

February 20, 2014 Federal Working group conference call

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**GOMA Update – Laura Bowie**

Upcoming Meetings:

- March 18 Rigs to Reefs co-hosted with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Council; link on web
- March 24-27 State of the Gulf Summit, hosted by the Harte Research Institute in Houston
- May 19-21 GOMA Priority Issue Team working groups meetings
- Celebration of GOMA's 10 year birthday will be during the PIT meetings

The PIT teams developed 24 regional projects and were able to find funding for 6 of them. They are looking for funding for the remaining projects. Laura will send the list to the group. The action plan is 99% complete; thoughts about the next update include a blue print. When there is a straw man and outline, Laura would like to vet the plans with the FWG.

**National Coastal Mapping Program – Jennifer Wozencraft** (Presentation attached)

Using lasers from airplanes, operations, research and development, the ACOE is collaborating with many agencies to advance the technology for mapping the coasts. Develop regional, repetitive, high-resolution, high-accuracy elevation and imagery data to build an understanding of how the coastal zone is changing. Facilitate management of sediment and projects at a regional or watershed scale.

We work with federal agencies, academia and private organizations to advance the usage of data. The primary operational program is the coastal mapping program. It is limited by water quality, so we get land but can't always get the bathymetry. We will be mapping the Gulf Coast the next time in 2015. We capture as many needs as we can when mapping an area, we have some flexibility in flight paths so that we can assist others that need the data. We are assisting with the Gulf of Mexico master mapping plan.

We are developing a ocean and coastal national mapping strategy so we can collaborate with other mapping assets around the country to collect data.

Examples of data applications

- Partnered with USGS to extract dunes, look at how dune height changes along the beach
- Zero Contour to study shoreline changes through time
- Ebb shoal shape and how it changes through time, and volume tracking
- Channel Navigability – how it changes through time and hot spots and predicting shoaling rates. This is used for asset management, how are changes in profile impact functional performance of channels.
- Land cover classification in collaboration with FEMA
- Post Sandy volume assessment along the beach
- Dune vegetation density
- Wetland Density
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
- Invasive Species detection
- Impervious surface density

There are products to assist with extracting data, and three indices to assist with interpretation.

Data dissemination through the navigation data integration framework: Navigation and coastal data bank, and NOAA's Coastal Services Center serves it up through the Digital Coast Partnership. If you are interested in the data or working with us, please contact Jennifer: [jennifer.m.wozencraft@usace.army.mil](mailto:jennifer.m.wozencraft@usace.army.mil) or 228-806-6044

Questions:

Is there special post disaster money? There is no special authority, but there is some through supplemental and some through FEMA.

Will we be able to tie this into the federal data base that we discussed at the last meeting?

Yes

Will you incorporate all the data from DWH spill once it becomes available?

No

### **Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Conference Summary – Chuck Wilson**

This was a great meeting, sponsored by GOMRI, NSF, EPA, FDA, GOMURC, GOMA and Ocean Leadership  
Some numbers of interests:

- 911 Total registrations
- 675 Participants (Oral or Poster Presenter)
- 236 Students
- 152 Oral Presentations
- 404 Poster Presentations
- 108 Universities
- 13 Countries
- 37 States and District of Columbia

The conference made tribute to Dr. Ray Highsmith, Director for the Ecosystems Impact of Oil and Gas Inputs to the Gulf (ECOGIG) consortium for the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative. Dr. Highsmith passed away on July 10, 2014 at his home in Oxford, MS.

The conference was designed to encourage participation and new technology. There were a total of 2 half day and 8 full day concurrent sessions with facilitated discussions. Each session had discussions about how to collaborate and integrate projects as we go forward.

There were many interesting presentations and conversations. Some highlights include:

- Special session on education and outreach on Sunday, debunking myths and misconceptions about oil in the Gulf.
- Data management presents great challenges, so there was a session to discuss how to capture, develop metadata, and use the data.
- Discussions about dispersants, how much, why do we use it, where can we improve, the fate of hydrocarbon chemicals.
- Other discussions about how do we do a better job communicating with journalists during a spill.

In order to move right into the discussions, we opted not to have an opening plenary and loose half of a day. We developed a video to welcome participants, review the objectives, and inform participants of the process. This seemed to work well.

One of the requirements for the session coordinators was to integrate the themes across disciplines. Each session was themed.

- Impact of physical processes on chemical and biological transport
- Fisheries impacts
- Socio economic and public health
- Coastal ecosystem coupling
- Fate of transport of oil spill residues
- Novel dispersant systems
- Public health, NIEH findings of workers
- Ecosystem monitoring strategies

In the closing plenary, Thad Allen talked about procedural changes and what needs to change in the next disaster. Jane Lubchenco talked about how to use the science to inform responders.

The Plenary is recorded so it will be on the website, each concurrent session gave report out that was great. The last day was well attended and enthusiastic. The final report will have a summary. The next conference will be February 2015 in Houston.

#### Questions

Will Individual presentations be available on the website? No, but abstracts will.