Welcome to our seminar

Oil Spill Response, Assessment, & Restoration: Marine Mammals

Chris Hale
Texas Sea Grant
What is Sea Grant?

**Mission:** Enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment

- University-based programs (33)
- Partially funded by NOAA and states
- Three areas of emphasis
  - Research
  - Education
  - Extension
- Service-oriented
- Trusted/non-advocacy honest brokers
- **51 years** of serving the nation’s coasts

[gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach](gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach)
Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI)

$500 million, 10-year investment

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

Focus areas:
1. How do oil and dispersants move around the environment?
2. How do oil and dispersants break down over time?
3. How do oil and dispersants impact the environment?
4. How can technology be improved?
5. How do oil spills impact people?

Learn more at gulfresearchinitiative.org

gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach

Photos: GoMRI
Our Target Audiences

- Fishing industry, commercial
- Fishing industry, for-hire
- Fishing industry, recreational
- Policy makers
- Emergency responders/managers
- Environmental non-profit staff
- Natural resource managers
- Public health officials
- Tourism industry
- GoMRI outreach specialists
- University/college researchers
- Oil & gas industry consultants

Booms made out of pom-poms are set to protect the sandy beach area. Credit: NOAA.

A BP decontamination facility in the Pascagoula River, MS. Credit: NOAA.

Researchers discuss field observations with NOAA’s Natural Resources Damage Assessment. Credit: NOAA.

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Oil Spill Science – Outreach products

Sharing peer-reviewed, published science

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

• Fisheries management
• Seafood testing
• Dispersants
• Frequently asked questions
• Oil on beaches
• Fish health
• Spill technology
• Dolphins, sea turtles, corals, & much more!

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Oil Spill Science – Outreach products

Sharing peer-reviewed, published science

- Science seminars & input sessions
  - Presentations by experts
  - Continue to identify needs of audiences

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Today’s goals:

• Share
• Define
• Discuss
• Connect

(This is each of you, by the way)
Thank You!

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