

JOURNEY: Vic Madamba, left, and Michael Hunt will spend six months to a year

new perspective on nature

■ Kayakers join to survey wildlife in Galveston Bay

By DINA CAPPIELLO HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Vic Madamba picked up kayaking nearly 20 years ago as a U.S. Navy recreation director. on an Okinawa beach. Soon after, he spent 26 days and paddled 2,100 miles circum navigating Japan's southern-most island.

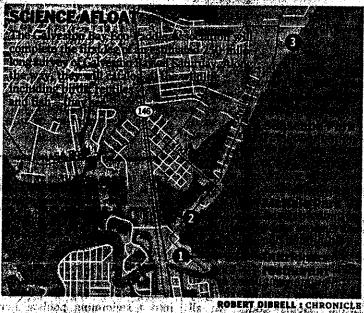
About the same time, Michael Hunt, a lecturer in psy-chology at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, began kay aking to research dolphin be-

The two open-water kayakers have since become friends. and on Saturday they will begin a joint venture that could be most ambitious yet: a wildlife survey of 250 miles of Galveston Bay shoreline by kayak. Call it science afloat.

We wanted to just go around Galveston Bay, a circumnavigation. said amba, 70. "Then Michael said. You know, just paddling is a

For Hunt, kayaking the coast s a way to collect important scientific information.

"It all fits together," said Hunt, 58, who for the last year as participated in a wildlife



ROBERT DIBRELL : CHRONICLE

survey of Seabrook coordinated by the City Council's Eco-Tourism Committee.

Figure 1 and the state of the s

The event will be the first for the Galveston Bay Eco-Paddle Association, a group Hunt and Madamba founded about a month ago. The association links conservation with sport, a combination that has historically given rise to groups such servation Association, a group of fishermen interested in pres-

Kayaks, as a mode of transport, also are ideal for studying to four days:
the coast.

But the pace will be slow

"It's very interesting they are using kayaks," said Alicia Strogen, a spokeswoman for the Galveston : Bay Foundation, which said it would be interested in the data.

"It's probably the best way to get into remote places," she added. "It's a great way to blend into the environment and move seamlessly."

Hunt says the survey which should be completed in six months to a year.

if Madamba had his way, the journey would have taken three

the science. Kayakers will identify bird species. Some par-ticipants will take water ticipants will take water samples. Hunt will use micro-phones to record and study marine mammals. And there is also the possibility that data on fish will be collected.

All information will eventually be part of a database posted on the group's Web site.

On Saturday, about 25 to 100 people are expected to put in at Outriggers restaurant in Seabrook. They will finish the first leg at Seascape Park.

For those promoting eco-tourism in the Seabrook area the survey shows off the area's natural resources from a different vantage point. The city's eco-tourism committee already promotes hiking and birding trails.

'It is putting a different spin on something, rather than walking our trails, you can glide along the shoreline," said Dori Nelson hairwoman of the season safety that the season safety that the season safety that the season safety season ing to kayak in preparation for Saturday's launch.

"It will attract another whole market of people."

dina.cappiello@chron.com

Stalled vehicle leads to wreck that kills one

A 38-year-old man died in a chain-reaction accident that oc-

Eight indicted in coun

■ They are accused. of passing fake cash in West Texas

currency and various counts of possessing counterfeit currency, the U.S. Attorney's Of

fice in Dallas said.
Garcia, Smith and Brooks also were charged with manufacturing counterfeit U.S. bills.

charges Brian Jake Parsons 🚄 also known as Benjamin Jacobs

Devan Lloyd Williams, Johnny Lewis Dickey and Richard William Corder with conspiracy to manufacture, pass, and possess counterfeit U.S.

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