MASGC Oil Spill Community Forum Questions

WILDLIFE	
Question	**Response**
I have a product that is biodegradable, 100% natural organic material, suppresses hazardous fumes, can be used wet or dry. How can I get this product into the proper hands?	The Coast Guard is screening and evaluating oil spill technologies. For more information, refer to this link: http://eponline.com/articles/2010/06/09/coast-guard-panel-to-screen-evaluate-oil-spill-technologies.aspx.
How many Mississippi vessels are Hazmat trained and ready to go to work? It has been reported that 900+ boats are already trained, yet many of my family and friends who have turned in Vessels of Opportunity (VOO) contracts (myself included) have never been contacted to work for BP in any manner.	Currently 2,740 vessels are registered. 800 have been hired in Mississippi. http://blog.gulflive.com/mississippi-press-news/2010/07/bp_official_says_800_vessels_o.html
Why don't we close the Katrina cut that split the west end of Dauphin Island?	This is being done: http://www.fox10tv.com/dpp/news/gulf_oil_spill/project-to-fill-in-katrina-cut-begins
Can you provide C.O.A.S.T. with websites for meteorological data and "how to" for clarity tests for their volunteer shoreline observers?	Not sure what is meant by "how to" for clarity tests. Meteorological Information can be found at www.weather.gov.
We have a new technology with MSDS (?) and toxicity report that states we pose no threat to human, marine or aquatic life. How do we get this information into the appropriate hands?	The Coast Guard is screening and evaluating oil spill technologies. For more information, refer to this link: http://eponline.com/articles/2010/06/09/coast-guard-panel-to-screen-evaluate-oil-spill-technologies.aspx
MONITORING	
Question	**Response**
Voluntary organizations usually work with FEMA. How can we work with NOAA?	Volunteer information can be found at on the deepwater horizon website fact sheet: http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/posted/2931/Fact_Sheet_on_Volunteer_Programs_6_15_10.674403.pdf
If a hurricane hits, will we have been taught how to respond to this unique situation?	Everyone should take on all of the regular preparedness procedures that FEMA and the National Weather Service suggests. Preparedness information can be found at the following two websites: 1) http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/intro.shtml and 2) http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/index.shtm
Looking for a website for state water testing of oil spill bayou water; also independent accepted water quality test sites.	There is a website where data is available: www.epa.gov/bpspill; there is a Google Earth application here that allows viewing of data on water, sediment and air.
Where can I get information about the hazards to the health of regular offshore workers working out of Fourchon, Venice, Mobile to the other working rigs in the Gulf? Where can I have access to the transcripts for these sessions?	The regional Sea Grant website: http://gulfseagrant.tamu.edu/oilspill/index.htm

LEGAL	
Question	**Response**
How will we homeowners near (and on) the beachfront or waterfront, recover from loss of property value due to the damage resulting from the spill (e.g., wildlife, tourist attractions, quality of life and livelihood). My example: In the 900 block of South Beach Blvd. in Bay St. Louis, our properties and some rebuilt homes (post-Katrina) are within 100 yards of the water's edge on the seawall. People within 2 blocks of Beach Blvd. are seriously impacted on future property values as the entirety of the oil spill aftermath are recognized. After Katrina, we lost half our property value. After BP, we may lose half of what's left.	Generally speaking, a homeowner would make a claim for property damage. The amount (or value) of the loss would be calculated by looking at the value before the spill compared to the value now. The difference between the two values would be the amount of damages the homeowner suffered to that property. Regarding damages to wildlife, these are considered natural resource damages which will be pursued by the state (not individuals) on behalf of the public. Loss of livelihood is a loss that should be pursued as a loss of income claim.
WEB	
Question	**Response**
I write to you in a sort of desperation that I'm sure you are seeing coast-wide. I am watching my home, the waters I have called my backyard since birth, be destroyed by an act of carelessness. There is only so much being angry or being sad will do; I want to be able to HELP my community and most specifically, the animals. They pull a heartstring of mine and have and will always be my "sensitive spot." I took a class (possibly unnecessarily) at the Civic Center which gave me the ability to work on the MS Cannon Project. It was a 4-hour class and at the end, I received a small, yellow card stating my certification. I have since tried countless times to become certified or find out ways to volunteer to clean animals. I know it is not a light undertaking and I have read about the risks and procedures. I STILL want to help and if you have any sort of information on where to go or with whom to speak, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Thank you so very much for your time.	Tristate is the primary contractor responsible for cleaning wildlife including birds. Have you visited their site? There is a link for volunteering. You are probably aware that the training you took does not allow you to clean animals because it is dangerous. I am sure it is a very competitive process to volunteer and become certified, but if this is something you want to do then you will have to be very persistent. http://www.tristatebird.org/
How do I apply for a job down there? I have family down there, and we are out of work here. Who do I contact about potential employment?	See this link: http://www.mdes.ms.gov/Home/index.html