



# OIL SPILL SCIENCE

SEA GRANT PROGRAMS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO

## An introduction to the Sea Grant Oil Spill Science Outreach Program

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Texas • Louisiana • Florida  
Mississippi-Alabama

CRRT Meeting August 2017

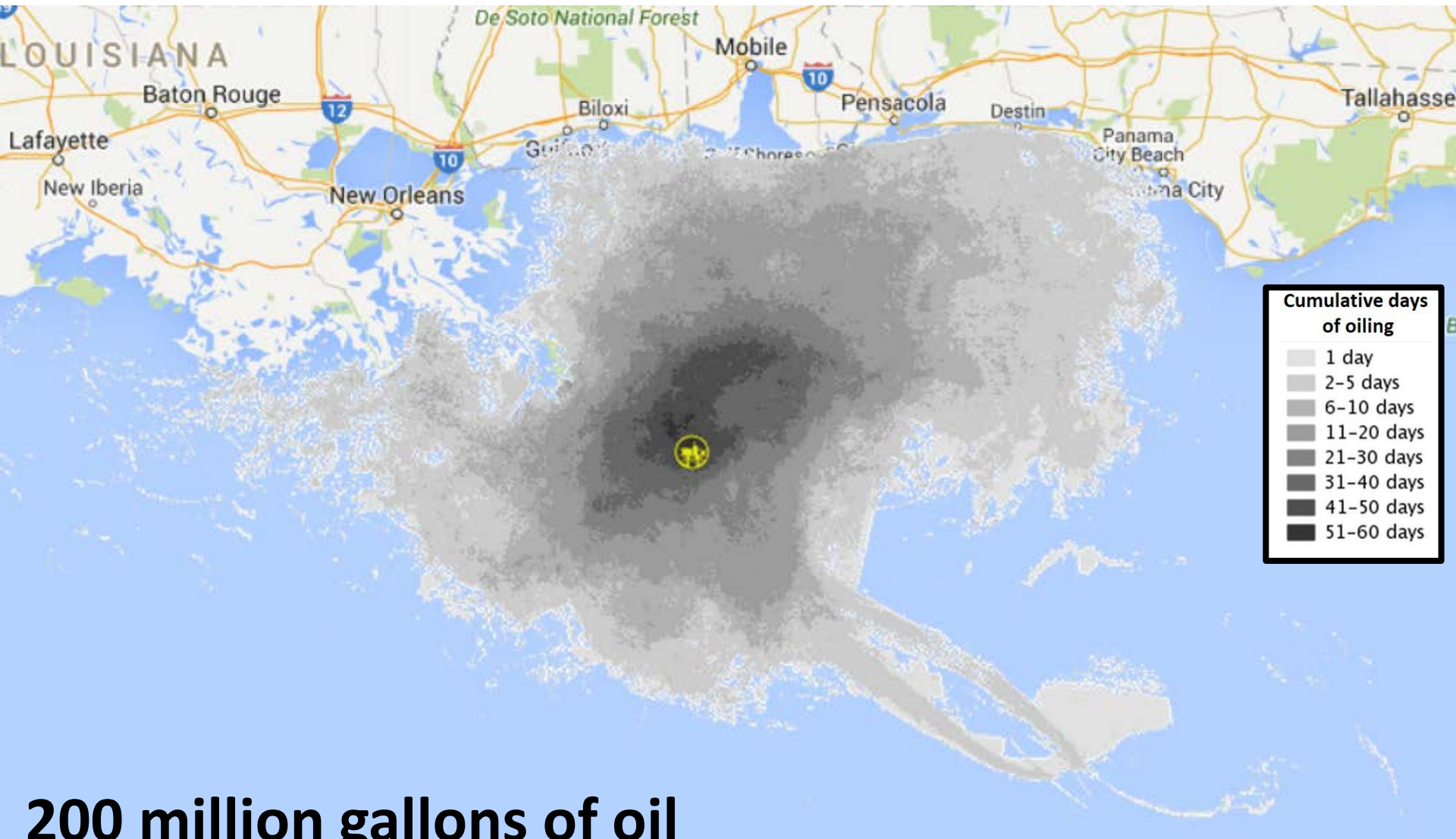


# Deepwater Horizon oil spill

**April 20, 2010**  
**11 people killed**  
**Oil flowed for 87 days**

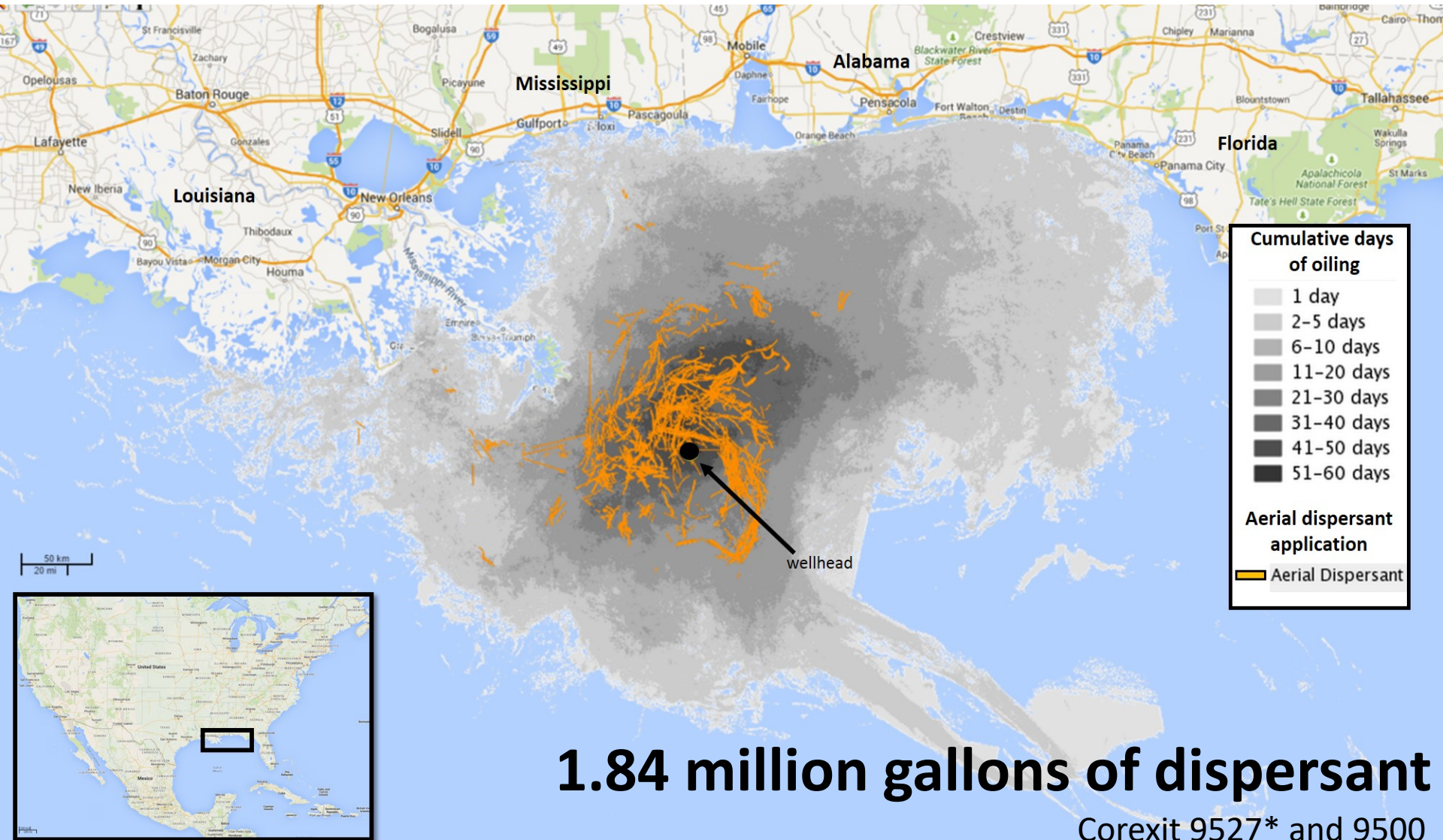


# Deepwater Horizon oil spill



Source: Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA)

