

## **Gulf-Alaska Knowledge Exchange**

### **Evaluating Socio-economic Impacts of Oil Spills, Advancing Transformative Recovery, and Enhancing Proactive Preparedness**

Day 1: Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. AKT

Day 2: Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. AKT



#### **Background**

The Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico are the two spills of record in the United States that resulted in detrimental and long-lasting environmental, economic, and societal impacts for both regions. In recognition of this shared history, the Gulf Research Program (GRP) will host a workshop series to bring together representatives from both regions to share their experiences, knowledge, strategies, and best practices to help prepare for and recover from potential future spills. This effort is in accord with GRP's settlement agreement language which refers to reducing risk of future harm to people, the environment, and the economy due to oil spills as a "national priority." An ad-hoc committee was appointed to organize three workshops that will engage researchers, practitioners, and other stakeholders from both regions.

#### **Workshop Description**

The Gulf-Alaska Knowledge Exchange Workshop series will hold its first of three workshops in Anchorage on October 8th and 9th. The workshop will focus on understanding the socio-economic impacts of oil spills for the fishing industry, the need for community driven science, and ways to increase proactive preparedness for future disasters by building community capacity in these regions. A diversity of speakers representing science, community organizations, agencies, and Tribes will provide context for the rich discussion by all participants in the workshop. Participation is open to all interested parties, and there will be a virtual attendance option. Following panel discussions by invited speakers, all interested parties are welcome to participate in breakout group discussions.

#### **Workshop Objectives**

1. Generate avenues for the exchange of ideas and experiences between various groups of people (i.e., community members, academics, government officials, resource managers, etc.) in the Gulf of Mexico and Gulf of Alaska regions.
2. Share lessons learned and remaining knowledge gaps around oil spill response, recovery, and preparation for vulnerable regions based on experience gained from the Exxon Valdez and Deep Water Horizon oil spills.
3. Foster relationships between community members in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska regions to bolster community resilience and be better prepared for future oil spills, climate change, and/or other disasters.

#### **Upcoming Workshop Details**

- **Workshop #2:** Thibodaux, LA in December 2024
- **Workshop #3:** Washington, D.C. in February 2025

## GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

### Evaluating Socio-economic Impacts of Oil Spills, Advancing Transformative Recovery, and Enhancing Proactive Preparedness

William A. Egan Civic & Convention Center  
Summit Hall 4  
555 W. Fifth Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501

#### Day 1: Tuesday, October 8, 2024

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- 9:00 AM Registration Opens (In-person participants only)
- 9:30 AM Opening Remarks from the Workshop Chair  
**ED Levine**  
Chair, Gulf-Alaska Knowledge Exchange Workshop Series
- 9:35 AM Welcome and Brief Intro to the Gulf Research Program  
**David Daniel**  
President Emeritus, The University of Texas at Dallas
- 9:40 AM Land Acknowledgement  
**Davin Holen**  
Coastal Community Resilience Specialist, Alaska Sea Grant  
Associate Professor, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- 9:45 AM Welcome Remarks  
**Donna Schantz**  
Executive Director, Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council
- 10:00 AM Workshop Overview and Introduction  
**Stephanie Houser**  
Program Officer, Gulf Research Program, NASEM
- 10:05 AM **Session 1: Socio-economic Impacts**  
A panel discuss focused on the immediate and anticipated longer term socio-economic impacts of oil spills and oil spill responses, including small-scale fisheries, tourism and the subsistence way of life.
- MODERATOR**  
**Fran Ulmer**  
Former Lieutenant Governor of Alaska  
2010 BP Deepwater Horizon Commission Member
- PANELISTS**  
**Sheri Buretta**  
Chairman of the Board, Chugach Alaska Corporation
- Sandy Ha Nguyen**  
Founder, Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
- Torie Baker**  
Cordova Marine Advisory Program Agent, Alaska Sea Grant (retired)
- Beth Gendler**  
President/CEO, Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism

- 11:00 AM      **Facilitated Breakout Discussion 1:** Identify and refine approaches to decrease socio-economic impacts of oil spills.
- 12:00 PM      Report-out from Breakout Discussion
- 12:30 PM      ***Lunch (provided for in-person attendees)***
- 1:30 PM      Session 2: Transformative Recovery**  
A panel discussion centered on community-focused science and how to include community wellbeing in recovery assessments.
- MODERATOR**  
**Davin Holen**
- PANELISTS**  
**Theresa Dardar**  
President, Lowlander Center; Elder, Pointe-aux-Chenes tribe
- Dave Kennedy**  
Commissioner, US Arctic Research Commission
- Jane Nguyen**  
Program Manager, Boat People SOS Gulf Coast Branch
- R.J. Kopchak**  
Development Director, Prince William Sound Science Center
- 2:30 PM      **Facilitated Breakout Discussion 2:** Identify and refine approaches to improve transformative recovery from oil spills.
- 3:30 PM      Report-out from Breakout Discussion
- 4:00 PM      Adjourn Workshop Day 1

----- *In-person Networking Reception to Follow (4:00 - 6:00 PM)* -----

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**Day 2: Wednesday, October 9, 2024**

- 9:00 AM      **Welcome Back and Summary Remarks from Day 1**  
**ED Levine**
- 9:05 AM      Session 3: Proactive Preparedness**  
A panel discussion focused on building community capacity and increasing community awareness and involvement in protocols before spills occur.
- MODERATOR**  
**Steve Sempier**  
Outreach and Deputy Director, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium
- PANELISTS**  
**Jereme Altendorf**  
Commander, US Coast Guard  
Senior Arctic Service Lead, Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies

**Tyronne Edwards**  
Founder, Zion Travelers Cooperative

**Sarah Allan**  
Alaska Regional Resource Coordinator, NOAA

**Brenda Dardar Robichaux**  
Former Principal Chief, United Houma Nation

- 10:05 PM      **Facilitated Breakout Discussion 3:** Identify and refine approaches to improve transformative recovery from oil spills.
- 11:05 PM      Report-out from Breakout Discussion
- 11:35 PM      ***Break***
- 11:45 PM**      **Workshop Wrap-up**  
**Francis Wiese**  
Senior Scholar, Gulf Research Program, NASEM
- 12:15 PM      Closing Remarks & Post-Event Questionnaire  
**ED Levine**
- 12:30 PM      ***Networking lunch (provided for in-person attendees)***