



GULF OF MEXICO NEWS

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June 2010



NOAA Gulf of Mexico News

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NOAA Gulf of Mexico News

NOS Deepwater Horizon Spill Response

As response to the Deepwater Horizon incident continues, many offices within the National Ocean Service are contributing existing expertise to response efforts. For information on the National Ocean Service response activities please visit <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/deepwaterhorizon/>.

For daily updates on the incident, please visit the NOAA BP Oil Spill Incident Response [website](#).

Information on Fishing Closures

For current information on the federal fishery closure and other information regarding the BP Oil Spill, please go to the [Southeast Regional Office website](#).

This website is updated daily at approximately 12 noon EST (11 CT) with a "No Change" message or a revised closed area map that would go into effect at 6 PM EST (5 PM CT) that day. [> read more](#)

Fisheries

- [Fish Stocks in the Gulf of Mexico \(pdf\)](#)
- [Seafood Safety \(pdf\)](#)
- [Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill General Fact Sheet \(pdf\)](#)
- [Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Federal Fishery Closure Frequently Asked Questions \(pdf\)](#)
- Report Oiled Seafood 1-888-INFO FDA (1-888-463-6332)

State Closure Information

Click on the map of each state for more information regarding individual state response to the oil spill:



NOAA Sends Two Ships to Study Loop Current and Coastal Florida Waters

June 30, 2010



NOAA Ship Nancy Foster.
[High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

A NOAA research ship and a university-owned vessel left Miami this week to begin two complementary studies gathering data on the Loop Current and area ecosystems in response to the Deepwater Horizon / BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

NOAA Ship Nancy Foster begins today a two-week survey in the eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Straits. Nancy Foster is one of six NOAA-owned ships supporting the oil spill response effort. Scientists from NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Miami and the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center will lead the expedition to track where the oil has been and to determine where it may go. So far, oil from the Deepwater

Horizon/BP oil spill has not entered the Loop Current.

Scientists will examine the presence of oil, dispersants and tar balls in the water column and collect zooplankton samples in areas affected by the spill. Scientists will also identify and count types of fish larvae found at different depths of the upper ocean.

“Our historical data and newer information will help evaluate any impact in the future, particularly as the bimonthly sampling continues,” said Michelle Wood, director of the Ocean Chemistry Division of NOAA's AOML.

In addition, the Nancy Foster scientific team plans to monitor connectivity between the Loop Current and the Loop Current “Eddy Franklin” during the first week, and to study surface and subsurface waters in the east and north parts of the eddy during the second week. The Loop Current is a stream of warm Caribbean water that enters the Yucatan Straits, meanders northward, sometimes extending to the Gulf Coast, and exits into the Florida Straits after a sharp turn around the Florida Keys where it becomes the Florida Current. The “Eddy Franklin” is a warm water current that appears to have detached from the Loop Current sometime last week.

“Floating material – plankton or tar balls or oil – all get collected into the eddy and travel together until the ring ultimately breaks down or reattaches to the Loop Current,” Wood said.

One of the goals of this mission is to provide an early warning to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and other



Three drifting buoys, like the one pictured above, equipped with satellite communication, will be deployed during the cruise of the R/V Savannah to help track currents.
[High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

resource managers and scientists should the oil spill arrive at sensitive ecosystems in the region.

The R/V Savannah, operated by the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography in Savannah, Ga., is sailing through the Florida Keys and western Florida shelf as part of a long-term bimonthly sampling effort for NOAA's South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program that has been modified to collect samples to check for the presence of oil in the region.

The Savannah scientific team, also led by AOML, will sample along the west Florida shelf, where early impacts from oil would be expected. During the cruise scientists will collect samples to determine if oil has reached the area as well as investigate a high sea surface temperature event around the Florida Keys. Three drifting buoys with satellite communication will be deployed to track currents to compliment the research from the vessel.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Visit us on [Facebook](#).

NOAA, IOOS® Partners Employing Underwater Gliders and Surface Radar to Assist In Gulf Water Sampling

June 28, 2010



Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) equipped with fluorometers will be used to detect the presence of oil at various levels in the water column. [High resolution](#) (Credit: Rutgers University)

Using underwater unmanned gliders and coastal high-frequency radar stations, [NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System \(IOOS®\)](#) and its regional partners from across the nation are capturing data that will assist in the Deepwater Horizon BP oil spill response by locating and tracking oil at various levels in the water column, as well as on the Gulf surface.

Ten unmanned underwater robots equipped with sensors called fluorometers will measure matter in the water, which can help indicate the presence of oil. Scientists, however, must still confirm oil presence through water sampling. Gliders are also capable of collecting temperature, salinity, currents, density and additional variables that describe conditions below the surface of the sea. The gliders travel at various depths. Some gliders dive no deeper than 100 feet, while

others are capable of collecting data nearly a mile underwater.

Glider technology is unique in that it collects data throughout the water column at relatively low cost and at no risk to human life. This is the first oil spill response in the United States where this technology has been applied.

“IOOS's real-time data provides important information that helps NOAA and U.S. Navy scientists provide daily updates to their models to assist in understanding how and where oil is moving through the water column,” said Zdenka Willis, NOAA IOOS director. “This is part of NOAA's comprehensive effort

to understand the movement of oil helping to inform the response both on and below the surface, helping us to understand the impacts on the ecosystem.”

IOOS is also using high-frequency radar technology to measure surface current speed and direction in near-real-time. Data collected are incorporated into oil spill trajectory models. IOOS partners at the University of Southern Mississippi are using two high frequency radar sites along the Northern Gulf of Mexico to monitor the spill’s surface travels. The Southeast region of IOOS is using high frequency radar systems to collect data along the west Florida shelf and the Southeast Florida coast. IOOS partners in Southern California are helping input data from these systems so that it feeds directly into models used by NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration, which produces the science-based daily spill trajectory maps.

“Managers and officials in coastal communities use these trajectories to better prepare for oil hitting the shoreline,” Willis said.

Scientists at the University of South Florida are already comparing data from two gliders that have completed their missions and are analyzing that data against water samples in the region. Eight other gliders are currently collecting data: two from Rutgers University; one from Mote Marine Laboratory; one from the University of Washington Applied Physics Lab operated in conjunction with the University of Southern Mississippi; one from the University of Delaware; one operated by Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; and two from the U.S. Navy. Data and information from the gliders are available from a single website portal operated by [Rutgers University](#).

IOOS is a federal, regional and private-sector partnership working to enhance the ability to collect, deliver and use ocean information. IOOS delivers the data and information needed to increase understanding of our oceans and coasts, so decision makers can act to improve safety, enhance the economy and protect the environment. IOOS regional programs from the Gulf Coast, Southeast, mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Southern California and Northwest regions, as well as the U.S. Navy, are participating in the oil spill response.

NOAA, FDA, and Gulf Coast State Officials Affirm Commitment to Ensuring Safety of Gulf Coast Seafood

Federal and State Agencies Will Use Joint Protocol for Reopening Closed Waters

June 29, 2010

Gulf state health and fisheries officials joined with senior leaders from several federal agencies to affirm a shared commitment to ensuring the safety of seafood coming out of the Gulf of Mexico, through closures of affected waters, surveillance, and with an eye toward reopening closed waters as soon as possible, consistent with public health goals.

Representatives from NOAA, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency met last week in New Orleans with state health officers and state fisheries directors from Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas to coordinate implementation of a joint protocol for sampling and reopening that will apply to both state and federal waters.



[High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

Together, they will implement a comprehensive, coordinated, multi-agency program to ensure that seafood from the Gulf of Mexico is safe to eat. This is important not only for consumers who need to know their food is safe to eat, but also for fishermen who need to be able to sell their products with confidence.

“No single agency could adequately ensure the safety of seafood coming from the Gulf following this tragedy, but in working together, we can be sure that tainted waters are closed as appropriate, contaminated seafood is not allowed to make it to market, and that closed waters can be reopened to fishing as soon as is safe,” said Eric Schwaab, NOAA assistant administrator for [NOAA’s Fisheries Service](#).

State and federal authorities reached a critical step toward reopening with their agreement on a shared protocol that will be applied as oil contamination abates in federal and state waters. State authorities in Louisiana are applying the protocol to consider the possible reopening of two areas and NOAA is applying the protocol to consider the reopening of two closed areas off the coasts of Louisiana and Florida.

“We understand the devastating effects this spill has had on the Gulf states and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with state and federal partners to ensure that these important protocols are implemented efficiently, effectively, and in a way that makes sense for all involved, while maintaining the number one priority we all share – protecting the health of those in the Gulf Coast and across the country,” said Michael Taylor, FDA deputy commissioner for foods.

The first and most important preventive step in protecting the public from potentially contaminated seafood is to close fishing and shellfish harvesting areas in the Gulf that have been or are likely to be exposed to oil from the spill. In addition, NOAA and FDA are monitoring fish caught just outside of closed areas, and testing them for petroleum compounds, to ensure that the closed areas are sufficiently large so as to prevent the harvest of contaminated fish. So far, fish flesh tested from outside the closure areas have tested well below any level of concern for oil-based contamination.

NOAA-Supported Scientists Predict “Larger Than Average” Gulf Dead Zone

June 28, 2010

The northern Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone, an underwater area with little or no oxygen known commonly as the “dead zone,” could be larger than the recent average, according to a forecast by a team of NOAA-supported scientists from the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, Louisiana State University, and the University of Michigan. Scientists are predicting the area could measure between 6,500 and 7,800 square miles, or an area roughly the size of the state of New Jersey. The average of the past five years is approximately 6,000 square miles. It is the goal of a federal state task force to reduce it to 1,900 square miles. The largest dead zone on record, 8,484 square miles, occurred in 2002. This forecast is based on Mississippi River nutrient flows compiled annually by the U.S. Geological Survey. Dead zones off the coast of Louisiana and Texas are caused by nutrient runoff, principally from agricultural activity, which stimulates an overgrowth of algae that sinks, decomposes, and consumes most of the life-giving oxygen supply in the water. It is unclear what impact, if any, the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill will have on the size of the dead zone.

“The oil spill could enhance the size of the hypoxic zone through the microbial breakdown of oil, which consumes oxygen, but the oil could also limit the growth of the hypoxia-fueling algae,” said R. Eugene Turner, Ph.D., professor of oceanography at Louisiana State University. “It is clear, however, that the combination of the hypoxic zone and the oil spill is not good for local fisheries.”

Hypoxia is of particular concern because it threatens valuable commercial and recreational Gulf fisheries. In 2008, the dockside value of commercial fisheries was \$659 million. The 24 million fishing trips taken in 2008 by more than three million recreational fishers further contributed well over a billion dollars to the Gulf economy.

“As with weather forecasts, this prediction uses multiple models to predict the range of the expected size of the dead zone,” said Robert Magnien, Ph.D., director of [NOAA’s Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research](#). “The strong track record of these models reinforces our confidence in the link between excess nutrients from the Mississippi River and the dead zone.”

“The 2010 spring nutrient load transported to the northern Gulf of Mexico is about 11 percent less than the average over the last 30 years,” said Matthew Larsen, Ph.D., USGS associate director for water. “An estimated 118,000 metric tons of nitrogen in the form of nitrate were transported in May 2010 to the northern Gulf.”

The collaboration among NOAA, USGS, and University scientists facilitates understanding of the linkages between activities in the Mississippi River watershed and the downstream effects on the northern Gulf of Mexico. Long-term data sets on nutrient loads and the extent of the hypoxic zone have improved forecast models used by management agencies to understand the nutrient reductions required to reduce the size of the hypoxic zone to the established goal. This year’s forecast is an example of NOAA’s growing ecological forecasting capabilities that allow for the protection of valuable resources using scientific, ecosystem-based approaches. An announcement of the size of the 2010 hypoxic zone, which is an annual requirement of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force Action Plan, will follow a NOAA-supported monitoring survey led by the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium between July 24 and August 2. Information on the extent of hypoxia will also be available on the [NOAA’s Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Watch](#) Web page, which displays near real-time results of the [NOAA Fisheries Service](#) summer fish survey in the northern Gulf of Mexico currently underway and scheduled to be completed by July 18.

