

# Sponsor Briefing for the Committee Progress and Opportunities toward Decreasing the Risk of Offshore Energy Operations

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Let me start by  
saying...





# A Quick Presentation...

1. A Little Bit about the GRP
2. The Committee's Statement of Task
3. Why Does the GRP Want This Study?
4. GRP Expectations and Uses for this Report

# A Little Bit About the GRP

What is the context for our study?



# The Gulf Research Program

**What:** In 2013, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine were endowed with \$500 million from criminal settlement fees from the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill.

**Purpose:** carry out [studies, projects, and other activities](#) in the public interest that [enhance offshore safety, environmental protection, and human health and community resilience](#)

**Timeline:** Endowment to be expended completely over 30-years (2013-2043)

**How:** Guided by the GRP's new Strategic Plan (2020-2024) and advisory Division Committee







# THE GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

Purpose: carry out studies, projects, and other activities in the public interest that **enhance offshore safety**, environmental protection, and human health and community resilience

The manner in which the studies, projects, and other activities are to be conducted will be **determined solely** by NAS.



# GRP Division Committee

## GRP EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Communications

Administration

Program Evaluation

Finance

Monitoring

## GRP Program Boards

**OFFSHORE ENERGY  
SAFETY**

**HEALTH &  
RESILIENCE**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**EDUCATION**

**DATA**

**Integrating Initiative #1 – Offshore Situation Room**

**Integrating Initiative #2 – Enhancing Community Resilience**

**Integrating Initiative #3 – Understanding Gulf Ocean Systems**

**Integrating Initiative #4 – Gulf Scholars Program**

**Integrating Initiative #5 – Data Fellowship Program**

**Integrating Initiative #6 – Consensus Study Series on Monitoring the Gulf for Progress and Change**



# Integrating Initiative 6: Progress of the Gulf Study Studies - Topics

**Environmental  
Stewardship and  
Protection**



***Long-Term  
Environmental Trends in  
the Gulf of Mexico***

**Offshore Energy  
Safety**



***Progress and Opportunities  
Toward Decreasing the Risk of  
Offshore Energy Operations***

**This study**



**Health and  
Resilience**



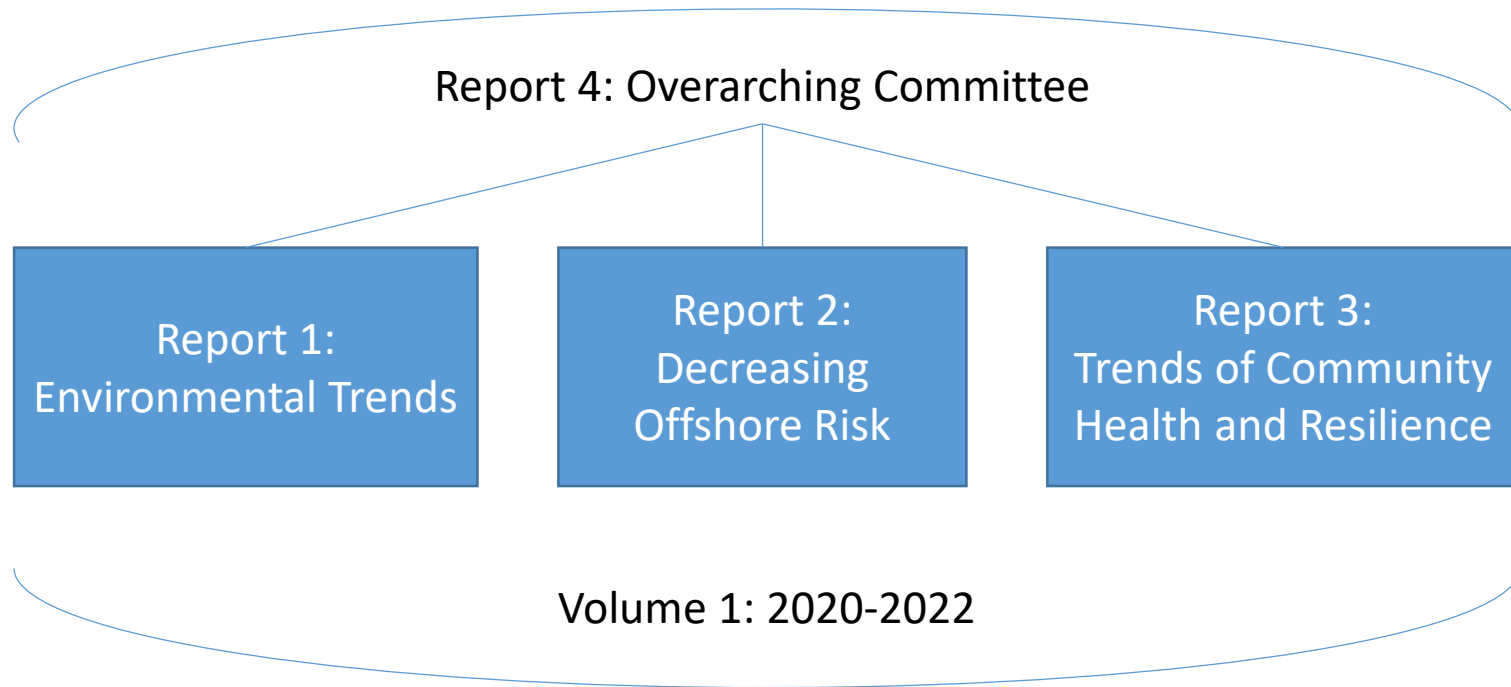
***Progress Toward Human Health  
and Community Resilience in  
the Gulf of Mexico Region***

