field companies to expand their operations overseas, the head of a major offshore boat company told local industry leaders Tuesday.

"If you go back five years there were about 145 operations in the Gulf of Mexico, and that number now is less then 100, somewhere between 80 and 90," said Dean Taylor, chairman, president and CEO of New Orleans-based Tidewater Inc. "Many companies are now seeing, particularly with things slowing down in the Gulf of Mexico, they really need to go international."

Taylor, whose company is the leading provider of marine transportation services to the offshore oil and gas industry worldwide, spoke to about 190 members of the South Central Industrial Association during its luncheon Tuesday at the Holiday Inn in Houma.

"What's important about going international is you can't just go and be an American," Taylor said, "You need to go and try to figure out how they think."

To illustrate this, Taylor asked those speak their language and not really caring too much for their back yard.

"Well, that's about how people react to Americans when we go into their countries," he said.

Other countries have their own traditions and ways of doing things, which Americans sometimes ignore or impose upon, he added.

"It is important when you go international, that you try to remember who is your host," Taylor said.

Taylor also offered predictions on what the oilfield-service industry is going to look like in the coming months and years.

"Size is certainly going to be important," he said.

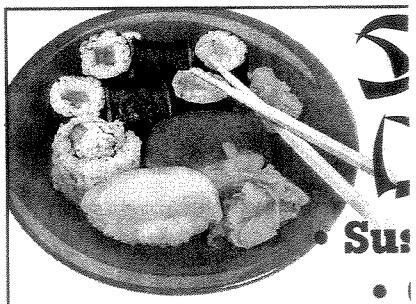
Customers are looking for service companies that have invested heavily in their operations.

The availability of specific equipment, Taylor said, will also play a large role in keeping customers satisfied.

"Alliances are pretty important," he added. "Many of the places where we work around the world we cannot work as an American company. We need to have some sort of joint ven-

increases in oil activity while the Gulf of Mexico's work decreases.

Tidewater Marine is the parent company of Houma-based Quality Shipyards, a provider of new-vessel construction, conversion and repair services on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.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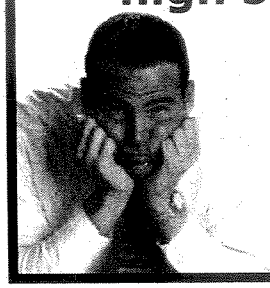
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announcement]

By Meg Richards
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Dick G
and his millions with h
new, almost certainly les
and likely more public era
York Stock Exchange.

The chairman's decision to resign late Wednesday, a response to furor over the $139.5 million payout he received last month, leaves the NYSE board of directors searching for a successor under the scrutiny of its members, critics and federal regulators, who want changes in how the world's richest market is run.

"Richard Grasso has done the right thing. He's fallen on his sword," said New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi. "However, the issue is not just Mr. Grasso. The issue is making fundamental reforms at the stock exchange to restore investor confidence."

Hevesi and other state finance officials and pension managers had called for Grasso's resignation, joining an increasingly noisy chorus of politicians, investor advocates and traders who said his lavish salary undermined the credibility of the exchange, a not-for-profit, member-owned institution that also serves as a regulatory watchdog.

"In an era of corporate scandals, you can't have the regulator of the world's largest stock exchange take tens of millions of dollars in remuneration from the people he's regulating," Hevesi said. "That's a conflict of interest."

Grasso is the latest prominent figure in the business world to fall in a three-year storm of public uproar over out-

Restoring Natural Resources After Oil Spills

Trustees Release Draft Regional Restoration Plan to Restore

State of Louisiana and Federal natural resource trustees are soliciting publi
Regional Restoration Plan to restore natural resources injured by oil spills.
first of nine regional plans to be developed under the statewide Louisiana F
Program.

The State of Louisiana, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a
Interior have developed a statewide program to expedite restoration of inju
cost of Natural Resource Damage Assessments—the process by which tr
restore resources injured by oil spills.

Region 2 encompasses all or part of the following parishes: Ascension, As
Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, and
Plan describes the affected environment, biological resources, and associa
the natural resources/services that are likely to be injured by an incident,
for each of the potentially injured resources/services, and available restora
identified to date. Another key feature of the draft Region 2 Plan is the dete
unit cost to restore predominant habitat types in the region as part of a cas
predominant habitat types in Region 2 are coastal herbaceous wetlands,
forested wetlands.

For more information and/or to receive a copy of the draft Plan, please vis
contact one of the following individuals:

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The draft Region 2 Plan will be released on or before September 23, 2
should be submitted to William Conner by October 23, 2003, at the ad