

Agenda
Annual Meeting of the Marine Mammal Commission
and its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals

10–12 May 2011
Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel
739 Canal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
(504) 962-0500

Tuesday, 10 May

- 1:00–1:15** **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 1:15–2:15** **I. GULF OF MEXICO ECOSYSTEM OVERVIEW**
- A. Physical oceanography
 - B. Human uses of the Gulf
 - C. Status and management of the Gulf ecosystem
 - D. Discussion
- 2:15–3:45** **II. GULF OF MEXICO MARINE MAMMAL BASELINE INFORMATION**
- A. Stock structure, status, and habitat/ecological relationships
 - B. Health assessments/live captures
 - C. Stranding program
 - 1. Organization and response capabilities/gaps
 - 2. Stranding patterns and unusual mortality events
 - D. Gaps in research and infrastructure
 - E. Future plans and funding
 - F. Discussion
- 3:45–4:00** **BREAK**
- 4:00–5:00** **III. FLORIDA MANATEES**
- A. Status of the manatee population
 - B. 2010–2011 winter die-off
 - C. Plans for refurbishing power plants
 - D. Status of Crystal River regulations
 - E. Actions and plans for securing long-term warm water networks
 - F. Status and plans for ESA listing decisions
 - G. Status and plans for forming a recovery team and updating the recovery plan
 - H. Discussion
- 5:00** **ADJOURN DAY 1**

Wednesday, 11 May

- Full Day DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL – RESPONSE AND ASSESSMENT**
- 8:30–8:45 WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF DAY’S DISCUSSION**
- 8:45–9:15 IV. SPILL OVERVIEW**
- A. Time line and major events
 - B. Legal mandates for organizing response
 - C. Formation of incident command and control structure/agency responsibilities
 - D. Discussion
- 9:15–10:30 V. ORGANIZATION OF MARINE MAMMAL RESPONSE**
- A. Initial response and assessment – definitions, objectives, priorities
 - B. Mobilization of marine mammal response efforts
 - C. Usefulness of National Contingency Plan and marine mammal oil spill response guidelines
 - D. Data gathering, sharing, and archiving arrangements
 - E. Availability of funding and resources
 - F. Observations/lessons learned/recommendations
 - G. Discussion
- 10:30–10:45 BREAK**
- 10:45–12:15 VI. PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF MARINE MAMMAL RESPONSE AND ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES**
- A. Observations of stranding
 - B. Aerial survey results (coastal, synoptic)
 - C. Large vessel surveys and biopsies
 - D. Telemetry tagging
 - E. Passive acoustic monitoring
 - F. Small boat coastal surveys, biopsies, photo-identification
 - G. Health assessments/live captures
 - H. Manatees
 - I. Discussion
- 12:15–1:45 LUNCH**
- 1:45–3:45 VII. LONG-TERM DAMAGE ASSESSMENT – REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES**
- A. Legal mandates
 - B. Agency programs/priorities/funding
 - 1. NOAA
 - 2. USGS/FWS
 - 3. BOEMRE
 - 4. USCG
 - 5. Louisiana
 - 6. Mississippi
 - 7. Alabama
 - 8. Florida
 - 9. Gulf Alliance (GRI)/BP
 - C. Discussion
- 3:45–4:00 BREAK**

- 4:00–5:00** **VIII. RESEARCH COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION**
 A. Integration of legal, scientific, and management issues
 B. Data management, analysis, and access
 C. Interagency marine mammal research plan
 D. Discussion
- 5:00** **ADJOURN DAY 2**

Thursday, 12 May

- 8:30–8:45** **WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF DAY’S DISCUSSIONS**
- 8:45–9:45** **IX. FISHERY INTERACTIONS IN THE GULF**
 A. 2011 List of Fisheries
 B. Observer programs
 C. Other sources of mortalities
 D. Discussion
- 9:45–10:15** **X. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE GULF**
 A. Navy ranges, operations, and future plans
 B. Air Force ranges, operations, and future plans
 C. Discussion
- 10:15–10:30** **BREAK**
- 10:30–11:15** **XI. ENFORCEMENT**
 A. General
 B. Marine Mammal Protection Act issues
 C. Feeding wild dolphins
 D. Swim-with-the-dolphin programs
 E. Effectiveness of Dolphin-SMART program
 F. Discussion
- 11:15–12:45** **XII. ARCTIC OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT AND RISKS**
 A. Oil and gas operations and plans in the U.S. Arctic
 B. Baseline information on Arctic marine mammals and the Arctic ecosystem
 C. Oil spills and response capabilities in ice-bound seas
 D. Effects of seismic activities
 E. NGO perspective on oil and gas development in the Arctic
 F. Research needs and discussion
- 12:45–2:00** **LUNCH**
- 2:00–3:00** **XIII. COOK INLET BELUGA WHALES**
 A. Population status
 B. Critical habitat
 C. Recovery team
 D. Research activities
 E. Coastal development
 F. Discussion

- 3:00–3:45** **XIV. VAQUITA**
A. Recent population assessment and modeling studies
B. Status of seasonal exclusion zones, enforcement, and fishery buyout program
C. Development of alternative fishing gear
D. Discussion
- 3:45–4:00** **BREAK**
- 4:00–5:00** **XV. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 5:00** **ADJOURN MEETING**