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# Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative

**\$500 million, 10-year investment**

**Goal** - Improve society's ability to understand, respond to, and mitigate the effects of petroleum pollution and related stressors

## **Focus areas:**

1. How do oil and dispersants **move around** the environment?
2. How do oil and dispersants **break down** over time?
3. How do oil and dispersants **impact the environment**?
4. How can **technology** be improved?
5. How do oil spills **impact people**?

Learn more at [gulfresearchinitiative.org](http://gulfresearchinitiative.org)



Photos: GoMRI

# GoMRI Scientific Production

## As of July 2017:

- 897 scientific peer-reviewed publications
- 3,539 scientific presentations and posters
- 3,723 people funded: Scientists, Post Docs, students
- 2,166 datasets of which 1,461 are publicly available on the GoMRI website ([GRIIDC](#))



Photos: GoMRI

# What is Sea Grant?

**Mission:** Enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment

- University-based programs (33)
- Partially funded by NOAA and states
- Three areas of emphasis
  - Research
  - Education
  - Extension
- Service-oriented
- Trusted/non-advocacy honest brokers
- **50 years** of serving the nation's coasts



# Oil Spill Science – Outreach Team



&



[gulfseagrants.org/oilspilloutreach](http://gulfseagrants.org/oilspilloutreach)





# Our Target Audiences

- Fishing industry, commercial
- Fishing industry, for-hire
- Fishing industry, recreational
- Policy makers
- Emergency responders/managers
- Environmental non-profit staff
- Natural resource managers
- Public health officials
- Tourism industry
- GoMRI outreach specialists
- University/college researchers
- Oil & gas industry consultants

Booms made out of pom-poms are set to protect the sandy beach area. Credit: NOAA.



A BP decontamination facility in the Pascagoula River, MS. Credit: NOAA.



Researchers discuss field observations with NOAA's Natural Resources Damage Assessment. Credit: NOAA.

# Oil Spill Science – Outreach products

## Sharing peer-reviewed, published science

– Science outreach publications

- Focused on science topics identified by our audiences

- Fisheries management
- Seafood testing
- Dispersants
- Frequently asked questions
- Oil on beaches
- Fish health
- Spill technology
- Dolphins, sea turtles, corals, & much more!



# Oil Spill Science – Outreach products

## Sharing peer-reviewed, published science

- Science seminars & input sessions
  - Presentations by experts
  - Continue to identify audiences





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## *Oil Spill Science for Healthy Island Communities*



**August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**St. Croix, USVI**

**&**

**August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**San Juan, PR**

***Join us for a FREE  
workshop!***

In partnership with the Caribbean Regional Response Team and the University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program, the Gulf Sea Grant Oil Spill Science Outreach Program is offering two workshops. Speakers will share science discoveries from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010 including spill impacts to the environment and people- such as coral, mangroves, beaches, sea turtles, birds, fish, fishermen, tourism, seafood, and human health. Speakers at the San Juan workshop will share lessons learned from past spills in Puerto Rico. After presentations, join discussions about oil spill preparedness for island communities.

Everyone is welcome, but please register for a **free lunch** at the link below:

**For more info and to register:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X5HHJ8S>

**Workshop 1:** Thursday, August 10th, 2017, 9:00 a.m.—2 p.m. at the Curriculum Center, St. Croix U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Workshop 2:** Friday, August 11th, 2017, 9:00 a.m.— 3 p.m. at the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, San Juan, Puerto Rico

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# Thank You!

- Tara, Emily, Monica, Chris, Larissa, & Steve

