visit the website at www.galvbay.org.

About Aramco Services Company

Aramco Services Company is the U.S.-based subsidiary of Saudi Aramco, a fully integrated energy and chemicals enterprise. Aramco is committed to being a positive contributor to the community. Our activities are focused on benefitting the places where we live and work. Employees and their families actively participate in our outreach events, improving everything from green spaces to public education and more, visit their website at www.aramcoservices.com.

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