



Caribbean Regional Response Team
San Juan, Puerto Rico January 2020



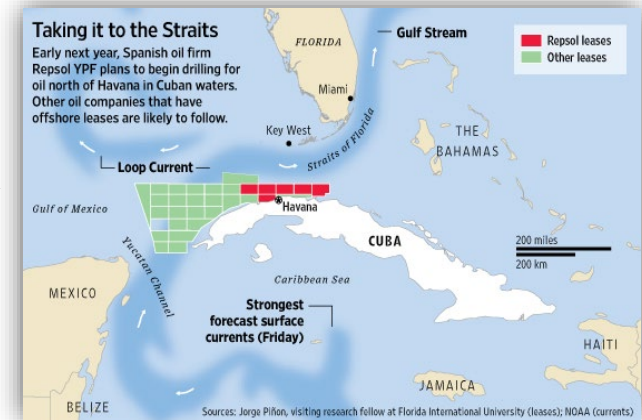
Rich Lavigne
District Seven DRAT
CRRT Co-Chair



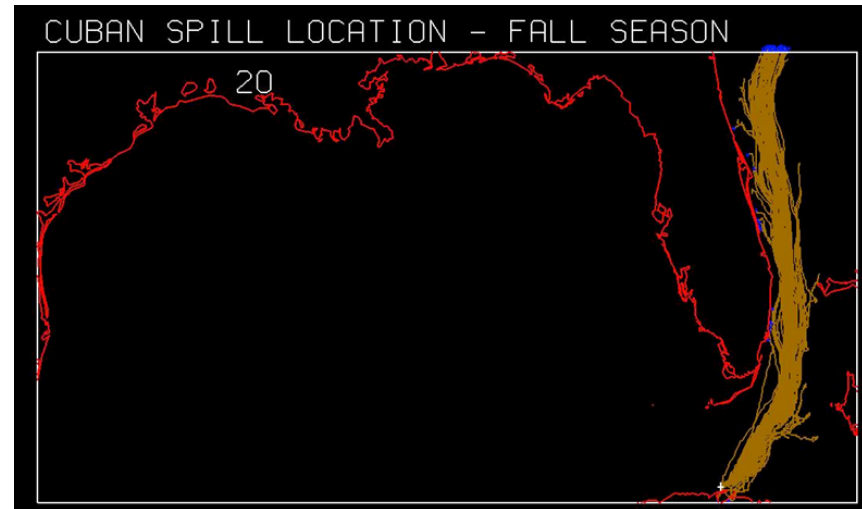
Situation overview



- Since 2011 Cuba has been leasing blocks for exploratory wells, many in or near the Gulf Stream.
- The U.S. & Cuba are party to the **Cartagena Convention** (1983) and the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response & Co-operation Plan (1990)
- Even though both Nations are signatory; There was no existing plans for joint responses to spills originating in the U.S. that impacts Cuban territorial seas, or spills originating in Cuba that impact U.S. waters.
- Given the fast moving current of the Gulf Stream, the most effective means of response may be dispersants. Both nations recognized the need for a formalized plan



Probable Oil Impacts



Response measures may encompass: Spill monitoring and trajectory, subsea operations (containment and chemical dispersants), vessel operations, air operations, mechanical recovery, in-situ burning, waste management and final disposal.



RESPONSE CHALLENGES



- A spill in Cuban waters will require action from many agencies and stakeholders such as that undertaken during DWH
- A spill by Cuba impacting the US would be a national political issue
- Gulf stream current is dynamic- changes based on time of year, reaching lower toward Cuba and further into the GOM.



Probabilities/Restrictions



Potential Impact- Any spill off the coast of Cuba would be mainly influenced by the fast moving Florida Current and Gulf Stream. NOAA trajectories showed the most likely areas of impact to be West Palm Beach to Cape Canaveral and possibly the Outer Banks of NC.

Embargo challenges- restrictions prevent a bi-lateral effort to proffer resources in the event of a spill. Currently reliant on Cuba's National Response Structures and spill response capabilities. Resources such as marine well containment systems, other well-capping equipment, relief well, and cementing capabilities will be generally unattainable.



Legal Issues



Legal issues should be worked out prior to a response:

- U.S. cleaning up Cuban oil?
- What is the mechanism for reimbursement to U.S. resources?
- Will oil companies working in Cuba be allowed to be a part of the Unified Command in the U.S.?
- Will we be able to provide technical assistance for source control



