OIL SPILL
6/3/2010 6 P.M.
MOBILE, ALABAMA

Disclaimer: This transcript begins with the first mention of the topic and introductions.

(0:00:00.6)
MODERATOR: I don't think we're going to have as large a crowd as we had last night. Reverend Lawrence Batista, Associate Pastor of the Revelation Baptist Church led us in prayer.

RESPONDENT: With every head bowed, every heart humbled, let us pray, Father God, in the mist of this difficult time, we are hand-made servants, enter to your presence with bowed heads and humbled hearts. We come Father to say thank you, thank you because you're good to us father, thank you Father God because we can trust you, thank you Father God. We come now asking that you will be with us. Be among us, be in us, as we accept, do the challenge that lies before us. Help us oh God that we may go forward in faith not in fear, in fellowship, not in anger, in love in peace. Realizing Father God that in the problems that you allow to come our way, there's always opportunity, the opportunity to us to display the godly quality that you have instill in all of those who are your children. Finally God, we ask, keep us mindful that a God that made the whole world, still holds it in His hands, and most certainly has planned a good outcome for us all. These thanks we ask oh God, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Your Son, Jesus the Christ, Amen.

(0:03:32.7)
MODERATOR: My name is LaDon Swann, I think we all offer our deepest condolences to the family of the 11 people who died on the Deepwater Horizon. I'm the director of Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium; Sea Grant has a 36-year history serving coastal communities in Alabama and Mississippi through applied research, education, outreach and extension. Two weeks ago, we hosted a small team of Alaskans who shared their first hand experiences from the Exxon Valdez oil spill with groups of coastal constituents. Today's forum, builds of those meetings, and draws on the knowledge, experiences of professionals from 21 federal and state agencies, research universities, private sector and non-profit organizations. Plans are already underway for the next phase of public outreach. We welcome your input. Before hearing from the two federal agencies, here in the head table, who are on the front lines of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, I'd like to share of few of my concerns, that probably some of you share as well. I'm worried that the coastal communities we have enjoyed for so long, will be

changed forever. I'm worried that the damage to our coastal and marine environment with which our lives are intertwined may not be repaired in our lifetimes. Our response to this technological disaster as individuals and organizations will be a true test of our character. Today's forum will certainly not calm the extreme visceral emotions that we all feel. What we do promise is compassion, honesty and respect. We know each of you will treat the professionals here today the same way. Before moving to the five stations, prepared for you, actually there'll be four this morning, I thank everyone involved, especially thank those experts who have joined us to provide the best answers possible. The facilitators, those who the folks in the green, who are responsible in ensuring these meetings, are run in a professional manner. I also want to thank my Sea Grant staff. With that said, we like to get going, I know a lot of have questions, first speaker, we have four this morning; first speaker will be Commander Bob Brady with the U.S. Coast Guard.

BOB BRADY: Good morning. Just a couple of things, there's a lot of questions answered in a different form, if I give you one website, I'll give you deepwaterhorizonresponse.com, all one word. You don't have a lot of the answers to questions about decon, how we plan on setting up the boom for marsh, for the marshes. The area contingency plan is in there, the decon plan is in there, there's a lot of good information in there, that's deepwaterhorizonresponse.com, one word. A little bit of myself, I'm a Coast Guard Reservist, I live in the Mobile area, I have about 26 years in the Coast Guard, about 13 active, about 13 reserves. If you're familiar with the reserves, where the people that get called in when they go into surge operations. Coast Guard has about 39,000 people, we probably another 8,200 reservist, and then, the auxiliary is another big component. The number I got this morning was about 12,000, they're a great group of people, they come in voluntarily, they don't get any compensation, and they do just outstanding work for the Coast Guard. On this response, the Coast Guard has roughly 23,000 people, there's about 5,000 of those are volunteers, the rest are Coast Guard personnel. About a third of our people right now are involved in the response. This morning, I want to give you an idea of what type of command structure we're using, what are our responses objectives are, strategies, tactics we're employing. The system we're working under is the Incident Command System. If you're interested in it there's a FEMA website, just go up on the FEMA website and you can find the information. Basically, it brings together all the players in this system. At any one time, there's a federal, state, the responsible