Studies are the first in a series and will occur approximately every three years  
for the duration of the Gulf Research Program (through 2043)





# Putting a long-term series together



Volume 2: 2025	Volume 6: 2037
Volume 3: 2028	Volume 7: 2040
Volume 4: 2031	Volume 8: 2043
Volume 5: 2034	~Fini~

# Statement of Task

The Offshore Risk Committee



The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine will convene an ad-hoc committee to provide an assessment of the risk profile of offshore oil and gas operations over time. Specifically, this committee will examine issues related to and assess progress toward decreasing the systemic risks of offshore energy operations, keeping people and the environment safe as the Gulf of Mexico offshore energy industry evolves. In particular, the panel will:

- Define the current profile of systemic risks of offshore oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico that could lead to disasters. By systemic risks, we mean defining risks associated with the components of the system, the system itself, and how humans interact with the system, in which a failure of any part could lead to failure of the system as a whole. The panel may consider the risks of a system failure as well as the impact of those risks to humans and natural resources.
- Assess how various technological, regulatory, environmental, organizational, and process changes have contributed to increasing or decreasing the systemic risks of the offshore oil and gas operations since the release of the report *Macondo Well Deepwater Horizon Blowout: Lessons for Improving Offshore Drilling Safety* (2012) and other relevant reports.
- Identify the numerous recommendations made from these post-Deepwater Horizon reports and detail the ones implemented and major ones that were not.
- Identify critical gaps and prioritize future needs for increased understanding, communication, and management of systemic risks related to the offshore oil and gas industry. This task could build on previous efforts by the industry and regulators.
- Consider how the regulatory structure motivates or incentivizes technological, environmental, organizational, and process changes that could decrease the systemic risks of the offshore oil and gas operations.
- If appropriate, assess how activities (including workshops and grants) funded by the GRP and other funders have contributed to a better understanding and reduction of the systemic risks in offshore oil and gas operations.

The offshore energy industry is a high-hazard industry characterized by diverse and complex operations. The panel will rely on available incident, enforcement, and management system data, and regulator and industry input, supplemented by the panel's expertise.



# Committee Progress and Opportunities toward Decreasing the Risk of Offshore Energy Operations

## Charge:

- provide an assessment of the risk profile of offshore oil and gas operations over time
- examine issues related to and assess progress toward decreasing the systemic risks of offshore energy operations, keeping people and the environment safe as the Gulf of Mexico offshore energy industry evolves.



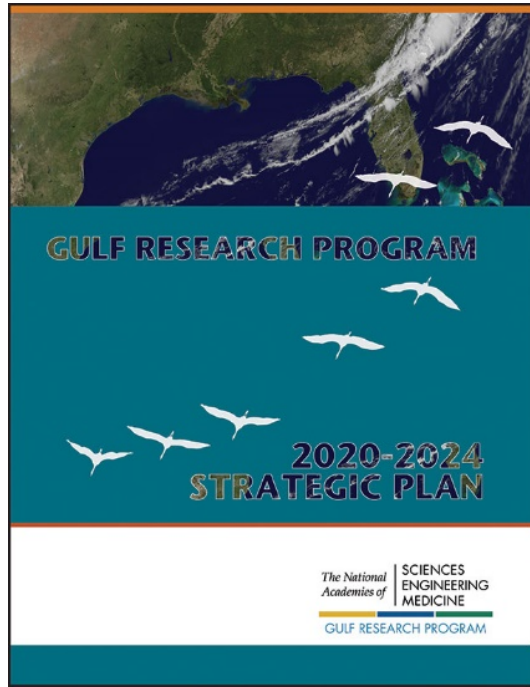


## ...but specifically...

- Define the current profile of systemic risks of offshore oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico that could lead to disasters.
- Assess how various technological, regulatory, environmental, organizational, and process changes have contributed to increasing or decreasing the systemic risks of the offshore oil and gas operations since 2012
- Identify critical gaps and prioritize future needs for increased understanding, communication, and management of systemic risks related to the offshore oil and gas industry.
- Consider how the regulatory structure motivates or incentivizes technological, environmental, organizational, and process changes that could decrease the systemic risks of the offshore oil and gas operations.
- If appropriate, assess how activities (including workshops and grants) funded by the GRP and other funders have contributed to a better understanding and reduction of the systemic risks in offshore oil and gas operations.

# Why does the GRP want this?

How will the GRP use this report?



Simple answer: it satisfies several of the GRP strategic approaches



## GRP Expectations

- The GRP would like this committee to do its best, tell the truth, and offer your best scientific observations, findings, and recommendations
- The Committee and its stakeholders to inform the GRP of relevant changes and updates related to this study



# How will the GRP Use This Report?

- The GRP would like to use this report to help us ask the right questions
- The GRP would like to use this report/series to create a scholarly contribution to the Gulf and its people of the trends, changes, and progress made in the region over the life of the GRP
- The GRP will produce this report as a scholarly, reference document for researchers, policy makers, and NGOs, including the GRP
- The GRP will use this report as a basis and a baseline for subsequent volumes
- The GRP will use these volumes and reports to keep the GRP programming current and relevant, based on the observations and findings of the report series.

Let me end  
where I began  
by saying...



# Thank you!

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<https://www.nationalacademies.org/gulf/gulf-research-program>