



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CERF hosts a special presentation on the discovery of the slave schooner *Clotilda***

In conjunction with its 25<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) will host a special presentation on the discovery of the slave schooner *Clotilda*. Dr. James P. Delgado led the archaeological survey team that identified the *Clotilda*, and is the featured speaker on 4 November 2019 at 7:30pm in the Mobile Convention Center Ballroom. The presentation will be open to the public and streamed live.

In 1860, the Mobile-built schooner *Clotilda* entered the Mobile River with 109 enslaved persons on the last known voyage of a slave ship to bring people into the United States in violation of laws banning the slave trade – but not slavery. It was then burned and sunk, but never were it and what had happened forgotten. The June 2019 announcement of the discovery and identification of the wreck off Mobile's Twelvemile Island has again focused attention not only on the story of the schooner, but also on the people brought to Alabama on *Clotilda*, and of Africatown, now part of Mobile, home to descendants of some of the schooner's unwilling captives who, when freedom came, established the community in the aftermath of the Civil War. The wreck lies in a graveyard of ships that were purposely scuttled or abandoned in a backwater of the Mobile River. Dr. Delgado will present on the research, science, and forensic archaeology used to identify the wreck of *Clotilda*, a nationally significant archaeological site now protected by the Alabama Historical Commission for the people of Alabama.

Dr. Delgado's career spans nearly five decades of investigating the past and sharing discovery and history with a global audience. Archaeologist, historian, journalist, educator, museum director, television host, and government official, his professional journey has kept a focus on the past, especially our seafaring history. Passionately dedicated to exploration, for the past decade he has increasingly focused on deep ocean exploration, new technologies for reaching not only the deep but a worldwide audience through the use of robotic vehicles, satellites, and the Internet to bring the public along with him as he explores the world miles below the surface of the ocean. Dr. Delgado currently serves as the Senior Vice President of SEARCH, Inc., the nation's largest company devoted to archaeology, historic preservation, and museum services, working throughout the United States and globally.

To learn more about the 25<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of CERF, visit [www.cerf.science/CERF-2019](http://www.cerf.science/CERF-2019). Members of the media interested in attending the event should contact Susan Park at [spark@cerf.science](mailto:spark@cerf.science) or 804-381-6658.

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#### **About CERF**

The Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) is a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to advancing the understanding and wise stewardship of estuarine and coastal ecosystems worldwide. Members of the Federation include students, researchers, resource managers, policy

makers, and educators representing academic and research institutions, government, industry and consulting, and non-governmental organizations. The CERF Biennial Conference is recognized as the premier conference on the science and management of coastal and estuarine systems and resources. Learn more about CERF at [www.cerf.science](http://www.cerf.science).