

AGENDA
USCG-FIO MOU
MEETING ON SCIENCE COORDINATION IN OIL SPILL RESPONSE FOR FLORIDA

Wednesday April 2 – 8:30 am to 5 pm
FWRI Conference Room 3 A/B (capacity 45-50)
Florida FWC – Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
100 Eighth Ave SE
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Description: This meeting is being held for several reasons, the first is to follow up on the objective of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Coast Guard and the Florida Institute of Oceanography signed in June of 2012 to provide academic researchers an overview on how the USCG responds to major natural or anthropogenic emergencies such as hurricanes and oil spills. A broader objective of the MOU was that collectively, the USCG and FIO members would continue discussions and develop a plan of action on how the academic community could participate more directly in response activities (if they so chose). This would support the sharing of knowledge and understanding of the latest relevant research that may be unique to the Florida ecosystem with no impingement upon academic freedom. Secondly, the Florida Commission on Oil Spill Response Coordination (FCOOSRC, convened in 2012) in their final report to the Florida House, Senate, and Governor, made a series of targeted recommendations following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that highlighted a need for better coordination on oceanographic information relevant to response to oil spills and natural hazards. This meeting is intended to open the conversation between Federal, State, and Local responders and the academic community in Florida to foster that communication and information sharing. Federal/State emergency response experience has indicated that there are some data and information gaps in places within Florida that FIO and GOMRI researchers may be able to help fill. It is also clear that there are distinct culture differences between emergency responders and academia that need to be worked out before any real cooperative progress forward is made. This meeting is intended to be collaborative information and culture sharing that will lead to a better prepared state in the midst of numerous natural and anthropogenic threats. Coordinated funding avenues and needs to support response and response planning efforts will be discussed.

Specific recommendations from the FCOOSRC Relevant to this meeting are as follows:

Full Report: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/commission.htm>

Recommendation 3:

State agencies and local agencies – and their respective supervisory local elected officials – with a role in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a SONS (Spill Of National Significance) should actively participate in USCG Area Contingency Plan (ACP) development and biennial drills and exercises.

Recommendation 4:

Regional Contingency Plans (RCPs) and Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) should be amended to ensure better organization, deployment, and management protocols for the Vessels of Opportunity program and relevant Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSROs). These plans should emphasize the importance of; airborne surveillance and monitoring, preference in hiring and contracting local resources, and the value of local knowledge and experience in assessing tidal impacts and flow patterns in predicting the movement of spilled oil.

Recommendation 5:

Initial state and local responses to oil spills threatening Florida's coastline (e.g., boom acquisition and placement, assembling and training cleanup personnel) should be improved through better area contingency planning, preapproved contracts, preparedness activities, and support for characterizing pre-impact baseline conditions.

Recommendation 6:

USCG oil spill contingency plans, state spill plans, and other plans, should be amended to ensure support for—and participation in—coastal mapping and oil spill movement, monitoring, modeling, and interoperable spatial data analysis (e.g., The Florida Marine Spill Analysis System, Digital Area Contingency Plans, Geospatial Assessment Tool for Operations and Response [GATOR], and the Environmental Response Management Application [ERMA]).

Recommendation 7:

USCG Regional Contingency Plans (RCPs) and Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) and any incident or unified commands established to respond to SONS affecting Florida should be amended to include (a) placing a USCG representative and RP representative in Emergency Operations Centers at each level of government when a spill approaches state waters; (b) consolidating public health and scientific research/information services at the incident command level to reduce redundancy and overlap; (c) incorporating local branches under the Incident Command System to ensure appropriate local involvement and integration into spill response and cleanup actions; and (d) coordinating and sharing data and information.

Recommendation 9:

Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) should improve identification, prioritization, and protection of environmentally sensitive areas/habitats through the use of state or region-specific information, best available technologies, tidal inlet protection strategies (TIPS), and application of sound science, engineering, and technical principles that consider water currents, tidal variations, and the effects of protective measures used in environmentally and economically sensitive areas.

Meeting Objectives:

- Provide an understanding to academic researchers on the Incident Command System (ICS) and where they may be able to contribute effectively.
- Provide an understanding to academic researchers on the need for operational data products and services – namely, the types of products and services needed and/or valuable to response OR planning as well as supporting them in getting to the point where access to those products and services are easier for planning and response purposes in Florida.
- Provide an understanding to academic researchers on the contingency planning process (Area Contingency Plans (ACPs), Regional Contingency Plans (RCPs), Regional Response Teams, and other specific plans) and how they feed response as well as where their research might help support that process.
- Connect academic researchers with Area Committees (ACs) that overlap the geographic regions of their research so that the ACs can get a better idea of what may be local to help support their planning and responses activities as well as keeping the researchers informed on Area Committee and Regional Response Team (RRT) activities.
- Develop a plan to geospatially assess the resources available in and around Florida to effectively support spill response AND response planning activities. These could be considered as; fine-scale operational oceanographic models, coastal ocean observing systems (tides, currents, meteorological, biological/chemical sensors), water quality, and baseline studies (habitat, fish & wildlife, pollution), mapping of natural and socio-economic features.

