

METCALF INSTITUTE FOR MARINE & ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING
Science Seminar: Impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
April 6-8, 2011

Seminar Agenda

April 6, 2011

Participants arrive at Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium's DeFelice Marine Center for lunch by 12:00 p.m.

12-1	Introductions and Lunch <i>Overview of Science Seminar goals and expectations</i>	LUMCON Cafeteria
1:15-2:45	<i>An Introduction to the Natural History of the Gulf of Mexico</i> NANCY RABALAIS, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, moderator M. SCOTT MILES, Louisiana State University School of the Coast and Environment EDWARD CHESNEY, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium The Gulf of Mexico is the ninth largest body of water in the world, containing nearly half of America's coastal wetlands and supporting a significant portion of the nation's commercial fisheries. The Gulf has long been subject to the impacts of naturally occurring oil seeps and human activities. This opening session will provide an introduction to the natural history of the Gulf of Mexico prior to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (DHOS), including the occurrence of oil in Gulf waters, the causes and consequences of the infamous Gulf of Mexico "dead zone" and the state of regional fisheries.	Auditorium
2:45-3	Break	Cafeteria
3-4:30	<i>Science Translation I: Graphing for Communication of Complex Data</i> KELLY HENRY, LSU School of the Coast and Environment This session will provide an introduction to the basics of interpreting graphs and some commonly used statistical tools. Participants will learn about techniques for visualizing data and then apply these techniques in an informal "challenge" to interpret more complex graphs.	Auditorium
4:30-5	Break	
5:00-6:30	Reception and Dinner	Cafeteria
6:30-8	<i>Risk Communication I: Communication Lessons Learned from an Environmental Disaster</i> LISA LUNDY, LSU Manship School of Mass Communication, moderator MELISSA TROSCLAIR DAIGLE, Louisiana Sea Grant MICHEL CLAUDET, Terrebonne Parish President Risk communication plans for local, state, and federal institutions are informed by well-established research and prior experience. The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, however, demonstrated that these plans can be very difficult to follow in the heat of the moment. Panelists will discuss some of the basic tenets of effective risk communication, and what they learned about their communication strategies in the wake of the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill.	Auditorium
8 p.m.	Adjourn for evening	

Reminder: *Participants should read science paper assigned for the second Science Translation session.*

April 7, 2011

Reminder: Participants must wear shoes with non-skid soles and closed toes.

Participants arrive at LUMCON's dock prepared to board by 8:45 a.m.

7-8:30	Breakfast	Cafeteria
8:45	Participants board R/V <i>Acadiana</i>	Dock
9 a.m.-1 p.m.	<p><i>Measuring Impacts: An Introduction to Oceanographic Techniques</i> NICOLE COTTEN, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium SUNSHINE MENEZES, Metcalf Institute for Marine & Environmental Reporting The four-hour trip on the R/V <i>Acadiana</i> will take participants to upper Terrebonne Bay to gain a hands-on understanding of the tools and techniques used to collect oceanographic data in the wake of the Gulf Oil Spill. Participants will collect hydrographic data (salinity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen) and sample for nekton, plankton and benthos using standard methods. Bag lunches will be provided for participants during return trip.</p>	
1-1:30	Break	Cafeteria
1:30-2:10	<p><i>Oil Fate and Transport : Where Did the Oil Go, and When?</i> CHRISTOPHER D'ELIA, LSU School of the Coast and Environment, moderator M. SCOTT MILES, LSU School of the Coast and Environment EURICO D'SA, LSU Coastal Studies Institute While public attention has shifted toward the longer-term effects of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, it is still important to know the observed and projected oil distribution and the ways in which the oil has been partitioned and decomposed. In this session, the panelists will describe the current understanding about fate and transport of oil from the DHOS, using a variety of physical and chemical techniques.</p>	
2:10-2:30	Q&A	
2:30-3:15	<p><i>The Devil You Know: Dispersant Use and Impacts</i> SUNSHINE MENEZES, Metcalf Institute, moderator KALLIAT T. VALSARAJ, LSU Cain Department of Chemical Engineering ELIZABETH KUJAWINSKI, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute JOE GRIFFITT, University of Southern Mississippi One of the most contentious aspects of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill response was the use of chemicals to disperse the oil at depth. In this session, panelists will provide an overview of how dispersants work, what is known about the behavior of dispersants used to address the DHOS, and the current state of knowledge about dispersant toxicity.</p>	
3:15-3:30	Q&A	
3:30-3:45	Break	

