

The 25th Information Transfer Meeting

January 6-8, 2009
New Orleans, Louisiana

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Tuesday Morning, January 6

8:00-11:30	Sand and Gravel	Josephine Bonaparte
8:00-11:15	GOM Deepwater Benthic Habitats I	Grand Salon
8:00-11:15	Hurricanes	East Salon

Tuesday Afternoon, January 6

1:00-3:00	Seafloor Disturbance	Josephine Bonaparte
1:00-3:45	GOM Deepwater Benthic Habitats II	Grand Salon
2:00-4:00	Climate Change	East Salon

Wednesday Morning, January 7

8:30-11:15	Air Quality States Issues	Josephine Bonaparte
8:30-11:30	GOM Deepwater Benthic Habitats III	Grand Salon
8:30-11:15	Socioeconomics I	East Salon

Wednesday Afternoon, January 7

1:00-4:00	Hydrates	Grand Salon
1:00-3:45	CIAP	East Salon
1:00-4:00	Socioeconomics II	Josephine Bonaparte

Thursday Morning, January 8

8:30-11:30	Air Quality I	Josephine Bonaparte
8:30-10:30	Platform and Natural Hard Bottom Ecology I	Grand Salon
8:30-11:00	Alternative Energy	East Salon

Thursday Afternoon, January 8

1:00-4:30	Air Quality II	Josephine Bonaparte
1:00-3:45	Platform and Natural Hard Bottom Ecology II	Grand Salon
1:00-4:15	Marine Archeology	East Salon

Session 1A
SAND AND GRAVEL

Chair: Colleen Finnegan, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Roger Amato, Minerals Management Service

Tuesday Morning, January 6
Room: Orleans

- 8:00 – 8:10** **Introduction**
- 8:10 – 8:40** **Wave-Bottom Interaction and Bottom Layer Dynamics in Evaluating Sand Mining at Sabine Bank for Coastal Restoration, Southwest Louisiana**
Dr. Gregory Stone
Louisiana State University
- 8:40 – 9:10** **Environmental Investigation of the Long-Term Use of Trinity and Tiger Shoals for Large-Scale Beach and Coastal Restoration in Louisiana**
Dr. Gregory Stone
Louisiana State University
- 9:10 – 9:40** **Development and Implementation Results of an Interactive Sand Resource Mapping System for Offshore Alabama**
Stephen Jones
Geological Survey of Alabama
- 9:40 – 9:55** **Break**
- 9:55 – 10:25** **Evaluation of the Tiger and Trinity Shoals Complex: A Potential Sand Resource for Restoration of the Central Louisiana Coast after Hurricanes Rita and Katrina**
Syed Khalil
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
- 10:25 – 10:55** **Evaluation of the Sand and Gravel Resources Suitable for Post-Rita Coastal Restoration Offshore Eastern Texas**
Juan Moya
Texas General Land Office
- 10:55 – 11:30** **Evaluation of the Sand and Gravel Resources Suitable for Post-Katrina Coastal Restoration in the St. Bernard Shoal Area Offshore Mississippi**
James Flocks
U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Mississippi

Session 1B
GOM Deepwater Benthic Habitats I

Chair: Gregory Boland, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: James Sinclair, Minerals Management Service

Tuesday Morning, January 6
Room: Grand Salon

MMS/NOAA OER/USGS Collaborative Studies of Deepwater Coral Habitats

- 8:00 – 8:15** **Introduction**
Gregory Boland
Minerals Management Service
- 8:15 – 8:45** **An Overview of International Multidisciplinary Studies on Deep-Sea Reefs in the Gulf of Mexico with Preliminary Observations from the Viosca Knoll Area**
Steve Ross
University of North Carolina-Wilmington
- 8:45 – 9:15** **Community Structure and Trophic Function of Deep-Reef Fish and Invertebrate Communities in the Gulf of Mexico**
Amada Demopolous
U.S. Geological Survey
- 9:15 – 9:45** **Genetic Discontinuity among Regional Populations of *Lophelia pertusa* in the North Atlantic Ocean**
Cheryl Morrison
U.S. Geological Survey
- 9:45 – 10:00** **Break**
- 10:00 – 10:30** **Introduction and Project Overview: New MMS/NOAA OER Study “*Lophelia II*” *Exploration and Research of Northern Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Natural and Artificial Hard Bottom Habitats with Emphasis on Coral Communities: Reefs, Rigs and Wrecks***
Jim Brooks
TDI Brooks Inc.
- 10:30 – 11:00** **Lophelia II: Preliminary Biological Findings from 2008 ROV Dives**
Peter Etnoyer
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
- 11:00 – 11:30** **Lophelia II: Preliminary Archeological Findings from 2008 ROV Dives**
Robert Church
C&C Technologies