Engagement



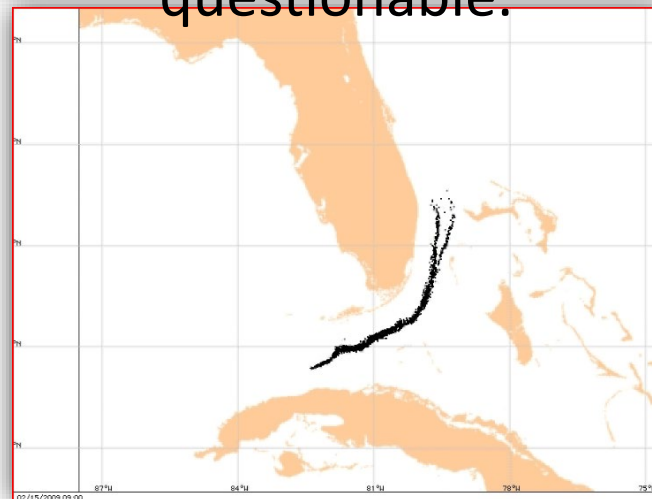
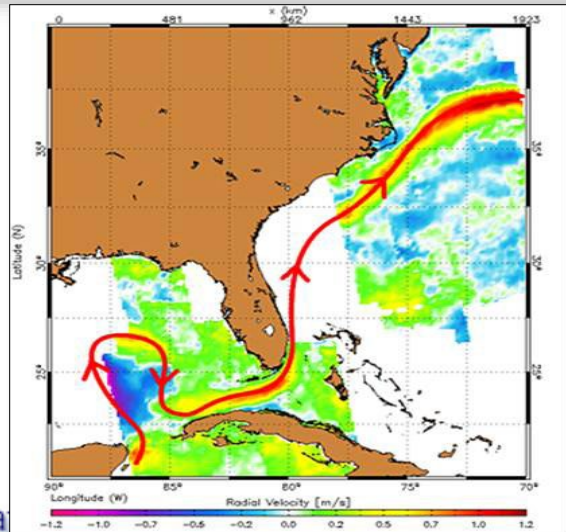
- Review and updates to the Regional and Contingency Plans. Coast Guard is drafting amendments to its local OPPLAN to reflect specific actions needed for an event in Cuba's EEZ that threatens the US EEZ.
- Multiple NOAA trajectory updates have been requested to show potentially impacted areas & fate of oil, based on a variety of scenarios. This updated info will be vital to accurately updating plans accurately.



RESPONSE EFFORTS



- **Deploying resources**
 - Challenges of embargo
- **Response Challenges**
- **Cuba's capabilities-**
 - Infrastructure not designed to meet threat.
 - Response structure is questionable.



Bilateral Solutions



- Continued development of Plans
- Complete planning efforts
- Update RCP/ACP/Operational Plans
- Develop overarching plan to fill gaps and ensure all stake holders engaged



“CUBUS”



- Bilateral Coordination Plan between the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba Regarding Marine or Coastal Environmental Pollution Events caused by Spills of Hydrocarbons and other Noxious and Potentially Hazardous Substances.
- All plans are collectively referred to as “CUBUS.”



Historical Timelines



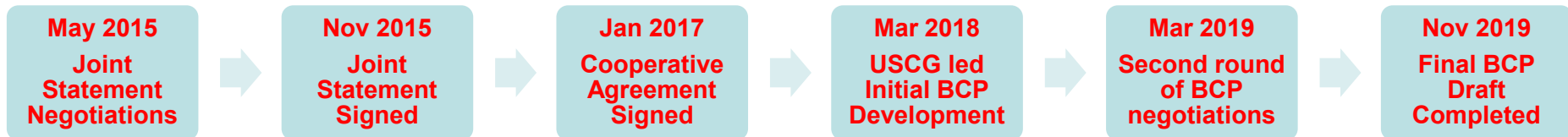
- Since 2011, Cuba/U.S. engagement within non-binding Multilateral Technical Operating Procedures (MTOP)
- 2012 – Cuba EEZ drilling increased
- 2015 – Enhanced discussions on Cuba/U.S. collaboration
- 2015 – Joint Statement
- 2017 – Cooperation Agreement



Purpose and Timeline



- Establishes coordinated system for *national preparedness, planning, mitigation, and response* to pollution events that may affect the coastal waters or marine environment of Cuba and/or the U.S.



- Coast Guard designated as U.S. Coordinating Authority.



Roles & Responsibilities



Role	U.S.	Cuba
Approval authority of the CUBUS Plan*	USCG Deputy Commandant for Operations	Chief of the National Staff of the Civil Defense and Director General of the Maritime Administration of the Ministry of Transport
Executive Oversight	Director, Emergency Management (CG-5RJ)	Same as above
Oversight and support to the Joint Planning Team	Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy (CG-MER)	Director General of the Maritime Administration of Cuba
Joint Planning Team (JPT)	See attached BCP Appendix	
Responsible for execution of the Plan/JPT Chairs	Coast Guard Seventh District Commander	The Chief of the National Staff of the Civil Defense



Activation & Response



➤ **Activation occurs when:**

- Pollution event that originates within one nation's AOR threatens (or has already impacted) the other nation's AOR;
- Joint Planning Team (JPT) Chair whose AOR is initially impacted notifies other Party's JPT Chair; and
- Decision between JPT Chairs to conduct a coordinated response.

➤ **Plan details response ops in four phases:**

- Discovery and Notification;
- Preliminary Assessment and Initiation of Action;
- Response measures; and
- Demobilization, Termination and Documentation.

➤ **Advisory and Liaison Coordinator position**



Way Forward



- **CUBUS Plan Signing (remotely) → December 2019**
- **Exercises:**
 - 2020: Joint Planning Team & Executive Seminar
 - 2021: Tabletop exercise
 - Exercises on four year cycle → seminar, tabletop, functional, & FSE
 - Exercise level mutually determined by JPT Chairs
- **Response Funding:** each Coordinating Authority funds its own operations.
- **Plan Review:** Every **five** years or upon request of any Coordinating Authority (organizational changes requiring updates to the Plan).



Questions?

