

**Senate Forum  
on****Advances in Oil Spill Response: Five Years After The Deepwater Horizon**

April 21, 2015

Time: 12:00 – 1:15 PM

Location: SD-G11

In October 2014, the Center for Spills in the Environment (CSE) at the University of New Hampshire hosted a two-day forum, on Oil Spill Response in the wake of the Exxon Valdez and the Deepwater Horizon (DWH), that brought together experts such as Admiral Thad Allen (Ret), Rear Admiral Peter Gautier, Fran Ulmer (Special Advisor to State Dept. on Arctic Sciences and Policy), Marcia McNutt (Editor-in-Chief, Science), David Kennedy (NOAA), Greg DeMarco (ExxonMobil) and many others to discuss lessons learned and our readiness for future disasters. One of the major important actions identified at the forum was the need for CSE to provide routine outreach to elected officials on the rapidly changing nature of spill response. CSE, known as a neutral and highly credible resource of information on spills and environmental disaster response and restoration, is a logical host because it has an excellent history of conducting informative briefings for Congressional, state and local officials on these topics.

This forum brings together experts from two key agencies (NOAA and U.S. Coast Guard), and the CSE to discuss the changes that have been made to address spill response in the intervening years and to meet future threats.

- **U.S. Coast Guard** will focus on the post-DWH policy, people, and equipment initiatives it has undertaken to address lessons learned from the response, and meet the challenges of new oil development and transportation patterns associated with the energy renaissance. (**Captain Claudia Gelzer, Chief, Marine Environmental Response**)
- **NOAA** will present information on the tools it has developed to manage the diverse and voluminous data generated during and after spills, efforts to better understand the effectiveness and effects of dispersants, and improvement in scientific support for response. (**Dave Westerholm, Director, Office of Response & Restoration**)
- **CSE** will report on the role of academic science during response and the broad array of research to improve response and restoration being conducted nationally. (**Nancy E. Kinner, UNH Director**)

If you plan to attend this event on April 21<sup>st</sup> or have any questions, please contact George Bernier at telephone number (202) 737-8944 or [gbernier@vsadc.com](mailto:gbernier@vsadc.com) or Kathy Mandsager at telephone number (603) 862-1545 or [kathy.mandsager@unh.edu](mailto:kathy.mandsager@unh.edu).