



Robin Bullock
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April 27, 2011

Deepwater Horizon Trustees
RE: March Monthly Report on Joint NRD Activities

Dear Trustees:

Find attached the March Deepwater Horizon monthly NRD cooperative report. 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 of our knowledge, but this document may contain inadvertent errors.

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

Thank you and please let us know if you would like to discuss any of the comments or status of the on-going cooperative NRD program. We also request that this Monthly Activity Report is placed into the Deepwater Horizon Administrative Record.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Bullock" followed by a stylized flourish or initials.

Robin Bullock
Director of Natural Resource Damage Issues
BP Gulf Coast Restoration Organization

**Deepwater Horizon Incident
Monthly Report
March 2011**

Safety

- **Inclement Weather Policy:** BP added an addendum to our GCRO inclement weather policy that covers thunderstorms, lightening and tornados. These items are now required to be addressed in field safety plans and safety trainings.
- **Deepwater Benthic Communities/Fish/Water Column-Plankton:** Following two additional grounding incidents of deep tow equipment in March 2011, it was agreed that all work plans with a deep tow component will have an attachment/SOP describing safe deep tow procedures.

Key Decisions in March

- **Birds:** Trustees and BP will work to sign CWB addenda. Addendum 1 extends CWB study from January 1, 2011 through April 1, 2011; addendum 2 extends satellite tracking of brown pelicans and great egrets from April 1, 2011 through April 1, 2012.
- **Birds:** Non-breeding shorebird addendum (Willet telemetry) to be implemented cooperatively.
- **Birds:** Trustees and BP completed independent wintering open water waterbird (WOWW) plans.
- **Birds:** Trustees declined to participate in BPs colonial waterbird productivity study and in BP's helicopter-based May bird census.
- **Birds:** BP declined to participate in Wilson's sparrow oiling rate study (addendum to breeding shorebird study). BP sent the Trustees a letter for the administrative record regarding a path forward for secretive marsh birds on March 24, 2011 that outlined the reasons behind declining to participate and requested a technical meeting to discuss the SMB path forward.
- **Birds:** As noted in the February Monthly Report, Trustees agreed to designate a single, permanent point of contact to work with Brian Reilly to resolve several transmitter related issues. Awaiting response from Trustees.
- **Fish:** The Trustees submitted two draft work plans to BP in late March related to the comprehensive nearshore benthic program. BP is evaluating these plans.
- **Water Column/Plankton:** The Trustees and BP agreed to cancel the GRTS Bongo/Neuston survey. We will continue to collect shallow surface plankton data through the modified SEAMAP sampling programs.
- **Natural Seep Program:** BP presented two webinars on a projected seep program. The seep program is intended to include: AUV survey, aerial imagery to identify surface seep expressions, and associated sediment, biota and water column sampling.
- **Natural Seeps:** BP provided a draft Abandonment AUV survey to the Trustees on March 3.
- **Megafauna:** Mark Benfield provided presentation of previous results of megafauna analyzed as part of the incident. BP to provide to the Trustees, a work plan for additional deepwater megafauna data collection and analysis.
- **Chemistry:** BP provided a sediment fingerprinting protocol to the Trustees on March 24.

Pending Decisions

- **Emergency Restoration:** On March 10, BP received the Trustee revision to the Emergency Restoration Implementation Agreement. BP participated in multiple discussions through the month in order to resolve outstanding issues.
- **Birds:** Trustees to review/respond to draft integration agreement for Piping Plover work plan (provided November 23, 2010).
- **Deepwater Benthic Communities:** Trustees/BP to determine how best to integrate non-NRDA

deep-sea cruise data into NRDA data analysis.

- **Deepwater Benthic Communities:** The Trustees are considering what level of participation to have on "Leg 2" of the Abandonment AUV Survey.
- **Shoreline:** Restoration Work Plan is pending from the Trustees since November 2010. Verbal request made by BP to NOAA in February to conduct the design in two phases, in order to initiate action in 2011. NOAA to discuss phased approach with other Trustees.
- **Toxicity:** A technical meeting is planned with Trustees April 2011 to follow up on the toxicity program that was provided in September 2010, and discussed with Trustees at Florida International University in October 2010.