party, non-government organization, we include the National Guard in there. What it does, it gives everyone a seat at the table, allows you to make decisions with everybody's input. The big component for Alabama is the Alabama has a seat at the table; they have a whole group of people that they're in there, so your voice is being heard. The way the unified command, the National Incident Commander for this response is Admiral Thad Allen, the area commander is Admiral Mary Landry. We have it broken up into three unified commands, there's on in New Orleans, I'm sorry, there's on in Houma, Louisiana, that handles all the off-shore skimming in the state of Louisiana. There's another one in Houston, that's one that handling the dispersant, and the source of the well, where it used to be. There's a unified command in Mobile, we handle Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. Our response objective of course would be to keep all the oil off the beach which that's rather hard to do,. The next thing will be to mitigate the damage that the oil can cause. That's our plan. To do, get as much to the oil as far off shore as we possible can. What we're not able to get off shore through the off-shore skimmers, we'll try to get and close in with the smallest skimmers. If some of it makes landfall, we have the teams prepared to go in a clean up the oil on shore. Some of the other tactics we're using right now, we have approximately a million feet of boom deployed right now. It's just slightly less than that, about 990,000. We're doing aerial surveillance flight each day, I went up on one myself, it was with the Mississippi Air National Guard. They're using sensor equipment, forward looking infrareds, TV's that can zoom in on it. They're examining the boom; any boom that's damaged is getting replaced in a relatively quick time. They can do the come back from the flight, turn the information around in three hours if they need to. There's also Civil Air Patrols flying, NOAA's flying, Coast Guard's flying. We're doing a number of flights to try and spot the oil and get to it as quickly as we can. We went to a new surveillance, we're going to do a patrol that is a shoreline patrol and out 3 miles, 6 miles, 10 miles to try catch as much oil as we can, before it hits the beach. You may have heard about some boom that left the area that's coming back. I don't know if it arrived today or not, it was scheduled to come up back here. We're pushing the fight as far off shore as we can, trying to make, trying prevent the oil from making a big impact, hopefully everything will come together. There's a, again that website is a really good website if you have any questions, probably worth visiting it to see the information there. That's kind of our plan, how we plan on dealing with the oil, thank you.

(0:12:59.2)

LADON: Our next speaker is Bob Dickey, he's local, but he runs the National FDA Seafood Safety Lab on Dauphin Island. Bob's been around here, 24, 26 years. He has a lot of firsthand knowledge about seafood safety. FDA is heavily involved in ensuring that the seafood that we consume stays as safe it has been.

BOB DICKEY: Good morning everyone. My name is Bob Dickey, I'm the Director of the FDA Division of Science and Technology located at Dolphin Island, the facility has been on Dauphin Island since 1963 under various names, our main mission is to do research on Seafood Safety and to develop the knowledge and tools necessary to assure the safety of fisheries, products harvested in our coastal waters. And work in concert with the states on all three coasts to assure, develop the answers that we need to ensure seafood safety. FDA is closely monitoring the situation and has been since the onset on April 20 when the Deepwater Horizon explosion occurred. The FDA is working very closely with all five, all the coastal states to develop plans along with NOAA, our federal colleagues, NOAA and EPA and CDC to bring fisheries back on line as soon as we possibly can after the oil spill has cleared. I realized that we are obviously not near that point yet, my colleagues in NOAA, EPA are on the front lines providing the response and try to get things under control. FDA is involved with establishing the criteria and the protocols for assuring the safety of seafood after the oil spills has gone. Basically, it's a three-step process in its core. Once the oil has cleared the water, there’s no evidence of water on the surface or in the water column, FDA, NOAA and EPA will begin sampling of seafood species in those areas and testing them for residues of hydrocarbon that are present in the crude petroleum. Once that is done, it will, the information, the data, will be sent back to NOAA who has the statutory authority to open and close fisheries, and in concert with FDA and EPA will determine whether fisheries can be reopened. I am here to assure you that your federal agencies are working in very close coordination developing these plans, keeping the states informed. Your health commissioners for each of the states, we hold regular calls on developing the criteria for assuring that the seafood is wholesome, healthy and uncontaminated. These deliberations have been occurring for nearly a month now. We came online with this very early on. There is quite a history of oil spills from this country. We're trying to learn from the previous oil spills. Many of the responses that we have in the past, we've tried different things to both contain, in our post-spill recovery efforts. We're applying those lessons from Exxon Valdez forward to our responses today. You'll hear from my

