

University of Florida IFAS

Oil Spill Response Activities and Actions

1. Developed FSG web site, with "Gulf Oil Spill Daily Update" <http://www.flseagrant.org> This site has trusted websites and information on available Florida resources. Recent topics include:
 - a. Oil spills and seafood FAQs
 - b. Lead Responder: FL Dept. of Environmental Protection
 - c. NOAA Commercial Fishing Advisory
 - d. Florida Fish and Wildlife Oil Spill Info
 - e. How Individuals can help
 - f. Shorelines and coastal habitats in the Gulf of Mexico:
2. Worked with other Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant programs to develop Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Website <http://gulfseagrant.tamu.edu/oilspill/index.htm>

This is "site of sites" that has updated information on the oil spill, recent developments, recovery efforts, volunteer opportunities, economic valuations, human health impacts, oil and wildlife, maps, tools, background information , etc.
3. Worked with UF IFAS Solutions for Your Life to develop a "Oil Spills: What you Can do" link. <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu> We have hired a part-time webmaster to provide current topics, frequently asked questions, and referral site to other source web sites.
4. Working with Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) to provide up-to-date information and resources on aspects of oil spill on website. <http://eden.lsu.edu>
5. Developed an initial list of interested faculty with expertise that may be needed in oil spill recovery and response activities. In initial call, have identified 40+ faculty from 8 IFAS Units
6. Specific Faculty Interactions
 - a. Chuck Adams/Thomas Ruppert – Taking a regional lead to explore financial Assistance to businesses hurt by oil spill, where claims can be filed, documentation, process, etc. Information will be put on UF, FSG, Gulf States and EDEN websites.
 - b. Steve Otwell - Working on Seafood Health and Safety, Seafood Frequently Asked Questions, sensory perception, product testing, coordinating regional activities
 - c. Tom Ankersen/Thomas Ruppert – Focusing on legal issues related to oil spills
 - d. Developing news releases for county faculty on specific topics.
 - e. Several CEDs are active members of their County Emergency Command Centers.
 - f. Several County Agents worked with volunteer groups on pre-spill beach clean-up efforts, removing litter to make oil spill clean up activities easier.
 - g. Exploring Sea Grant faculty embedded in NOAA Unified Command Centers to help with communications and information. Sea Grant faculty established in Louisiana and Alabama cites. New site has just established in St. Petersburg.

7. Oil Spill Academic Task Force. Led by Felicia Coleman, FSU, an interdisciplinary set of faculty from universities in Florida and other Gulf states are involved in pre/post assessments of water quality, sediments and biota along the gulf coast. Tom Frazer, SFRC is point of contact for this interdisciplinary team. A number of UF Faculty are members of this group.
Chuck Adams, Steve Otwell, Bill Lindberg, Leslie Sturmer, Bill Pine, Tom Frazer, Debra Murie, Ruth Francis-Floyd, Barbara Petty, Roy Yanong, Don Behringer, Ed Philips

8. Teleconference calls with Land Grant (LG) Extension Deans and Sea Grant Directors to discuss issue, what is being done, coordination of efforts. Several regional task forces that will include faculty from both land grant and sea grant institutions have been established in the following areas:
 - a. Food Safety Task Force
 - b. Ag Communications Task Force
 - c. Damage Assessment Task Force