

# **Workshop on Coordinating R&D on Oil Spill Response in the Wake of the Deepwater Horizon**

**Lod Cook Center, Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA  
March 22-24, 2011**

In the years prior to the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill, the Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) developed several plans that prioritized research and development (R&D) needs on a range of spill response topics including: dispersants, modeling, human dimensions, and acquisition synthesis and management of information. In response to these R&D plans, many projects were conducted by coordinating funding among state, federal and private sector entities.

During and immediately after the DWH oil spill, R&D projects were rapidly solicited and funded by several entities to take advantage of the research opportunities offered by this major incident. Some examples are the initial projects funded under the BP Gulf Research Initiative (GRI) and the \$19M in RAPID grants funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). In addition, there have been several meetings convened by universities and government agencies to outline R&D needs for response technologies and on the effects of the oil during and after the DWH spill.

There is clearly the potential for overlap among these newly funded projects as well as with those funded prior to the DWH. To optimize the benefits of the limited funding available for research on spill response and restoration, it is important to coordinate among these activities. It is also important to address whether and how R&D needs have changed in the wake of the DWH. In addition, there is an interest among oil spill practitioners, responders and the oil spill community in further assessing the sampling and/or analytical protocols used on some of the newly funded projects to ensure that this work provides the most relevant results possible.

CRRC, a partnership between the University of New Hampshire and NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, will convene a focused workshop titled "Coordinating R&D on Oil Spill Response in the Wake of Deepwater Horizon" in Baton Rouge, LA on March 22-24, 2011. This workshop will bring together oil spill practitioners and researchers from the public and private sectors and academia to discuss R&D needs and projects. The workshop will include focus groups on:

- Dispersant effectiveness and effects
- Oil spill modeling
- Detection of oil
- Seafood safety monitoring
- Human dimensions and spill response
- Acquisition synthesis and data management

The goals of the workshop are to: (1) update the R&D needs for spill response for each of the topics, and (2) create a dialogue between researchers and practitioners to ensure the usefulness and application of the findings for future oil spill response.

This meeting will NOT cover any NRDA activities, response issues specific to the Arctic, or research focusing on the impacts of the DWH spill on the Gulf of Mexico. The workshop will involve plenary and breakout sessions. CRRC is working with the funding entities to identify the researchers they have funded on these spill response topics and with the oil spill response community to identify practitioners and responders. For further information contact: Kathy Mandsager ([kathy.mandsager@unh.edu](mailto:kathy.mandsager@unh.edu)) or Zachary Magdol ([zachary.magdol@unh.edu](mailto:zachary.magdol@unh.edu)).

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