NOAA Ship Delaware II to Collect Tunas, Swordfish, Water Samples on Deepwater Horizon Spill Study

NOAA vessels also focus on reef fish, shrimp, marine mammals and the loop current

June 25, 2010



NOAA ship Delaware II.
[High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

[NOAA ship Delaware II](#) departs Key West, Fla., today to collect tunas, swordfish and sharks, to gather data about the conditions these highly migratory species are experiencing in waters around the Gulf of Mexico spill site.

During the two-week mission, the research vessel will use longline fishing gear to capture the fish, and assess their environment using sophisticated water chemistry monitoring instruments. Researchers will only retain the fish needed to get enough samples for the study. Every effort is made to release

any animals caught but not needed for sampling. Some may also be fitted with satellite tags to help determine how much time these highly migratory animals spend in oiled and unoiled waters.

These fish, and other prized Gulf seafood species, are the focus of NOAA's response mission to help assess the safety of seafood for consumers, and to lay the groundwork for measuring the long-term effects of the Deepwater Horizon/BP oil spill on commercially important fish and shellfish.

Two other NOAA ships, [Pisces](#), one of NOAA's newest research vessels, and the ship [Oregon II](#), are in the midst of surveys of reef fish, bottom-dwelling fish, and shrimp in the eastern and western Gulf of Mexico to sample for seafood and water quality and species abundance as part of the oil spill response.

"These vessels are providing a variety of seafood and water samples from locations throughout the Gulf—nearshore and offshore, shallow water and deep, oiled and unoiled," said Dr. Steven Murawski, who is leading NOAA's science response to the spill. "This is baseline information we need to measure any effects on seafood attributable to the spilled oil and to make sure our fishery closures are effective and in place for as long as they need to be, but no longer."

The seafood samples will be analyzed by scientists in NOAA labs in Pascagoula, Miss., and Seattle for levels of oil and dispersants and to document the movements of fish from oiled to unoiled waters, to compare against guidelines for re-opening fishery closure areas, and to provide baseline information so that changes in the ecosystem owing to spilled oil can be measured.

A fourth NOAA ship, the [Gordon Gunter](#), is also in the Gulf, surveying marine mammals through August 5. Researchers are taking biopsy and water samples for analysis, and placing satellite tags on some animals to learn more about how they move between oiled and unoiled waters. The ship is also placing underwater listening devices on the ocean floor in the survey area. These will be left for up to four months, recording the vocalizations of marine mammals so researchers can better understand which species are present. These missions build upon research conducted in the vicinity of the spill by NOAA ship [Thomas Jefferson](#), and a previous mission by NOAA ship Gordon Gunter from May 27 through June 4. Teams from NOAA, universities, marine science institutions, and other federal agencies collected water samples and employed advanced methods for detecting submerged oil while gathering oceanographic data in the area.

A sixth NOAA survey vessel, [Nancy Foster](#), departs Miami next week for a mission to better understand the loop current and how it may change over time, as well as to sample planktonic animals potentially affected by the spill.

Also, specialized NOAA aircraft operating out of Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana continue to support the Deepwater Horizon response. NOAA's fleet of ships and aircraft is operated by the [NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations](#).

Other ships are also supporting NOAA in the Gulf:

- The charter ship Beau Rivage is in the closed fishing zone in the eastern Gulf, using bottom longline gear to catch fish for seafood safety samples.
- The NOAA Mississippi lab vessel Gandy is conducting a vertical line survey in the eastern Gulf, collecting seafood safety samples.
- The NOAA Mississippi vessel Caretta will be geared up this week for trawling and plankton work in the oiled area off Mississippi.
- Several for-hire recreational charters are collecting seafood safety samples in both the open and closed areas off Clearwater, Fla.

Administration's Joint Analysis Group Releases First Scientific Report on Subsea Monitoring Data from Gulf Spill

June 23, 2010

WASHINGTON – The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) today released the first peer reviewed, analytical summary report about the subsea monitoring in the vicinity of the Deepwater Horizon wellhead. The report contains analysis of samples taken by the R/V Brooks McCall, a research vessel conducting water sampling from half a mile to nine miles of the wellhead. These data have been used on an ongoing basis to help guide the Government's decisions about the continued use of subsea dispersant.

The report comes from the Joint Analysis Group (JAG), which was established to facilitate cooperation and coordination among the best scientific minds across the government and provide a coordinated analysis of information related to subsea monitoring in the Gulf of Mexico. This comprehensive analysis helps define the characteristics of the water and presence of oil below the surface in the area close to the well-head from May 8-25.

The JAG report, which can be found at <http://www.noaa.gov/sciencemissions/bpoilspill.html>, contains data analysis of dissolved oxygen levels and presence of total petroleum hydrocarbons from water samples and oil droplet size – tests that EPA, the U.S. Coast Guard, and NOAA use to determine whether dispersant is likely being effective and whether it is having significant negative impact on aquatic life. The report concludes that decreased oil droplet size in deep waters is consistent with chemically-dispersed oil. The report also shows that dissolved oxygen levels remained above immediate levels of concern, although there is a need to monitor dissolved oxygen levels over time.

The report also confirms the existence of a previously discovered cloud of diffuse oil at depths of 3,300 to 4,600 feet near the wellhead. Preliminary findings indicate that total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) concentrations at these depths are in concentrations of about 1-2 parts per million (ppm). Between that depth and the surface mix layer, which is defined as 450 feet below the surface, concentrations fell to levels that were not readily discernable from background levels. The tests detection limit is about 0.8 ppm. Analysis also shows that this cloud is most concentrated near the source of the leak and decreases with distance from the wellhead. Beyond six miles from the wellhead, concentrations of this cloud drop to levels that are not detectable.

Dispersant has been used as part of the overall strategy to prevent more oil from impacting the Gulf Coast's fragile wetlands, marshes and beaches by breaking up the oil and speeding its natural degradation offshore.

EPA has required BP to undertake rigorous monitoring of dispersant use to ensure it continues to be effective and does not negatively impact the environment. EPA posts data from these and other monitoring missions daily at <http://epa.gov/bpspill/dispersants.html>. This data will continue to inform the federal government's actions. The JAG will continue to analyze subsea data and make its reports available to the public as quickly as possible to ensure Americans have access to the data government agencies are using to make decisions. The full report from the Brooks McCall mission is available on <http://www.noaa.gov/sciencemissions/bpoilspill.html>. For information about the response effort, visit www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com.

Commerce Secretary Gary Locke Announces \$10.27 Million in Grants for Gulf Region

Grants to aid economic recovery for communities impacted by BP oil spill

Following his second visit to the Gulf Coast to talk with local businesses impacted by the BP oil spill, U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke announced today eight grants for the Gulf region totaling \$10.27 million – most for economic development planning and coastal management. Locke heard firsthand from affected businesses last week when he traveled to Mobile, Ala., Biloxi, Miss., and New Orleans, La.

“People’s livelihoods across the Gulf are at risk,” Locke said. “From day one, the Obama administration has been committed to containing the damage from the BP oil spill and extending to the people of the Gulf the help they need to confront this ordeal. These grants are one more aspect of the administration-wide commitment to doing whatever it takes to help folks deal with the unexpected challenges brought on by this environmental disaster.”

Three grants will be administered through the Commerce Department’s Economic Development Administration (EDA):

- Nearly \$1 million to the International Economic Development Council to help hurricane and oil-impacted communities in Louisiana and Texas identify vulnerabilities in their local economies and develop short- and long-term strategies to spur economic recovery.
- \$750,000 for Seedco Financial Services, Inc. to provide capital to support small businesses in southeast Louisiana. In addition to providing funding, the project will focus on at-risk small businesses in underserved areas to identify their needs and provide technical assistance services.
- \$87,000 to the South Central Planning and Development Commission for technical assistance to communities and businesses in Louisiana’s Gulf Coast communities, helping to facilitate a coordinated, planned approach to economic recovery across the state.

Five other grants will be administered through the Commerce Department’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):

- More than \$2.5 million for the Louisiana Coastal Management Program to help the state administer its coastal management program
- More than \$2.5 million for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to help the state administer its coastal management program.
- More than \$2.5 million for the Texas General Land Office to help the state administer its coastal management program.
- More than \$1.16 million for the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources to help the state administer its coastal management program.
- More than \$1.4 million for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to help the state administer its coastal management program.

The administration has mobilized one of the largest responses to a catastrophic event in history, authorizing 17,500 National Guard troops from Gulf Coast states to participate in the response. Approximately 31,000 personnel are currently responding to protect the shoreline and wildlife and

cleanup vital coastlines, and more than 6,400 vessels are responding on site, including skimmers, tugs, barges and recovery vessels to assist in containment and cleanup efforts.

At the direction of President Obama, U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and several other members of the President's Cabinet have traveled to the Gulf Coast to survey operations and assess the ongoing efforts to counter the BP oil spill.

National Ocean Service Making Waves Podcasts



Making Waves: NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson

Episode 54 | 06.24.10



Making Waves is a bi-weekly audio podcast reporting on the latest National Ocean Service news and information. In recognition of World Hydrography Day, we have a special interview for you this week with the commander of the NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson*, currently in the Gulf of Mexico conducting research in support of the ongoing oil spill response effort. Listen to our latest [podcast](#).

- [Subscribe](#)
- [Download MP3 \(12 MB\)](#)
- [Transcript](#)

Links:

[NOAA's BP Oil Spill Incident Response Portal](#)

[On board the NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson \(video\)](#)

[NOAA's Office of Coast Survey](#)

[Initial Observations from the NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson \(NOAA News Release\)](#)

[NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson, NOAA Marine Operations](#)

NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson Continues Deepwater Horizon Spill Study Mission

Additional NOAA research vessels deployed to take pulse of marine life in the Gulf

June 16, 2010

[NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson](#) departed Galveston, Texas, June 15 to continue research on the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill's impact on the Gulf of Mexico. During the three-week mission, the research vessel will use sophisticated acoustic and water chemistry monitoring instruments to detect and map submerged oil in coastal areas and in the deep water surrounding the BP well head.

The 208-ft. ship will also take water chemistry measurements and samples in the vicinity of [Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary](#) and collect air samples in the areas around the well head and downwind of the spill site.

The mission will build upon research conducted in the vicinity of the spill by the Thomas Jefferson June 3-11 and NOAA Ship Gordon Gunter May 27-June 4. Aboard each ship, teams from NOAA, universities, marine science institutions and other federal agencies collected water samples and employed advanced methods for detecting submerged oil while gathering oceanographic data in the area's waters.

NOAA ships Gordon Gunter and Pisces, one of NOAA's newest research vessels, are also under way as part of an ongoing effort to collect valuable data about marine mammals, sea turtles, sea birds, fish and other marine life in the Gulf. In addition to providing baseline data, the information gathered during the missions will help researchers and resources managers better understand the spill's impact on marine species and their habitat. Another NOAA ship, Oregon II, will depart Pascagoula, Miss., this week to conduct an annual shrimp stock assessment survey in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, specialized NOAA aircraft operating out of Alabama, Florida and Louisiana continue to support the Deepwater Horizon response.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Visit us on [Facebook](#).

NOAA, FDA Continue Ramping Up Efforts to Ensure Safety of Gulf of Mexico Seafood

June 14, 2010

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the [Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) are taking additional steps to enhance inspection measures designed to ensure that seafood from the Gulf of Mexico reaching America's tables is safe to eat.

The federal government, in conjunction with Gulf states regulatory agencies, is playing an active role in ensuring the safety of seafood harvested from federal and state waters. The federal government, led by FDA and NOAA, is taking a multi-pronged approach to ensure that seafood from Gulf waters is not contaminated by oil. The strategy includes precautionary closures, increased seafood testing inspections and a re-opening protocol. You can read a summary of the FDA-NOAA plan at [DeepwaterHorizonResponse.com](#).