colleagues from EPA and NOAA, also from Coast Guard as you heard here, a lot of what we are doing is being coordinated and taking account of knowledge that has been gained in the past. I'll be in the Fisheries and Wildlife session following this opening session, if you have any additional questions on the protocols that we're trying to establish and work through our state colleagues, our health laboratories, to respond to seafood safety issue or concerns that you might have. Thank you very much. I look forward to your questions.

(0:17:34.8)
MODERATOR: L.D. can you hear me? My voice has never been a problem. Our next speaker is Stan Meilburg with EPA. Stan is the acting director for Region 4 out of Atlanta. He coordinates closely with other EPA regions. He's going to share some of the monitoring work that EPA is doing.

STAN: Good morning, and I thank everybody for being here. What I want to do this morning is talk a little bit about EPA's role in this response together with our other federal, local and state and partners. Before I get started, to thank LaDon for the work of consortium in organizing these forums, both the one here this morning as well as the one yesterday morning in Biloxi and the one last night here in this very room. It think it's been, LaDon, a tremendous opportunity to hear from people, get questions answered. These events do not happen by accident, we're really very grateful for you setting up the forum and providing for this opportunity. I also would be remiss if I didn't do a shout out to Roberta Swann who works on the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program and is a great partner with EPA. We get a team approach here, we're grateful for that support as well. You can't start out talking about this event without first remembering, as LaDon did, that we have 11 families, who've lost loved ones in this event. On behalf of EPA I would like to extend my condolences to the family to those who lost their lives, as well to those injured and their families on the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon. I want on behalf of EPA to express our concern for all the citizens of the Gulf Coast whose lives have been affected by this. This is a spill whose effects may last for many years. They're going to require the best efforts from all of us in the government or private sector to address them. Now, as Commander Brady and Bob Dickey both said, this is a joint approach that you have all the federal agencies working together, and I do want to particularly acknowledge my fellow federal, state and local responders and to thank them for the

ongoing efforts. In particular, I want to thank the Coast Guard who is the lead federal agency in this response under the Oil Pollution Act for their work as well as NOAA, and especially Buck for all his work that he is doing to help organize make the work move together in this response. This spill is one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time. You have thousands of federal responders in one way or another including hundreds of EPA staff who are focused on this. Now, LaDon mentioned that I am with Region 4, for those of you who are not experts in the wonderful ways of bureaucracy, EPA is divided into 10 regional offices of which Region 4, which is based in Atlanta, covers Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, as well as five other States. We work very closely with our colleagues with Region 6, which covers Louisiana and Texas, especially in our response like this, to make sure that we operate as one EPA, and as part of the unified command as one federal government. What I want to do here this morning is just give a brief overview of some of our air and water safety activities, which are some of our primary work in this response, as well as to discuss EPA's roles and actions on oil dispersants, which have raised a lot of questions. On the air quality monitoring side, we in the states of Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, operate a network of fixed air quality monitoring stations across the Gulf Coast region. We also have some specialized monitoring equipment that we have deployed for this particular event. For example, we have twin-engine aircraft called the ASPECT Aircraft, which is able to fly over and do monitoring for particulates and for other kinds of chemical constituents associated with the oil spill, especially during the offshore burning activities. We have two specialized buses which have the wonderful bureaucratic name of the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzers, or TAGA buses, which can drive up and down the Gulf Coast looking for evidence of any unusual chemical constituents. We had one that was a couple of days ago that made the run between Stennis Space Center and Perdido Key. They have been making their way in both Louisiana and across the Mississippi-Alabama-Florida area just checking to see if the readings look like we had expected them to be. We also have some other portable equipment that enables us to monitor for pollutant, such as particulate matter, hydrogen sulfide, as well as total Volatile Organic Compounds or VOCs, which might be associated with this oil as well as with the in situ burns. We're monitoring ozone levels. And, we're testing for specific hydrocarbons that may be present with crude oil including Benzene, Toluene and Xylene. We're also coordinating all the data with state monitors. We're analyzing and tracking this information daily. If you look on EPA's website, you'll be able to see daily

