

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.