



Texas • Louisiana • Florida
Mississippi-Alabama

Responding to oil spills: Nearshore & beach habitats

Monday, November 13, 2017

9:00a CT – 4:00p CT (registration starts at 8:30a CT)

Disaster Response Center, 7344 Zeigler Blvd., Mobile, AL 36608

<https://gulfseagrant.org/responding-to-oil-spills-nearshore-beach-habitats/>



<u>Intro & background</u>	
9:00	Overview and Objectives – Larissa Graham, MASGC
9:15	Challenges to cleaning nearshore and beach habitats – Patrick Coleman, USCG
9:35	Potential injuries to nearshore and beach habitats – Jacqui Michel, RPI
9:55	Q & A
10:15	BREAK
<u>Research panel: What research is relevant to response?</u>	
10:30	Panelists: Frank Hernandez, University of Southern MS Stephan Howden, University of Southern MS Gregg Jacobs, Naval Research Laboratory Sabrina Parra, American Society for Engineering Education Postdoctoral Fellow Steven Morey, Florida State University Markus Huettel, Florida State University Ryan Rodgers, Florida State University
11:45	LUNCH
<u>Case studies: What have we learned from response?</u>	
1:00	Tracking oil using remote sensing – James Hanzalik, Clean Gulf Associates
1:15	Applying information to operations – Brent Koza, TX General Land Office
1:30	Tampa Bay Oil Spill: A Case Study of Buried Oil Removal – Jacqui Michel, RPI
1:45	Q & A
2:00	BREAK
<u>Bridging the Gap: Facilitated Discussion</u>	
2:15	Discussion: Bridging the gap between response science and research science
4:00	Adjourn

Emergency responder and university researcher collaboration

The Sea Grant Oil Spill Science Outreach team is conducting workshops across the Gulf to bring scientists, natural resource managers, and emergency responders together. We are holding these meetings throughout the region to look for commonalities and differences across the Gulf states. Participants will discuss challenges between researcher and responder collaborations, clearly communicating their specific needs. They will also identify data gaps, potential partnerships, and future networking opportunities. The team will facilitate discussion between groups to determine lingering oil spill questions, identify future research priorities, and encourage communication and partnerships between researchers and target audiences. We hope to identify tools or documents the oil spill outreach team can produce that would be useful for researchers and responders going forward.

The team is asking these questions across the Gulf:

1. How are research findings useful to oil spill responders? What role can academia play in response?
2. How can response efforts contribute to research opportunities?
3. What are the greatest challenges or barriers for these types of collaboration? What are some solutions to tackle these challenges?
4. Are there any tools or strategies that you feel would be useful to help bridge this gap?

Below is the summary from the past two workshops we have conducted. The workshops were held in Port Aransas, TX on April 14th, 2015, New Orleans, LA on February 6, 2017, and Biloxi, MS on October 26, 2017.

Summary:

Challenges:

- Need more 2-way communication.
 - o Not knowing whom to contact can cause conflict.
- Information needs to be streamlined when appropriate.
- Scientists need credentials to go out during a spill.
- Scientists do not understand process of getting research into response hands.
- No formal role available for researcher within Incident Command.

Possible solutions:

- Increase free educational courses offered and make accessible so scientists can get certifications needed to help in response.
- Scientists need to attend area committee meetings and be active to be prepared ahead of spill.
 - o Discussions need to take place well in advance to create connections and understanding between response and scientists.
- Responders should share observations of gaps in data or knowledge so that scientists can work to fill those gaps.
- Local points of contacts should be established and prepared to be called upon for a spill.
- Researchers need to understand response structure and responders to understand research needs.
- Academia needs to participate in Unified Command, Joint Information Center.
- Scientists bring credibility, help communicate science and justifications for decisions.