

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Business and Industry Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
NGO	Priority - create a Gulf-wide enterprise zone to organize and distribute funds. Work as one (Gulf States), ecosystem service and development.
NGO	What is here: need a current inventory of fish, wildlife, energy, services.
NGO	Impediments: states competing for funding.
Academia	Funding - (license plates) specialized account to engage, specially young citizens. Need a promotion / marketing campaign for the Gulf that will reach folks at a young age up to adults.
Academia	What is the scale; inshore, offshore? There is currently no identification of a geographic scale of the Task Force strategy. Watersheds affect what inshore, near-shor, or off-shore, boundaries. Scale down then build up to large scale. Categorize (2) physical oceanography / similar areas group.
LGO	Look at top of food chain and work downward. Top predator to habitat.
NGO	Evaluate true cost of the resource (i.e. what does a dead dolphin cost, impact of oil on individual, or resource, or community).
NGO	Do recommendations have to go to Congress for funding / approval / recommendations... if nothing passes what then... would Executive Order be valid? BP funding through penalties - how is this calculated; estimated flow, dispersant use?
Business and Industry	What is the schedule for task force deliverables?

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LGO	How does this effort parallel ongoing research effort? How are you aligning with GOMA?
NGO	Recommend models. Myriad of agencies involved in Gulf activities - hard to coordinate policy with so many players.
NGO	Could the Task Force make policy independent of existing regulations or governments?
NGO	Incorporate a consortium - marine industry council could match with industry to fund studies (i.e. shrimping).
NGO	How can we get more involvement from a regional or local level? Seems like this is federally driven. What is working locally? Need to get this information. Need to ensure that organization slike the national estuaries programs are involved at the regional / local level to implement the Task Force work.
NGO	Need to develop the status of the Gulf of Mexico, like a complete survey of the west Florida shelf (has not been done since the 1960's). This area did not have oil, but businesses have to advertise to get the message to the tourists that west coast Florida is fine. Therefore, maintain or consider helping tourism to recover from negative perception.
NGO	Economy needs help, seems like funds are directed to research only. Need to get help to the businesses that were directly or indirectly impacted by the oil spill that they need to recover. An example is the shrimping is fine in this area but there is a lack of demand because of misinformation. People not familiar with Florida would categorize all beaches in Florida the same.
NGO	Integrate local education/programs into plan.
Academia	This should be an exercise in changing how things currently work. Integrate local programs at a meeting to inform a representative (political figure?) to voice concerns to the Task Force. Include locals through a point person to ensure they are represented.

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Academia	Ensure that organizations like the South Florida Regional Planning Commission, Marine Industries Council, and universities are included.
NGO	Will there be an effort to inform actions from one state to other states? It may affect other states outside where the action/incident occurred. Inter- and intra- communication/regulation.
Business and Industry	Being this is a federal initiative, are there any discussions with Mexico or internationally?
NGO	States need to work together so efforts are not undone by others.
NGO	Need to develop and encourage partnerships with business as part of this effort. Involve industry to find out what is already known or banned in other countries (i.e. medflies, dispersants).
NGO	First line of defense is a safe plan in place to avoid the way this incident was handled .i.e. BP dispersant use).
NGO	How are private corporations allowed to violate existing laws? BP dispersant use exceeded recommended use.
NGO	There are concerns about human health issues because of misconceptions. Need data to educate people of risks or lack of risk/issue. Develop data integration at the regional/local level, the way the Tampa Bay Estuary Program does.
NGO	When Task Force comes up with lists of projects: (1) will there be restraints to execute, (2) be looking at time frames for outcome (long-term), (3) what was accomplished?
Academia	Priority - Time, act quickly. Current stressors could push species or habitat to far (not recoverable).
NGO	Priority - short term projects are necessary but need to look at long-term goals / long-term planning.

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Business and Industry	Gulf Coast should be a model for development of clean energy. Need financial incentives for entrepreneurs.
NGO	Changes in Administration Policy - Ocean policies go away with change in the Administration. Are there ways to carryover or incorporate into agencies not linked to an administration. Would ensure good work does not disappear.
Business and Industry	Priority - Develop a council to ensure longevity.
Business and Industry	Economic incentives - industry, tourism, environment. Need to tie this work to developing vibrant economic communities.
Business and Industry	Need to make this an ongoing activity/effort not tied to a governor / administration / agency. Need to create a mechanism to keep effort going through time.
Business and Industry	Does the Task Force have the ability to help the existing proposed bills (3 bills in House and Senate) to bring consensus - wide disparity among proposed bills.
Business and Industry	Build on Gulf Coast Alliance to build consistency throughout Gulf. Establish core metrics for all - consensus.
Business and Industry	Focus on common issues for resolution.
Business and Industry	Define metrics of achievement. What is a healthy system (initial priority).
Business and Industry	Combine ecology with economy - include human involvement.
Business and Industry	Is there a way to target law makers to participate at the meetings to create / secure funding?
Business and Industry	Need to look at areas functioning well and buffer or protect the areas.

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Business and Industry	Develop appealing terminology to reach the public - vibrant communities, vibrant ecosystems.
Business and Industry	Improve communication - websites illustrating entities involved, what is being done, studied, issues considered.