

GoMRI Synthesis & Legacy Workshops: Structure and Objectives

Research Board Suggested Outline

Basic Parameters:

- Organizing Committees ~ 6 to 8 people, including 1 or 2 RB members and 1 or 2 representatives of the User community (Response, Industry, NGOs, Restoration etc) if appropriate
- Aim for ~ 25-30 workshop participants
- Duration: ~ 3 days
- Each workshop should aim to discuss ~ 3 or 4 Key Topics/Questions
- Designate a lead rapporteur, with additional rapporteurs as necessary for breakout sessions.

Pre-Workshop Actions:

- Collection & circulation of seminal literature pertaining to workshop Core Area
- Identification of Key Topics & Questions

Day 1

Morning

- Introduction and Goal setting by Workshop lead(s)
- Plenary sessions: 2 -3 talks (assume 30-45 minutes each) by experts to
 - o set the stage and provide the baseline and summary knowledge
 - o prepare the workshop participants to address the key workshop topics.

Afternoon

- Breakout sessions 1
 - o to address Key Topic/Question 1 (~ 2 hours)
 - o reports back to all participants
 - o Plenary discussion

Day 2

Morning

- Recap of Day 1 & Intro to Day 2 led by Workshop lead(s)
- Plenary session (~ 30 min) to set the stage for Key Topic/Question 2
- Breakout session 2
 - o to address Key Topic/Question 2 (~ 2 hours)
 - o reports back to all participants
 - o Plenary discussion

Afternoon

- Plenary session (~ 30 min) to set the stage for Key Topic/Question 3
- Breakout session 3
 - o to address Key Topic/Question 3 (~ 2 hours)
 - o reports back to all participants
 - o Plenary discussion

Full Workshop concludes: workshop leaders (plus rapporteurs) and a few key participants who will be responsible for developing the workshop product will meet again in the morning of Day 3

Day 3: Morning

- Workshop leaders debrief and lead discussion to establish workshop product and writing assignments

Appendix A

Suggested Outline for Synthesis Workshop Overview Reports/Papers

Advancing our Understanding of Oil Spills and the Gulf of Mexico

1. *The Known (Status of core area prior to Deepwater Horizon)*
 - Historical perspective and background - summarize the state of science prior to 2010
2. *From Unknown to Known (Evolution of core area since Deepwater Horizon)*
 - What were the major questions?
 - Approaches taken to answering those questions (including new tools and opportunities)
 - Findings (including major discoveries, surprises, new research directions)
 - Current limits to knowledge
3. *The Currently Unknown (Where science needs to go from here)*
 - Remaining questions (what are the key questions that remain unanswered)
 - New questions (emerging issues that will require research beyond 2020)
 - Gaps - what have we missed, what needs to be done next to advance the field?
4. *What We Have Learned (How we can best **apply** new knowledge)*
 - Key lessons- how this research should inform and influence the operational response to future oil spills (response, management of coastal areas, management of fisheries, public health, etc.)
 - Additional ramifications (scientific, operational response, governmental, policy, health, political, others?)
5. *What next? (and Who & How?)*
 - Novel ideas to move the core area forward (dream cruises or technology, etc.)
 - Blueprint for the future (beyond 2020)
6. *Conclusions & Recommendations (Major findings and major gaps, how to move forward)*
 - Including practical suggestions on how knowledge/understanding might be moved forward from here.

General Guidelines

Length: 20-30 pages

Image/photos/Graphs/Charts/Tables/Maps: ~ 5 to 15

Citations: A full list of literature cited must be included and does not count against the page recommendations.

Literature Review – If possible include reference to a published literature review of what science advances have been published that advance our understanding of oil spills in general, and in the Gulf of Mexico in particular.