

# Dispersants: What Do We Know and What Do We Need to Learn to Better Inform Decisions About Their Use?

GoMRI Conference  
Mobile, Alabama  
January 26, 2014



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# Dispersants: What Do We Know and What Do We Need to Learn to Better Inform Decisions About Their Use?

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January 26, 2014



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## Logistics

- Fire exits
- Restrooms
- Questions about logistics see Kathy Mandsager or me



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## GoMRI Dispersants Forum

- Hosted by GoMRI Research Board
- Facilitated by Center for Spills in the Environment



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**Coastal Response  
Research Center**  
(NOAA \$)

**Center for Spills in  
the Environment**  
(Non-NOAA \$)

- Conduct and Oversee Basic and Applied Research and Outreach on Spill Response and Restoration
- Transform Research Results into Practice
- Serve as Hub for Oil Spill R&D (ALL Stakeholders)
- Facilitate Collaboration on R&D Among Stakeholders



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## Purpose of Forum

- Discuss understanding of dispersants and their use and application
- Specific Questions:
  - What do we know about dispersants
  - Lessons learned from DWH
  - Questions remaining
  - New frontiers



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## Desired Outcomes of Forum

- Open conversation to share perspectives
- Basis for future gatherings on dispersants research
  - Informing policy and management decisions about when and how to use dispersants during spills
- CSE will produce summary report



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## Format of Today's Forum

- Plenary Talks:
  - Response: Dispersants and Their Use in Spills
  - Effects/Damage Assessment of Dispersants and Dispersed Oil
- Panels: Response and Effects
  - Lessons learned, Questions Remaining, New Frontiers
- Dialogue with Audience



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## Agenda

- Opening Remarks:
  - **Chuck Wilson**: Chief Scientist GoMRI
- Plenary Talks:
  - **Charlie Henry**: NOAA Office of Response and Restoration
  - **Ron Tjeerdema**: UC Davis Dept. Environmental Toxicology



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## Agenda

- Panels:
  - Response:
    - Michael Sams: US Coast Guard
    - Tom Coolbaugh: ExxonMobil
    - Richard Knudsen: State of Florida
    - Vijay John: GoMRI CMEDS, Tulane University
  - Effects...
    - Robert Dickey: Univ. Texas
    - Chris Robbins: Ocean Conservancy
    - Tom Coolbaugh: ExxonMobil
    - Jim Fabisiak: Univ. Pittsburgh
    - Edward Buskey: GoMRI DROPPS, Univ. Texas



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## Agenda

- Discussion/Dialog:
  - Protocol:
    - Use microphone
  - State:
    - Name
    - Affiliation



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## Facilitation Pledge

- I will recognize and encourage everyone to speak
- I commit to:
  - Being neutral, fair, kind, and faithful to the process
- Stop me if I am not doing this!



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## Discussion

- Listen to and hear one another
- Respect each other's views
- Open discussion and dialog
- Range of views will be documented and reflected in summary report
- Provide benefit/perspectives to all
- Basis for future gatherings on dispersants research



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