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
    - set the stage and provide the baseline and summary knowledge
    - prepare the workshop participants to address the key workshop topics.

Afternoon

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

Afternoon

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