Session 1C
HURRICANES

Chair: Bob Cameron, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Pat Fitzpatrick, Northern Gulf Institute

Tuesday Morning, January 6
Room: East Salon

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| 8:00 – 8:30 | NHC Operations/Research
Jack Beven
National Hurricane Center |
| 8:30 – 9:00 | Hurricane Hindcasting
Vince Cardone
Oceanweather |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Hurricane Damage Potential
Jill Hasling
Weather Research Center |
| 9:30 – 9:45 | Break |
| 9:45 – 10:15 | Unmanned Aircraft Hurricane Reconnaissance
Pat Fitzpatrick
Northern Gulf Institute |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Hurricane Reconnaissance
Richard Henning
Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Keesler AFB |
| 10:45– 11:15 | Paleotempestology: Geological Records of Prehistoric Hurricane Activity
Terrence McCloskey
Louisiana State University |

Session 1D
SEAFLOOR DISTURBANCE

Chair: Dave Moran, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Maureen Mulino, Minerals Management Service

Tuesday Afternoon, January 6
Room: Orleans

- 1:00 – 1:40** **Conventional Barge Anchoring Techniques and Avoidance Methods**
Don Eckert
Global Industries
- 1:40 – 2:20** **Establishing Mooring Foundations and Seafloor Interface**
Matt Smith
Delmar
- 2:20 – 2:35** **Break**
- 2:35 – 3:15** **Anchors for Deepwater Mooring – Planning and Installation**
Jamie Armstrong
Intermoor

Bob Wilde
Intermoor
- 3:15-4:00** **Environmental Protection Through Improved Communication**
Jack Garrett
GulfSafe

Session 1E
GOM Deepwater Benthic Habitats II

Chair: Gregory Boland, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: James Sinclair, Minerals Management Service

Tuesday Afternoon, January 6
Room: Grand Salon

MMS/NOAA OER/USGS Collaborative Studies: Continuation of deepwater coral session and *Investigations of Chemosynthetic Communities on the Lower Slope of the GOM*; Final Project Year

- 1:00 – 1:30** **Trends in *Lophelia* Microbiology: From the Gulf to Global**
Christina Kellogg
U.S. Geological Survey
- 1:30 – 1:45** **Introduction and Project Overview, Year 3: *Investigations of Chemosynthetic Communities on the Lower Continental Slope of the Gulf of Mexico: “Chemo III”***
Jim Brooks
TDI Brooks International
- 1:45 – 2:15** **Chemo III: Site Selection Criteria and Procedures**
Harry Roberts
Louisiana State University
- 2:15 – 2:45** **Break**
- 2:45 – 3:15** **Chemo III: Changes in Cold Seep and Hard Ground Community Structure along a Depth Gradient on the Louisiana Slope**
Chuck Fisher
Pennsylvania State University
- 3:15 – 3:45** **Food-web Structure of Seep Macrobenthos from the Gulf of Mexico**
Amada Demopoulos
U.S. Geological Survey
- 3:45 – 4:15** **The Mesopelagic Fishes of the North-Central Gulf of Mexico and Preliminary Trophodynamics Descriptions**
Steve Ross
University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Session 1F
CLIMATE CHANGE

Chair: Bob Cameron, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Richard McNider, University of Alabama-Huntsville

Tuesday Afternoon, January 6
Room: East Salon

- 2:00 – 2:30** **Hurricanes and Climate**
Pat Fitzpatrick
Northern Gulf Institute
- 2:30 – 3:00** **Climate Change Signal and Surface Temperatures**
Richard McNider
University of Alabama-Huntsville
- 3:00 – 3:30** **Climate Change as a Response to the Pacific Decadal Oscillation**
Roy Spencer
University of Alabama-Huntsville
- 3:30 – 4:00** **Global/Regional/Local Scale Climate Variability and Change**
Roger Pielke Sr.
Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences

Session 2A
AIR QUALITY STATES ISSUES

Chair: Bob Cameron, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Jim Smith, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Wednesday Morning, January 7
Room: Orleans

- 8:30 – 9:15** **Texas Air Quality Issues**
 Jim Smith
 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- 9:15 – 10:00** **Louisiana Air Quality Issues**
 Jennifer Mouton
 Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- 10:00 – 10:15** **Break**
- 10:15 – 11:00** **Mississippi Air Quality Issues**
 Jerry Beasley
 Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
- 11:00 – 11:45** **Alabama Air Quality Issues**
 Leigh Bacon
 Alabama Department of Environmental Management

Session 2B
GOM Deepwater Benthic Habitats III

Chair: Gregory Boland, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: James Sinclair, Minerals Management Service

Wednesday Morning, January 7
Room: Grand Salon

MMS/NOAA OER, USGS Collaborative Studies: *Investigations of Chemosynthetic Communities on the Lower Slope of the GOM*; Final Project Year.

- 8:30 – 9:00** **Quantitative Image Analyses of Cold Seep and Hard Ground Communities on the Lower Louisiana Slope**
Ian MacDonald
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
- 9:00 – 9:30** **Microbial Biogeochemistry Along the Deep Slope**
Marshall Bowles
University of Georgia
- 9:30 – 10:00** **Viruses in Cold Seep Sediments**
Christina Kellogg
U.S. Geological Survey
- 10:00-10:30** **Break**
- 10:30 – 11:00** **Trophic Landscape of Cold Seeps and Their Environs**
Robert Carney
Louisiana State University
- 11:00 – 11: 30** **A Molecular Perspective on Galatheoid Biodiversity at Deep-Sea Coral and Cold Seep Habitats in the Western North Atlantic Ocean**
Martha Nizinski
National Marine Fisheries Service

Session 2C
SOCIOECONOMICS I

Chair: Tim Holder, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Dr. Harry Luton, Minerals Management Service

Wednesday Morning, January 7
Room: East Salon

- 8:30 – 9:10** **Marginal Production in the Gulf of Mexico and Lost Production from Early Decommissioning – Economic, Environmental, and Regulatory Perspective**
Dr. Mark Kaiser
Louisiana State University
- 9:10 – 9:50** **Assessing Impacts of OCS Activities on Public Infrastructure, Services, and Population in Coastal Communities Following Hurricanes Rita and Katrina**
Dr. Matt Fannin
Louisiana State University
- 9:50 – 10:05** **Break**
- 10:05 – 10:45** **Spatial Restructuring and Fiscal Impacts in the Wake of Disaster: The Case of the Oil and Gas Industry Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita**
Dr. Tim Slack
Louisiana State University
- 10:45 – 11:15** **Diversifying Energy Supply Investments in Post Katrina Gulf of Mexico**
Dr. David Dismukes
Louisiana State University

Session 2D
HYDRATES

Chair: Bill Shedd, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Paul Godfriaux, Minerals Management Service

Wednesday Afternoon, January 7
Room: Grand Salon

- 1:00 – 1:40** **Abundance, Geophysical Character, and Distribution of “BSR’s”
(bottom simulating reflectors) in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic
Basins**
Bill Shedd
Minerals Management Service
- 1:40 – 2:20** **Biogenic Methane Hydrate In-place Resource Assessment of the Gulf
of Mexico**
Matt Frye
Minerals Management Service
- 2:20 – 2:35** **Break**
- 2:35 – 3:15** **Seafloor Reflectivity Anomalies and Their Relationship to Surficial
and Shallow Subsurface Gas Hydrate Occurrence**
Dr. Harry Roberts
Louisiana State University
- 3:15 – 4:00** **Recent Developments at the Mississippi Canyon 118 Hydrate
Observatory**
Dr. Tom McGee
University of Mississippi

Session 2E
CIAP (COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)

Chair: Bruce Baird, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Bob Martinson, Minerals Management Service

