



BP Research Funding for the Gulf of Mexico

Council Meeting October 25, 2011



UNOLS Council Chair Letter Highlights

- Letter sent 7 June 2011 on behalf of UNOLS in regards to the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative RFP-1 released by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Research Board.
- I hope that you will consider using UNOLS ships, underwater vehicles, and aircraft. As part of the national response to the Deepwater Horizon crisis, six UNOLS vessels participated in studies of the oil spill, which were supported by NSF, ONR, NOAA, and BP among others.
- UNOLS office, ship operators, and NSF were able to organize and plan scientific cruises on a relatively short time interval
- Over 40 years, UNOLS has utilized research ships owned by the National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research, and state or privately owned vessels to successfully carry out a wide range of scientific missions.
- UNOLS vessels have broad capabilities; these vessels are staffed by experienced crew with a long record of safe and successful scientific operations.
- UNOLS fleet is a national facility that has a wide array of state-of-the-art equipment available to scientific users, as well as the technical support for this equipment pool. UNOLS office and individual ship operators are available to discuss logistics and cruise planning utilizing UNOLS assets.



UNOLS Efforts to date

- UNOLS Council Chair letter
- Tracking and keeping informed on the RFP-I/III process
- Jon contacted GRI Board Members John Farrington and Dana Yoerger encouraging use of UNOLS vessel.
- UNOLS Office answering requests for information from Consortia and individual PI's. on ships, rates, schedules, etc
- UNOLS contacted all 8 Consortia PI leaders encouraging use of UNOLS assets.
- Jon Alberts attended Gulf Research Initiative meeting in New Orleans Oct. 20, 2011, made contact with Consortia needing ship time, encouraged use of UNOLS Vessels.



Gulf Research Initiative RFP- I

RFP-I Letters of Intent due May 9, 2011, proposals due July 11, 2011- COL lead the peer review process, 1.0-7.5 million each, total 112.5 million, over 3 years, announcements made on August 31, 2011

Awardees- Lead Institution and Lead PI

- University of Texas/Austin- Edward Buskey
- Texas A & M- Piers Chapman
- Florida State Univ. – Eric Chassignet
- LUMCON- Nancy Rabalais
- University of South Florida- Jacqueline Dixon
- University of Miami- Tamay Ozgokmen
- Tulane University- Vijay John
- Univ. of Mississippi- Ray Highsmith



Gulf Research Initiative RFP- III

- RFP-III process- Time Sensitive, for Immediate critical data to bridge until RFP I was completed, no collaboration, RFP-III Proposals due June 17, 2011, GRI Board Review Process, 50 K to 300 K, total 1.5 million, Announcements to be made June 30, 2011.
- Time Frame for RFP –III was July 1, 2011 to Sept 30, 2011.
- GRI received 111 proposals, 17 awards, totaling 1.5 million.
- Near Shore-Coastal, Beach work, no significant ship time.



Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Research Board

Rita Colwell- Research Board Chair/Johns Hopkins

Margaret Leinen- Research Board Vice Chair/Harbor Branch

Debra Benoit/Nicholls State Univ.

Peter Brewer/MBARI

Richard Dodge/National Coral Reef Institute

John Farrington/WHOI

Kenneth Halanych/Auburn

David Halpern/NASA JPL

William Hogarth/Florida Institute of Oceanography

Jorg Imberger/Univ. of Western Australia

Raymond Orbach/Univ of Tx-Austin

Jurgen Rullkotter/ICBM

David Shaw/Miss. State Univ.

John Shepherd/Univ. of Southhampton

Bob Shipp/Univ. of South Alabama

Burton Singer/Univ. of Florida

Ciro Sumaya/Texas A&M

Denis Wiesenburg/Univ. of So. Miss.

Charles Wilson/Louisiana State Univ.

Dana Yoerger/WHOI