Impacts of Deepwater Horizon oil spill on wetlands in the Gulf of Mexico

August 11, 2015 - 9AM TO 3:30 PM
Slidell City Auditorium | 2056 2nd Street | Slidell, LA
Sea Grant-GoMRI
Sea Grant

- University-based programs
- Funded by NOAA and states
- 40+ year history serving the region
- Service-oriented and Non-advocacy
- Areas of emphasis
  - Research
  - Education
  - Extension
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Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative

Goal

Improve society’s ability to understand, respond to, and mitigate the effects of petroleum pollution and related stressors

Management

• 20-member, independent research board
• Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) – administers and manages the research program

$500 Million, 10-year investment

• Non-penalty funds
• $330+ million allocated
• 565+ publications
• 600+ datasets

Learn more at gulfresearchinitiative.org
Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative

1. **Physical distribution and dilution** of oil, gas, and dispersants.

2. **Chemical and biological degradation** of the oil and dispersants and interaction with coastal, open-ocean, and deep-water ecosystems.

3. **Environmental effects** of the oil and dispersants system on the sea floor, water column, coastal waters, habitats, and organisms and ecosystem recovery.

4. **Technology developments** for improved response, mitigation, detection, characterization, and remediation associated with oil spills and gas releases.

5. **Impact of oil spills on public health** including behavioral, socioeconomic, environmental risk assessment, community capacity.
Salt Marsh Biophysical Parameters from Northern Gulf Coast Salt Marshes, June - October 2011

UDI: R3.x174.000:00001

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Abstract:
This dataset was developed for assessing and evaluating the productivity of marshes that were impacted by the BP DeepWater Horizon oil spill, thus providing state regulators important Information for restoration and management. Physical samples collected include marsh biophysical parameters such as SPAD measured chlorophyll content, vegetation fraction, leaf area index, canopy height and above ground green biomass. Marsh biophysical data were collected in the field using several instruments such as a SPAD chlorophyll meter, canopy height meter, and leaf area index meter for various sample collection. This data is available through the GRIIDC Data initiative.
GoMRI-supported outreach activities

• Consortia-led outreach
• Consortium for Ocean Leadership
• American Institute of Biological Sciences
• Northern Gulf Institute
• Smithsonian Ocean Portal
• Screen Scope
• Sea Grant Oil Spill Outreach program
Oil Spill Science Extension Specialists

Chris Hale
Emily Maung-Douglass
Steve Sempier
Larissa Graham
Monica Wilson

gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach
Target audiences

- Elected officials
- Emergency responders/managers
- Environmental non-profit staff
- Fishing industry/Recreational fishers
- Natural resource managers
- Port and harbor employees
- Public health officials
- Tourism industry
- GoMRI outreach specialists
- University/college researchers
Outreach Team outputs

Sharing peer-reviewed, published science

• Science outreach publications
  - Focused on science topics identified by our audiences
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• Science outreach publications
  - Focused on science topics identified by our audiences

• Science seminars & input sessions
  - Presentations by experts
  - Continue to identify needs of coastal audiences
Outreach Team outputs

Updates

• Website - http://gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach
• Email list
Thank you to our partners for helping us provide lunch!

We will start again at 12:50 pm