"Closing harvest waters that could be exposed to oil protects the public from potentially contaminated seafood because it keeps the product from entering the food supply," said Dr. Jane Lubchenco, under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "Combining the expertise of NOAA and FDA is the best way to use our scientific abilities to help the American people in this emergency."

The first line of defense is NOAA's [fishery area closures](#), which began May 2 and are adjusted as the spill trajectory changes. The FDA has concurred with this approach. The current federal closure of 32 percent of federal waters encompasses areas known to be affected by oil, either on the surface or below the surface, as well as areas projected to be affected by oil in the next 48 - 72 hours. The closed area also includes a five-nautical mile buffer as a precaution around the known location of oil.

"FDA and NOAA are working together to ensure that seafood from the Gulf is not contaminated with oil," said Margaret Hamburg, M.D., commissioner of food and drugs. "It is important to coordinate seafood

surveillance efforts on the water, at the docks and at seafood processors to ensure seafood in the market is safe to eat.”

To help prevent tainted seafood from reaching the market, NOAA created a seafood sampling and inspection plan. Just after the beginning of the spill, it collected and tested seafood of commercial and recreational fish and shellfish species from areas where oil from the spill had not yet reached. NOAA is using ongoing surveillance to evaluate new seafood samples to determine whether contamination is present outside the closed area. If fish samples have elevated levels of oil compounds, NOAA will consider whether to expand closed areas.

The federal effort to ensure seafood is not contaminated with oil will also include NOAA’s dockside sampling of fish products in the Gulf. NOAA will verify that catch was caught outside the closed area using information from vessel monitoring systems that track the location of a vessel or information from on-board observers. If tainted fish are found in dockside sampling, NOAA will notify FDA and state health officials for further action.

The FDA operates a mandatory safety program for all fish and fishery products under the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, the Public Health Service Act and related federal regulations.

The FDA will first target oysters, crab, and shrimp, which due to their biology retain contaminants longer than finfish, for additional sampling. Finfish rapidly metabolize the oil so the risk of exposure is far less than the other seafood species previously mentioned. The sample collection will target primarily seafood processors who buy seafood directly from the harvester. Monitoring this first step in the distribution chain will help to keep any potentially contaminated seafood from consumers.

FDA has also created a focused inspection assignment designed to help seafood processors review their individual source controls to ensure proper documentation and exclusion of any seafood obtained from unknown sources from entering commerce.

The two agencies are also establishing a re-opening protocol. NOAA will reopen closed areas only if it is assured, based on consultation with FDA, that fish products within the closed area meet FDA standards for public health and wholesomeness.

“We recognize that the effects of the oil spill continue to grow as oil continues to flow,” said Dr. Lubchenco. “As remediation efforts continue, it may be possible to alleviate some of the economic harm caused by the oil spill by reopening previously closed areas. NOAA will reopen areas only if assured that fish products taken from these areas meet FDA standards for public health.”

Before the BP oil spill, NOAA operated seafood inspection services in the Gulf -- consisting of a handful of personnel -- on a fee-for-service basis for the seafood industry.

Today, samples collected as part of NOAA’s efforts are sent to the National Seafood Inspection Laboratory in Pascagoula, Miss., where federal and state sensory testing analysts trained to detect certain thresholds of chemicals, which are not normal background odors in seafood, evaluate the catch. Samples are also sent to NOAA’s Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle for chemical testing.

According to the most recent data available, seafood samples had been collected during 18 sampling missions by NOAA and contracted fishing vessels in areas inside and outside the closed fishery area. From those 18 sampling missions, 640 fish and shrimp samples were processed for either sensory or chemical testing. Of the 640 samples, 118 fish samples were presented to the team of 10 expert assessors

for sensory testing in the Pascagoula Laboratory. Four hundred sixteen fish and shrimp samples were sent to NOAA's Seattle testing laboratory for chemical analysis.

"FDA has set up a hotline for reporting seafood safety issues," said Commissioner Hamburg. "We encourage fisherman and consumers to report potential contamination to 1-888-INFO-FDA."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is responsible for ensuring the safety and quality of more than a trillion dollars worth of products that are critical for the survival and well-being of all Americans. Find FDA online at <http://www.fda.gov>.

Federal Agencies Introduce Online Mapping Tool to Track Gulf Response

June 14, 2010

The dynamic nature of the Deepwater Horizon BP oil spill has been a challenge for a range of communities -- from hotel operators to fishermen to local community leaders. And the American people have questions about the response to this crisis. Today, NOAA launches a new federal [Web site](#) meant to answer those questions with clarity and transparency -- a one-stop shop for detailed near-real-time information about the response to the Deepwater Horizon BP oil spill. The Web site incorporates data from the various agencies that are working together to tackle the spill.

Originally designed for responders, who make operational decisions, to the oil spill disaster, <http://www.GeoPlatform.gov/gulfresponse> integrates the latest data on the oil spill's trajectory, fishery closed areas, wildlife and place-based Gulf Coast resources -- such as pinpointed locations of oiled shoreline and daily position of research ships -- into one customizable interactive map.

The launch of the public site is designed to facilitate communication and coordination among a variety of users -- from federal, state and local responders to local community leaders and the public -- the site is designed to be fast, user-friendly and constantly updated. Beyond NOAA data, the site includes data from Homeland Security, the Coast Guard, the Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, NASA, U.S. Geological Survey and the Gulf states. Agencies contribute data through the response data sharing mechanism within the command posts. This includes posting geospatial data on a common server, allowing access and use for multiple spatial platforms.

"This Web site provides users with an expansive, yet detailed geographic picture of what's going on with the spill; Gulf Coast fisherman, recreational boaters, beach users and birders will be able to become more informed," said Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "It's a common operational picture that allows the American people to see how their government is responding to the crisis."

Developed through a joint partnership between NOAA and the University of New Hampshire's Coastal Response Research Center, the site is a Web-based GIS platform designed specifically for response activities where it is necessary to coordinate with various federal, state and local agencies. The site will serve as the official federal source for map-based data.

NOAA Announces Funding to Support Ocean and Coastal Observation Technologies

June 11, 2010

A \$4 million NOAA grant will help a university consortium evaluate the readiness of marine forecasts, such as flooding from storm surge or seasonal dead zones, along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts and improve those forecasts for use by emergency managers, scientific researchers and the general public.



The IOOS is a federal, regional, and private-sector partnership working to enhance our ability to collect, deliver, and use ocean information. [High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

The competitive grant, from [NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System \(IOOS®\)](#) program, will go to the [Southeastern Universities Research Association](#), a group of more than 60 universities that work with government agencies and researchers to advance information technology and improve understanding of coastal, ocean, and environmental phenomena. IOOS is a tool for tracking, predicting, managing, and adapting to changes in our marine environment.

“Recent advances in science and computing capabilities are leading to improved tools to predict coastal ocean phenomena,” said Zdenka Willis, NOAA IOOS program director. “This project creates an objective environment to compare the latest models for improved forecasting that will ultimately benefit the daily lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans.”

Scientists will work to improve the precision of computer models that forecast recurring issues in the Atlantic and Gulf regions. They will also explore methods for effectively delivering model results to regional centers, scientists and managers relying on IOOS. The project is intended to identify the most useful models and then get the resulting information to the public quickly.

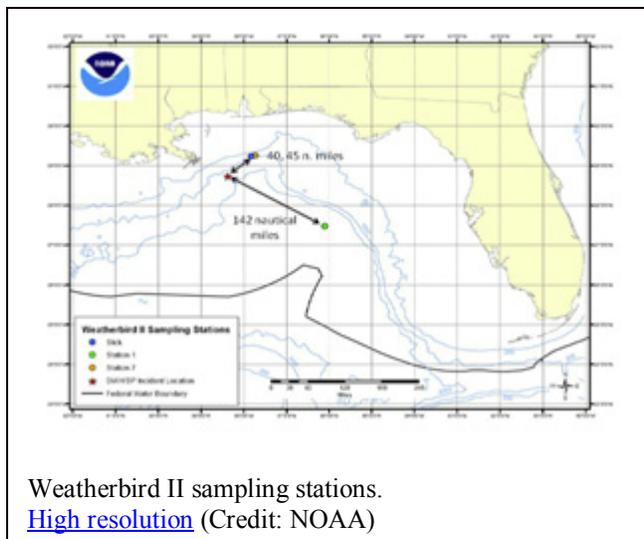
“We are excited to embark on this collaborative research project,” said Jerry P. Draayer, Southeastern Universities Research Association president and CEO. “We feel uniquely qualified to partner with the federal agencies involved in U.S. IOOS in this important effort that will have practical impacts.”

NOAA Completes Initial Analysis of Weatherbird II Water Samples

Research part of larger effort to study spill impacts sub surface

June 8, 2010

NOAA's independent analysis of water samples provided from the May 22-28 research mission of the University of South Florida's R/V Weatherbird II confirmed the presence of very low concentrations of sub-surface oil and PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) at sampling depths ranging from 50 meters to 1,400 meters. The Weatherbird II samples came from three stations: 40 and 45* nautical miles to the northeast of the well head and 142 nautical miles southeast of the well head (see chart). NOAA's analysis of the presence of subsurface oil determined that the concentration of hydrocarbons is in the range of less



than 0.5 parts per million, and PAH levels in range of parts per trillion. NOAA announced its analysis in conjunction with the University of South Florida today.

Along with its analysis for the presence of oil and PAHs, NOAA's tests to "fingerprint" the Weatherbird II oil samples to the BP oil spill source concluded that:

- Hydrocarbons found in surface samples taken at the Slick 1 source, 40 nautical miles northeast from the well head, were consistent with the BP oil spill source;
- Hydrocarbons found in samples from Station 07—45* nautical miles northeast from the well head—at the surface, at 50 meters and at 400 meters are petroleum-derived but in concentrations too low to confirm the source; and
- Hydrocarbons found in samples taken from Station 01, 142 nautical miles southeast of the well head, at 100 meters and 300 meters were not consistent with the BP oil spill source.

An additional analysis of samples taken from waters 1,250 meters deep and 1,000 deep at two stations closer to the well are consistent with the findings of the University of South Florida. Our preliminary results revealed petroleum hydrocarbons so highly fractionated that it was not possible to confirm the source of the oil.

"We have always known there is oil under the surface; the questions we are exploring are where is it, in what concentrations, where is it going, and what are the consequences for the health of the marine environment?" said NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco. "This research from the University of South Florida contributes to this larger, three-dimensional puzzle we are trying to solve, in partnership with academic and NOAA scientists."

Other NOAA research missions that are conducting important research on sub surface impacts include the NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson, a 208-foot survey vessel, which is currently underway on a mission in the vicinity of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Researchers are taking water samples and testing advanced methods for detecting submerged oil while gathering oceanographic data in the area's coastal waters.

The NOAA Ship Gordon Gunter, a 224-foot research vessel, returned June 3 from an eight-day oil detection mission in the vicinity of the BP Deepwater Horizon well head. During the effort, researchers collected water samples, conducted plankton tows, and employed echo sounders, autonomous underwater vehicles and other technologies to collect subsurface data. In addition, NOAA's P-3 "Hurricane Hunter" is deploying instruments to better track the movement of the Loop Current, and therefore improve our understanding of where the oil is moving at the surface and below the surface.

"NOAA's analysis of the Weatherbird II samples shows that concentrations of hydrocarbons decrease with depth, with a notable exception of samples at 300 meters from Station 07, which warrants additional research attention," said Dr. Steven Murawski, chief scientists for NOAA Fisheries. "Also, PAH levels are very low in all samples, with only five of 25 having reportable concentrations of the priority pollutant PAHs."

“We are deeply concerned about what this oil spill means for the health of the Gulf of Mexico, and for the millions of people who depend on these waters for their livelihoods and enjoyment,” said Dr. Lubchenco. “NOAA is using all the scientific methods at our disposal to assess the damage, from satellites in space, planes in the air, boats on the water, gliders under the sea, scientists in the field, and information online.”

NOAA’s report from the Weatherbird II sampling is available [online](#). [Press Conference Transcript/Audio](#)
* this figure was corrected from 42 to 45 nautical miles.

