

**Annotated Agenda: Deepwater Horizon**  
*MAFAC, Annapolis, Maryland*  
*October 19-21, 2010*

- 1. Title of Discussion:** Deepwater Horizon- Ongoing scientific response
- 2. Discussion Presenters:** Dr. Stephen Brown, Chief, Assessment and Monitoring Division, Office of Science and Technology, NMFS
- 3. Objective/Purpose:** Goal is to update MAFAC on the scientific related activities that NOAA and NOAA Fisheries have been providing in response to the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, both in the short term and long term.
- 4. Background/Synopsis:** NOAA has been actively providing coordinated scientific oceanographic and biological response services to federal, state and local organizations. NOAA mobilized experts from across the agency to help contain the spreading oil spill, advised the U.S. Coast Guard on cleanup options, and worked to protect the Gulf of Mexico's many marine mammals, sea turtles, fish, shellfish and other endangered marine life.

NOAA Vessels (e.g., *Thomas Jefferson*, *Gordon Gunter* and *Pisces*) along with university research vessels are continuing to conduct a variety of research cruises to collect valuable data on fish, marine life, currents, ocean biogeochemistry, sea turtles, marine mammals, and sea birds. Seafood samples also continue to be collected and tested for contamination by the NMFS [National Seafood Inspection Lab](#) in Pascagoula and the [Northwest Fisheries Science Center](#) in Seattle.

Since the wellhead has been capped, NOAA scientific efforts have focused on characterizing the distribution and fate of the remaining oil and dispersants; seafood safety and re-opening areas that were closed to fishing; toxicological research to determine if the dispersants are contaminating seafood; surveying and assessing living marine resource stocks, from plankton to whales; conducting damage assessment studies for all components of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem, including socio-economic and health impacts to humans; and developing plans for long-term ecosystem studies and recovery of the Gulf ecosystem.

**Other resources:**

[NOAA Science Missions and Data](#) related to Deep Water Horizon

[GeoPlatform.gov/gulfresponse](#) is an online tool to help put critical information directly into the palms of people's hands. This newly launched website, produced by NOAA, Department of the Interior, EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard, offers a "one-stop shop" for real-time spill response information. Designed to facilitate communication and coordination among a variety of users — from federal, state and local responders to local community leaders and the general public — the site is fast, user-friendly and continually updated.

Subsurface oil Monitoring and ocean current data collected in the Gulf is being catalogued and posted on [NOAA's National Oceanographic Data Center](#).

The [Joint Analysis Group \(JAG\)](#) for Surface and Sub-Surface Oceanography, Oil and Dispersant Data is a working group with membership from key agencies, including the:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

- White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

The JAG was formed to analyze sub-surface oceanographic data being derived from the on-going coordinated sampling efforts by private, federal and academic scientists. The goal of the JAG is to provide comprehensive characterization of the Gulf of Mexico sub-surface conditions as well as the fate and transport of dispersed petroleum as a result of the Deep Water Horizon oil spill. The JAG analyses are provided to the Unified Command (UC) in direct support of the response efforts related to the subsurface monitoring and mitigation in matters such as the placement of booms, use of subsea dispersants, skimming activities, modeling requirements (parameters and locations), and any US informational needs.

**5. Options listed from 1 to n:**

**6. Preferred Recommendation:**

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Record of Decision:

Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:

Assigned to:

Due Date: