



News Wire

USF College of Marine Science Awarded \$11M for Gulf Spill Research

August 2011

A research consortium led by the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science has been awarded more than \$11 million through BP's Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GRI) to continue assessing the impacts of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill on the Gulf of Mexico's ocean and coastal ecosystems and to build a better ways for predicting damage from future spills.

[Read More](#)

Artificial Reefs are An Economic Boon

August 2011

A newly released University of Florida study of artificial reef use in six southwest Florida counties shows the structures lure a lot more than fish. The UF and Florida Sea Grant study looked at money generated by artificial reefs in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and Lee counties in 2009. Researchers found that \$136 million came from residents, while \$117 million was spent by visitors. [Read More](#)

Eckerd College \$1M Renovation Project

July 2011

The National Science Foundation awarded Eckerd College \$870,720 to renovate research spaces within the Galbraith Marine Science Laboratory during the summer of 2011. Eckerd contributions to the project bring the total renovation budget to over \$1 million. [Read More](#)

Mote Scientist to Lead Worldwide Aquaculture Organization

June 29, 2011

The world's largest aquaculture organization has chosen Dr. Kevan Main — a pioneer in sustainable aquaculture at Mote Marine Laboratory — as President-Elect. The World Aquaculture Society (WAS), which advances progressive and sustainable aquaculture through members in about 100 countries, inaugurated Main during its annual meeting this month in Natal, Brazil. Main's election comes at a key time for the aquaculture industry, which now supplies half the seafood consumed in the U.S. and larger percentages in many other countries. To meet the world's growing demand for seafood, aquaculture production will have to expand at least twofold by 2025, according to WAS. [Read More](#)

USGS St. Petersburg Report on U.S. Virgin Islands

June 23, 2011

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) St. Petersburg Coastal and Marine Science Center specializes in earth-science processes related to coastal and marine environments, and societal implications of natural hazards, resource sustainability, and environmental change. The Center

Bayboro Harbor Marine Science District

has documented ongoing research in and around the U.S. Virgin Islands, and has recently released a findings report that is providing baseline information for resource management and for assessing the health of and environmental changes to vital ecosystems such as coral reefs. [Read More](#)

Bay Scallop Season Opens Early Closes Late

June 20, 2011

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has announced that recreational harvest season for bay scallops in Florida begins June 25 and is extended through September 25, 2011. The FWC, in support of Gov. Rick Scott and the Cabinet, added three weeks to this year's season to help relieve Florida fishing communities suffering from possible economic hardships due to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. [Read More](#)

Beyond the Horizon: Protecting and Preserving the Gulf

May 11-13, 2011

Beyond the Horizon, being held by the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, is a discussion of a potential network of special ocean places to help strengthen the ecology, economy and culture of the Gulf of Mexico. The goal is to build consensus for establishing ecologically significant protections for key Gulf of Mexico sites to ensure that they continue to provide important services to our society and to identify the mechanisms that allow comprehensive approaches to management and allow for the significant involvement of the public in decision making. [Read More](#)

USGS Oceanographer Interviewed for New Scientist Magazine

April 6, 2011

On April 6, Lisa Robbins was interviewed by New Scientist journalist Becky Oskin about her career as a scientist. Dr. Robbins provided information about her career path, why she went into science, and geology in particular, mentoring opportunities, and any possible gender discrimination and gender-related barriers that she may have come up against over her career. For this article, Oskin also interviewed a microbiologist, a computer science professor, the dean of engineering at Tufts, and USGS director Marcia McNutt. The article will come out at the end of April and will be featured in both the print edition and online. [Read More](#)

FWRI 17th Annual MarineQuest 2011

April 1, 2011

On **Saturday, April 30, 2011**, the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) will open its doors to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for MarineQuest 2011. Visitors can explore the world of science at FWRI headquarters, at 100 8th Ave. S.E., in downtown St. Petersburg. The 17th annual MarineQuest is a free event that allows visitors of all ages to experience science firsthand with more than 60 exhibits. Visitors can check out live animals in touch tanks, interact with some of Florida's top scientists and learn about current fish and wildlife research in Florida. [Read More](#)

New Fishing Hooks Protect Bluefin Tuna in Gulf of Mexico

April 1, 2011

NOAA's Fisheries Service will require commercial fishermen who fish for yellowfin tuna, swordfish and other species with longlines in the Gulf of Mexico to use a new type of hook, called a weak hook, designed to reduce the incidental catch of Atlantic bluefin tuna. The hooks will be required starting May 5, 2011. Yellowfin tuna and swordfish are valuable commercial fisheries in the Gulf

of Mexico, supporting fishing jobs on approximately 50 vessels as well as jobs on shore. The two species bring longline fishermen annual dockside earnings of \$7 million. [Read More](#)