Other NOAA News

New Consolidated Map about the Marine Environment

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation in North America's Environmental Information Program working in cooperation with NOAA/NOS/OCRM's National MPA Center (MPA Inventory) and our colleagues in Canada, Mexico and our North American MPA Network partnership has produced a consolidated map of information about the marine environment including the location of Marine Protected Areas. Going way beyond that, you also can access informational maps about marine ecoregions, terrestrial ecosystems, pollution and waste, and human influence. All this can be found in the CEC's North American Environmental Atlas. The web address for the atlas is -- <http://www.cec.org/atlas/>. The CEC's web address is -- <http://www.cec.org>.

NOAA External Affairs New Website

NOAA External Affairs has announced a new website: www.externalaffairs.noaa.gov. The website is designed to provide the latest developments and a comprehensive news feature that will direct the reader to information that is most relevant to them. On the website, the reader will find the most recent links to information on volunteer efforts underway in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as daily updates on how NOAA is working with other federal partners on the oil spill response. Additional information, including bios and information on the External Affairs team, links to the NOAA Speakers Bureau, and a calendar of events is available on the website.

Marine Mapping Application Features New Tools and Data

An updated version of the [Multipurpose Marine Cadastre](#) is now available. Organizations use this online marine information system planning tool to screen coastal and marine spaces for new uses including renewable energy projects and other offshore activities. Users can pinpoint a location on a map and quickly access the associated legal, physical, ecological, and cultural information. The new version uses Web-map services, an improvement on the static data files of the past, and contains additional marine habitat and sea-floor data and improved analysis and rendering tools. The Multipurpose Marine Cadastre is a multiagency effort led by NOAA and the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Minerals Management Service.

National Ocean Service Making Waves Podcasts



[Making Waves: Hurricane Season Begins](#)

Episode 53 | 06.10.10



Hurricane season began June 1. Join us this week to take a look at the many roles and activities of the National Ocean Service when hurricanes threaten our coasts.

Listen to our latest [podcast](#)

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- [Transcript](#)

Links:

[Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services](#)

[National Water Level Observation Network](#)

[Storm QuickLook](#)

[National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science](#)

[NOAA's National Status and Trends Program](#)

[National Geodetic Survey](#)

[NGS Emergency Response Imagery](#)

[NOAA Coastal Services Center](#)

[Historical Hurricane Tracks](#)

[Office of Coast Survey](#)

[Navigation Response Teams](#)

[Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management](#)

[Office of Response and Restoration](#)

[Gulf of Mexico Marine Debris information](#)

NOAA and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Announce Five Grants to Benefit National System of Marine Protected Areas MPA Center Also Announces Inclusion of 29 Existing Sites to the National System

June 8, 2010

Today, NOAA and the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) awarded five grants totaling \$188,000, to fund stewardship projects and improve coordination efforts at various sites within the [National System of Marine Protected Areas](#). These grants will help protect and conserve many coastal and marine places of significant ecological and economical value.

“We are very pleased to support the collaborative stewardship efforts of these Marine Protected Areas,” said Anthony Chatwin, Ph.D., director of marine and coastal conservation at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. “Both NFWF and NOAA are committed to conserving our nation’s coastal and marine resources, and supporting our nation’s MPAs is an extremely effective way to get the job done.”

The funds will support the following projects:

Strengthening Marine Protection in Puako Island, Hawaii – The Nature Conservancy will coordinate a community-based planning and implementation process to increase protection and enforcement capacity at an existing MPA within the West Hawaii Regional Fisheries Management Area. TNC will work with the community to develop a draft management and implementation plan to minimize priority threats to Puako’s coral reef, which will serve as a model for other community-based MPA plans.

Applying LiDAR Data to Support MPA Management – Rutgers University will pilot an innovative approach to examine impacts of projected sea level rise on salt marsh and barrier island habitat using high horizontal and vertical resolution Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) imagery. The project will quantify the change in potential critical habitats based on likely sea level rise scenarios. A regional workshop will be conducted with other MPAs in the region to translate the results of the study, and discuss the utility of using LiDAR technology elsewhere.

Developing a Regional MPA Plan for the Southeast – The non-profit corporation Friends of Rookery Bay, Inc. will work with the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Florida to survey regional MPAs about issues, priorities and coordination strategies. They will also organize a workshop of MPA stakeholders including all federal and state MPAs in the region, to discuss and reach consensus on establishing an effective MPA network for the Southeast U.S. and produce a framework for MPA coordination.



A curious Hawaiian green sea turtle in protected waters near Puako Island, Hawaii.

[High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

Developing a Management Plan for Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument – The Marine Conservation Biology Institute will support the development of a management plan for the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, designated in 2008. MCBI will work with NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify and refine management needs and subsequent implementation strategies. The plan will serve as an international model for large-scale protection and be an essential part of our nation’s efforts to monitor climate change effects on marine ecosystems.

Designing and Installing California MPA Interpretive Panel – The California Department of Parks and Recreation will initiate a public education

program and create signage for newly established MPAs along the shores of Central and Northern California state parks. Interpretive panels and maps will explain the goals and objective of the California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, the designation system of California MPAs, and will educate the public on marine ecosystem management.

Today also marks the announcement of 29 existing MPAs joining the national system of MPAs. Now with 254 sites in the national system spanning across 31 states and territories, members benefit from coordinated regional planning and influence conservation and management initiatives. Being a member of the national system does not restrict or change the management of an MPA. For a list of new additions to the national system, visit <http://mpa.gov/nationalsystem/nationalsystemlist>.

“Joining the national system benefits MPAs by providing a mechanism for them to work together on issues of common concern,” said Joseph Uravitch, NOAA Director of National Marine Protected Areas

Center. “With this new MPA Fund, we can now provide additional resources to help address these priority issues cooperatively.”

The grants were announced today at a reception at Capitol Hill Ocean Week in Washington, D.C. All projects are funded for one year and funds must be spent by May 2011. The MPA Center and NFWF are planning on continuing the MPA Fund next year. For more information on the MPA Fund and the grantees, visit <http://www.mpa.gov>. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) charity established by Congress in 1984 to restore and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Through the many conservation partnerships that connect it with potentially every federal and state agency, key industry leaders, concerned private citizens and nonprofit at home and abroad, the Foundation has leveraged more than \$600 million in federal and private funds into more than \$1.5 billion for on-the-ground conservation.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit us on [Facebook](#).

NOAA Launches Enhanced Essential Fish Habitat Mapper v2.0

Want to find out...

- Which fish species spawn in the Gulf of Mexico?
- Whether there are especially vulnerable coral habitats off the coast of your state?
- Where NOAA has protected fish habitat from damaging fishing gear?

NOAA announces the launch of the enhanced Essential Fish Habitat Mapper and EFH data inventory. The new EFH Mapper now features data on EFH areas protected from fishing, including protections anchoring restrictions, fishing gear modifications, and bans on certain types of gear, among others. Since 2004, NOAA and the regional fishery management councils have protected over 700 million acres of EFH from harmful fishing practices. The EFH program works with federal and state partners to protect coastal and marine fish habitats from the potential impacts of development activities.

Effective coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) will depend on the type of spatially explicit data available through the EFH Mapper. The EFH Mapper is just one of the tools featured in the full redesign of NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation website (www.habitat.noaa.gov).

Learn about essential fish habitat at: www.habitat.noaa.gov/efhmapper. For more information contact Terra Lederhouse (Terra.Lederhouse@NOAA.gov).

NOAA Launches State of the Coast Web Site

Have you ever wondered...

- What is the coastal population?
- What is the coastal GDP?
- What is the overall health of our Nation's coasts?
- How vulnerable is my state's coastline to long-term sea level rise?

This week NOAA launched [NOAA's State of the Coast](#) Web site. The purpose of this site is to highlight the crucial importance of healthy coastal ecosystems to a robust U.S. economy, a safe population, and a sustainable quality of life for coastal residents.

[NOAA's State of the Coast](#) offers quick facts and more detailed statistics through fifteen interactive indicator visualizations that provide highlights of what we know about coastal **communities**, coastal **ecosystems**, the coastal **economy**, and how a changing **climate** might impact the coast. Explore topics such as changes in coastal population from 1970 to 2040, the impact coastal areas have on the U.S. economy, the overall health of the U.S. coast, and the vulnerability of our coasts to long term sea level rise. Visit frequently as the site continues to grow and be updated: <http://stateofthecoast.noaa.gov/>.

CICEET's Spring 2010 Progress Reports Online

Spring 2010 progress reports for the UNH/NOAA Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) active projects, and final reports for completed projects, have been posted online. These projects are dedicated to developing tools that help coastal communities become more resilient in the face of increasing development and climate change.

The focus areas include improved tools for land use planning, habitat restoration and protection, and water quality monitoring. These reports, submitted by the projects' investigators, detail their progress in gathering data, meeting research objectives, reaching out to coastal management, and soliciting feedback from potential end users.

Read about these coastal technology projects in your region:

http://ciceet.unh.edu/news/releases/spring10_reports/index.html

The Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) is a partnership of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of New Hampshire. CICEET works with NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System to develop tools for clean water and healthy coastal environments nationwide. You can learn more about CICEET-sponsored tools on Project Explorer, a searchable online database at ciceet.unh.edu

NOAA and Partners Urge Beach-Goers to Break the Grip of the Rip

June 4, 2010

With summer vacation on the horizon, NOAA, the United States Lifesaving Association, and the National Park Service are alerting beach-goers to the threat of rip currents and how to prevent drowning from their strong and potentially fatal grip. Rip currents are the leading near-shore surf hazard, claiming more than 100 lives per year nationally. For that reason, the three organizations are teaming up to sponsor the Rip Current Awareness Campaign from June 6 through 12, with the theme Break the Grip of the Rip®.

Rip currents are narrow channels of fast-moving water that can pull swimmers away from the shore. Moving at speeds of up to eight feet per second, rip currents are surprisingly strong and swift.



“Each year, America’s surf beach lifeguards rescue more than 50,000 swimmers from rip currents,” according to B. Chris Brewster, president of the United States Lifesaving Association. “Swimming at a guarded beach can reduce your chances of drowning to one-in-18 million.”

NOAA’s National Weather Service forecast offices issue surf zone forecasts, which include rip current information during the summer beach season between Memorial Day and Labor Day. It is important to remember though that rip currents can occur anywhere there is surf.

"Before going into the water, check the rip current outlook, and know how to escape a rip current's grip," said Dr. Jack Hayes, director of NOAA’s National Weather Service. “It can save your life.”

“Every year, more than 75 million visitors come to swim, fish, snorkel, scuba dive, boat and enjoy the wildlife and majestic scenery in our coastal national parks,” said Jon Jarvis, director of the National Park Service. “To enhance our ability to provide visitors with the latest information on water safety, we are pleased to team up with NOAA and the United States Lifeguarding Association to educate our visitors about water safety.”

Here are some safety tips about rip currents you should keep in mind:

- Check for surf zone forecasts at <http://www.weather.gov/ripcurrents/forecasts.shtml>
- Swim at a beach with lifeguard protection
- Look for signs and flags posted to warn about rip currents
- Don’t swim against a rip current
- Escape rip currents by swimming in a direction following the shoreline until you are free of the rip current
- If you are unable to swim out of the rip current, float or calmly tread water...when out of the current, swim towards the shore
- Never swim alone

NOTE: Break the Grip of the Rip is a registered trademark of NOAA.

In the Gulf States

Alabama's Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response Updates

For information about Alabama oil spill response activities, visit <http://adem.alabama.gov/newsEvents/pressreleases/2010/OilSpill.cnt>.

