

Submerged Oil Working Group

November 11, 2015

Clean Gulf Conference, New Orleans LA

Meeting Notes

Participants: Victoria Broje, Lisa DiPinto, JT Ewing, Nancy Kinner, Scott Lundgren, Jacqui Michel

Updates on research and status of projects:

1. NOAA ERD (Scott Lundgren)
 - Updating GNOME and ADIOS trajectory models with new applications (e.g., 3-dimensional, inclusion of ice, source movement), modernizing modeling tools with new DWH information.
 - Recent sunken oil/subsurface oil spills: Slurry Oil Spill, Columbus KY – spilled into river - side-scan use; found it went to the bottom in 2 places. Refugio Spill, CA – did not find any sunken oil. Taylor pipeline (LA) – renewed effort by USCG to locate the source of constant sheen. Paige Doelling is SSC, in conjunction with UNH JHC, is doing some acoustic studies of Taylor site.
2. Research Planning Inc (Jacqui Michel)
 - API sunken oil detection and recovery technical report and corresponding operation guide is nearing completion. This draft document is in current legal review, but should be available at end of year. Will be posted on API website. It should be noted that this report has all new information. It is not a revision of another report (e.g., NAS). Recoverable oil only. New technologies were included. Responses with poor recovery were not included. There was a question about if JHC/CCOM gave bathymetry input? And the subsequent answer is no they were not contacted.)
3. Shell (Victoria Broje)
 - Dilbit study by Royal Society of Canada on all types of dilbit. Jacqui was a reviewer. December release of report. Commonly transportable crude oil: when it weathers it looks more like bitumen. [Note: PHMSA is mandated to update its regulations.]
4. NOAA ARD (Lisa DiPinto)

Much research and data is now publically available from DWH NRDA covering such topics as:

- Benthic footprint mapping
- Comparisons of natural seeps vs DWH
- Forensic studies
- Modeling; characterization, and associated injuries
- Documented injuries to deepwater corals; effects information (e.g., red crabs)
- Effects of submerged oil – documentation
- Water columns studies; rising cone of oil. Evaluation nearshore, stranding onshore, conceptual model on how it got there. Associated oil distribution as it went back out, persisted at depth from shoreline.

- Deepwater footprint, persistence of benthic oil with several field tests.
 - Lots of data, but important to note that they were focused only on NRDA. Generic injury assessment. Quantifying injury.
 - Have data that needs to be mined to determine information regarding other scenarios (e.g., lessons learned for response).
5. Texas GLO (JT Ewing)
- As state on-scene coordinator, Texas is experiencing increased response to submerged oil spills.
 - USCG is preparing to output heavy, Group IV oil regulations.
 - OSROs need to know and learn how to respond. See report previously mentioned by Jacqui.
6. BSEE (not in attendance, provided in written format by Lori Medley)
- Everything (studies and reports) are available on their website (<http://www.bsee.gov/Technology-and-Research/Oil-Spill-Response-Research/Categories/Chemical-Treating-Agents/>), including studies related to submerged oil
7. USCG RDC (Alex Balsley)
- Detection and remediation of oil in water column; project completion
 - This document was referenced and although not yet published, it is now available on the working group webpage (<https://crrc.unh.edu/submerged-oil-working-group>).
“CHAPMAN 2013 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES ON SUNKEN AND SUBMERGED OIL ASSESSMENT AND REMOVAL TECHNIQUES”