Data Management

- **Birds:** BP has requested data from Trustee members of the Avian TWG for Glenn Ford overflights and secretive marsh bird overflights. Progress has been made and the data sets are nearing completion.
- **Birds:** BP and Trustees have discussed a path forward for data requested by BP, related to wildlife recovery efforts during the response.
- **Birds:** BP has requested missing capture sheets and carcass chains of custody filled out by BRI during the secretive marsh bird and colonial waterbird studies.
- **Birds:** BP received the software and video related to the secretive marsh bird overflights. The Trustees have committed to transfer the flight transcriptions.
- **Birds:** BP has transferred all BP-specific waterfowl data to the Trustees. The Trustees have committed to transfer all the Trustee-specific waterfowl data.
- **Deepwater Benthic Communities:** Data from the signed Deepwater Coral study has not been shared with BP. The raw data, and data which have been minimally processed with appropriate software, were requested on February 16, 2011, from the TWG and Dr. Ken Sulak. The Trustees are preparing a synopsis of the results, including dive tallies from 1997-2003, and intended to provide to BP by the end of March pending a decision on how best to provide the information to BP.
- **Deepwater Benthic Communities:** The Trustees issued a verbal early release of data from the Ron Brown/Lophelia II Cruise on March 25. BP is awaiting laboratory records supporting the verbal results of these samples.
- **Marine Mammals & Turtles:** Trustees to confirm the extent to which, if at all, the Marine Mammal Protection Act or other environmental statutes may limit sharing of cooperatively collected data. Trustees are requesting access to NOAA NRDA database for BP and its representative TWG members.
- **Marine Mammals:** BP received draft Dolphin Health Assessment on March 3.
- **Water Column:** BP has had numerous requests from NOAA data managers for metadata/data associated with the NRDA Independent studies (i.e., BGOM cruises). In late March, BP and NOAA management discussed data sharing associated with independent studies conducted by either party.

Trustee Council/BP Communications in March

- **BP Monthly Report:** DOI provided a letter on March 7 concerning their appreciation for the information, however provided notice that the Trustees will provide no agreement or disagreement to the information sent. While we understand the response, we nonetheless encourage the Trustees to review these Monthly Reports and provide comments. We also invite discussion in areas where resolution or action is required.
- **NRD General:** BP requested opportunity to meet with Trustees to discuss data interpretation and 2011 planning efforts (provided January 13, 2011). On February 22, received response from Trustees on BP request to meet. The dates mentioned coincide with the special SETAC

symposium on the Deepwater Horizon incident, and therefore present a conflict.

- **NRD General:** BP was notified of a non-MC252 spill near Grand Isle, LA.
- **Deepwater Management Meeting:** A meeting was held on March 24 and 25 between BP and NOAA to discuss overall planning efforts for NRDA data collection for the remainder of 2011 for the deepwater area.
- **OSAT II:** On March 17, BP provided a letter to DOI concerning disagreement with certain conclusions of the OSAT II report as it pertained to the conservative nature of the potential for toxicity to shorebirds.
- **Cooperative Assessment Agreement:** Trustees provided a revised version of the assessment agreement to BP on March 17. BP is preparing a red line agreement to provide response.
- **Restoration and Fisheries:** BP provided a response to State of Mississippi concerning request for fisheries monitoring and potential restoration projects.
- **Birds:** On March 25, a letter was provided to DOJ concerning their denial of BP contracting with USDA for the Colonial Waterbird Reference Study.
- **Restoration:** BP received letter from State of Louisiana on March 25 concerning a request for oyster restoration funding. BP is preparing a response.
- **Water Column:** BP provided letter to Trustees on March 28 discussing concerns associated with sediment decontamination protocol.
- **Dolphin Incidental Lethal Take:** BP was notified by NOAA on March 31 of an incidental take of three pantropical spotted dolphins as part of a cooperative NOAA led cruise. NOAA is in process of developing additional mitigation measures.
- **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). A response from the Trustees has not yet been received.
- **DOI Funding:** On February 25, BP received a partial claim for NRD assessment costs of \$67,510,774.15. BP is preparing a response.
- **Turtle Restoration:** On March 22 and subsequently through the month, BP received and responded to a draft Emergency Restoration Turtle project.
- **SAV Emergency Restoration:** Trustees hosted a webinar on March 23 for BP SAV team members to highlight plan updates and provide detail on assessment methodologies. The Trustees transmitted the assessment areas in GIS format following the webinar. On March 28, BP received a revised SAV restoration plan.