records of the information where we can get some in real time for ozone and for particular matter. Some are the more speciated hydrocarbons require additional analysis. So, there's a lag time between when you actually collect the sample, when you can out it up on the website. We're trying to make sure that information is up on the website as fast and currently as we can. I do have some good news, to date our onshore sampling of air has not identified levels of air pollutants above what we usually see in the Mississippi, Alabama, Florida Gulf Coast at this time of year. So, we haven't seen any signature spikes or other kind of air pollution impacts from the particular spill, but we are continuing with our state partners to watch the situation and to investigate reports of odors or other unusual events. Now, let me switch gears, and give you a brief summary on water quality monitoring. By water quality it's important or to be careful about what exactly I mean. EPA does not do deep-ocean water monitoring, that mostly goes on under the auspices of NOAA. We have done monitoring in estuarine areas as well as near shore and shoreline water quality monitoring samples. Mostly samples we collected about three, four weeks ago to establish base line data. So, if we saw impacts we know what we compare into, what was a reasonable baseline for comparison. We are continuing obviously to watch the situation as we've now have reports of on shore impacts of oil or tar balls or some of the other kind of material. Starting yesterday we began to do additional estuarine and near shore sampling, testing to more fully assess the water quality. This has been going on for a little longer because the impacts occurs first over the Louisiana, where they saw the oil impact hit first. We're following that protocol here in the Region 4 areas as well. It enables us to analyze both water and sediment samples on shore or near shore to detect chemicals that might be found in oil as well as the dispersants that have been used in the oil spill response. That leaves me to my last big area that is the dispersants themselves. As all of you know, in response to the spill the government’s had to make some very tough decision, including the use of dispersant chemical to break up the oil, speed up it's natural degradation. When this crisis occurred, the federal on scene coordinator in the Coast Guard, granted the BP authorization to use approved dispersants on the oil, on the surface of the water in the effort to mitigate the shore line impact of the oils spill on fisheries, nurseries, wetlands, other sensitive environments. It's worth saying a little bit about that. This is not one of those situations where you get to make a choice between a good option and a bad option. What you have is a choice between two options, both of which are bad. You got to make some choices and decisions nevertheless. And the underlying issues is, is it better to use some of these

dispersants to help break up the oil and potentially speed up it's natural degradation process, or is it better not to the dispersants and have the oil break up with some risk that you may get worse impacts on marshlands and sensitive areas especially. Nobody is very happy about either of these options, but those are the ones that we have. The dispersants themselves contain a mixtures of chemicals that when you apply them to the oil, as I mentioned, do break it down into smaller drops that enable, were bacteria can actual access those things, you can get more mixing to the water column, hopefully, potentially, speed up its degradation and minimize it's on shore impact. These do form a plume or a cloud of oil droplets in the water which mixes in the water column. We do have some unprecedented, at least in the United States, activities going on here, that BP has used dispersants in volumes that we haven't seen before in the United States, although these dispersants has been used elsewhere around the world. We haven't these kind of volume in the United States before. They're also using it in a different way, that one of the ways is being used is to inject some of the dispersants down at the place where the wellhead leak occurs 5,000 feet below the surface of the sea in hopes that it speeds up again the break of the oil as it moves towards the surface. Now we’ve been looking pretty carefully with NOAA at the information based on this, because a lot frankly we don't know. We've been trying to look at the data from the sub-surface applications each evening, to determine whether this can be continued. The good new is, since the sub-surface application was started, the information that we have at least, suggest that dissolved oxygen levels, the biological tests we have been doing, have been within the normal ranges, and they don't show that there's been an adverse impact from the subsurface injection. But it is an environmental trade off, as I mentioned. We think that the dispersants will breakdown over the course of weeks, but the long-term effects on aquatic ecosystem and aquatic life are not fully understood. We want to proceed with a lot of caution. For this reason, we require BP to implement a sampling and monitoring plan so that we could get an early warning on any adverse environmental effects. We're also, because we are so concern about the things that we don’t know, EPA and the Coast Guard issued an order to BP to eliminate, if operationally possible, the surface dispersant applications. Remember, there are two different types, there was actual spread on the surface, trying to break up oil on the surface, as well as the underground injection. We've been concern again on the volume, about a million gallons of these dispersants has been applied, about 250,000 gallons underneath, about 750,000 gallons on the surface. Back on May 26, EPA Administrator

Jackson issued a directive to BP to keep surface spray of dispersants to an absolute minimum and do not use them at all if it all possible, unless there was some very strong operational reason that you needed to do that. We've been continuing to direct BP to search for alternative and less toxic dispersants. We have had some arguments with BP about this; their original reaction was that these things weren't available. We did not feel that their analysis was adequate and have asked them to go back and look more closely. We're doing our own independent review on some of the science on this. One of the things we have learned from this experience already has been that we probably need better information about the way in which dispersants are approved for use. The President is going to ask for a supplemental appropriation for this, one of the aspects of that appropriation would be for additional resource so that we can better refine the test used to approve dispersants in the first place. Let me just close by noting, that we understand that this spill is a massive and potentially unprecedented disaster, we're also very keenly aware, that this spill has already affected many lives here and in the Gulf Coast region and the livelihood of countless people, Let me be clear about this, under the Oil Pollution Act, BP is the responsible party, they're the ones who are responsible for cleaning this thing up, for paying for it. EPA's role to do is to work alongside many other Federal and State Agencies to implement emergency oils spill response, to oversee BP's action. We're now preparing for additional support role in shore line assessment, clean-up operations. We are going to continue to provide full support to the Coast Guard, to the Unified Command, to monitor, identify, respond to potential threats to public health and in the environment. As a local Gulf Coast Community, such as this area assess the impact of the spill in their economies, EPA, in partnership with other State and Federal Agencies,a s well as other community stake holders, will do everything we can to assist in the clean-up from this terrible set of events. Thank you very much.

(0:30:53.2)
LADON: Before we move to our final speaker, last night Senator Shelby's staff were here I was remiss in not acknowledging them this morning, we have several elected officials, both local, state, national (0:31:10.1 inaudible) Senator Van Brooks id here, representing our state, I saw Congressman Bonner's staff come in as well. I appreciate you taking the time to come to hear what's said this morning, if I'd missed anyone else, if you would stand up, I'm glad you're here certainly part, thank you ma'am. Can you tell us where you're from? Thank you very much for coming. I firmly believe that our elected officials, I know; they’re just as concerned

about this as we are as citizens. They're doing everything that they can to help us as well. Our next speaker is Buck Sutter; Buck is the NOAA regional collaboration team coordinator. He is also taken known added responsibilities after the oil spill, I work with Buck quite a bit and I have for several years, I know his heart is in the right place, as well as everyone else here at this table and everyone out in the audience. So Buck.

BUCK: Good Morning everyone. I know that there's a lot of questions on the people's mind, we really want to emphasize that that's the main reason we're here. I encourage to please make sure that you go to whatever breakout room that you feel, that addresses the questions that you have, and move around, it's good to get and overview of what each of our agencies are doing. Unless we answer your specific questions, it's just basic knowledge. We may not know all the answers to what your questions are, obviously there are still a lot of unknown because the spill is still ongoing, but we do promise that we will get back to you. We'll say if we don't know, we'll say that. Each person that has a question that we don't know the answer to, we will have an opportunity to write that question down, we'll either go along with your email and contact information, we'll get that answer back to you directly. A lot of people really don't know who NOAA is. They hear about us mainly in the context of the hurricane center, obviously that's an area of huge concern, this particular area here. NOAA consists of several different parts, one is the weather service, which does do the hurricane forecast. And the weather service has been a big part of this particular effort in helping identify the trajectories of where the oil is going. There's also other parts that NOAA is involved in, one is the fisheries part, certainly closures are I'm sure people are mostly aware of. Also the endangered species, marine mammals, sea turtles a big part of what we are doing as far as reacting to the spill. We also have a lot of oceanographers that we work both for NOAA and for the different agencies particularly with the Navy in looking at, trying to determine where the oil's going, not just where it is right now, where using satellite and all the other modeling techniques to see where the oils is going, 24, 48, 72 hours from now. That's the main, one of the main bits information that we're using for the fisheries side to determine what areas are open, what areas are closed. For instance, yesterday the areas that were closed for fisheries were extended to almost 37% of the Gulf. It's my understanding that today, there's not going to be any closure, I may extend other closure, I can't say where it is right now. I think people would want to know once the oil spill ends, how are we going to reopen the fisheries. Bob talked a little bit