Dauphin Island Sea Lab Scientists Report Drop in Oxygen on Alabama shelf

June 9, 2010

Press Release from The Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Contact: Lori Angelo, Public Relations Liaison
Phone: (251) 861-2141 x2312,
E-mail: langelo@disl.org

A Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) project funded by the National Science Foundation Rapid Response initiative has documented a dramatic decline in dissolved oxygen near the ocean bottom at both 12 and 25 miles south of Dauphin Island, AL. Dr. Monty Graham, Senior Marine Scientist, DISL, said "Oxygen is dropping out offshore. We got minimum dissolved oxygen values of 1.7 mg/L and the hypoxic layer is about 3 m thick." Graham leads the Fisheries Oceanography of Coastal Alabama group, which was funded by Alabama Governor Bob Riley in the aftermath of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) controversy.

Dissolved oxygen levels below 2 parts per million are considered dangerous for almost everything, plant or animal, that depends on oxygen for normal living. The values reported are less than 20% of normal levels. The animals that are able to leave these hypoxic areas will do so, but the less mobile can be killed at these exposures. There have been hypoxic areas reported from Alabama's offshore in the past, but they were normally associated with old beach ridges south of Fort Morgan, not along this transect due south of Dauphin Island.

Any and all forms of organic material entering coastal waters contribute to oxygen consumption due to microbial activity. Discharge from local rivers can create the same kind of result. But this report does support the several findings from the academic vessels working in deeper waters offshore that have suggested that bacterial decomposition of the underwater plumes of dispersed oil is consuming large amounts of oxygen in this part of the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. George Crozier, Director of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, said, "This is the kind of unexpected consequence that I warned BP representatives of on May 3rd, after they announced the successful application of dispersant at 5,000 feet."

Crozier acknowledged the complexity resulting from the combination of harmful effects attributable to low oxygen levels with the issues surrounding the more obvious damage done by toxic components, which are contained in crude oil but are soluble in water. The interactions emphasize the absolute necessity for studying the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem as envisioned by Senator Richard Shelby and the National Marine Fisheries Service when they established the Shelby Center for Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab three years ago.

There is growing concern within the scientific community that use of dispersants at depth may have trapped the toxic substances within the Gulf of Mexico where they threaten the existing populations and could pose a long-term issue for the food web upon which we sit at the top.

Hundreds Attend Oil Spill Community Forums



A community member asks a question about wildlife and fisheries during a forum in Mobile, Ala., about the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. See more photos of the community forums at www.facebook.com/MississippiAlabamaSeaGrant

The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, with the help of its partners, coordinated three oil spill community forums on June 2-3. About 500 people attended the forums, which took place in Biloxi, Miss., and Mobile, Ala. People attended a 45-minute briefing by members of the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Then, they were able to attend question-and-answer sessions on several topics: fisheries and wildlife, monitoring and data, business and personal finance, technological disasters and mental health and legal perspectives.

Mike Kensler of Auburn, Ala., attended a forum in Mobile. "It's a very healthy thing; I think it's a good idea to do it," he said. "People got a sense that there's more agency coordination and action going on than is readily apparent."

Each forum lasted about three hours. "It was real informative," said Mobile Resident Perry Berens. "I think the people who had things to say were good. I think the questions people asked were good. And, I think the people answered them as well as they could, given the stage we're at."

The Deepwater Horizon has been pumping oil into the Gulf of Mexico since April 20, 2010. Attendees at forums raised questions about air quality, dispersants, property values and insurance coverage, Small Business Administration loans, stresses that accompany technological disasters, fish kills and many other topics. Attendees voiced frustration that the oil was still flowing, and some wanted to know how to get their ideas on how to clean up the oil and stop the leak into the hands of BP decision-makers who would use them.

The sessions were recorded, and transcripts will be made available at www.gulfseagrant.org in the coming weeks. Look for the link to oil spill information.

Representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA Fisheries, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, University of Southern Mississippi, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, NOAA National Weather Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NOAA National Coastal Data Development Center, Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau, Small Business Administration, Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service, Interfaith Disaster Task Force, Mental Health Association of Mississippi, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Legal Program, Alabama Marine Resources Division, University of South Alabama and Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau served as panelists and answered questions.

Florida's Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response Updates

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been designated the lead state agency for responding to potential impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill along Florida's shoreline. This website will serve as the primary location for updates and information on response actions and impacts to the state of Florida.

On Tuesday, April 20, 2010 an offshore oil drilling platform, Deepwater Horizon, exploded in the Gulf of Mexico near Louisiana. The rig, owned by Transocean Ltd, was under contract to BP. Submerged at the bottom of the Gulf, the rig continues to discharge in the range of **35,000 to 60,000** barrels per day. BP, the United States Coast Guard and the Minerals Management Service are the lead response agencies on the oil spill. For information, please visit www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com.

Governor Charlie Crist has made Florida's preparation and response for impacts of the oil spill a top priority. Since Governor Crist's first flyover of the oil spill on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, he has worked to ensure that Florida is vigilant to take every necessary action to protect the Sunshine State's beaches and the health and well-being of both residents and visitors. For regular updates, visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/default.htm>.

Statement from Florida DEP Secretary Michael W. Sole Regarding the "Save our Beaches" U.S. Supreme Court Order

"We are extremely pleased with today's order from the United States Supreme Court which upholds Florida's position regarding the importance of beach restoration. Florida's Beaches and Shore Preservation Act implements the State's constitutional duty to protect Florida's beaches, and achieves a reasonable balance between public and private interests in the shore.

"This unanimous decision affirms the Florida Supreme Court's conclusion that Florida Department of Environmental Protection implementation of the erosion control program and beach nourishment provides a significant level of storm protection benefits for upland properties and infrastructure, restores the recreational beach, and achieves a reasonable balance of public and private interest in the shore.

"Beaches have multiple benefits including protection from storm surges, providing habitat for plants and animals, enhancing property values, providing recreational space and providing employment, wages, and income to the state. For every dollar invested in beach restoration, the State receives a \$6 to \$8 economic return in state taxes from the more than 27 million visitors that visit the states beaches annually."

To view the ruling, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/news/2010/06/files/08_1151.pdf and the case [timeline](#).

Louisiana's Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response Updates

For information about Louisiana oil spill response activities, visit: <http://emergency.louisiana.gov/>.

OBI Partners with LSU AgCenter to Help Crab Fisherman in Louisiana

Unique Aquaculture Program Based On Soft-Shell Crabs Will Provide Crabbers With Approximately \$14,000 Increased Annual Income

June 14, 2010

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (June 11, 2010) -- Operation Blessing International (OBI), the 7th largest international charity, is working in partnership with LSU AgCenter/Louisiana Sea Grant Program and the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board (LSPMB) to help crab fishermen and their families still reeling from Hurricane Katrina but also now hit hard by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

With new government estimates putting the oil spill at between 12,000 and 19,000 barrels a day, the U.S. government has declared a "fishery disaster" in Louisiana and surrounding states. Louisiana's \$2.4 billion seafood industry supplies roughly 40 percent of the domestic seafood supply and employs over 27,000 people. The state is the second-largest domestic seafood harvester and the top provider of shrimp, oysters, crawfish and crabs. On Friday, NOAA increased the area closed to fishing in the Gulf of Mexico by 20% to 60,683 square miles.

The OBI-LSU AgCenter project is based on a unique soft-shell crab shedding system developed by Louisiana Sea Grant and implemented by LSU after Hurricane Katrina as part of their recovery work. The system enables crab fishermen to reserve certain hard-shell crabs just before they shed (called Busters) and keep them in holding tanks until they do shed and can then be sold as soft-shell crabs. The system consists of a series of shallow tanks, PVC piping and a water pump that circulates salt water over the crabs in the tanks.

Soft-shell crabs typically sell for more than twice as much as hard-shell crabs, a result of their being much more difficult and unpredictable to harvest.

OBI is providing the initial funding for 25 soft-shell crab shedding sets. One set of tanks will generally yield 600 dozen soft crabs in a season, averaging 10 to 12 dozen per week with peaks as high as 36 dozen per week. Each set is expected to increase each family's income by approximately \$14,000 annually, with all 25 sets adding up to a combined \$350,000 in the first year alone.

With proper maintenance, each system is expected to operate for 7 to 10 years before minor replacement parts may be needed.

Bill Horan, president of OBI, said, "Many of the fishermen and their families in the Gulf still have not recovered from the loss of income and the struggle after Hurricane Katrina. Now, the oil spill has only made things worse for them. These soft-shell crab systems will help these families not only increase their incomes today, but also over the long-term."

Anyone wishing to donate to this project may do so at www.ob.org. 100% of all donated funds will go directly to purchasing additional sets for families. Any donated amount is welcome. The sets, which cost OBI approximately \$2,000 each, are being manufactured in Westwego, Louisiana, thus helping the local economy further.

ABOUT OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL:

Operation Blessing International (OBI) is one of the largest charities in America, providing strategic disaster relief, medical aid, hunger relief, clean water and community development in 22 countries around

the world on a daily basis. In 2009, OBI was awarded Charity Navigator's coveted 4 star rating for sound fiscal management for the fifth year in a row, a feat that only 4% of rated charities have ever achieved. Forbes, which currently ranks OBI as one of "America's 200 Largest Charities" as well as one of "America's Most Efficient Charities," awarded OBI a perfect 100% rating in fundraising efficiency and 99% efficiency in charitable commitment. Additionally, the Chronicle of Philanthropy currently ranks OBI as the 39th largest charity and the 7th largest international charity. Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 215 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$2.1 billion to date.

Mississippi's Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response Updates

For information about Mississippi oil spill response, visit <http://www.dmr.state.ms.us/DMR/oil-spill.htm>.

2010 Mississippi Shrimp Season Opens Early



Shrimp vessel Sugar Babe trawls June 3, 2010, opening day of the 2010 Mississippi shrimp season. Photo courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

BILOXI, Miss. – The 2010 Mississippi shrimp season opened at 6 a.m. Thursday, June 3, 2010, in Mississippi territorial waters west of the East Biloxi ship channel to stormy weather and eager shrimpers.

The Department of Marine Resources' (DMR) Marine Fisheries staff was on the water conducting interviews and surveying shrimp boats the morning of opening day. A flyover was conducted to determine the number of shrimp boats on the water. The flyover showed 47 boats, but the weather prevented flying west of the Gulfport ship channel. An additional 20 boats were counted off of Long Beach Harbor by the DMR Shrimp and Crab boat. The actual number

of shrimp boats is still undetermined due to the weather.

Despite the weather, shrimpers reported they were catching high numbers of 60/70-count brown shrimp, and there were numerous reports of 40/50- and 50/60-count brown shrimp.

“We opened the season early to give our shrimpers the opportunity to work as much as possible, in the event that oil makes its way into the Mississippi Sound,” DMR Marine Administrator Mike Brainard said. “The storms kept many fishermen away, but overall it looks like it could be a great season.”

Shrimp tissue samples from across the Mississippi Sound were sent to be analyzed prior to the opening, and results showed no detectable levels of hydrocarbons. DMR and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality staff continue to take water and seafood samples regularly and are carefully monitoring the situation in the Gulf. As of June 3, the number of commercial resident shrimp licenses sold was 446. The number of out-of-state commercial shrimp licenses sold was 102. The DMR's Marine Patrol was out in full force starting at 6 p.m. June 2 and worked around the clock to ensure a smooth shrimp season opening. This included 29 officers, three reserve officers and three dispatchers. Marine Patrol officers conducted patrols from 14 patrol boats throughout the Mississippi Sound.

“Compliance rates were excellent,” said Lt. Col. Claude Pittman, assistant chief of the DMR’s Marine Patrol. “Even with the bad weather, (as of 3:30 p.m.) there have been no accidents and we’ve received no calls of boaters in distress.”

All regulations set by the DMR are to be in full force and effect, and all boats engaged in catching or transporting shrimp in or from the waters of Mississippi must be legally licensed. For the latest updates on the Mississippi shrimp fishery, call the toll-free Shrimp Information Hotline 1-866-We Trawl (866-938-7295).

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at dmr.ms.gov.

