



OIL SPILL SCIENCE

SEA GRANT PROGRAMS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT: REGIONAL PRIORITY-SETTING FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC DISRUPTION FROM SPILLS

Starting July 2018, the Sea Grant Oil Spill Science Outreach Program is initiating a year-long project aimed at taking a multi-region approach to improving community preparedness for oil spills. This collaboration of the Gulf Research Program (GRP) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative; and Sea Grant programs around the country will feature a series of regional workshops focused on three broadly defined topical areas pertaining to oil spills: public health, social disruption, and economic impacts. The aim of the project is to identify regional-level needs and priorities for improving preparedness. This project follows up on a [2017 workshop](#) sponsored by the GRP that brought together oil spill and public health practitioners, the disaster research communities, and leaders from communities affected by oil spills.

MEETING LOCATIONS AND DATES

- **Prioritizing Health and Oil Spill Preparedness** - Houma, Louisiana - December 4-5, 2018
- **Setting Priorities for Health, Social, and Economic Disruptions from Spills in Alaska: Learning from the Past, Preparing for the Future** - Anchorage, AK - February 20-21, 2019
- **Mid-Atlantic Oil Spill - Are We Ready?** - Virginia Beach, VA - March 29, 2019
- **Prioritizing Santa Barbara oil spill preparedness and response** - Santa Barbara, CA - April 5, 2019
- **Preparing for oil spills in the Eastern Gulf: Health, economic resilience, and community well-being** - Mobile, AL - May 6-7, 2019
Bayou la Batre, AL - May 7, 2019

PURPOSE

- Raise awareness of the topical areas related to spills.
- Listen to those directly affected by spills.
- Identify regional level needs and priorities for improving preparedness.
- Promote networking among groups who may not have previously interacted.
- Identify resources to address gaps.