Planned April Field Activities

- **Birds:** Cooperative implementation of non-breeding shorebird plan (Bird Study #5). Coordinated implementation of bald eagle plan and osprey productivity addendum (Bird Study #9, Part 2 and Part 3). Independent implementation of BP colonial waterbird productivity study and BP 2011 overflight census plans. Satellite data from brown pelicans and great egrets may be cooperatively obtained from ARGOS satellite though this entails no personnel in the field.
- **Corals:** N/A
- **Deepwater Benthic Communities:** Trustee proposed ROV cooperative work plan on the HOS Sweetwater should begin the week of March 21st. This plan will collect photographic/video imagery, sediment and near-bottom water samples in the vicinity of the MC 252 wellhead.
- **Deepwater Benthic Communities:** Sediment Profile Image (SPI) camera survey (cooperative study) on the Sarah Bordelon scheduled April 7 through April 22.
- **Fish:** Oyster Transition Plan Amendment surveys and Gulf Sturgeon river surveys continuing.
- **Fish:** A shakedown cruise of the Nearshore Benthic surveys is anticipated the last week of April.
- **Human use:** BP and Trustees to continue to move forward on potential cooperative data

collection for aerial and ground counts.

- **Marine Mammals & Turtles:** The 2011 Kemp's ridley nesting surveys in Texas to begin in April. Addendum to 2010 plan in final review stage.
- **SAV:** Fieldwork for the emergency restoration planning will be initiated in early April. Current field schedule would conclude field activities by end of April.
- **Shoreline:** Initiating spring 2011 shoreline coastal vegetation monitoring program in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.
- **Water Column/Plankton:** Initiate cooperative spring plankton sampling with MOCNESS-1 on the Nick Skansi and the MOCNESS-10 on the Meg Skansi.
- **Water Column:** The AUV survey of the region near the wellhead will continue. This plan has been shared with the Trustees and discussed in the Deepwater Benthic Communities TWG. The Trustees are considering whether "Leg 2" of the survey is best left as an independent (BP) study or a Cooperative Study. They have technical interest in the data, and BP has offered to share the data from the program. No decision has been made.

Joint Work Plans Signed in March

TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	BP	
Deepwater Benthic Communities	ROV Sediment Sampling Study	3/23/2011	3/23/2011	
Deepwater Benthic Communities	Time-Lapse Camera Retrieval Study	3/8/2011	3/8/2011	
Fish	Pisces Spring Mid-Water Trawl, Marine Mammal Prey Fish Sampling	3/19/2011	3/20/2011	
Marine Mammals & Turtles	HARP Addendum to March ADCP and HARP Maintenance Mission	3/17/2011	3/17/2011	
Water Column - Plankton	Spring 2011 Plankton Imaging Sampling Cruise Plan	3/9/2011	3/9/2011	

Joint Work Plans Under Revision/Awaiting Signature (March)

TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	BP	
Aerial Imagery	Aerial Photography Overflights			Draft plan under review by Trustees
Birds	2011 Aerial Bird Survey			Transmitted the Entrix developed 2011 aerial bird survey plan to the trustees requesting they review and join as a cooperative study on 3/21/2011.
Birds	Detection Probability (Searcher Efficiency) - Bird Study #1B			Field work complete. Plan is being finalized; we have agreement in principle and have received data from the Trustees.
Birds	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.
Birds	Colonial Waterbird (CWB) extension 2 (BRPE and GREG satellite telemetry)			To be submitted after cost extension 1 is completed.
Birds	Non-breeding Shorebirds – Bird Study #5	8/13/2010	8/17/2010	BP has pdf of signature page but not the final plan.
Birds	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.
Birds	Non-breeding Shorebird LA Addendum – Bird Study #5			Currently under revision within LA and USFWS.
Birds	Raptor – Bald Eagle – Bird Study #9			Trustees to provide revised plan to BP in April 2011.

Joint Work Plans Under Revision/Awaiting Signature (March)

TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	BP	
Birds	Raptor – Osprey Rapid Assessment Addendum – Bird Study #9			BP agreed to extend the osprey rapid assessment plan and sent notice to the Trustees on 3/24/2011.
Corals	Shallow-water Coral Tier 1 Plan Addendum			BP provided comments on the revised plan to Trustees on 1/31/2011.
Corals	Deep-water Coral SPMD Extraction and Analysis Plan	Pending	7/9/2010	BP returned comments and signature page to Trustees on 7/9/2010.
Deepwater Benthic Communities	ROV Megafauna/Megaplankton Survey			BP to provide to Trustees in early April. Trustees are deciding whether to vet this through the DWBC TWG or the Water Column TWG.
Deepwater Benthic Communities	Hardbottom AUV Survey			Trustees provided revised draft 3/30/11.
Deepwater Benthic Communities	Deepwater Softbottom Sediment Sampling			Trustees provided revised draft 3/30/11.
Deepwater Benthic Communities	Sediment Profile Imaging (SPI) Study Plan			BP to provide comments to Trustees early April.
Deepwater Benthic Communities	Mesophotic Reef Study			BP provided comment to Trustees' draft plan on 2/23/11.
Fish	Deepwater ROV Megafauna Assessment Plan			A presentation of this work plan created by Dr. Mark Benfield was given to the Trustees on 3/23/11 and a draft plan

Joint Work Plans Under Revision/Awaiting Signature (March)

TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	BP	
				should follow in April.
Fish	Sargassum Communities Pre-Assessment Plan Version 4			Trustees and BP agreed to plan in December, but could not implement the plan as described so it was not signed. Trustees provided a revised plan on 2/25/2011.
Fish	Assessment Plan for Marsh Edge and Sandy Shoreline			Trustees provided a draft plan on 3/29/2011. A series of cooperative conference calls are scheduled during early April to discuss.
Fish	Nearshore Ephemeral Data Collections: Submerged Oil Characterization Across Multiple Habitats			Trustees provided a draft plan on 3/30/2011. A series of cooperative conference calls are scheduled during early April to discuss.
Marine Mammals & Turtles	Kemp's Ridley Nesting Study Addendum			Anticipated to be signed in April.
Marine Mammals & Turtles	Loggerhead Nesting Study Addendum			Anticipated to be signed in April.
Marine Mammals & Turtles	Assessing Potential Sublethal and Chronic Health Impacts from the Mississippi Canyon 252 Incident on Coastal and Estuarine Bottlenose Dolphins			Revised plan received 3/3/2011. Calls pertaining to data sharing have occurred and signature draft is planned for early April.
Marine Mammals & Turtles	Genetic Analysis of Stock Structure, Species Identification and Sex			Trustees have indicated intention to provide a revised

Joint Work Plans Under Revision/Awaiting Signature (March)

TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	BP	
	Determination for Marine Mammal Biopsies and Strandings			draft in mid-March.
Marine Mammals & Turtles	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 March 2011.
Marine Mammals & Turtles	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.
Marine Mammals & Turtles	Investigation of Marine Mammal Morbidity and Mortality through Active Surveillance for Strandings			BP reviewed and suggested a reduced time period, requested the ability to comment on necropsy proposals, and sought assurances regarding access to data. No plan revision has been received from Trustees. Status unknown.
SAV	Sampling and Analysis Plan for Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve (JELA) - <i>Baseline Characterization/Response Injury</i>			Trustees provided revised plan on 2/16/2011. BP reviewing revised plan.
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.

