

Gulf of Mexico Research Plan

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Update

Steve Sempier, LaDon Swann, Karl Havens,
Robert Stickney, and Charles Wilson



Louisiana Board of Regents
November 1, 2010
New Orleans, Louisiana



Overview

- Background
- Research Priorities
- Current Status
- The Future



Background

- Funded by the National Sea Grant office
- Service to Gulf of Mexico research community
- Guidance
 - Four Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant Directors
 - 26 member Planning and Review Council
- Input from broad set of stakeholders

Original Strategies to Identify Gulf Priorities

- Review of Strategic Plans
 - 117 plans examined
- Web-based Survey
 - 1,582 total responses
 - 571 comments
- Workshops
 - 5 workshops
 - 299 participants
 - Over 68 organizations
 - 267 research and 251 non-research needs
- More than 230 organizations involved



Image: EPA

Gulf of Mexico Research Plan

Released September 2009

- Ecosystem Health Indicators
- Freshwater Input and Hydrology
- Habitats and Living Resources
- Sea Level Change, Subsidence, and Storm Surge
- Water Quality and Nutrients



Implementation of the GMRP

- Used in RFP' s and Strategic Plans
- At least 14 organizations are using it
- Millions of dollars of research
- Regional research initiatives
 - EPA
 - Gulf Sea Grant College Programs
 - NGI
 - Others
- MS and AL Commission Plans

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

- Eight months after GMRP release
- Develop an addendum to the GMRP with specific oil-spill priorities
- Questions
 - What are new regional research priorities?
 - Have previously identified priorities shifted?



Rapid Response

- Open-ended survey to 100 leaders in the region
- Examine results from other meetings
 - Consortium for Ocean Leadership Gulf Oil Spill Symposium
 - White House Science Summit
 - Northern Gulf Institute
 - Center for Natural Resource Economics and Policy
 - NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center Workshop on Deepwater Horizon oil spill efforts, Miami



GULF OF MEXICO RESEARCH PLAN

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Research Needs Survey

- Large-scale Survey
 - 20 oil spill research priorities
 - Open-ended questions
 - Questions from original survey
- 1,000 responses
- 172 organizations identified as source of reliable oil-spill information

Top Priorities

1. Examine the impacts of oil and dispersants on **food webs, life histories and abundance of aquatic organisms**
2. Determine the distribution of oil and evaluate the **fate and persistence of oil** in the ecosystem including the roles of dispersants and microbes

Top Priorities

3. Assess the impacts of oil and dispersants on barrier island, water column, coastal, nearshore, offshore and deepwater **habitats and water quality**
4. Examine the effects of oil and dispersants on **seafood safety** including the potential for bioaccumulation

Top Priorities

5. Quantify the impacts of the oil spill on **ecosystem services** in monetary and in non-monetary terms
6. Determine the **toxicity** of the oil, dispersants and drilling mud on **humans and the ecosystem**

Top Priorities

7. Assess the **economic losses** to commercial fishing interests, seafood processors and dealers, restaurants and related industries
8. Assess the status, well-being, **vulnerability and resilience of coastal communities**

Next Steps

- Identify baseline needs
- Compare original survey results with new results
- Incorporate results from additional workshops
- Develop the addendum to the GMRP
- Implement the plan and provide priorities to interested organizations

Oil Spill Research Database

- Respond to need
- Identify research, monitoring, and restoration that is underway, regardless of funding source
- Gulf Sea Grant and NCDDC partnership
- Endorsed and supported regionally





DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL

Research and Monitoring Activities

[report a problem](#) - [submit a suggestion?](#)

Keyword query control

condition ☒ and ☐ or

environmental theme (0)

Air quality

Coastal and nearshore habitats

Coral biology and reproduction

Dispersants

Ecosystem and community structur

Ecosystem health and indicators

economic theme (0)

Cleanup needs

Economic damage assessments

Ecosystem valuation

Fate of oil

Freight flow analysis

Labor and workforce changes

social theme (0)

Community resilience

Cultural heritage

Demographic changes

Environment

K-12 education

Legal and policy analysis

type of sample (0)

Air quality

Biological

Chemical

Clinical

Fauna

Flora

type of work (0)

How-to

Activity index report

customize activity result page size: 10

define activity search criteria:

keywords selected: none

report filters: none

classification of activity (0)

location of work (0)

funding agency (0)

Monitoring

Research

Restoration

Alabama

Alabama state waters

Caribbean

Florida

ADCNR

Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station

Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

BP

Full-text search

Custom report

Custom subscription

Keyword search

Activity index report

- 2,587 unique visitors
- 3,223 hits from Gulf of Mexico area
- 2,750 hits from DC area

Acknowledgements

- People who completed the surveys or participated in workshops
- Planning and Review Council
- Workshop hosts, facilitators, support staff
- External reviewers
- NOAA NCDDC
- Regional partners supporting these efforts
- Those using the database

Thank you



gulfseagrass.org

This presentation was supported by the National Sea Grant College Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under NOAA Grant NA06OAR4170078 and the Florida Sea Grant Program, Louisiana Sea Grant Program, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, and Texas Sea Grant Program. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of those organizations.