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Deepwater Horizon Trustees  
RE: Monthly report on joint NRD activities

Dear Trustees:

With the intent to enhance communications between BP and the Deepwater Horizon Trustees, BP has initiated a monthly report for your review and use associated with the Natural Resource Damage activities.

The attached tables summarize certain joint NRD activities during the month of January. This report is provided to identify pending actions, ensure timely agreement on matters of concern to the Trustees and BP, and provide for a month look ahead in field activity planning. Information presented here is accurate to the best our knowledge, but this document may contain inadvertent errors.

We will seek to provide this report within the first two weeks of each month, in order to promote timely communications and decisions. We also acknowledge that certain of these issues may have been resolved in February as of the submittal date of this report, and we will provide the update and resolution in the February report.

Based on issues raised either in separate correspondence or via these reports, we would anticipate seeking resolution with the Trustees through either the TWG structure, individual Trustee or Trustee Council.

Thank you and I look forward to meeting with you to discuss our on-going work efforts.

Regards,

Robin Bullock

Director of Natural Resource Damage Issues  
BP Gulf Coast Restoration Organization

# Deepwater Horizon Incident

## Monthly Report

### January 2011

#### Safety

- **Plankton.** NRDA experienced one near miss during offshore plankton sampling that led to an investigation and formulation of recommendations: a MOC-1 meter net reportedly hit the sea floor. There was no damage to equipment or harm to people, but it had the potential to be serious. Actions will be taken in February (i.e., an SOP will be developed) to minimize the likelihood of a repeat occurrence.

#### Key Decisions in January

- **Birds.** BP and Trustees have agreed to combine independent efforts and conduct a cooperative effort on the wintering waterfowl studies.
- **Birds.** BP provided a letter to the Trustees questioning the usefulness of tree climbing associated with the osprey program (provided January 24, 2011).
- **Birds.** BP stopped conducting an independent Colonial Waterbird (CWB) reference study in the Gulf of Mexico when the contractor (USDA) for capturing and bird handling reported that it could not work for BP on an independent study. We suggest that this study should be converted to a cooperative effort.
- **Birds.** USFWS and Louisiana have informed BP that they are significantly modifying the Louisiana addendum to the Non-Breeding Shorebird Study (Bird Plan #5) and will transmit the modified plan to BP in February.
- **Fish.** BP developed a shrimp study that it has shared with the Trustees; the study was modified from an original version after consultation with the Trustees.
- **Water Column.** December Cooperative Cruise (NOAA/BP- CardnoENTRIX NRDA Cooperative Deep Tow Cruise 2/December 2010 Arctic-HOS Davis 5- Sarah Bordelon Cruise) was completed without final agreement on a procedure for decontamination (Attachment 6 of the work plan).

#### Pending Decisions

- **NRD General.** Trustees to review/respond to BP comments on draft NRDA Funding Agreement (provided January 9th).
- **Birds.** BP to review/respond to revised Wintering Open Water Waterbird Plan (provided February 6, 2011) and required SOPs (provided February 10, 2011). Trustees to review/respond to BP comments on Wintering Open Water Waterbird Plan (submitted January 11).
- **Birds.** BP to review/respond to receipt of Bald Eagle rapid assessment budget, SOPs and response to comments (provided February 9, 2010)
- **Birds.** Trustees to review/respond to draft integration agreement for Piping Plover work plan (provided November 23, 2010).
- **Restoration.** BP to review/respond to emergency turtle restoration proposal (provided January 28th).
- **Restoration.** BP to review/respond to the SAV Emergency Restoration (provided January 21, 2011).
- **Restoration.** Trustees to review/respond to draft agreement re: emergency restoration (provided November 23rd).
- **Water Column.** Trustees/BP to determine how best to integrate non-NRDA deep sea cruise data into NRDA data analysis.

## Data Management

- **Birds.** BP has requested data from Trustee members of the Avian TWG for Glenn Ford overflights and secretive marsh bird overflights. Overflights began in May and are ongoing. Some data for overflights May to October has been received though a complete data package has been provided for only one Glenn Ford overflight.
- **Birds.** BP received data from the Trustees regarding the CBC avian study (Bird Study #8).
- **Fish.** The Oyster sub-group Trustees have indicated there will be qualitative data distributed on some of the samples in the second two weeks of February.

