Center Strategic Plan

Focus Topics

Dispersant Use
- Continued focus for the Center
  - In Annual RFP since 2002
  - Workshop @ UNH September 2005
- Dispersants Working Group (DWG) - Center led
  - Goal: integrated research plan on dispersants - making the most of available research funds
  - Efforts pending USCG in-shore dispersant requirements Spring 2007
  - Dispersants Research Forum February 2007

Submerged Oil
- Increase in amount of heavy oils being transported/used in U.S.
  - Athos I in Delaware River
  - DBL 152 in Gulf
- Coincides with Congressional actions and USCG initiative
- UNH/NOAA have excellent research capabilities in coastal and ocean mapping - JHC/CCDM
- Center’s research needs workshop held at UNH December 2006

Oil-in-Ice
- Global warming/climate change
- Arctic ice melting, increased human activity
- Coincides with International Polar Year efforts
- Coincides with SINTEF Joint Industry Program
- Coincides with U.S. Arctic Research Commission concern

Identification of Research Needs
- NOAA Point of Contacts (POCs)
  - Create descriptions of priority areas
  - NOAA Contract on specific topic
  - Roused from peer review process

Rigorous Review Process
- 3-4 Peer reviews for each full proposal
- Minimum of one NOAA reviewer on each proposal
- Applicants given opportunity to rebut peer review comments
- Final panel review
- Recommend (by consensus) ~4-6 proposals
  - NOAA representative(s) on panel

AREAS OF EMPHASIS WITHIN EACH TOPIC

Dispersant Use
- Emphasis for NOAA in its role as natural resource trustee
- Unique focus of NOAA/Center vs. other oil spill entities (e.g., MMS, USCG)
- Continued emphasis for Center
  - Annual RFP topic since 2002
- Toxicity Working Group
- Toxicity Summit in Seattle August 2006

Integrated Modeling and Ocean Observing
- Fall Institute on integrated modeling @ UNH September 2006
- Add Biological end points to physical/chemical spill response and recovery models
- Models need to incorporate/interact with ocean observing information (e.g., HF radar, GPS-drifter and drogues)
- 3-D components to models
- Center to host workshop on coordinating IOOS capabilities with spill response, September 2007

Human Dimensions
- Identified as priority during Center’s November 2003 R&D workshop
- Focus of Center’s June 2006 research needs workshop
- Incorporate into planning, emergency response, damage assessment, and long-term restoration for spills
- ERD currently moving forward on this (Andrew Light, Igor Linkov, Dianne Gill)

Creation of a Request for Proposals (RFPs)

Identification of Research Needs
- Center’s Strategic Plan
- Center-hosted research needs workshops
- Center-initiated working groups
- Research needs meetings with NOAA staff

OR&R Special Projects
- Center funds ‘NOAA Sabbaticals’ at UNH or other Center-funded university/facility
- Unique professional development opportunity for OR&R staff
- Center funds up to 6 weeks of salary, associated travel, materials and equipment for selected OR&R staff
- 2 awards of up to $20K each annually

New Projects Selected
- Final decision made by UNH V.P. for Research based on panel recommendations and available funds
- New PIs required to submit QA Plans
- NOAA Liaison chosen for each new project
- Work with PIs and Co-Directors to improve the relevance of funded research to OR&R and the oil spill community
- Current liaisons include: Steve Thun, Glen Watabayashi, Chris Barker, John Rapp, Gary Shigenaka, CJ Beegle-Krause, Bill Lehr, Eric English, Alan Means, Jim Fair, and Debra Simecek-Beatty

OR&R Point of Contacts (POCs)
- In May, when applicable to IOOS or other spill related conference
- Center administers RFP online
- NOAA POCs address applicant questions

Educational Initiatives
- Summer Internships with NOAA
  - Program “tested” in 2005 with C. Henry
  - In 2008, up to 5 students will be funded to work with OR&R staff
  - Ph.D. program
  - Center funds Ph.D. students who collaborate with NOAA scientists
  - Unique opportunity for students to gain real world experience and learn about NOAA
- Opportunity for NOAA to contribute to the education of the next generation of scientists
- NOAA staff professional development
  - ERD and ARD fall institutes
- NOAA Summits (e.g., Toxicity Summit, August 2006)
- Center-funded research symposia (every 2 years, Seattle April 2007)

International Partnerships/Interactions
- SINTEF
- CEDRE
- OSRL & MCA
- ITOPF
- IMO
- Environment Canada
- DFO

New Hampshire University