

Marine Technology Society and Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Webinar Series

In support of a collaboration between the Marine Technology Society and the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, the MTS will host a three part webinar series in support of a TechSurge focused on the effects of oil spills on the environment and public health occurring in February 2018.

Webinar 1

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

4 - 5pm ET

Topic: Introduction to the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI)

Description: The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) is investigating the impacts of the oil, dispersed oil, and dispersant on the ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico and affected coastal States in a broad context of improving fundamental understanding of the dynamics of such events and their environmental stresses and public health implications. The GoMRI is developing improved spill mitigation, oil and gas detection, characterization and remediation technologies.

The goal of the GoMRI is to improve society's ability to understand, respond to and mitigate the impacts of petroleum pollution and related stressors of the marine and coastal ecosystems, with an emphasis on conditions found in the Gulf of Mexico. Knowledge accrued will be applied to restoration and to improving the long-term environmental health of the Gulf of Mexico.

Speakers:

	<p>Dr. Charles "Chuck" A. Wilson serves as the GoMRI Chief Scientific Officer, which provides scientific and research advice and leadership to the GoMRI. Additionally, he supports the Research Board's efforts to ensure the intellectual quality, research effectiveness, and scientific independence of the \$500 million GoMRI research initiative.</p> <p>Dr. Wilson is a distinguished scientist and academic leader. He has held faculty and administrative posts at Louisiana State University (LSU), from an assistant professor in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences to full professor and department chairman. Most recently, he served as Executive Director of the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program, and prior to that as the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.</p>
	<p>Dr. Edward Buskey is a Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Marine Science at the University of Texas at Austin's Marine Science Institute. He is a biological oceanographer whose research interests include plankton ecology, effects of chemical pollutants on marine food webs, and estuarine ecology. He is Director of the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Dispersion Research on Oil: Physics and Plankton Studies consortium (DROPPS), leading researchers from eight universities and laboratories in the United States and Europe in studies of the effects of physical and chemical factors on the dispersal of oil in the marine environment, and the effects of this dispersed oil on marine organisms and ecosystems. He has also been the Research Director for the Mission-</p>

	Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve since its establishment in 2006, focusing on the role of freshwater inflows in arid South Texas on estuarine ecosystem structure and function.
	<p>Dr. Steven Murawski is a fisheries biologist and marine ecologist involved in understanding the impacts of human activities on the sustainability of ocean ecosystems. He has developed approaches for understanding the impacts of fishing on marine fish complexes exploited in mixed-species aggregations. Additionally, his work on impacts of marine protected areas and other management options has formed the scientific basis for regulation. Such assessments can help inform investments to rebuild the Gulf of Mexico from effects of the oil spill, loss of juvenile nursery areas, nutrient enrichment, overfishing and other factors.</p> <p>Dr. Murawski currently serves as Director of the Center for Integrated Analysis and Modeling of Gulf Ecosystems (C-IMAGE).</p>

Registration for the webinar:

TechSurge

Monday, February 5, 2018

Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA

Since 2011, the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) has enabled the investigation of the effects of oil spills on the environment and public health. The investigations yielded research results and technological advancements that will improve future studies and impact modeling efforts. This meeting will bring together the GoMRI and MTS communities, share research results and begin discussions of how the two communities might work together to better prepare for the next spill.

Registration for the TechSurge:

(<https://customer28304c632.portal.membersuite.com/events/ViewEvent.aspx?contextID=9f8a695e-0078-c7c8-89e3-0b3d8c8c3cb5>)

Webinar 2

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

4 - 5pm ET

Webinar 3

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

4 - 5pm ET

Speakers and registration links for Webinars 2 and 3 will be released in January 2018.