## Trustee Council/BP Communications in January

- **NRD General.** BP requested opportunity to meet with Trustees to discuss data interpretation and 2011 planning efforts (provided January 13, 2011).
- **Restoration.** Received funding request from state of LA to seek standalone emergency restoration NRD funds. Participated in a call on December 16<sup>th</sup> to understand their request in comparison to emergency restoration projects under discussion with the Trustee Council. A written response was provided on January 7, 2011.
- **Data Management.** BP requested meeting to discuss opportunities to align on a common database platform for both baseline work as well as injury assessment (provided January 13, 2011).
- **Water Column/Sediment.** NOAA and BP representatives met to discuss 2011 deep water data collection efforts on January 14, 2011. Discussion also included the possibility of developing a cooperative workshop in late March 2011 with academia, industry and government to solicit input into the 2011 plan, sharing of data collected to date and understanding of the deep water ecosystem.

## Planned February Field Activities

- **Birds:** Cooperative implementation of waterfowl plan (Bird Study #10); colonial waterbird plan (Bird Study #4); secretive marsh bird plan (Bird Study #3); non-breeding shorebird plan (Bird Study #5); and osprey rapid assessment plan (Bird Study #9).
- **Corals:** N/A
- **Fish:** Oyster Transition Plan implementation being reinitiated in late February; Sturgeon River surveys being reinitiated in late February.
- **Marine Mammals & Turtles:** Begin cooperative aerial assessment work for marine mammals and sea turtles; servicing of the marine mammal HARPS and MARUs and retrieval of HARP that prematurely surfaced will be accomplished as part of the ADCP maintenance and servicing (Water Column).
- **Plankton:** Begin second cruise of the cooperative winter plankton sampling with MOCNESS-1 on the Nick Skansi and the MOCNESS-10 on the Meg Skansi; begin cooperative SEAMAP plankton sampling on the Oregon II; begin cooperative GRTS bongo/neuston plankton sampling on the Sarah Bordelon and the Bunny Bordelon (Cruise V); VPR II (plankton video imaging) cruise to begin.
- **Nearshore Sediment:** LDEQ sediment survey to be completed.
- **Shoreline:** Erosion surveys tentatively planned to begin in late February.
- **Water Column:** CTD calibration cruise to evaluate the differences in holding the sampling boat in position (DP1) or letting it drift during CTD casts; ADCP maintenance also planned.

Joint Work Plans Signed in January				
TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	BP	
<b>Marine Mammals &amp; Turtles</b>	Addendum: Collection of Data to Determine Impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Mississippi Canyon 252 Incident on Endangered and Protected Marine Mammals in the Northern Gulf of Mexico	1/6/2011	1/6/2011	Field work complete.
<b>Marine Mammals &amp; Turtles</b>	Assessing Population Size and Spatial Distribution of Marine Mammals and Turtles in the GoM (Aerial Marine Mammal Survey)	1/28/2011	1/30/2011	
<b>SAV</b>	Inland Fresh/Brackish Water SAV Communities	1/20/2011	1/20/2011	Plan started with the bird TWG, wintering waterfowl study.
<b>Shoreline</b>	Shoreline Vegetation Rapid Oiling Survey - Pre-Assessment Data Collection	1/4/2011	1/4/2011	
<b>Water Column - Plankton</b>	NRDA Winter 2011 Plankton Imagine Sampling Cruise Plan, M/V Arctic (DAVPR Plankton Plan)	1/13/2011	1/13/2011	
<b>Water Column - Plankton</b>	NRDA 1-meter MOCNESS Winter 2011 Plankton Sampling Cruise Plan, M/V Nick Skansi	1/11/2011	1/13/2011	
<b>Water Column - Plankton</b>	NRDA 10-meter MOCNESS Winter 2011 Plankton Sampling Cruise Plan (M/V Meg Skansi)	1/25/2011	1/26/2011	