AGENDA as of 04/01/2014

Presenters: Please, no ACRONYMS unless spelled out followed by acronym, this meeting is “cultural exchange” across many disciplines.

Parking may be difficult, suggest walking or ride-sharing from local hotels. Passes available, ask Conference Call and AdobeConnect WebEx will be available. Test connection ahead of time please.

<https://fwc.adobeconnect.com/ism/>

Dial-in Conference Call: (712) 432-0360

Participant Code: 894185 followed by #.

Meeting Space Capacity: 60

Wi-Fi (secured) will be available

Coffee will be available

Box lunch available at \$8-\$10 contribution –Various sandwiches, salads, cookies, and drinks

0830-0900 – Sign in, Introductions, and Objectives Overview – Richard Knudsen (State Scientific Support Coordinator for Oil Spill Response), Bill Hogarth (Director – Florida Institute of Oceanography), Jim Jeansonne (ALT. NOAA SSC, based in St Petersburg)

0900-0945 – How the USCG Responds to Oil Spills – USCG District Seven and Eight/Regional Response Teams IV and VI (Gulf of Mexico, SE Atlantic, US Caribbean)

High level overview of the Incident Command System (ICS) with focus on The Environmental Unit and the National Response Structure.

Objectives: Gain understanding of the ICS response organization, structure, and function, Learn how academia can effectively have input through the Environmental Unit during response. Learn what activities/actions can and cant be paid for during a response. Pollution removal vs scientific studies. Use of Environmental Science meetings during response to engage with non-government resources and NRDA for response issues related to science and technical information, Identify Special Teams and their roles during response, Learn the role and importance of the JIC during response. Discuss roles of Area Committees, Regional Response Teams, and National Response Team. **LCDR Kimberly Chesteen, – United States Coast Guard District Seven - Chief, Contingency Preparedness & Exercise Branch**

0945-1000 - Overview of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research (ICOPR) - Mr. William Vocke, ICOPR Executive Director

1000-1015 - Break

1015-1100 - NOAA’s Role for Scientific Support to the Coast Guard

Objectives: Describe the roles and functions of the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator for Planning, Response, and conduit for academic, scientific, and technical components during spill response. Mr. Jim Jeansonne – Alternate NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator for USCG District Seven/Eight

1100-1230 - Overview of the Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO) and FIO Member Institutions – Invited Presenters (15 minute AGU format presentations) (presentations should be overview and audience appropriate)

Objectives: Discuss FIO and GoMRI (Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative) research that is ongoing and planned in and around Florida that could serve to improve understanding of the marine environment and help to improve response to any natural or anthropogenic emergency. Dr. Bill Hogarth

Box lunches available at 1200, speakers are asked to remain flexible on times. A short break will be given to get box lunches which will be outside the conference room by noon.

Overview of the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI)

Dr. Charles “Chuck” Wilson – Director – Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI)

Florida GoMRI Consortia Principle Investigators (or designated representatives) (CARTHE, DEEP-C, C-IMAGE):

CARTHE: CONSORTIUM FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH ON TRANSPORT OF HYDROCARBON IN THE ENVIRONMENT

<http://carthe.org/team/>

co-PI: Dr. Brian Haus, University of Miami

DEEP-C: DEEP SEA TO COAST CONNECTIVITY IN THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO

<http://deep-c.org>

Co-PI: Dr. Steve Morey, Florida State University

C-IMAGE: CENTER FOR INTEGRATED MODELING AND ANALYSIS OF GULF ECOSYSTEMS

<http://www.marine.usf.edu/c-image/>

Co-PI: Dr. David Hollander, University of South Florida

1230-1300 – Dr. William “Bill” Lehr – NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration in support of USCG

Objectives: Discuss NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration roles and operations for Support to the USCG, Describe products, and coordination mechanisms for academia for planning, research, response, and post response, Include key programs and contacts, Discuss best ways to involve NOAA up front for coordinated response initiatives, Include modeling needs inputs and outputs, biological resource issues, study reviews, guidance and collaboration. Dr Bill Lehr

1300-1315 - Break

1315-1430 - Modeling & Observing Systems Discussions/Presentations: Results overview from the USCG-FIO Modeling Meeting. Regional discussions on Coastal Ocean Observing Systems and Offshore/Nearshore/Estuarine Modeling

Objectives: Coastal Ocean Observing Systems and Oceanographic Models as well as information sharing technologies have expanded tremendously since before the Deepwater Horizon incident. The purpose of this session is to gain a broader understanding of what resources are available to effectively support planning and response activities in and around Florida.

