

Consortium for Resilient Gulf Communities

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative will investigate the impacts of the oil, dispersed oil, and dispersant on the ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico and affected coastal States in a broad context of improving fundamental understanding of the dynamics of such events and their environmental stresses and public health implications. The Consortium for Resilient Gulf Communities (CRGC) was established in 2015 with a three-year grant from the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative to assess and address the public health, social, and economic impacts of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico region.



Objectives

Conduct use-inspired, problem-focused, interdisciplinary, and iterative research, outreach, and education

Assess the medium and long-term public health, social, and economic impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Train undergraduate and graduate students in disaster resilience research and outreach

Evaluate performance of the CRGC transdisciplinary research, outreach, and education activities

Develop place-based capacity to build Community Action Plans and risk communication strategies to expand and deepen resilience

Research Themes

- Chemical evolution and biological degradation of the petroleum and subsequent interaction with coastal, open-ocean, and deep-water ecosystems
- Impact of oil spills on behavioral, socioeconomic, environmental risk assessment, community capacity and other population health considerations
- Environmental effects of the petroleum/dispersant system on the natural environment; and the science of ecosystem recovery
- Physical distribution, dispersion, and dilution of petroleum and associated contaminants under the action of physical oceanographic processes
- Technology developments for improved response, mitigation, detection, characterization, and remediation