Texas Prepares for Possible Impact from Deepwater Horizon Spill in the Gulf of Mexico

June 2010

As the Texas General Land Office prepares for a possible impact to the Texas coast, the agency has been assisting our neighbors to the east following the sinking of the MODU Deepwater Horizon. As part of one of the largest oil spill responses the Gulf of Mexico has ever seen, the Land Office deployed fire boom from its Corpus Christi office to Venice, Louisiana. In addition, two bird rehabilitation trailers from the Land Office’s La Porte office deployed to Gulfport, Mississippi. “In a scenario like this, state boundaries disappear,” Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson said. “There’s only one Gulf Coast and we’re duty bound as Americans to protect it.”

Land Office Regional offices all along the Texas coast have been busy meeting with all three U.S. Coast Guard captains in both Sectors to discuss pre-planning activities, review all three Area Contingency Plans, discuss sensitive habitats and prioritize protection areas. The agency has also participated in situational awareness meetings with numerous stakeholders along the coast, sharing information and contingency planning activities. A Land Office representative was sent to the Robert, Louisiana Area Command Center to open lines of communications with the Unified Command, offer support and lay the groundwork for possible integration into the command. If a significant impact occurs in Texas, the Land Office will likely send a representative back to Robert. Any and all operations in Texas will be conducted using the Incident Command System and decisions will be made via the Unified Command.

Beach assessment continues to be conducted, and any oil observed will be reported. Austin-based Land Office personnel continue to have daily discussions with NOAA trajectory and modeling personnel in Seattle assisting with the production of trajectory models. Data from the Land Office-sponsored Texas Automated Buoy System (TABS) is also being provided to the NOAA modelers.

A very slow westward migration is predicted in the future. If oil makes land fall in Texas, it will be many days from now. BP has been designated the “responsible party” and as such, is responsible for all cleanup costs associated with any oiling of Texas beaches attributed to this spill. Dr. Buzz Martin, the State Scientific Support Coordinator for oil spill response, is currently working with the NOAA Office of Response & Restoration (OR&R) trajectory group. Dr. Martin has a 15-year working relationship with this team. He is receiving twice daily updates from this group and is fielding questions from them

regarding the expected behavior of currents on the Texas-Louisiana shelf. NOAA OR&R is making extensive use of the state's trajectory capability developed by the Land Office and Texas A&M University. Since the domain (area modeled) of the Texas Automated Buoy System ROMS hydrodynamic model includes the Mississippi Delta region, NOAA OR&R asked the Land Office to modify its usual forecasts to extend further into the future (going from 48 to 72 hours) to better fit the planning needs of the Unified Command.

The Land Office will continue to keep an eye on the Gulf of Mexico. It's possible, perhaps even likely, that tar balls will eventually show up. "This ain't our first rodeo with tar balls," said Greg Pollock, Deputy Commissioner of the Oil Spill Program. "We will be ready."

For more information visit the [Texas Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program](#).

Gov. Perry Discusses the Impact of Hurricane Alex

Thursday, July 01, 2010 | Austin, Texas

*Note - Gov. Perry frequently departs from prepared remarks.

Thank you all for being here. We want to give you an update on our response to Alex as it continues to drench South Texas. When it comes to tropical storms, experience has taught us to prepare for the worst and pray for the best. It looks like Hurricane Alex has turned out fairly well for Texas.

When Alex formed and headed our way, we took the appropriate measures to protect our citizens in the projected impact zone and positioned the necessary resources for a direct hit. Although Hurricane Alex made landfall in Mexico, South Texas has been feeling its share of heavy rain and wind. As the storm moves west, the biggest threat to South Texas is flooding caused by runoff from the Rio Grande into nearby communities, especially the Colonias.

Texans should stay alert, keeping an eye on changing weather conditions and an ear tuned to local officials until Alex subsides. I want to say a special word of thanks to our entire Emergency Management team from Nim Kidd, who led our team through his first storm as chief to local officials who kept their communities informed and prepared for the first storm of the season.

We're also grateful to state and local law enforcement as well as members of Texas Military Forces Texas Task Forces 1 & 2 and our volunteer organizations, state agencies, and private sector partners. Each of these groups responded to the call with their usual degree of professionalism.

While we breathe a sigh of relief at this near miss, Alex was a wakeup call for the people of Texas. Experts are predicting 2010 will be the most active storm season we've seen in a while, so we need to remain vigilant in the weeks to come. Before they go back to business as usual, Texans need to take inventory and make sure they're prepared to handle the next storm.

Whether that's setting aside the necessary supplies like food & water preparing their property to withstand a storm or thinking through an evacuation plan now is the time to get ready not when the winds kick up again.

Texans faced this storm together, and we'll continue to deal with other challenges the same way: with planning, deliberate action and concern for one another. That's the Texas way.

Texas is Prepared for Hurricane Alex

State continues to monitor Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Wednesday, June 30, 2010 | La Porte, Texas

Gov. Rick Perry today outlined Texas' plans for responding to the threats posed by Hurricane Alex and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill along the Texas coast. The State Operations Center is fully activated and the state continues to work with federal and local authorities to track both the hurricane and the spill.

"As Hurricane Alex grows in strength and approaches landfall, Texas is ready to handle this storm and its impact," Gov. Perry said. "My message to South Texans is to finish your preparations, stay connected to credible information sources and heed the warnings of your local officials, who are closely integrated with the state's emergency management effort that has been mobilized to prepare for Alex's impact."

Parts of South Texas remain in the impact area of Hurricane Alex, which the National Weather Service projects will make landfall south of Brownsville Wednesday evening or Thursday morning. Gov. Perry has declared a state of disaster for 19 counties in South Texas, and President Barack Obama has issued an emergency declaration that allows the state to pursue some federal assistance.

The governor was joined by Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, who provided an update on the Texas General Land Office's (GLO) efforts in monitoring and preparing contingency plans to respond to any potential impact Deepwater Horizon oil spill may have on Texas.

"Texas has a long history in the energy industry, and because oil regularly comes in and out of our ports, we have prepared ourselves to respond to any incidents, and have a good record of keeping our beaches clean and the bays and wetlands clear of oil," Commissioner Patterson said. "As a steward of the Texas coast, I am confident that we have the resources and plans in place with our Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program to address any potential impact this oil spill may have on the Texas coast."

Although oil from the spill is not predicted to reach Texas shores in the immediate future, any oil reaching Texas beaches is expected to be in the form of weathered tar balls, which cannot be prevented by boom deployment and would necessitate aggressive physical removal. The GLO has five coastal offices equipped with boats, 4x4 trucks, trailers, ATVs, and skimmers available for response activities. Silt curtains could be deployed to protect washouts.

The Office of the Governor continues to participate in daily conference calls with the White House, Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and gulf state governors regarding the oil spill.

Texas beaches remain open for summer recreation and business. For more information, please visit www.traveltex.com.

For more information on preparing for hurricanes, please visit <http://governor.state.tx.us/hurricane/>.

HRI Scientists Traveling to Site of Ixtoc I Oil Spill to Determine Repercussions of Deepwater Horizon Disaster

Thirty years later, expedition revisits Bay of Campeche to study long-term effects

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Scientists with the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) are preparing for the second in a series of expeditions to the site of the 1979 Ixtoc I oil spill to gather information that will help predict the long-term effects of the Deepwater Horizon disaster off the Louisiana Coast.

On Monday, July 5, HRI Associate Director Wes Tunnell will lead a team of scientists to the Bay of Campeche where on June 3, 1979, the Ixtoc I exploratory well blew out spewing an estimated 140 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico before it was finally capped more than nine months later. At that time, the Ixtoc I spill was the largest peacetime oil spill in history, and since it occurred in the same body of water as the BP Deepwater Horizon, scientists hope to answer questions that are applicable to the April 20 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon platform.

The Deepwater Horizon platform is located about 50 miles southeast of the Mississippi Delta in the Mississippi Canyon in about 5,000 feet of water. Various attempts to cap the well have been unsuccessful and it continues to release millions of gallons of oil and gas that are impacting the salt marshes of the Mississippi Delta in Louisiana, and beaches of Mississippi, Alabama, and western Florida.

The Ixtoc I well was located on the continental shelf in about 170 feet of water about 50 miles north of Ciudad del Carmen, Campeche, Mexico. The HRI team will revisit selected sites where Ixtoc oil/tar has been observed along the shores of the southern Gulf of Mexico over the last 30 years.

“Since there were no comprehensive or long-term studies conducted after the Ixtoc I blow out, these expeditions will reveal the status of oil and tar on sandy beaches, rocky shores, and coral reefs,” said Tunnell. “We will also interview fishermen and coastal communities in the areas impacted to see how their lives and jobs were changed or altered, and how long the effects lasted.”

Over the past three decades, Dr. Tunnell has made numerous trips to the site of the Ixtoc I spill to study a total of 12 shoreline habitats around the southern Gulf. During July and August 1980, he traveled the southern Gulf shorelines looking specifically for oil from Ixtoc I on sandy beaches, rocky seashores, and coral reefs. In addition, until the mid-1990s he was able to make annual trips to study sites on the coral reefs of Veracruz, Mexico. In 2002, during a Sustainable Seas Expedition to the Veracruz reefs, he was able to relocate the Ixtoc I tar mats tracked through time.

HRI Holds First International Summer Workshop on International Governance for the Gulf of Mexico

Three Cuban scientists visit Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies

June 18, 2010

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – A week-long international workshop to examine obstacles to creating marine protected areas in the Gulf of Mexico will be hosted by the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) from June 21-25 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Participants of the first “Summer Workshop on Governance for the Gulf of Mexico: Overcoming International Obstacles to Create Marine Protected Areas in the Gulf of Mexico” include U.S. and Mexican graduate students and representatives from international agencies, academic institutions, governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations from Mexico, the United States and Cuba. Three scientists from Cuba, among others from across the nation and Mexico, will visit the HRI and participate in the workshop. The Cuban scientists include:

- Dr. Guillermo García Montero, director of the National Aquarium of Cuba and the president of the National Committee on Oceanography, who is an expert in coastal zone science and management and serves on the HRI Advisory Board.
- Dr. Maritza García García, director for the National Center for Protected Areas (CNAP) in Cuba, who is leading efforts to expand the network of marine protected areas along Cuba’s southern coast with funding from the Global Environmental Facility.
- Dr. Roberto Perez de los Reyes, a former director of the Institute of Oceanology in Cuba and current scientist for the Agency for the Environment, who is a highly-respected expert on ocean frontal zones, coastal zone rehabilitation, design and implementation of environmental observing and monitoring systems.

The workshop represents collaboration through a cooperative agreement between Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and the University of Veracruz in Mexico. In addition, the workshop is a landmark to provide training for future environmental and community leaders who work internationally in the integration of science and policy in the Gulf of Mexico region.

Rip Current Awareness Week

The Texas Sea Grant College Program wants every beach visitor to understand the danger of rip currents and know how to survive an encounter with these dangerous, fast-moving currents. Texas Sea Grant is joining other components of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), including the National Weather Service, and the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) to promote Rip Current Awareness Week June 6-12, 2010.

A rip current is a horizontal current. It does not pull people under the water, it pulls people away from shore. Drowning deaths occur when people pulled offshore are unable to keep themselves afloat and swim to shore because of panic, exhaustion or lack of swimming skills.

Rip currents cause at least 100 deaths each year at United States coastal and Great Lakes beaches and can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea. They typically extend from the shoreline, through the surf zone, and past the line of breaking waves. They can occur at any beach with breaking waves and are frequently found near manmade structures like piers, groins and jetties and at low spots or breaks in sandbars. They are most likely to be dangerous during high surf conditions.

NOAA and USLA urge beachgoers to swim at lifeguard-protected beaches whenever possible. Rip currents account for more than 80 percent of rescues performed by surf beach lifeguards.

They also recommend that anyone going into the water learn how to swim and never swim alone; learn how to swim in surf, which is different from swimming in a pool or lake; be cautious at all times, especially when swimming at unguarded beaches; obey all instructions and warnings from lifeguards; and pay particularly close attention to children and the elderly when at the beach — even in shallow water, wave action can cause a loss of footing.

