Roll call

Todd Davison –Host
Stephanie Beard Robinson
Ann Weaver
Heidi Stiller
Heather Young
Julien Lartigue
Charlie Henry
Larry Handley
NWRC Scott, Kate and Chris
Pat Roscigno
Melaine Damour
Doug Jacobson
Laurie Bowie
Delmer Stamps
Phillip Turnipseed

Pat Roscigno
Pat is the Gulf of Mexico Chief for BOEM
He gave a presentation that highlights the work BOEM does in the Gulf
Please see the powerpoint for details. Highlights of the talk:

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, formerly MMS, has had an opportunity to rebrand themselves.
- The program is an applied program, making decisions based on science.
- They partner with other agencies to accomplish their mission, and have won awards for these collaborations.
- Making Science accessible to the public is a priority, through publications, posters, and data access

Scientific operations provide support for operational activities:

- Rigs to Reef
- Platform removals – BOEM is researching the impacts of removal. A robust, long term program is in place monitoring around the platforms. When Macondo occurred, the impacts were in the middle of the chemosynthetic/coral reef field. BOEM was monitoring the area, and a trap was in place. It had baseline information.
- Acoustics and Sperm whales - how does the drilling affect the whales
- Loop current studies
- Redirected to response to Macondo when it occurred
- Air quality
- Mudflow from the Mississippi River
- Environmental justice impacts from drilling activities
- Archeological Research
- Deepwater corals
- Protected habitat
- Endangered species

Trying to steer clear of NRDA and GMRI but complimenting and not duplicating – difficult to pursue research
Leverage program through partnerships

9 awards for partnerships

Questions:
HS – Rigs to reefs, what are your findings about the ecosystem values of the rigs as reefs
PR – In the literature but not synthesized
CH – LA Sea Grant has done some work
PR – worked for 20 years with the Coastal Marine Institute to educate future scientists
TD – NOAA would like to connect, we are beginning to work with FWS as RESTORE prescribes
PR – We are also part of process and we want to interact

Charlie Henry is the Director of the new Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center
Genesis of program after 2005 hurricane season
Congress appropriated funding in 2008 to enhance the Federal Response to disasters through the DRC
2012 October 15 dedication

Please see the power point for the Disaster Response Center and OR&R's capabilities and programs
Highlights of the presentation:
The DRC is located in NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration

- The office responds to 120-170 spills per year with 40 in Gulf
- Train responders in oil spill science at the DRC
- Settle 4-7 NRDA cases
- The office of Marine debris is also in OR&R and has plans to place a Gulf coordinator at the DRC
- Fly post disaster to use in damage assessment for NOAA and NGS
- Participate in the ESF3 in debris emissions – get commerce going again
- Scientific support to manage response
- Use lidar to look at depth of water during flooding and surge to assist with response management

DRC is a facility and a program, both enhance what we do within NOAA.

- It is a green building built to withstand Catagory-5 winds, located out of the flood zone on high ground and has a tornado shelter rated for force-5

Core business functions

- Command and control training wall, 24 monitors to present information during the disaster and response
- Training rooms
- Conference and breakout rooms for resolving issues during a disaster
- Establish an unprecedented regional presence and expand federal capacity to plan for and respond to all hazards

Enhance NOAA's response in the GOM and add value

Q&A
AW- Are fines levied for debris that is found with hazardous waste post storm?
CH – Yes, much of it is in the NRDA process. Some issues with tracking where it came from. We will know the manufacturer of the barrels but not who owned them when they became debris
AW – Why is the tornado shelter in the bathroom?
CH – Good question, I'll have to ask the architect. Probably because it is in the center of the building.

TD – Thank you all for joining.