Dr. Chris Barker – Oceanographer - NOAA Office of Response and Restoration – Emergency Response Division
The General NOAA Operational Modeling Environment (GNOME) and NOAA Spill Support to the USCG.

Dr. Chris Simoniello - Overview of Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) Assets (mapped/operational/data formats), Overview of SEACORA Assets (mapped/operational/data formats), Overview of CARACOOS Assets (mapped/operational/data formats)

Dr. Robert Weisberg – West Florida Shelf Ocean Observing and West Florida Shelf Model

Dr. Cameron Ainsworth – Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Modeling

1430-1500 – Marine Remote Sensing Discussions/Presentations

Objectives: Marine Remote Sensing saw great success in the Deepwater Horizon response and research continues to expand in this highly valuable field. This session will touch on recent improvements and efforts ongoing around the state that hold promise in supporting future natural or anthropogenic events

Dr. Chuanmin Hu (USF) – “Oil on Water” Marine Remote Sensing

Dr. Clifford Merz – USF (Coastal High-Frequency Radar in Florida)

1500-1600- Information Management and Common Operational Picture Coordination Discussions/Presentations –

Objectives: Information Management and maintaining a truly “Common” Common Operational Picture during the Deepwater Horizon response were a challenge across all groups involved. This session will discuss the various efforts and technologies employed in presenting pertinent geographic information with a focus on how academic data may be presented more effectively to support response objectives.

Mr. Richard Knudsen - Florida FWC – Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) – Center for Spatial Analysis - Florida Marine Spill Analysis System and Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) Data for Florida

Mr. Ryan Druyor – Florida FWC – Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) – Center for Spatial Analysis - USCG Geographic Response Plan (GRP) Data Viewer and GRP Development Process

Mr. Richard Butgereit – Florida Division of Emergency Management – State Emergency Response Team (SERT) - Geospatial Assessment Tools for Operations and Response (GATOR)

Mr. George Greatinger or Mr. Kevin Kirsch) or other designated representative) – NOAA Office of Response and Restoration – Assessment and Restoration Division – Gulf of Mexico Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) Support to the USCG.

1600-1700- Plan of Action Discussions/Presentations – Proposed Objectives

Objectives: Outline a plan of action to accomplish the following:

1. Connect researchers with Area Committees that overlap their geographic areas of study and coordinate researcher participation in contingency planning activities, even if it’s just “this is what we are doing here and this is what we have learned” presentations/discussions.
2. Prepare SPATIAL Inventory of Scientific Research, Data, Applications, and Services of Benefit to Oil Spill Response throughout Florida that can be used as a ready reference for the State, USCG, NOAA, COOS Associations, and Researchers. Include this spatial inventory in USCG Digital Area Contingency Plan GRP Data Viewer as well as ERMA for the Gulf of Mexico.
USCG Digital Area Contingency Plan GRP Data Viewer: <http://ocean.floridamarine.org/acpgrp>
NOAA Gulf of Mexico ERMA: <https://www.erma.unh.edu/gulfofmexico/erma.html>
State EOC GATOR: <http://map.floridadisaster.org/GATOR/map.html>
3. Prepare a plan to coordinate appropriate data sharing for high resolution offshore and nearshore modeling efforts throughout Florida that will support both academic and government operational needs in spill response, planning, and opportunistic oil spill research. There may very well be state level RESTORE Act money for this effort. Discuss funding options and methods.
4. Review FIO meeting for trajectory modeling from 2012. Conclusions, recommendations, outstanding action items, way ahead.
5. Discuss “Baseline” research needs as outlined in the MOU and make plans for next meetings/workshops towards that end.
6. Prepare a plan of action for USCG and FIO members to continue discussions and develop a plan of action on how the academic community would participate. This includes items outlined in the current MOU, as well as providing the USCG with access to, and understanding of, the latest relevant research that may be unique to the Florida ecosystem.
7. Prepare a plan for report on this meeting. FWRI and FIO will co-author.

1700- Adjourn