If you are caught in a rip current, remember the following safety tips:

- Remain calm to conserve energy and think clearly.
- Never fight against the current.
- Think of it like a treadmill that cannot be turned off. You need to move to the side of it instead of struggling against it.
- Swim out of the current in a direction following the shoreline. When out of the current, swim at an angle — away from the current — toward shore.
- If you are unable to swim out of the rip current, float or calmly tread water. When out of the current, swim toward shore.
- If you feel you will be unable to reach the shore, draw attention to yourself by waving your arms and yelling for help.
- Many people have died trying to rescue rip current victims. If you see someone in trouble, get help from a lifeguard. If there is no lifeguard, throw the victim something that floats — a lifejacket, a cooler or an inflatable ball — yell instructions on how to escape and have someone call 9-1-1.

Some clues that may indicate the presence of a rip current include a channel of churning, choppy water; an area with a noticeable difference in water color; a line of foam, seaweed or debris moving steadily seaward; and a break in the incoming wave pattern. Polarized sunglasses that cut down on glare can help in spotting these characteristics. However, these signs are not always visible. Many National Weather Service offices release a Surf Zone Forecast that includes a daily rip current outlook.

For more information about rip currents, including graphics and posters showing how to escape from them, visit NOAA's web site at www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov. Texas Sea Grant also has English/Spanish posters, table tents and brochures about rip currents available at sgpublications@tamu.edu or by calling (979) 862-3767. Texas Sea Grant College Program is a partnership of university, government and industry, focusing on marine research, education and advisory services. Visit our website at <http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu>.

Other News

Supreme Court Hands Down Decision on Beach Renourishment Case

Today, the Supreme Court handed down a decision in *Stop the Beach Renourishment, Inc. v. Florida Department of Environmental Protection*. Justice Scalia announced the judgment of the Court and delivered the opinion of the Court concluding that the Florida Supreme Court did not take property without just compensation in violation of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. For the decision, visit: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/08-1151.ZS.html>

New Jefferson Davis Parish Flood Maps To Go Into Effect

Release Date: June 28, 2010

JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH, La. -- Jefferson Davis Parish property owners without flood insurance are encouraged to buy coverage now to get the best possible premiums before new flood insurance rate maps go into effect on **July 22, 2010**.

The latest flood hazard maps, known as Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMS), delineate new flood-risk zones and serve as an integral part of the National Flood Insurance Plan (NFIP), which plays a key role in defense against flood losses. Property owners need to know that this could mean a change in their floodplain status.

“We encourage residents to look at the flood maps now and to be familiar with the latest risks of potential flooding in their area,” said Mike Karl, Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Louisiana Recovery Office interim director. “The maps can help residents make informed decisions about protecting their property.”

The DFIRMS were developed as part of the nationwide map modernization effort spearheaded by FEMA, which administers the NFIP. Once officially adopted by Jefferson Davis Parish and the communities within the parish, the DFIRMS will replace the current effective maps, which are outdated and produced using earlier technology.

Homeowners who purchase flood insurance prior to **July 22, 2010** may be able to grandfather the current flood zone designation saving money on flood insurance. Current policy holders and those planning to purchase NFIP protection are strongly encouraged to contact their insurance agent or company to ensure that they have adequate coverage and that policies account for new flood risk data.

Individuals may consult with their local Jefferson Davis Parish floodplain administrator at 337-824-6290 with questions on which flood map or elevations to use going forward when rebuilding.

FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

StormSmart Connect

StormSmart Coasts is happy to officially announce our newest tool: [StormSmart Connect](#). StormSmart Connect is designed to help people connect and work together. On StormSmart Connect you can easily share documents, [form discussion groups](#), use forums, and more (you can read a general overview of [what you can do on StormSmart Connect here](#)). We're going to continue to add new features to the site as we move forward.

There are [over 100 people from around the nation using the site now](#). Signing up will only take a minute or two, and then you'll be able to access all the features that are there. And if this wasn't clear, it's completely free and always will be. Ready to get started? Just head over to <http://stormsmartconnect.org/register/>.

Aquatic Life Declines at Early Stages of Urban Development

The number of native fish and aquatic insects, especially those that are pollution sensitive, declines in urban and suburban streams at low levels of development — levels often considered protective for stream communities, according to a new study by the U.S. Geological Survey.

"When the area of driveways, parking lots, streets and other impervious cover reaches 10 percent of a watershed area, many types of pollution sensitive aquatic insects decline by as much as one third, compared to streams in undeveloped forested watersheds," said Tom Cuffney, USGS biologist. "We learned that there is no 'safezone,' meaning that even minimal or early stages of development can negatively affect aquatic life in urban streams."

As a watershed becomes developed, the amount of pavement, sidewalks and other types of urban land cover increases. During storms, water is rapidly transported over these urban surfaces to streams. The rapid rise and fall of stream flow and changes in temperature can be detrimental to fish and aquatic insects. Stormwater from urban development can also contain fertilizers and insecticides used along roads and on lawns, parks and golf courses.

"Stream protection and management is a top priority of state and local officials, and these findings remind us of the unintended consequences that development can have on our aquatic resources," said Tom Schueler, [Chesapeake Stormwater Network](#) coordinator. "The information has been useful in helping us to predict and manage the future impacts of urban development on streams and reinforces the importance of having green infrastructure to control stormwater runoff and protect aquatic life."

USGS studies examine the effects of urbanization on algae, aquatic insects, fish, habitat and chemistry in urban streams in nine metropolitan areas across the country: Boston, Mass.; Raleigh, N.C.; Atlanta, Ga.; Birmingham, Ala.; Milwaukee-Green Bay, Wis.; Denver, Colo.; Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Portland, Ore.

These USGS studies also show that land cover prior to urbanization can affect how aquatic insects and fish respond to urbanization. For example, aquatic communities in urban streams in Denver, Dallas-Fort Worth and Milwaukee did not decline in response to urbanization because the aquatic communities were already degraded by previous agricultural land-use activities. In contrast, aquatic communities declined in

response to urbanization in metropolitan areas where forested land was converted to urban land, areas such as Boston and Atlanta.

Comparisons among the nine areas show that not all urban streams respond exactly the same. This is mostly because stream quality and aquatic health reflect a complex combination of land and chemical use, land and storm-water management, population density and watershed development, and natural features, such as soils, hydrology, and climate.

These USGS studies represent an integrated approach to understanding urban streams that includes physical, chemical and biological characteristics associated with urbanization. This is critical for prioritizing strategies for stream protection and restoration and in evaluating the effectiveness of those strategies over time. For more information, listen to [USGS Corecast Episode 127](#). The full report and extended video podcasts are available at the National Water Quality Assessment program [urban studies](#) website.

First Detailed National Map of Land-Cover Vegetation Released Will Help Determine Places with Habitat to Support Wildlife

The most detailed national vegetation U.S. land-cover map to date was released today by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The map will enable conservation professionals to identify places in the country with sufficient habitat to support wildlife. The map, produced by the USGS Gap Analysis Program (GAP), can be viewed [online](#) and downloaded for free.

“These data are critical for determining the status of biodiversity, as baseline data for assessing climate change impacts, and for predicting the availability of habitat for wildlife,” said John Mosesso, Gap Analysis Program Manager. “Large datasets of this type are extremely important to land and wildlife managers because they allow for analysis and planning across extensive geographic areas.”

The GAP national land cover data, based on the NatureServe Ecological Systems Classification, is the most detailed, consistent map of vegetative associations ever available for the United States and will help facilitate the planning and management of biological diversity on a regional and national scale.

GAP’s mission is to keep common species common by providing information on the status of native species. The creation and dissemination of the national landcover dataset and online map viewer furthers that goal by putting crucial information into the hands of conservation professionals. Information about land cover is a key component of effective conservation planning and the management of biological diversity.

Landcover Map Portrays Complex Data

The final version of the landcover map contains 551 Ecological Systems and modified Ecological Systems (the modified ecological systems represent 32 land use classes which depict developed and/or disturbed land cover classes). The map combines data from previous GAP projects in the Southwest, Southeast, and Northwest United States with recently updated California data. For areas of the continental United States where ecological system-level GAP data has not yet been developed, data from the [LANDFIRE](#) project compiled by [Landscape](#) was used. This allows for the construction of a seamless representation of ecological system distributions across the continental United States.

The map also meets natural resources agencies' need for a way to characterize land cover. Finally, the new map furthers the mission of GAP to promote conservation by providing state, regional, and national assessments of the conservation status of land cover types to resource managers, planners, and policy makers who can use the map and its underlying data to make informed decisions.

Online Map Viewer Shows Data at Multiple Scales

The online map viewing interface has been designed to allow users to explore land cover data at three levels of complexity. Level 1 contains eight classes: grassland, shrubland, forest, aquatic, sparse and barren, recently disturbed, riparian, and human land use. Level 2 contains 43 classes, and incorporates information on elevation and climate. Level 3 contains the full 583 classes. This online tool facilitates exploration of ecological system distribution patterns at multiple scales and allows users to calculate statistics on the types of vegetation occurring within a mapping zone, a state, or a county.

As part of the USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) — a collaborative program coordinated by the USGS to provide increased access to data and information on the nation's biological resources — GAP data and associated analytical tools have been used in hundreds of applications, from basic research to comprehensive state wildlife plans, and from education projects in schools to ecoregional assessments of biodiversity. GAP has developed land cover data since the 1980s — initially on a state-by-state basis and more recently on a regional basis. The national land cover map provides seamless coverage across political boundaries, facilitating its use by governmental agencies, researchers, conservation organizations and others.

CSO Releases Climate Change Adaptation White Paper

CSO has released a white paper on Climate Change Adaptation, *The Faces of Climate Change Adaptation: The need for Proactive Protection of the Nation's Coasts*. The paper explores how coastal states are particularly vulnerable to climate change and examines how some states have begun to adapt to climate change. Although not planned, the release of the paper is particularly timely in conjunction with PEW's recent paper, *Adapting to Climate Change: A Call for Federal Leadership*. The paper is a product of the CSO Climate Change Work Group. To read the paper: www.coastalstates.org.

Grant Opportunities

Texas Coastal Impact Assistance Program Invitation for Proposals

The GLO is conducting a final solicitation for state CIAP projects. A project nomination form must be submitted electronically by Friday, July 30, 2010 before a project will be considered for funding. The final solicitation for state CIAP projects has begun. The 2009 and 2010 state allocations will be combined for this solicitation. An electronic project nomination form must be submitted before a project will be considered for funding. All project proposals must be submitted via the project nomination form below by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 30, 2010.

- No hard copies will be accepted.
- You must complete all the requested information and submit the nomination form without closing the nomination form or the browser window.
- If you close the browser or nomination form before you have completed and submitted the form (by clicking "Done"), you will cancel your submission and lose all the data you entered.
- Clicking the "Done" button at the end of the form will automatically send the form to the GLO. A verification page for your records will be provided.
- Do not send any other documents to the GLO as only the nomination form will be reviewed.

[**Nomination Form**](#)

[printable example](#)

All applicants will receive an email by September 10, 2010 concerning their project nominations. At that time, electronic grant applications will be provided only to applicants whose projects were selected for further consideration. Electronic grant applications and all supporting documentation will be due by November 10, 2010. For more information, please email the [Coastal Impact Assistance Program](#) or call 1-800-998-4GLO.

Gulf of Mexico Community-based Restoration Partnership

Year 10 Proposal Guidelines

Submittal Due Date: September 1, 2010

The Gulf of Mexico Community-based Restoration Partnership (GCRP) invites proposals for its tenth round of citizen-driven habitat restoration projects. The partnership is seeking to fund on-the-ground projects to restore marine, estuarine, and riparian habitats to benefit living marine resources and to provide educational and social benefits by significantly involving the community. Please refer to the [proposal guidelines](#) for detailed information on submission requirements.

The GCRP is a multi-year, regional partnership between the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program (CRP), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Gulf of Mexico Program (GoMP), and the Gulf States and Caribbean Territories. The purpose of this partnership is to strengthen the conservation efforts of the NOAA CRP and EPA GoMP by supporting on-the-ground restoration activities and fostering local stewardship of ecologically significant areas.