Wednesday Afternoon, January 7
Room: East Salon

- 1:00 – 1:30** **CIAP Program Update – Changes in Processes; Status of States**
Bruce Baird
Minerals Management Service
- 1:30 – 2:00** **Summary of Louisiana Grant Projects**
Bob Martinson
Minerals Management Service
- 2:00 – 2:30** **Louisiana Grant Project 1 (Lake Salvador Shoreline Protection)**
Greg Grandy
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
- 2:30 – 2:45** **Break**
- 2:45 – 3:15** **Louisiana Grant Project 2 (Maritime Forest Ridge and Marsh Restoration at Fourchon)**
Kerry St. Pe
Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
- 3:15 – 3:45** **Louisiana Grant Project 3 (Barataria Land Bridge Dedicated Dredging)**
Greg Grandy
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

Session 2F
SOCIOECONOMICS II

Chair: Dr. Harry Luton, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Sindy Chaky, Minerals Management Service

Wednesday Afternoon, January 7
Room: Orleans

- 1:00 – 1:20** **The History of the Gulf Coast Shipyards and Fabrication Industry**
Jason Theriot
University of Houston
- 1:20 – 1:40** **Augmenting Local Infrastructure to Meet Industry Needs:
Community Responses to the Fabrication and Shipbuilding Industries**
Dr. Diane Austin
University of Arizona
- 1:40 – 2:00** **From Boats to Bicycles: Diversification, Social Networks, and Culture
on Small Shipyards in Alabama and South Louisiana**
Victoria M. Phaneuf
University of Arizona
- 2:00 – 2:15** **Break**
- 2:15 – 2:35** **Exploring the Social Footprints of Ports**
Dr. Tom McGuire
University of Arizona
- 2:35 – 2:55** **Cones of Uncertainty: The Impact of Hurricanes on Gulf Coast
Shipbuilding and Fabrication Industries**
Ben McMahan
University of Arizona
- 2:55 – 4:00** **Discussion**

Session 3A
AIR QUALITY I

Chair: Holli Ensz, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Stacie Merritt, Minerals Management Service

Thursday Morning, January 8
Room: East Salon

- 8:30 – 9:10** **Gulf of Mexico Ozone Deposition - Air Quality Model Enhancements**
Dr. Daewon Byun
University of Houston
- 9:10 – 9:50** **Deployment of a MMS Radar Wind Profiler to the University of Houston Coastal Research Center in Galveston, Texas**
Dr. Daewon Byun
University of Houston
- 9:50 – 10:10** **Break**
- 10:10 – 10:50** **Evaluation of NASA Aura's Data Products for Use in Air Quality Studies Over the Gulf of Mexico**
Dr. Arastoo Pour Biazar
University of Alabama-Huntsville
- 10:50 – 11:30** **Satellite Data Assimilation Into Meteorological/Air Quality Models**
Dr. Arastoo Pour Biazar
University of Alabama-Huntsville

Session 3B

PLATFORM AND NATURAL HARD BOTTOM ECOLOGY I

Chair: Maureen Mulino, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: James Sinclair, Minerals Management Service

Thursday Morning, January 8
Room: Grand Salon

- 8:00 – 8:25** **Corals on Platforms Phase I and II; New Results**
Paul Sammarco
Louisiana Universities Marine Research Consortium
- 8:25 – 8:50** **Corals on Platforms Phase III; Project Summary**
Paul Sammarco
Louisiana Universities Marine Research Consortium
- 8:50 – 9:15** **Long-Term Monitoring at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary: 2006-2007**
Ken Deslarzes and Beth Zimmer
PBS&J Ecological Sciences
- 9:15 – 9:30** **Break**
- 9:30 – 9:55** **Post-Hurricane Assessment of Sensitive Habitats in the Vicinity of the Flower Garden Banks**
Don R. Deis
PBS&J Ecological Sciences
- 9:55 – 10:20** **Holocene Climate Change and the History of *Acropora* spp. at the Flower Garden Banks.**
William Precht
NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- 10:20 – 10:45** **Recent Research on the South Texas Topographic Features: Mapping**
Doug Weaver
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
- 10:45 – 11:10** **Recent Research on the South Texas Topographic Features: Ecology**
Wes Tunnell
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
- 11:10 – 11:30** **Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper and Their Use of Natural and Artificial Reefs**
Benny Gallaway
LGL Ecological Research Associates

