

Media Pitch

Fifth Anniversary of the Deepwater Oil Spill

April 10 marks five years since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the largest oil spill in U.S. history. The Sea Grant Programs in the Gulf of Mexico have four oil spill science outreach specialists who can discuss with media representatives various aspects of the spill and its aftermath.

Chris Hale is with the Texas Sea Grant College Program located in Corpus Christi. She can address questions that deal with environmental impacts, fisheries, and how communities can utilize existing science, and build their capacity, to prevent, prepare for, and mitigate spills impacts. She earned a master of science in marine and environmental science from the University of the Virgin Islands

Email: chris.hale@tamu.edu

Emily Maung-Douglass is with the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program and located in Baton Rouge. She can address questions concerning the chemical evolution and break-down of petroleum and dispersants in the environment, as well as their interactions with the ecosystem. She holds a doctorate in marine biosciences from the University of Delaware.

Email: edouglass@lsu.edu

Larissa Graham is with the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium and located in Mobile, Alabama. She can address public health and environmental impact questions, as well as seafood safety issues and impacts on tourism. Graham holds a master's degree in fisheries and wildlife science from Virginia Tech.

Email: Larissa.Graham@auburn.edu

Monica Wilson is with the Florida Sea Grant College Program and located in St. Petersburg. She can talk about how oil travels throughout the water column (distribution, dispersion and dilution). Wilson earned a doctorate from the University of South Florida in marine science with a concentration in physical oceanography.

Email: monicawilson447@ufl.edu

The mission of Sea Grant is to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment. There are 33 university-based Sea Grant programs throughout the coastal U.S. states and its territories. These programs are primarily supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the states in which the programs are located. For more information about the four Sea Grant programs that border the Gulf of Mexico, visit gulfseagrant.org.