Gulf of Mexico Research Plan

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Update

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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 StormSurge
- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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







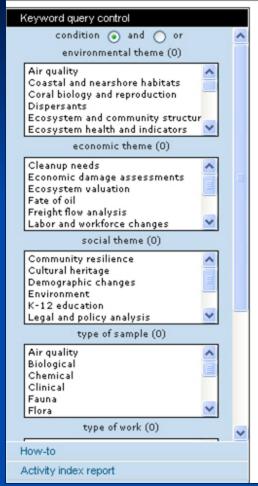


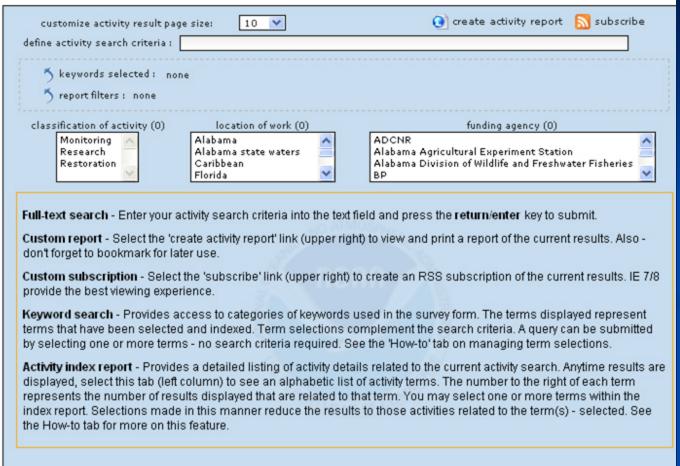




DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL Research and Monitoring Activities

report a problem - submit a suggestion?



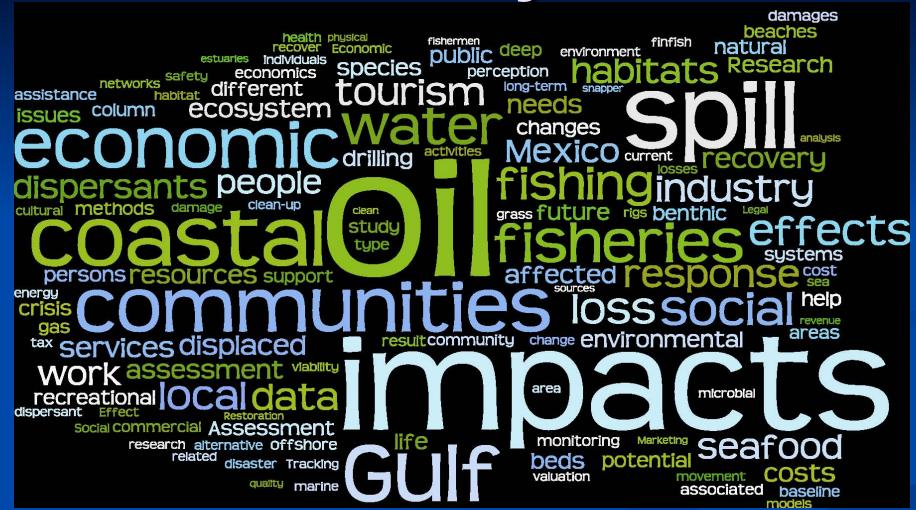


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Acknowledgements

- 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



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