

NOAA Office of Response and Restoration Update for SCAA Annual Meeting

Sean Corson, Director
John Tarpley, Emergency Response Division Chief
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

March 25, 2026

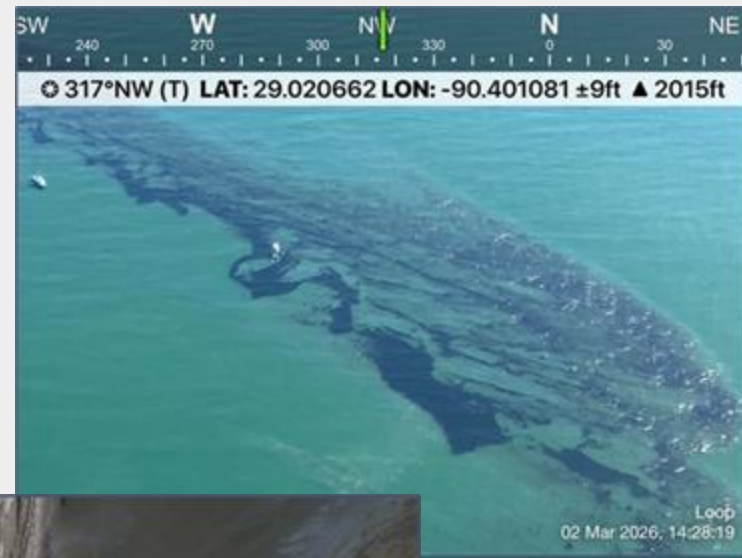


Topics

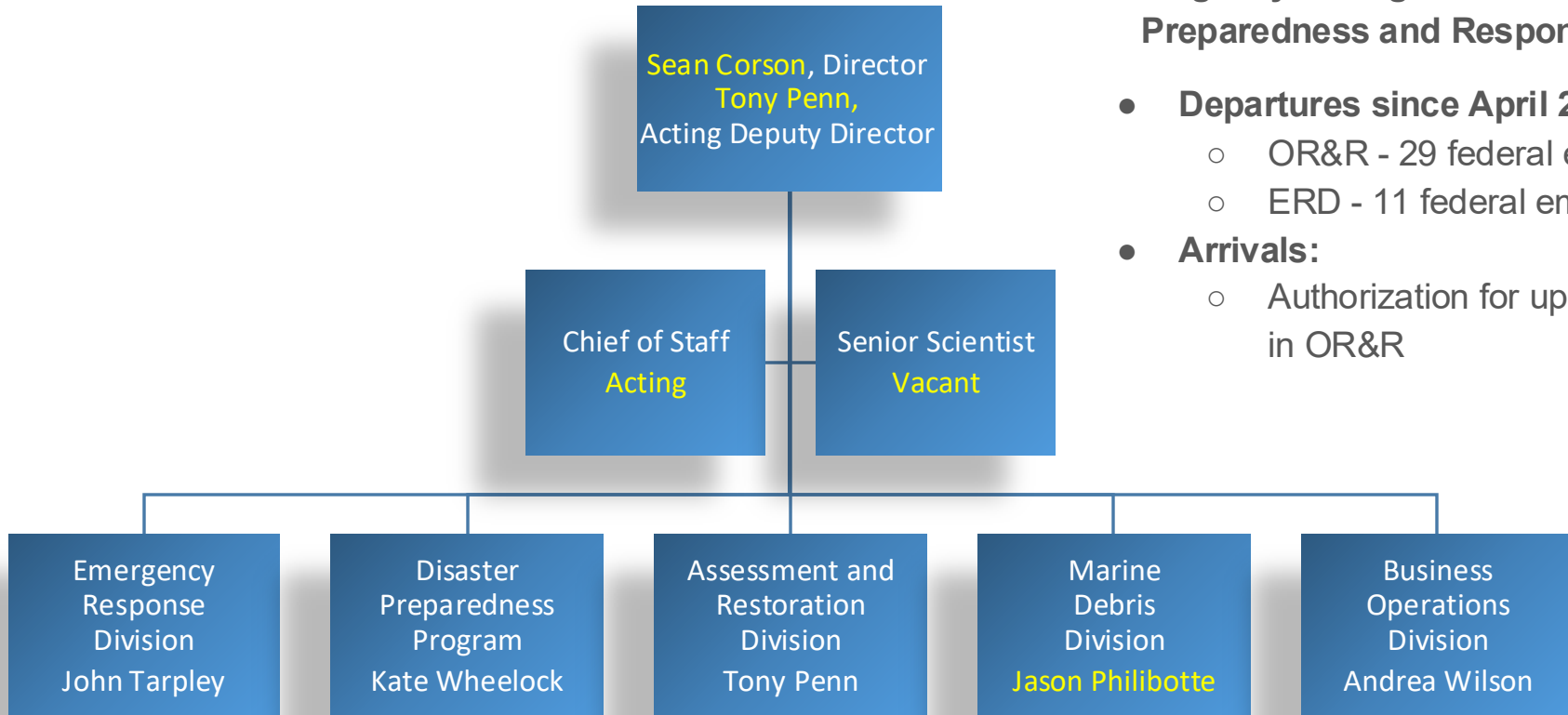
1. Staff Changes
2. Accomplishments in 2025
 - Emergency Response
 - Exercises
 - Training
1. Featured Incidents
2. New Innovation
 - Workshop
 - Tools
 - Products
1. Training for 2026



