

Pilot Projects Under Consideration by GCOOS-RA

Representatives at the Oil, Gas and related sectors workshop in November 2005 suggested GCOOS pilot projects to advance production of high priority measurements and products. The GCOOS Stakeholder Council, meeting in January 2006, also considered and recommended GCOOS pilot projects. The GCOOS Board of Directors, meeting in January 2006, endorsed a series of eight pilot projects and suggested for each a small group to further consider how to take the project forward. These eight pilot projects are listed below along with the lead person identified for each.

- (1) Instrument tankers that occupy regular tracks between Texas and Florida ports with flow-through surface parameters (T/S, Chl, nutrients, DO), ADCPs, and meteorological sensors with real-time telemetry. (Mark Luther, University of South Florida)
- (2) Most county/state health departments make regular water quality measurements for human pathogens. These take 24 to 48 hours to culture and obtain results. These observations are placed into databases that could be made internet-accessible. Linking these together into a GOM-wide beach health indicator map would be very useful to beach managers. Ultimately, such observations could be linked with physical transport observations and models to give predictive capability. (Bart Bibler, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Water Programs)
- (3) Initiate a pilot GCOOS Operations Center (Raymond Toll, SAIC)

Pilot projects focused on products recommended by the GCOOS and the Private Sector: Oil and Gas and Related Industry Workshop follow. (High, medium, or low priority are indicated)

- (4) Project to develop proven forecasts of three-dimensional surface currents for the Gulf of Mexico (H). (Cort Cooper, Chevron)
- (5) Development of a measurement and products archive for the deepwater Gulf of Mexico (H). (Worth Nowlin, Texas A&M University)
- (6) Produce maps of marine mammals and endangered turtles in the Gulf of Mexico based on legacy information from the NMFS and MMS projects and real-time observations from the oil and gas industry (M). (Deferred as a medium priority project)
- (7) Produce probability maps of bottom hazards (H-) and maps of hydrocarbon seeps (L) for the Gulf of Mexico. (Alfredo Prelat, PAR Governments)
- (8) Improving forecasts of hurricane severity (H). (Cort Cooper, Chevron)