An introduction to the Sea Grant Oil Spill Science Outreach Program

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CRRT Meeting August 2017
Deepwater Horizon oil spill

April 20, 2010
11 people killed
Oil flowed for 87 days
Deepwater Horizon oil spill

200 million gallons of oil

Source: Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA)
Deepwater Horizon oil spill

1.84 million gallons of dispersant
Corexit 9527* and 9500

Source: Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA)
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

gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach

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

[gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach](gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach)
Oil Spill Science – Outreach Team

Chris Hale
Emily Maung-Douglass
Steve Sempier
Tara Skelton
Larissa Graham
Monica Wilson

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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.

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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!

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Oil Spill Science – Outreach products

Sharing peer-reviewed, published science

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

[Links to gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach]
Oil Spill Science for Healthy Island Communities

August 10th, 2017
St. Croix, USVI
&
August 11th, 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