Joint Work Plans Under Revision/Awaiting Signature (March)

TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	BP	
SAV	Response Injury Plan			Based on new information during the March 23 webinar, BP to provide comments to Trustees early April.
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	LIDAR Data Acquisition Plan			Draft Plan sent by Trustees on 2/10/2011. BP provided comments on 2/18/2011. Trustees responded to BP comments on 3/21/2011. BP is considering response.
Shoreline	Sampling and Monitoring Plan for Coastal Vegetation			Draft plan posted 1/28/2011. BP provided initial comments on 2/9/2011. Detailed comments to plan provided to Trustees on 3/17/2011. Trustees provided a replacement section for the elevation transect portion of the plan on 3/7/2011. BP provided comments

Joint Work Plans Under Revision/Awaiting Signature (March)

TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	BP	
				to that section on 3/21/2011. Trustees to revise plan and consider transect comments.
Shoreline	Addendum to the Monitoring Plan For Coastal Vegetation			Draft addendum provided by Mississippi and Alabama Trustees to add coastal vegetation monitoring in those states on 3/10/2011. BP is developing comments.
Shoreline	Emergency Restoration Plan			Trustees (NPS) developing draft plan for initial reconnaissance/assessment.
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			Trustees revising the draft plan. Terrapin restoration study vs. study letter was submitted to Louisiana on 3/31/2011.
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 submitted a letter to the Administrative Record on Attachment 6 on March 28 allowing the plan to be finalized for signatures.
Water Column	NRDA Ocean Current Field Plan: Moored ADCPs			Draft plan on hold pending Trustee/BP

Joint Work Plans Under Revision/Awaiting Signature (March)				
TWG	Plan	Signature Date		Comments
		NOAA/USFWS	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. Plan submitted to Trustees for signature on 2/19/2011.
Water Column	MC252 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill ADCP-Measured Currents Monitoring Plan December 2010 Quarterly Maintenance Mission Amendment #2			Field work (maintenance) complete. Plan submitted to Trustees for signature on 2/19/2011.
Water Column - Plankton	Plankton Sampling Plan – Fall 2010 Shakedown Cruise 1 – Nick Skansi			Field work complete, signed plan pending from Trustees.
Water Column - Plankton	Plankton Sampling Plan – Fall 2010 Shakedown Cruise 2 – Nick Skansi			Field work complete, signed plan pending from Trustees.
Water Column - Plankton	Plankton Sampling Plan – Fall 2010 Cruise 3 – Nick Skansi	Pending		Field work complete. Final plan sent to Trustees for signature on 1/11/2011.
Water Column – Plankton	Plankton Sampling Plan – Fall 2010 Cruise 4 – Nick Skansi	Pending		Field work complete. Final plan sent to Trustees for signature on 1/11/2011.
Water Column - Plankton	SEAMAP Plankton Sampling Plan & Winter 2011 Cruise Plan - Oregon II			BP providing comments to the Trustees in April.
Water Column – Seeps	Natural Seep Assessment Program			BP provided draft response AUV plan on March 3.

Joint Work Plans Awaiting Louisiana Signature (March)			
TWG	Plan	Date NOAA/USFWS Submitted to Louisiana	Comments
Deepwater Benthic Communities	Deepwater Sediment Sampling Plan	3/1/2011	
Deepwater Benthic Communities	ROV Sediment Sampling Study	3/23/2011	
Water Column - Plankton	Spring 2011 Plankton Imaging Sampling Cruise Plan	3/9/2011	