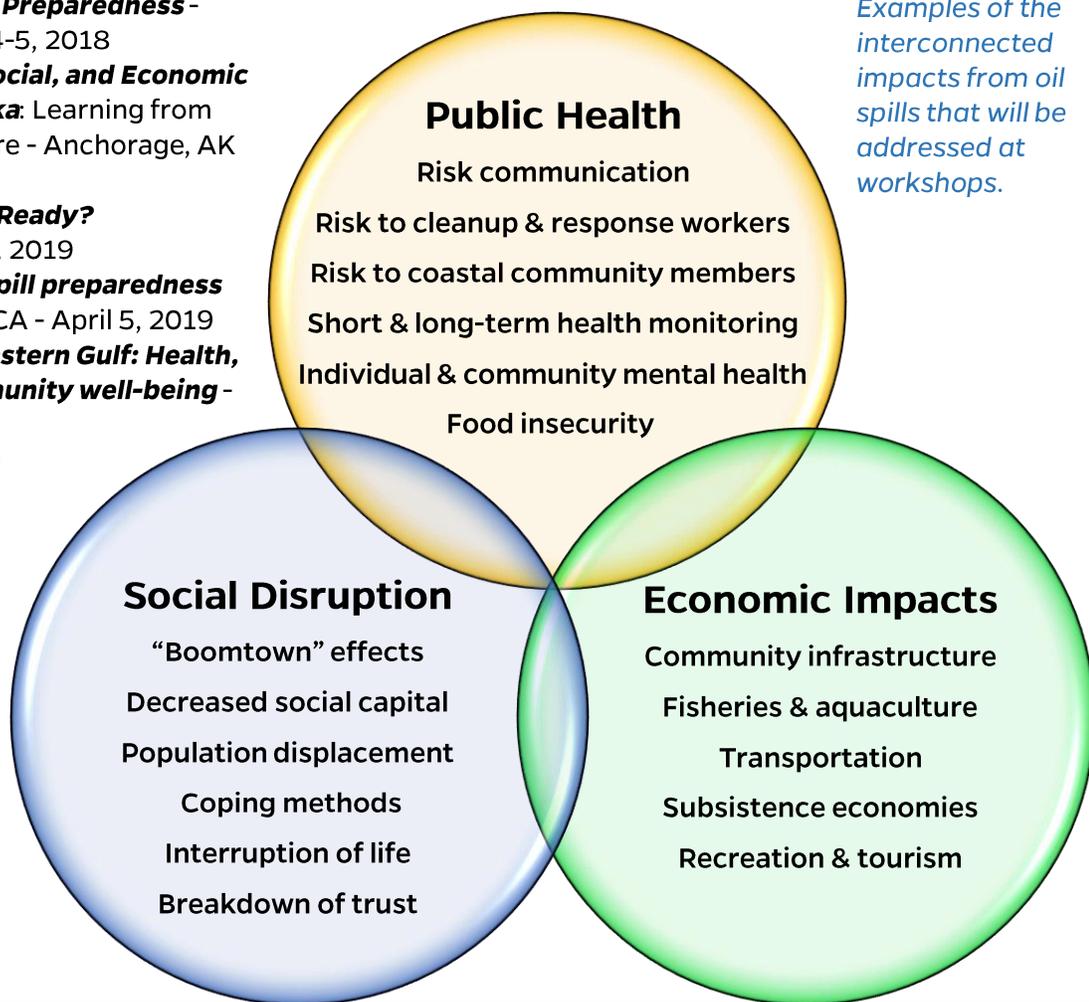


Figure 1:
Examples of the interconnected impacts from oil spills that will be addressed at workshops.

ANTICIPATED PARTICIPANTS

- Tribal communities
- Tourism industry
- Social workers
- Response sector
- Public health sector
- Industries and groups directly impacted by spills
- Formal and informal K-Grey educators
- Fishing communities
- Faith leaders
- Elected officials
- Academia

OUTCOMES AND DELIVERABLES

- Regional and inter-regional research and outreach priorities.
- Protocols that could be included in existing response and regulatory frameworks.
- Pilot project ideas that address local, state, or regional issues.
- Increased understanding among participants of public health, social disruption, and economic impacts.
- List of resources available to improve preparedness and minimize impacts, and assist communities with coping.
- Ideas for research, outreach, and/or pilot projects to address identified gaps and opportunities.
- Five workshop reports and a synthesized summary document customized for and available to target audiences and public.

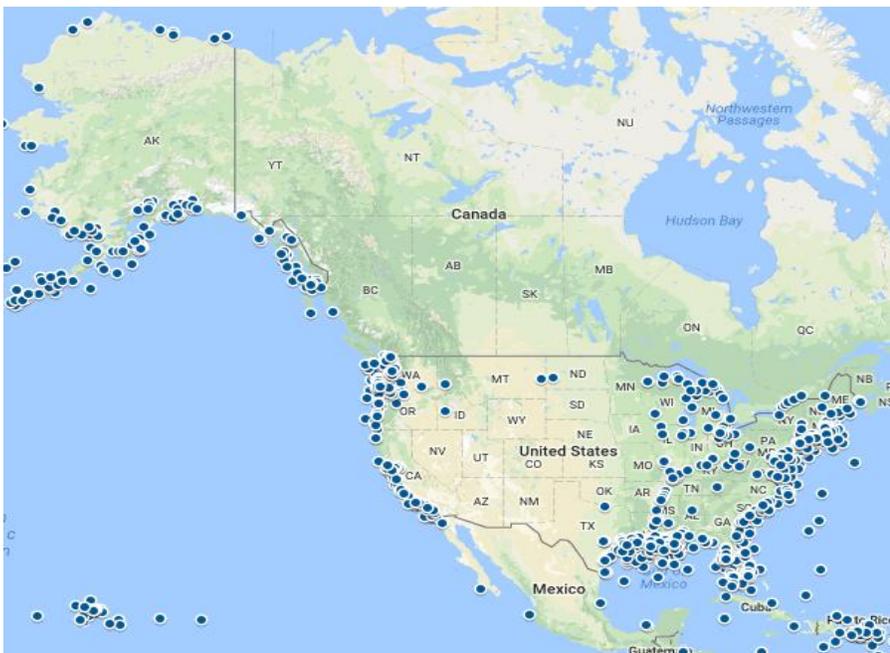


Figure 2: Locations of oil spills from 1968 through present day supported by NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration. Reported on the Incident News website at <https://incidentnews.noaa.gov/map>.

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The Gulf Research Program is an independent, science-based program founded in 2013 as part of legal settlements with the companies involved in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster. It seeks to enhance offshore energy system safety and protect human health and the environment by catalyzing advances in science, practice, and capacity to generate long-term benefits for the Gulf of Mexico region and the nation. It funds grants, fellowships, and other activities in the areas of research and development, education and training, and monitoring and synthesis.

Additional support comes from the following programs.

