

South Atlantic Sea Grant Programs

Oil Spill Summit II – Processes Affecting Physical and Chemical Composition of Oil in the Marine Environment (June 29, 2010, Jacksonville, Florida)

List of Participants

Technical Experts

Michael Aitken, Professor and Chair, Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, UNC-Chapel Hill (mike_aitken@unc.edu). Research interests encompass the application of microbial processes to the biodegradation of organic pollutants (particularly polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons); the use of a new molecular tool -- stable-isotope probing -- to identify microorganisms capable of degrading specific chemicals in complex systems; and how bioavailability governs the rate and extent of degradation of hydrophobic chemicals in contaminated systems.

Jay Brandes, Associate Professor, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (jay.brandes@skio.usg.edu). Research interests include the use of Stable isotopes to determine sources and diagenesis of organic compounds and nutrients in marine ecosystems. Developing high resolution X-ray spectromicroscopic techniques to examine nutrient cycling and sequestration and organic matter diagenesis.

Richard (Dick) Lee, Professor, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (dick.lee@skio.usg.edu). Research interests include chemical oceanography, contaminant source, fate, effects with current projects on DNA damage and embryo development in grass shrimp exposed to contaminants, blue crab disease in GA, and mariculture of black sea bass for the sushi market.

Ralph Mead, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, UNC-Wilmington (meadr@uncw.edu). Research interests are in the field of marine organic geochemistry with emphasis on tracing naturally-derived organic carbon; carbon cycling in estuarine systems; bulk and compound specific stable carbon isotopic analysis to elucidate the source and cycling of organic matter within the marine environment; and organic-mineral interactions.

William (Bill) Miller, Professor, Marine Science Department, UGA (bmiller@uga.edu). Research interests include Photochemical reactions and their effect on aquatic carbon cycles; distribution of trace carbon gases, alteration of aquatic humic substances, and relation to optics and biological processes

Andrew Ogram, Professor, Soil and Water Science Department, University of Florida (aogram@ufl.edu). Research interests include analysis of pollutants on wetland biogeochemical processes and biological degradation of organic compounds in soils. Previous work has included development and validation of molecular indicators of microbial communities to fuel oil contamination.

Geoff Scott, Director, Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research, Charleston, SC, National Centers of Coastal Ocean Science, National Ocean Service, NOAA. Dr. Scott holds adjunct faculty appointments at the Medical University of South Carolina, University of South Carolina, University of Charleston, and Texas Technical University. Research experience includes studies of the nature and relationship of oil and hazardous material spills within coastal ecosystems throughout the U.S. including studies in Alaska, Puget Sound, Texas, Puerto Rico and the Florida Keys.

Ming-yi Sun, Professor, Marine Science Department, UGA (mysun@uga.edu). Research interests include biogeochemical cycling of organic matter in estuarine and coastal marine systems; Influence of global climate change on Arctic benthic ecosystems; Effects of diagenetic processes on biomarker compositions and compound-specific stable carbon isotopic compositions; Interactions between organic compounds and biota

Eric Triplett, Professor and Chair, Department of Microbiology and Cell Science, University of Florida (ewt@ufl.edu). Research focus is on the drivers of microbial diversity in a wide variety of environments. His lab now is investigating which bacteria and archaea are associated with the presence of oil in the Gulf of Mexico.

Sea Grant, GCRC and UNF Staff

David Bryant, Research Associate Director, Georgia Sea Grant

Rick DeVoe, Director, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium

Janice Flory - Georgia Coastal Research Consortium, UGA

Karl Havens, Director, Florida Sea Grant

Charles Hopkinson, Director, Georgia Sea Grant

Daniel Moon, Assistant Chair, Biology Department, University of North Florida

Katie Mosier, Assistant Director for Communications, North Carolina Sea Grant

Michael Voiland, Executive Director, North Carolina Sea Grant

Dorothy Zimmerman, Communications Director, Florida Sea Grant