Joint Work Plans Under Revision/Awaiting Signature (January)				
TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	BP	
<b>Aerial Imagery</b>	Aerial Photography Overflights			Draft plan under review by Trustees
<b>Birds</b>	Detection Probability (Searcher Efficiency) - Bird Study #1B			Field work complete. Plan is being finalized; BP and the Trustees have agreement in principle and the Trustees have provided data to BP.
<b>Birds</b>	Colonial Waterbird (CWB) – BRI SOW cost extension – Bird Study #4			BP approved additional costs; waiting for USFWS and LA to agree before signing. Provided to Trustees on 2/2/2011.
<b>Birds</b>	Non-breeding Shorebirds – Bird Study #5	8/13/2010	8/17/2010	BP has pdf of signature page but not the final plan.
<b>Birds</b>	Non-breeding Shorebirds – Bird Study #5 SOW/Manomet Contract Extension	1/8/2011	Pending signature from LA	BP approved additional costs; waiting for LA to agree before signing.
<b>Birds</b>	Non-breeding Shorebirds – Bird Study #5 SOW/Manomet Contract Extension	1/8/2011		Contract extension is approved by BP & USFWS but waiting signature from LA prior to executing.
<b>Birds</b>	Non-breeding Shorebird LA Addendum – Bird Study #5			Currently under revision within LA and USFWS.
<b>Birds</b>	Raptor – Bald Eagle – Bird Study #9			Trustees to provide revised plan to BP February 2011.
<b>Birds</b>	Estimating Wintering Waterfowl Oiling and Mortality - Bird Study #10			Trustees provided plan to BP on 1/17/2011. BP/CE provided comments on plan to Trustees on 1/21/2011. Anticipate final plan February 2011.
<b>Birds</b>	Winter Open Water Waterbird (WOWW) – Bird Study #12			Trustees to provide revised plan to BP February 2011.
<b>Corals</b>	Shallow-water Coral Tier 1 Plan Addendum			BP provided comments on the revised plan to Trustees on 1/31/2010.
<b>Corals</b>	Deep-water Coral SPMD Extraction and Analysis Plan	Pending	7/9/2010	BP returned comments and signature page to Trustees on 7/9/2010.
<b>Deepwater Benthic Communities</b>	Deepwater Sediment Sampling Plan			Draft is in final revisions to incorporate BP comments. Revised draft expected mid-February.

Joint Work Plans Under Revision/Awaiting Signature (January)				
TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	BP	
<b>Fish</b>	Oyster Phase I Addendum I			Field work complete; plan expected to be signed in February.
<b>Fish</b>	Oyster Phase I Addendum II			Field work complete; plan expected to be signed in February.
<b>Fish</b>	Oyster Sampling Transition Plan			Field work complete; plan expected to be signed in February.
<b>Fish</b>	Sargassum Communities Pre-Assessment Plan Version 4			Trustees and BP agreed to plan in December, but the Trustees could not implement the plan as described so it was not signed. Trustees plan to provide a revised plan February 2011.
<b>Marine Mammals &amp; Turtles</b>	Assessing Potential Sublethal and Chronic Health Impacts from the Mississippi Canyon 252 Incident on Coastal and Estuarine Bottlenose Dolphins			Trustees have indicated intention to provide a revised draft on 2/5/2011.
<b>Marine Mammals &amp; Turtles</b>	Genetic Analysis of Stock Structure, Species Identification and Sex Determination for Marine Mammal Biopsies and Strandings			Trustees have indicated intention to provide a revised draft on 2/5/2011.
<b>Marine Mammals &amp; Turtles</b>	Addendum to Sargassum Turtle Plan for organizing and linking sea turtle data sets gathered during response and assessment efforts for the MC252 Deep Water Horizon oil spill			Draft plan under review by Trustees. BP drafted plan and sent to Trustees on 1/26/11. Trustee comments anticipated early February 2011.
<b>Marine Mammals &amp; Turtles</b>	Post Release Monitoring and Tracking Loggerhead Turtles			Field work complete. BP waiting for Trustee revised work plan as agreed by email on 10/21/2010.

Joint Work Plans Under Revision/Awaiting Signature (January)				
TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	BP	
SAV	Sampling and Analysis Plan for Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve (JELA) - <i>Baseline Characterization/Response Injury</i>			Draft plan under review by Trustees. BP provided comments to Trustees on 12/18/10. Trustees requested a meeting to discuss on 1/18/11 but this has not been scheduled.
SAV	Tier 2 Plan (PEMD Monitoring, Rapid Assessment, Submerged Oil Sentinel Monitoring, Pre-Assessment Low Altitude Aerial Photography of Seagrass Beds)			Draft plan being prepared by Trustees. BP has provided comments to Trustees on various elements on the plan.
Shoreline	Plan for the Collection of Data to Measure Shoreline Change Resulting from Heavy Oiling			Draft plan under review by Trustees. BP provided comments to Trustees on 11/12/2010 and again on 1/28/2011 in response to information presented in a webinar on 1/24/2011.
Shoreline	Sampling and Monitoring Plan for Coastal Vegetation			Draft plan posted on 1/28/11.
Terrestrial & Aquatic Wildlife	Endangered Beach Mice (EBM)			Plan is being evaluated as an early restoration project.
Terrestrial & Aquatic Wildlife	Plan to Determine potential Exposure and Injury to Diamondback Terrapins ( <i>Malaclemys terrapin</i> ) from Deepwater Horizon / Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill			Draft plan was revised by the Trustees and submitted to BP/CE in early January. This plan is still in review by BP/CE and awaiting a budget from the Trustees. Trustees indicated that the budget would be submitted.
Water Column	December Cooperative Cruise- (NOAA/BP-CardnoENTRIX NRDA Cooperative Deep Tow Cruise 2/December 2010 Arctic-HOS Davis 5-Sarah Bordelon Cruise)			Field work complete. BP to sign and submit plan in February. BP will submit memorandum for administrative record for Attachment 6 of the plan.