3:45-5	<p><i>Science Translation II: Deconstructing a Scientific Publication</i> Partnering scientists: CHRIS D’ELIA, LSU; JOE GRIFFITT, USM; ELIZABETH KUJAWINSKI, WHOI; M. SCOTT MILES, LSU</p> <p>In this second session on the translation of published science for general audiences, participants will partner with scientists in four groups. Using a pre-assigned science journal article as a model, each group will discuss tools that can be used to effectively read and “translate” a science journal article for a news audience or visitorship. In the auditorium at the end of the exercise, groups will share tips gained during the session.</p> <p>Break-outs: Distance Learning Room, Teaching Lab #313, Lecture Room #202, Cafeteria</p>	Auditorium
5:30-6:30	Dinner	Cafeteria
6:30 p.m.	Adjourn for the evening	



April 8, 2011

7-8:45	Breakfast	Cafeteria
9-10:15 a.m.	<p><i>The Long Haul: Measuring Ecosystem Impacts</i> NANCY RABALAIS, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, moderator ALEXANDER KOLKER, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium PAUL SAMMARCO, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium ANDREW WHITEHEAD, LSU Department of Biological Sciences</p> <p>It will be years to decades before researchers have a clear understanding of how the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill affected Gulf of Mexico organisms and ecosystems. Panelists in this session will provide an introduction to some of the major scientific questions with regard to coastal and offshore impacts of the spill, with a focus on their specific research projects. Speakers will also highlight different approaches to these research questions, including assessing genetic responses, measuring biogeochemical changes, and recording changes in offshore populations. Finally, speakers will discuss potential challenges to measuring effects resulting from the use and availability of different technologies.</p>	Auditorium
10:15-10:30	Break	Cafeteria
10:30-11:45	<p><i>Assessing Seafood Safety in the Wake of an Oil Spill</i> SUNSHINE MENEZES, Metcalf Institute, moderator DANIEL HARRINGTON, LSU School of Public Health RANDY PAUSINA, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries RALPH PORTIER, LSU School of the Coast & Environment</p> <p>In spite of rigorous testing of Gulf seafood by numerous state and federal agencies, many people still doubt the safety of shellfish and finfish from the region. Some of these doubts come from a misunderstanding of the process by which seafood consumption advisories are developed, while others arise from concerns about whether the appropriate tests were used. In</p>	Auditorium

this session, panelists will discuss the methods used to develop seafood consumption advisories and the role of state agencies in developing and/or disseminating the advisories. Panelists will also describe specific efforts to assess seafood toxicity in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

12-1 p.m.	Lunch	Cafeteria
1:15-2:15	<p><i>Science Translation III: Turning a Science Paper into a Story/Presentation</i> Partnering scientists: CHRIS D'ELIA, LSU; DANIEL HARRINGTON, LSU; ALEXANDER KOLKER, LUMCON; NANCY RABALAIS, LUMCON; PAUL SAMMARCO, LUMCON In this final of three sessions on translating peer-reviewed research for public audiences, participants will again partner with scientists in five pre-assigned groups. Building on the science translation tools identified in previous sessions and with the help of partner scientists, participants will read and “translate” a science journal article and identify one or two key conclusions from the paper. They will then take the lead and help their scientist partners identify points of interest for various types of public audiences. In the auditorium, a participant from each group will summarize their conclusions and the scientist will pitch an idea for a public presentation or news story on those conclusions. Break-outs: Distance Learning Room, Teaching Lab #313, Lecture Room #202, Cafeteria (2 groups)</p>	Auditorium
2:15-2:30	Break	Cafeteria
2:30-3:45	<p><i>Risk Communication II: Implementing Lessons Learned</i> BRITT CHRISTENSEN, LSU Manship School of Mass Communication and SUNSHINE MENEZES, Metcalf Institute, moderators In this second of two sessions on risk communication, participants will share perspectives on the different requirements of risk communication for scientists, informal science educators, and journalists. Participants will then break into groups of roughly five people by profession and develop strategies for communicating risk, especially regarding the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, specific to informal science education settings or news reporting, using the tools and information gained during the Science Seminar. Finally, back in the auditorium, representatives from each group will present strategies and mechanisms developed in break out groups and respond to questions. Break-outs: Distance Learning Room, Teaching Lab #313, Lecture Room #202, Cafeteria</p>	Auditorium
3:45-4	Wrap-up	Auditorium
4 p.m.	Science Seminar concludes	