Session 3C
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Chair: Gary Goeke, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Elizabeth Burkhard, Minerals Management Service

Thursday Morning, January 8
Room: Orleans

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| 8:30 – 8:45 | Introduction
Gary Goeke
Minerals Management Service |
| 8:45 – 9:15 | Alternative Energy Regulations
Andy Krueger
Minerals Management Service |
| 9:15 – 9:45 | Northeastern U.S. Offshore Wind Projects
Michelle Morin
Minerals Management Service |
| 9:45 – 10:00 | Break |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Southern U.S. Alternative Energy Projects
Thomas Bjerstedt
Minerals Management Service |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Texas Alternative Energy Program
Ben Rhames
Texas General Land Office |

Session 3D
AIR QUALITY II

Chair: Holli Ensz, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Stacie Merritt, Minerals Management Service

Thursday Afternoon, January 8
Room: Orleans

- 1:00 – 1:40** **Synthesis, Integration, and Analysis of Meteorological and Air Quality Data Study**
Jay Haney and Sharon Douglas
ICF International
- 1:40 – 2:20** **Years 2005 & 2008 Gulfwide Emissions Inventory Studies**
Darcy Wilson and Richard Billings
Eastern Research Group, Inc.
- 2:20 – 2:35** **Break**
- 2:35 – 3:15** **5-Year Meteorological Datasets for CALMET/CALPUFF and OCD5 Modeling of the Gulf of Mexico Region Study**
Jay Haney and Sharon Douglas
ICF International
- 3:15 – 3:55** **North and Central Atlantic Information Resources: Data Search and Literature Synthesis Study**
Bruce Kaplan
Mangi Environmental Group, Inc.

Craig Swanson
Applied Science Associates
- 3:55 – 4:30** **Greenhouse Gases**
Dirk Herkhof
Minerals Management Service

Session 3E
PLATFORM AND HARD BOTTOM ECOLOGY II

Chair: James Sinclair, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Maureen Mulino, Minerals Management Service

Thursday Afternoon, January 8
Room: Grand Salon

- 1:00 – 1:30** **Gulf SERPENT: Exploring Life in the Mesopelagic and Bathypelagic Zones of the Gulf of Mexico Using Industrial ROVs**
Mark Benfield
Louisiana State University
- 1:30 – 2:00** **Investigating the Linkages Between Mid-Shelf Petroleum Platforms and Pelagic Fishes Using Ultrasonic Telemetry**
Mark Benfield
Louisiana State University
- 2:00 – 2:30** **Acoustic Oil Platforms and Red Snapper Movement**
Jim Cowan
Louisiana State University
- 2:30 – 2:45** **Break**
- 2:45 – 3:15** **Platform Recruited Reef Fish, Phase II: Do Platforms Provide Habitat that Increases the Survival of Reef Fishes?**
Michael McDonough and Jim Cowan
Louisiana State University
- 3:15 – 3:45** **Platform Decommissioning Impact Study: Literature Database**
William Richkus
VERSAR
- 3:45 – 4:15** **Platform Decommissioning Impact Study: Fish Impacts**
Jim Cowan
Louisiana State University

Session 3F
MARINE ARCHEOLOGY

Chair: Jack Irion, Minerals Management Service
Co-Chair: Greg Kozlowski, Minerals Management Service

Thursday Afternoon, January 8
Room: East Salon

- 1:00 – 1:30** **“Battle of the Atlantic”**
Dave Alberg
NOAA Sanctuaries
- 1:30 – 2:00** **Viewshed Analyses for Alternative Energy Projects**
Joel Klein
Milner & Assoc.
- 2:00 – 2:30** **Deepwater Shipwrecks**
Rob Church
C&C Technologies
- 2:30 – 2:45** **Break**
- 2:45 – 3:15** **Putting Science on Film (followed by a showing of the documentary
“Mystery Mardi Gras Shipwreck.”)**
Rick Allen
Nautilus Productions
- 3:15 – 3:45** **Examining and Testing Prehistoric Archaeological Features on the
OCS**
Amanda Evans
Louisiana State University
- 3:45 – 4:15** **Hurricane Impacts on Shipwrecks**
Robert Gearhart
PBS&J Ecological Sciences