about that, we'll certainly answer any questions in the fisheries room about that. The main thing is that, we want to make sure we are prepared, we have our research vessels out there right now, taking water samples, tissue samples, we actually have been doing that right since the very first day of this event. As a matter of fact, two and a half hours when this event did happen, we had our first trajectory models that were published to determine where the oil is going. I figure that's an important part to understand is that NOAA's mission is mostly science, also in managing the fisheries, endangered species, we're here right from the very beginning; we'll be here through the whole process. Again this is like LaDon said, this is just a first of the several meetings that we're holding as the process goes through because of people don't know what's going on, their general assumption is that they'll make up their own information. Because people want to know what's going on. Our job within the government is to be completely transparent. What do we know, what don't we know, that's really the purpose of us being here again this morning. One of the big impacts is going to be obviously, you guys are feeling it right now, where I live also, is the economic impact. That's another big part of where NOAA has a role in determining what the sociological impacts are going to be, as well as the economic and eco-system impacts. I think the biggest thing that we can have you walk away from, all the different federal agencies, also not the federal agencies, the state agencies, the universities are all part of this program working together, we're not repeating each other's job, wasting a lot of time or money and getting the information as quickly as it possibly can. I think at this point it's probably best to have Ann come up and talk a little bit about the process on how we can address your specific questions. We look forward to trying to answer the best we can. Thank you.

(0:37:34.7)
MODERATOR: Before Ann shares with you how we're going to run the remainder of the meeting, I want to acknowledge everyone; I can't name everyone because that would take two hours. Everyone in the green vest are facilitators they represent a lot of programs, local programs. People here that live in the communities have been working hard to protect the environment and the economies for a long time. They have, no pun intended, a vested interest in success what we're trying to do here, public outreach is very important to us, we want to communicate with you, we intend on doing that. As I mentioned earlier, this is part of the process we will continue. As I mentioned last night, when you organize an event like this, any event for that matter, you deal with two different tracks, you deal

with program track, we have 21 people here who are very well qualified to do the best they can to answer the questions that are answerable. We also have the process side of it, and Ann Weaver with NOAA Coastal Service Center, the Gulf Coast Service Center, has taken home the charge, making sure the process and the meeting runs well in the collaboration with all the facilitators. I'll turn it over to Ann now.

ANN: Thanks LaDon. Good morning everyone, my name is Ann Weaver; I am with the NOAA Gulf Coast Service Center as LaDon just said. I am also a resident of coastal Mississippi; so I share LaDon's concerns about our heritage and the changes that may be coming about. We want to be able to answer as many questions as possible in the time that we have available this morning; we have staged our 21 experts around the building coordinated by issue so that you can go to the experts and ask the questions. We will also be providing transcripts of each of the breakout area, if there are questions happening, one that you're interested in but you're in a different one, you'll be able to read those transcripts. You can select where you want to go, you can stay in one room all day long or you can rotate from room to room depending on what your interests are. In each of the rooms, you'll see several people with these yellow vests on, they will be the coordinators in the room of the information flow. They will be keeping track of who has a question and when it's your turn to ask the question. We request that all the participants follow as set of ground rules while you are in the room. There are still a lot of unknowns as we've heard this morning. We'd like for you to respect our experts when they tell you that they don't know the answer to a question. But, what we will do is to provide you a form that you can write your question on with you contact information so that we can get you that information as quickly as possible after this forum. So if an expert in the room tells you they don't know, they really don't know. We will try to get you that information as quickly as possible. We also ask that in the rooms, you have put your phones on silent so that you don't interrupt the people that are speaking or asking questions. Respect your fellow participants and have them the person asking the question will be the only one in the room at that time talking and allow the experts to answer the questions without interrupting them. Please wait to be acknowledged before you start to ask your question. In order for us to make a transcript, we need for you to be at the microphone when you ask the question, so that we can capture that question in the transcript. One person gets to ask a question at a time, and your facilitators will let you know when it's your turn at the microphone. Please limit your question to