Progress Energy Foundation Gift Benefits USF-SP Initiatives

March 2, 2011

The University of South Florida Foundation today announced an \$185,000 gift from the Progress energy Foundation to benefit three separate programs within USF St. Petersburg (USF-SP). In addition, Progress energy announced that it will continue its ongoing support of the Oceanography Camp Especially for girls at USF College of Marine Science with a new \$10,000 gift. The gifts are part of the \$600M USF: Unstoppable campaign. [Read More](#)

The International Ocean Institute's IOInforma2011

March 1, 2011

The IOI-KIDS initiative is a project targeting the education of children in matters relating to ocean science. It is carried out through the IOI Operational Centre in Malta, growing and developing over the years from its inception in 2006 and funded under the IOI's network-wide program, "Women, Youth and the Sea". To download the program and learn about IOI-KIDS and the IOI's Women, Youth and the Sea Program, please visit the IOI-KIDS interactive website. [Read More](#)

BP Florida Response Website Updates

January 24, 2011

As part of its ongoing commitment to the Florida communities impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, BP has developed a website and just released total investment figures for the state for 2010. Through the end of December, BP has invested nearly \$1.3 billion in Florida to pay for grants, claims and recovery costs from the oil spill. [Read More](#)

Gulf Oil Spill Information Center (GOSIC)

October 4, 2010

The University of South Florida has created the GOSIC site as a guide to some of the information and data concerning the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the clean-up efforts. A digital library containing many more documents and sources is currently under development. [Read More](#)

State of Florida Oil Spill Emergency Bridge Loan Program

August 31, 2010

Florida small business owners who have lost income because of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and are struggling with the BP claims and payment system can apply for an expedited interest-free, short-term loan through the State of Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program. Under the program, small business owners are eligible for up to \$25,000 in interest-free financial help, with terms up to 12 months and available in most cases between 48-72 hours of submitting a completed application. [Read More](#)

FIO Approves \$9M in Research Grants

August 12, 2010

The Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO) Council has selected 27 research projects to examine the vast impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on the Gulf of Mexico for funding from

\$10 million provide by oil company BP. Researchers will examine the full scope of the spill, from investigating the effects of Deepwater Horizon oil and dispersants on reefs, corals, and salt marshes to examining how coastal and marine food webs have fared in the disaster. A complete list of funded research projects is available online. [Read More](#)

U.S. Secretary of the Navy – Ray Mabus event

July 30, 2010

On Tuesday, August 3rd from 6:00 to 7:30 pm the U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, will be at the FWRI amphitheater to provide an update on the Gulf Oil Spill. Mabus has been tasked with developing a long-term Gulf Coast Restoration Plan. The event is free to attend and the Secretary will take questions from meeting attendees. Discover more about Ray Mabus at, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray_Mabus

BP Oil Spill Claims Office

July 23, 2010

To date, no oil has appeared along the city and county's shoreline, but, local tourism and fishing-related local businesses have felt the impacts of the oil spill disaster. To file an oil spill-related claim, BP has opened a local claims office, located at 2551 Drew Street in Clearwater. Businesses are encouraged to first visit www.BP.com/claims or call the BP hotline at 800-440-0858 to request a claim number.

Pier Aquarium Camp for Hearing-Impaired Kids

June 16, 2010

A partnership between two community organizations has resulted in a new camp for deaf children. The Pier Aquarium and the Family Center on Deafness combined resources in 2009 as the aquarium developed its deaf docent program. Money from the same Community Foundation Grant that paid for the program is being used to underwrite Explore the Bay, serving 15 deaf and hard-of-hearing children ages 9 to 12. [Read More](#)

Florida Institute of Oceanography to Receive \$10M from BP

June 15, 2010

The Florida Institute of Oceanography will receive \$10 million from BP for research, monitoring and assessing the impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The institute, based in at the University Of South Florida St. Petersburg, is a consortium of 20 marine science institutions, including the 11 state universities. [Read More](#)

University of South Florida's New Director of Innovation Partnerships

June 3, 2010

Former St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker has been hired by the University of South Florida as its first director of "innovation partnerships." The newly created job's duties include developing partnerships with research corporations. Baker's position will be funded by the USF Research Foundation. The foundation is a private support organization with an annual budget that comes mostly from grants and donations, plus licensing revenue and rent paid by business tenants. [Read More](#)

