GULF OF MEXICO RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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Gulf of Mexico
Research Initiative

The Mission of GRI:

- Improve society's ability to understand and mitigate the impacts of hydrocarbon pollution and stressors of the marine environment, with an emphasis on conditions found in the Gulf of Mexico.

- The knowledge accrued will be applied not only to resolve but also to improve the long-term environmental health of the Gulf of Mexico.

- Increase the Scientific & Research Capacity in the Gulf

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The GRI Timeline

- April 20, 2010: Deepwater Horizon Incident
- Early May 2010: BP consultation sessions
- May 24: GRI announced
- June/August: Consultation with Gulf States and $40 million awarded in fast track block grants
- September 29: Agreement of implementation plan with Gulf of Mexico Alliance announced

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GRI Year One Funding:

Fast Track Block Grants Awarded

$5 Million: Louisiana State University

$10 Million: Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO), hosted at USF

$10 Million: **Northern Gulf Institute**, hosted at MS State

$5 Million: Alabama Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium

$10 Million: National Institutes of Health

GRI Year One Funding:

Northern Gulf Institute Projects

Mississippi
- **USM – 13**
- **MSU – 7**
- **Ole Miss – 3**
- **JSU – 1**

Louisiana
- **LSU – 9**
- **UNO – 1**

Alabama
- **DISL – 9**
- **USA – 1**

Florida
- **FSU – 4**

Texas
- **Harte - 1**

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The GRI Key Provisions

- BP has committed $500 million, level-loaded over a period of ten years for independent scientific research at academic institutions primarily in the U.S. Gulf Coast States
- Funds to be distributed using peer evalutation (National Science Board Process)
- Funding will be for sampling, modeling and studies, not acquisition of infrastructure
- Research will be published in peer-reviewed scientific journals with no requirement for BP approval.

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Research Themes

- **Physical distribution, dispersion, and dilution of petroleum, its constituents, and any dispersants applied under the action of physical oceanographic processes, air–sea interactions, and tropical storms.**
- **Chemical evolution and biological degradation of the petroleum/dispersant systems and subsequent interaction with coastal, open-ocean, and deep-water ecosystems.**

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Research Themes

- **Environmental effects of the petroleum/dispersant system on the sea floor, water column, coastal waters, shallow water habitats, wetlands, organisms, and beach sediments; and the science of ecosystem recovery.**
- **Technology developments for improved response, mitigation, detection, characterization, and remediation associated with oil spills and accompanying releases of gas.**

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Research Themes

- **Fundamental scientific research integrating results from the other four themes in the context of public health.**

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What Interested Institutions Can be Doing Now

- Become familiar with 5 research themes
- Review National Science Board Proposal evaluation process and National Academy of Sciences Code of Conduct
- Network with other academic institutions to identify collaboration opportunities

http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/documents/2005/nsb5119.pdf
http://www.nsf.gov/attachments/10827/public/Conflict_of_Interest_Information.pdf
http://www.gomri.org