Joint Work Plans Under Revision/Awaiting Signature (January)				
TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	BP	
Water Column	NRDA Ocean Current Field Plan: Moored ADCPs			Draft plan on hold pending Trustee/BP hydrology meeting. Trustees are developing their hydrology team and will propose a date for the joint meeting.
Water Column	Injury Ephemeral Data Collections: ADCP-Measured Currents Monitoring Plan Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (DWHOS) September 2010 Maintenance Mission			Field work (maintenance) complete. Draft plan is with BP prior to submittal to Trustees for signature.
Water Column	MC252 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill ADCP-Measured Currents Monitoring Plan December 2010 Quarterly Maintenance Mission Amendment #2			Field work (maintenance) complete. Includes retrieval of the wave gliders and servicing of the Marine Mammal HARP. Draft plan is with BP prior to submittal to Trustees for signature.
Water Column	MC252 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill ADCP-Measured Currents Monitoring Plan HARP Recovery and Maintenance Plan CTD Instrument Comparison Plan February 2011 ADCP Maintenance Mission			Includes Marine Mammal HARP recovery and maintenance for HARP in the vicinity of MC252 as well as CTD instrument comparison. Draft plan is with BP prior to submittal to Trustees for signature.
Water Column - Plankton	Plankton Sampling Plan – Fall 2010 Shakedown Cruise 1 – Nick Skansi			Field work complete, pending as cooperative study.
Water Column - Plankton	Plankton Sampling Plan – Fall 2010 Shakedown Cruise 2 – Nick Skansi			Field work complete, pending as cooperative study.
Water Column - Plankton	Plankton Sampling Plan – Fall 2010 Cruise 3 – Nick Skansi			Field work complete, pending as cooperative study. Final plan sent to Trustees for signature 1/11/2011.
Water Column - Plankton	Plankton Sampling Plan – Fall 2010 Cruise 4 – Nick Skansi	Pending – sent 1/11/2011		Field work complete, pending as cooperative study. Final sent to Trustees for signature 1/11/2011.

Joint Work Plans Under Revision/Awaiting Signature (January)				
TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	BP	
<b>Water Column - Plankton</b>	Plankton Sampling Plan – Winter Cruise 5 Bongo/Neuston			Draft plan under review by Trustees since 12/11/2010. Cruise scheduled for Feb 2011 if plan is signed.

## Joint Work Plans Awaiting Louisiana Signature (January)

TWG	Plan	Date NOAA/USFWS Submitted to Louisiana	Comments
<b>Fish - Plankton</b>	Plankton Sampling Plan & Fall 2010 Cruise - Walton Smith 1	11/19/10	
<b>Fish - Plankton</b>	Plankton Sampling Plan & Fall 2010 Cruise - Walton Smith 2	11/19/10	
<b>Fish - Plankton</b>	Plankton Sampling Plan & Fall 2010 Cruise - Walton Smith 3	11/19/10	
<b>Fish - Plankton</b>	SEAMAP Plankton Sampling Plan & Fall 2010 Cruise - Gordon Gunter	11/19/10	
<b>Fish - Plankton</b>	Plankton Sampling Plan & Fall 2010 Cruise - Specialty Diver 1	11/19/10	
<b>Marine Mammals &amp; Turtles</b>	Addendum: Collection of Data to Determine Impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Mississippi Canyon 252 Incident on Endangered and Protected Marine Mammals in the Northern Gulf of Mexico	1/6/11	
<b>Shoreline</b>	Shoreline Vegetation Rapid Oiling Survey - Pre-Assessment Data Collection	1/6/11	
<b>Water Column</b>	1-meter MOCNESS Winter 2011 Plankton Sampling Cruise - Nick Skansi	1/14/11	
<b>Water Column</b>	Cooperative Deep Two Cruise 1 November 2010	12/2/10	
<b>Water Column</b>	PAWNNS Cruise - HOS Davis 3 Addendum	12/14/10	