Gulf Sea Grant Oil Spill Science Outreach Program: Who we are, what we do, and why we’re here

Christine Hale
Oil Spill Extension Specialist
Texas Sea Grant

gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach
Workshop Background

Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI)
gulfresearchinitiative.org/

National Academies – Gulf Research Program
nationalacademies.org/gulf

Sea Grant Oil Spill Science Outreach Program
gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach
Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI)

10-year research program (2010 – 2020)

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
Large-Scale Research Program

- 267 projects
- >4,100 people
  - 1,090 scientists
  - 351 post docs
  - 1,154 grad students
  - 999 undergrad students
- 42 states
- 17 countries

*Figures accurate as of February 11, 2019
GoMRI Outputs

• 1,151 journal articles*
  • 403 Movement
  • 347 Chemistry
  • 527 Environment
  • 271 Technology
  • 41 People

• 1,993 data sets
  (3,000 identified)

*Figures accurate as of February 11, 2019; some articles classified in more than one category
Oil Spill Science Outreach Team

Chris Hale
Emily Maung-Douglass
Missy Partyka
Monica Wilson

Steve Sempier
Tara Skelton

gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach
Target audiences

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

[gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach]
Outreach products

Sharing peer-reviewed, published science

Needs assessments & input sessions
Science seminars & workshops
Extension publications
Web resources
Visuals, videos

gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach
New land formation in Atchafalaya Bay at the mouths of the Wax Lake Outlet and the Atchafalaya River. Credit: NASA.

The Gulf Research Program is an independent, science-based program founded in 2013 as part of legal settlements with the companies involved in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster. It seeks to enhance offshore energy system safety and protect human health and the environment by catalyzing advances in science, practice, and capacity to generate
Identifying needs

- NAS sponsored workshop August 2017, Washington D.C.
- Focus on human health, oil spills, response, industry
- Identified need for more local and regional input for improving preparedness in context of human health
- Feedback included Sea Grant identified as potential partner

(NASEM, 2017; Giamaria et al. 2018)
gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach
Collaborative Workshop Series

- Regional priority setting for health, social, and economic disruption from spills
- Sea Grant College Program partners in each region
- Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, West Coast, Mid-Atlantic
  - Houma, LA – December 4th & 5th, 2018
  - Anchorage, AK – February 20th & 21st, 2019
  - Virginia Beach, VA – March 29th, 2019
  - Santa Barbara, CA – April 5th, 2019
  - Mobile & Bayou La Batre, AL – May 6th & 7th, 2019
Collaborative Workshop Series

- West Coast Regional Workshop Planning Committee (lead is USC SG College Program)
- AK Regional Workshop Planning Committee (lead is Alaska SG College Program)
- Project Planning Committee (lead is Gulf SG Oil Spill Team)
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Workshop Planning Committee (lead is Virginia SG College Program)
- Gulf West Regional Workshop Planning Committee (lead is Texas SG College Program)
- Gulf East Regional Workshop Planning Committee (lead is MS-AL SG Consortium)

gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach
Project Outcomes

• Suggest protocols to include in existing response and regulatory frameworks
• List pilot project ideas
• Identify research and outreach priorities
• Identify resources available to address the topical issues
• Foster new connections and partnerships

gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach
Thank you!

chris.hale@tamu.edu

This work was made possible in part by a grant from the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, and in part by the Sea Grant programs of Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and Mississippi-Alabama. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations do not necessarily reflect the views of these organizations.