

## **NEP seminar worth the time**

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Editorial

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program is performing a service for elected officials in Mobile and Baldwin counties by putting together an environmental seminar at which they can learn about issues facing coastal Alabama and discuss ways to address them.

The seminar, for Mobile and Baldwin county legislators, county commissioners and mayors, will be held from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at Daphne Civic Center. The growth and development taking place in this area, especially along the waterfront, will be one of the topics on the agenda.

Other topics, according to NEP director David Yeager, include home rule, wastewater disposal issues, well-head and drinking water protection, habitat protection, the Mobile Bay Causeway, fishery issues and land-use planning.

Several representatives of state agencies and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab are expected to be on hand, as is Jim Clinton, executive director of the Southern Growth Policies Board in Raleigh, N.C.

Protecting the environment while promoting economic development in coastal Alabama is a challenge that faces everyone in local government. Studying the issues together gives them a starting point from which to develop common agendas and legislation that help the entire region.

For the seminar to be most effective, elected leaders need to turn out for it. A half a day is a lot of time for busy officials, but the event should be worth the commitment.