two minutes. If you haven't posed your questions after a minute and a half you're facilitator will let you know that you have 30 seconds longer to post your question. Please ask one question at a time, if you have more than one question, you can get back in the line as many times as you want to. You get to ask one question, when then experts answer it, and the panel will give it to the person they think can best answer your question, or you can direct your question to a panel member specifically. You will also get one follow-on question, and then you can get back in line as many times as you want to. You should have received a yellow, it was yellow last night, today it's pink, a pink sheet or an orange sheet when you first came in. I want to tell you where each of these rooms are. The stations are listed in the far left column, in the center column is the list of experts that we have in each of those sessions. And on the far right is the facilitator's names. Some of the facilitators may have been rotated around the room, around into different rooms, but for the most part; this is who will be in each of the sessions. This morning we have combined the fisheries and wildlife session with the monitoring and data session due to the number of experts that we have available this morning. That room will be right here. That will be fisheries and wildlife and monitoring and data. Okay. Business and personal finance has several experts available, and that room is located as you go out this hallway, you are going to make a left to the round rotunda that has an escalator in it, the business and personal finance will be on the right, at the far back of that rotunda. There will be signs like this one right outside of that door. The technological disaster and mental health has very interesting experts in there who have dealt with oil spill disasters in the past, the stress and management of those oil spills, that room is also of that round rotunda which is on your left. It is on the right but closer to the front, we'll also have a sign out front. Legal perspectives has two people in there from the Mississippi Sea Grant Law Program, and they will be able to answer questions about filing claims or litigation outreach, that type of thing, and that room is directly behind us. We'll go down this hall, out the glass doors and into the room behind us. Those are our four sessions for today. If you have questions, find one of us in a green vest, we will do our best to answer logistical questions this morning or give you a card for an expert question. We're going to reconvene in about five minutes in our rooms. We'll go for about an hour and a half, if there are questions wind down before that, we'll stop earlier. If you have more questions, we'll give you cards after the hour and a half to fill out. Alright? Any questions from the audience about the logistics?

RESPONDENT: (0:45:59.8 Inaudible)

ANN: You are welcome to go to each of the rooms and ask those questions individually. We're not going to take any questions form the floor as a large group.

RESPONDENT: (0:46:16.1 inaudible)

ANN: Lisa Jackson, who is the administrator of the EPA is in town today, that is taking up the time of a lot of our EPA people. Okay great, thank you so much. We reconvene in our breakout room in about five minutes. Oh, we have another question from the back.

RESPONDENT: (0:46:55.0 inaudible)

(0:46:59.2)
LADON: It's a very good question, we're making tape recordings of all the sessions, that's how many, three, nine, about 12 hours audio from the three meetings, we' will be sending those off, probably early next week to the stenographer to make transcripts, that's why we ask you to put down your email if you have one, we will then send you a link from a website where you can download those. We only have, there's a regional oil spill website that was put together by the four Sea Grant Programs that will be linked there, it will be a link to multiple places. Yes, Sir, one more quick question.

RESPONDENT: ***[0:47:50.9 inaudible]***

(0:47:58.1)
LADON: These are public meetings, and they will be available to everyone.

RESPONDENT: ***[0:48:06.1 inaudible]***

(0:48:12.3)
LADON: Yes, Melissa Schneider is coordinating with several others with the media. We can certainly do that. Thank you. We're going to adjourn right now ma'am. I don't know, you can talk to Stan about that. Thank you.

END OF AUDIO.