Funding:

Proposals will be evaluated and selected by the GCRP steering committee, which consists of Gulf of Mexico Foundation staff, NOAA Restoration Center, US EPA Gulf of Mexico Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and natural resource agency technical staff from each of the Gulf States and US Territories in the Caribbean. Subject to available funding, approximately \$660,000 is available for Year 2011 projects. Project funding levels will typically fall within the range of \$25,000 - \$100,000. All projects must provide a 1:1 match of the grant amount. Matching funds cannot be federal dollars.

Proposal Submission:

Proposals must be received by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation office no later than 11:59 p.m. CDT September 1, 2010.

Proposals should be no more than five (5) pages in length, not including Attachments. Proposals must include all of the information requested in, and be formatted as shown in, Attachment A of the [proposal guidelines](#).

It is recommended that a draft proposal be submitted to the resource manager in the project area (see table in [proposal guidelines](#)) for review and comment prior to submission of a final proposal to the Gulf of Mexico Foundation.

For questions about the application process, or if you do not receive a return email within 24 hours after submitting your proposal, please contact:

Ryan Fikes, Deputy Director
Gulf of Mexico Foundation
PMB 51 5403 Everhart Rd.
Corpus Christi, TX 78411
(361) 882-3939 office
(361) 882-1262 fax
ryan@gulfmex.org

For additional technical assistance, please contact the Gulf of Mexico Foundation or the NOAA Restoration Center Employee and/or Resource Manager in your state. Additional information can be found online at:

- [Gulf of Mexico Community-based Restoration Partnership Year 10 Proposal Guidelines](#)
- [USEPA Gulf of Mexico Program/Gulf Ecological Management Sites Program](#)
- [NOAA Restoration Center Community-based Restoration Program](#)
- [Gulf of Mexico Foundation](#)

Texas Coastal Management Program Call for Proposals

As in the previous grant cycles, the [Coastal Coordination Council](#) (CCC) expects to award approximately \$1.8 million for planning, acquisition, construction, education, and research projects in Grant Cycle 16.

The deadline for pre-proposals was June 23, 2010 by 5:00 p.m.; however, submission of the pre-proposal is optional and is only necessary if written comments are desired. The full application is due **October 13**, 2010 by 5:00 p.m. Visit <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/grants/cycle16.html> for more information.

Rapid Response Research Grants Available for Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Research

May 27, 2010

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has in place a mechanism to receive and review proposals having a severe urgency with regard to availability of, or access to data, facilities or specialized equipment, as well as quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events.

This Rapid Response Research (RAPID) mechanism has been regularly used to enable research on unanticipated events such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, or any other event where a timely presence is required to enable the research. A number of RAPID awards were made to support research on the earthquakes earlier this year in Haiti and Chile, and awards are being made related to the oil spill.

RAPID is a special grant mechanism developed specifically to respond to unusual circumstances where a timely response is essential to achieving research results. To help determine whether the proposed research is appropriate for NSF's RAPID funding, potential investigators must contact the NSF program officer(s) most germane to the proposal topic before submitting a RAPID proposal.

Complete guidance on submitting a RAPID proposal is located on NSF's web site at:
http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf10_1/gpg_2.jsp#IID1.

Mississippi Coastal Impact Assistance Program

Funds are available only to the State of Mississippi and eligible Coastal Political Subdivisions (Counties) within the State of Mississippi under this Program Announcement to mitigate the impacts of Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas activities (based upon allocation formulas prescribed by the Energy Policy Act). The purpose of the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) is to disburse funding (\$250 million for each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2010) to eligible producing states and coastal political subdivisions for the purpose of conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas including wetlands; mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources; planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with these objectives; implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan; and, mitigation of the impact of Outer Continental Shelf activities through funding of onshore infrastructure projects and public service needs. States eligible to receive funding under the CIAP program are: Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas and 67 coastal political subdivisions amongst the 6 states.

Link to Full Announcement

[Location for Program Announcement \(Instructions\) and Application Portal](#)

If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact:

Kathleen Craig, Lead Contract Specialist, Phone 703-787-1332

[Point-of-Contact for Questions About Program Announcement](#)

Conferences and Workshops

Texas Coastal Expo 2010

July 24, 2010

The Texas General Land Office presents the first-ever [Texas Coastal Expo](#) in Corpus Christi. Join us for a day of fun as we spotlight one of our state's most precious natural resources: the Texas coast. Free for the whole family, this event will highlight the Texas coastal experience through hands-on educational exhibits, demonstrations, wildlife shows and recreational activities. The Land Office is entrusted to protect and nourish our Texas coast and proudly serves as steward for all 367 miles of the state's coastline. Through efforts like the Coastal Management Program and the Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Program, the Land Office protects wetlands, fights erosion and ensures shoreline access. The [Texas Coastal Expo](#) promises to be an event you won't want to miss! Please visit the expo website for more information.

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Implementation and Integration Workshop

August 3-5, 2010

Beau Rivage Hotel
875 Beach Boulevard
Biloxi, MS 39531
<http://www.beaurivage.com>
[City of Biloxi](#)



Logistical Information

[Cutoff Date/Time 5:00pm, Friday, July 2](#)

Beau Rivage reservation phone number has been changed!

Registration Form (No charge for registering)

[Registration Form](#) - fill and submit

[Registration Form \(PDF\)](#) - fill and print

Schedule of Events

[Schedule of Events for August 3-5, 2010 - Final \(PDF\)](#)

Agendas

[Plenary Sessions Draft Agenda \(PDF\)](#)

Priority Issue Team Agendas Coming Soon!

Evening Reception (August 4)

Please contact [Ms. Terry Teague](#) or [Diane Altsman](#) for assistance.

Conference on Oil and Gas Business Set for August 23- 24

The state of Louisiana's oil and gas regulatory process, mineral leasing rules, and coastal management issues are the primary topics to be covered in the fourth annual, SONRIS to Sunset conference hosted by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The two-day event, known as Louisiana Oil and Gas: SONRIS to Sunset, will be held August 23 -24, at The Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans. Registration is now available online at www.dnr.louisiana.gov. Additionally, conference accommodations cover optional events to be held on Saturday and Sunday, prior to the Monday morning opening, which will feature speakers DNR Assistant Secretary Louis Buatt and Commissioner of Conservation James Welsh.

"The energy sector in Louisiana provides for many aspects of our way of life – it is an important industry to us and the rest of the nation. We want oil and gas professionals and others who attend our seminars to know that it is a tremendous opportunity to learn more and become informed," Assistant Secretary Buatt said.

To conduct business in our state, several agencies of state government are involved in the process. While DNR's Office of Mineral Resources and the Office of Conservation have major oversight of oil and gas operations, the departments of Environmental Quality, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Revenue also have roles and procedures. The protection of land, water, and the environment requires a multi-layered approach and finding better ways to be safe and conserve our resources takes continuous effort on the part of these agencies that work together.

The DNR SONRIS system (Strategic Online Natural Resources Information System) is a comprehensive database that has well and production information, royalty reports, and lease files; as well as an automated coastal use permitting process and GIS functions. Oil and gas records are at your finger-tips when using the system. Conference participants have the chance to keep abreast of the latest technology, tools, and procedures that provide a more effective and efficient way to get their work done. Continuing education credits for attorneys, engineers, and landmen will be offered. Many businessmen and women from Texas and other states have taken advantage of this professional development offer. This year, the conference will cover ground water notification requirements and will provide the latest news on activities in the Haynesville Shale in north Louisiana. For information on conference accommodations and registration, contact Stacy Sharpe, stacy.sharpe@la.gov or 225-342-4615. The Louisiana Oil and Gas: SONRIS to Sunset brochure is available [here](#).

Clean Gulf 2010

Tampa Bay Convention Center, Tampa, FL, USA

October 19-20, 2010

Early Registration Deadline: August 20, 2010

Home Page URL: <http://www.cleangulf.org/>

[Follow us on Twitter](#)

Companies from throughout the oil and chemical spill, maritime security industry and the marine salvage industry will be in attendance at the 20th Annual CLEAN GULF Training & Exhibition. Key focus areas for this year's training will be blow-out prevention, remote operated vehicles, deep offshore SONS/Spill of National Significance, oil spill containment, subsea technology, deep water oil spill response, in-situ burn, offshore dispersants and subsea dispersants on containment.

CLEAN GULF Training Event & Exhibition Announces New Deep Offshore Prevention & Response Co-Located Training Event & Exhibition

TAMPA. May 25, 2010 – CLEAN GULF, the largest oil spill training event and exhibition in North America, announced today that it is expanding its educational program with a new co-located event focusing exclusively on Deep Offshore Prevention & Response. Blow-out prevention, remote operated vehicles, Deep Offshore SONS/Spill of National Significance, oil spill containment, subsea technology, deepwater oil spill, response in-situ burn, offshore dispersants and subsea dispersants on containment will be among the key focus areas of this new event. The 20th Annual CLEAN GULF is scheduled for October 19 – 20, 2010 at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Florida,

“We firmly believe it is vital to the oil & gas industry to be adding to CLEAN GULF this timely, must-have information for drillers, subsea operators, pipelines, shipping companies and other service providers in the petroleum supply chain,” said Laura Couvillon, CLEAN GULF Show Director. “Deep Offshore Prevention & Response is a natural fit for CLEAN GULF, and further differentiates this annual event as the most comprehensive learning experience in North America for the oil spill industry.”

Owners, operators and regulators that attend CLEAN GULF 2010 will have the opportunity to choose from its most robust curriculum ever, including three separate training programs, the new Deep Offshore Prevention & Response program, the new co-located EPA Region 4 Conference on Chemical Emergencies and CLEAN GULF’s traditional world class oil spill keynotes and “hands-on” sessions and panels of the leading experts from throughout the oil spill prevention & response community. Attendees will also be able to see and demo the latest prevention and response technologies at the leading solutions exhibition in the oil spill market with our 200 exhibits.

For more info and to register, please visit www.cleangulf.org. For info on sponsorship and exhibiting opportunities, please contact Kristian Copeland at 713-343-1886 or kcopeland@tradefairgroup.com. For info on speaking and advisory board opportunities, please contact Kayla Appelt at 713-343-1869 or kappelt@tradefairgroup.com. Organized by TradeFair Group, CLEAN GULF is the largest oil spill training event and exhibition in North America. Its training workshops and solutions exhibition are specifically designed for local, state and federal regulators and responders, companies involved in exploration, production, shipping, transportation or storage of petroleum, petrochemicals or hazardous materials in offshore, coastal or inland regions and the oil spill prevention and response community. Additional information is available at www.cleangulf.org.

5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

November 13-17, 2010

The Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) national conference brings together the best and the brightest in the coastal habitat restoration community: diverse stakeholders from across the country, including top representatives from federal, state, and local governments; corporations and businesses; non-profits; grassroots organizations; tribal associations; and education, all united in the search for solutions to the needs of our coastal ecosystems. More than 1,000 attendees are expected, as well as 150 exhibitors, 160 poster presentations, and 400 presenters. There will be more than 80 high-level sessions dealing with the best and newest approaches to coastal habitat preservation and restoration.



© Restore America's Estuaries 2009

The 2010 conference focus, "Preparing for Climate Change", while a concern for all coastal regions, has particular resonance for coastal Texas and Galveston, still recovering from the damage inflicted by Hurricane Ike in 2008. RAE is committed to helping Galveston recover from the environmental and economic damage caused by Ike. Through this conference, we will: work to restore resiliency to Galveston's shoreline through sea- and marsh-grass planting projects; stimulate the local economy through the business generated during this five-day conference; push Galveston's ongoing restoration needs to national attention through press work and through the attendance of senior federal officials; and increase the direction and momentum of new resources to aid the Galveston area.

Location: Galveston, Texas, USA

Early Registration Deadline: September 30, 2010

Contact Information: ssimon@estuaries.org

Home Page URL: <https://www.estuaries.org/conference/>

Did you find this edition useful? Please send suggestions, comments, and new items for publication to



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