Coast Guard St. Petersburg Opens Oil Spill Command Post

May 6, 2010

A command post to respond to any spilled oil that touches Florida's west coast is open at the U.S. Coast Guard base in St. Petersburg. The local base will house the officials and scientists whose job it is to help track the oil, plan a response and coordinate any cleanup from the Fenholloway River in Taylor County south to Everglades city in Collier County. [Read More](#)

Mayor Foster Hosts Marine Science Cluster Job Creation Summit

April 20, 2010

Mayor Bill Foster hosted St. Petersburg's Marine Science Community at FWC-Fish & Wildlife Research Institute for a Summit focused on strengthening and growing the cluster to create more jobs in the city. The summit brought together a diverse mix of local and regional stakeholders including the governmental agencies and educational institutions that anchor the cluster. [Read More](#)

Marine Quest 2010

April 17, 2010

Explore the world of fish and wildlife research in Florida at MarineQuest, the annual open house event of the FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute located in the Bayboro Harbor district of downtown St. Petersburg. [Read More](#)

GREEN COLLABORATIONS: 6 Sustainable Events

April 2010

Celebrate sustainability and learn how to reduce your carbon footprint at six GREEN events hosted in April and presented by The Pier Aquarium. Topics include: Protecting Ocean Habitats, Aqua-ecture; Green House; and more. [Read More](#)

St. Petersburg Ocean Team Economic Impact Analysis (TBRPC)

March 2010

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) has compiled an economic impact analysis report on one of the city's targeted business clusters "Marine Science", and its member group, the St. Petersburg Ocean Team. Its findings revealed an employee base of 1,620 persons with an annual payroll valued at \$143 million. [Read More](#)

NOAA Seeks Participants & Supporters for Dolphin SMART Conservation Program

February 5, 2010

NOAA Fisheries Service will host three informational sessions along the central and southwest Florida coasts on Dolphin SMART – a bottlenose dolphin conservation program primarily aimed at dolphin viewing businesses and their customers. [Read More](#)

USF St. Petersburg Opens New \$12 Million LEED Science & Technology Building

January 25, 2010

The University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USF-SP) officially held a dedication ceremony for its new 35,000 SF Science and Technology building. The \$12 million facility is open for classroom instruction and represents the first LEED project in the USF system, earning LEED-Gold

certification. The facility will broaden academic and research opportunities for students and faculty at both USF St. Petersburg and the USF College of Marine Science. [Read More](#)

Formation of New St. Petersburg Ocean Team

December 7, 2009

More than 10 elite oceanographic institutions in St. Petersburg have joined together to collaborate and enhance the visibility of one of St. Petersburg's key industries – Marine Science – by launching www.SPOceanTeam.org. [Read More](#)

Guardians of the Gulf

October 7, 2009

A new documentary featuring University of South Florida College of Marine Science researchers, to air on WUSF and WEDU. The 60-minute, high-definition documentary explores scientists work to unravel the mysteries of severe red tide outbreaks in the Gulf of Mexico. [Read More](#)

NOAA Captures Giant Squid in Gulf

September 21, 2009

Scientists from NOAA's Fisheries Service have captured a giant squid, measuring 19.5 feet long and weighing more than 103 pounds, while conducting research in the Gulf of Mexico. This is only the second known giant squid obtained from the Gulf of Mexico; the first was in 1954 found floating on the surface. [Read More](#)

NOAA for Sustainable Marine Aquaculture

September 3, 2009

By examining the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Aquaculture, NOAA will develop a national aquaculture policy that will ensure environmental protection and enable sustainable U.S. aquaculture that adds to the seafood supply and supports U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries. [Read More](#)

Students Team with Federal & State Agencies to Study Coral Reefs

August 7, 2009

Tampa Bay area students will work hand in hand this summer with scientists from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to attempt to document the spawning of staghorn coral in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. [Read More](#)

Promotion of USGS Science through Partnerships

March 31, 2008

A partnership which began in 1988 was honored for its significant achievements in the field of marine science. The partnership of USF, City of St. Petersburg, and the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership began when the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) selected St. Petersburg and USF as its home for a new national research center. To date representing 11 organizations, the region has grown into the Southeast's largest marine science district. [Read More](#)

SRI Taps Oceanic Waves as a Potential Source of Energy for the Region

August 14, 2007

SRI launched a buoy prototype designed to test the power generated from oceanic waves as a means to determine if such electrical power could benefit the Bay Area region in the future. SRI offices are located in the Bayboro marine District in downtown St. Petersburg at the University of South Florida's Knight Oceanographic Research Center. The buoy was launched into the waters of Tampa Bay with an initial research, development and testing phase consisting of the next three years. [Read More](#)