Photo: NOAA



Office Staff Update



Staff Changes involved in Emergency Management and Spill Preparedness and Response:

- **Departures since April 2025:**
 - OR&R - 29 federal employees
 - ERD - 11 federal employees
- **Arrivals:**
 - Authorization for up to 6 hires in OR&R



Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) Locations and associated U.S. Coast Guard Districts



Arctic

Liza Sanden (RPC)
Office: Anchorage, AK
Sectors: Juneau and Anchorage

Northwest

CDR Aaron Maggied
Vacant (RRO)
Office: Seattle, WA
Sectors: Puget Sound
and Columbia River

Southwest

Carl Childs, PhD
Office: Seattle, WA
Sectors: San Francisco,
Los Angeles-Long Beach,
and San Diego

Oceania

CDR Aaron Maggied
Office: Seattle, WA
Sectors: Honolulu and Guam

Great Lakes

William Whitmore, PhD (RPC)
Office: Gloucester, MA
Sectors: Lake Michigan, Buffalo,
Sault Ste. Marie, and Detroit

Northeast

William Whitmore, PhD (RPC)
Office: Gloucester, MA
Sectors: Northern New England,
Southeastern New England,
Boston, and Long Island Sound

Heartland

Adam Davis
LTJG Peter LeBel (RRO)
Office: Mobile, AL
Sectors: Upper Mississippi, Lower Mississippi,
Ohio Valley, Mobile, Houston-Galveston and
Corpus Christi

East

Frank Csulak
Office: Highlands, NJ
Sectors: New York,
Delaware Bay,
Maryland NCR,
Virginia, and
North Carolina

Heartland

LT Patrick Lawler
Office: Galveston, TX
Sector: Houston-Galveston and
Corpus Christi

Heartland

Brandi Todd
Office: New Orleans, LA
Sector: New Orleans

Southeast

Bradford Benggio
Office: Miami, FL
Sectors: Charleston,
Jacksonville, Miami, Key West,
St. Petersburg, and San Juan

Scientific Support Coordinator Update

<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/about/contact>



Annual Achievements: Fiscal Year 2025

- Provided incident coordination for **two** hurricanes
- Removed over **3.3 million** pounds of marine debris
- Recovered **\$18 million** from polluters for restoration
- Made significant, publicly available improvements to our data management and mapping capabilities
- Updated tools and conducted research



Photo:
NOAA



Accomplishments of FY25

Training

- 32 Planned (16 canceled/postponed)
- ~ 1500 students across OR&R
- 3 weeks of Response Training in PHI
- Workshops in Papua New Guinea & Chuuk

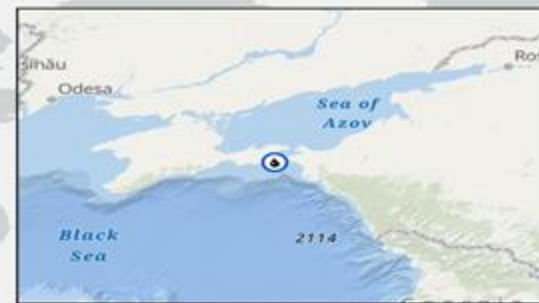
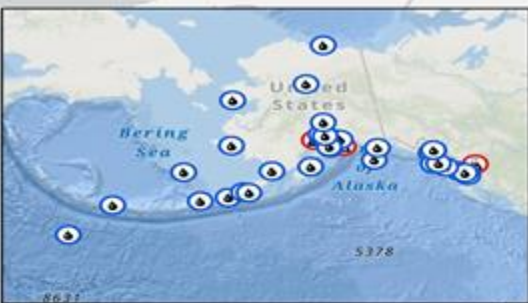
Exercises

- 23 supported w/products
- Attended more



Number of Incidents in FY25





OR&R Responds to Oil and Chemical Spills



February 2026 - MCG

Photo: NOAA

Well #59 Garden Island Bay, Louisiana (April-May 2025)



Photo:
NOAA



Photo:
NOAA

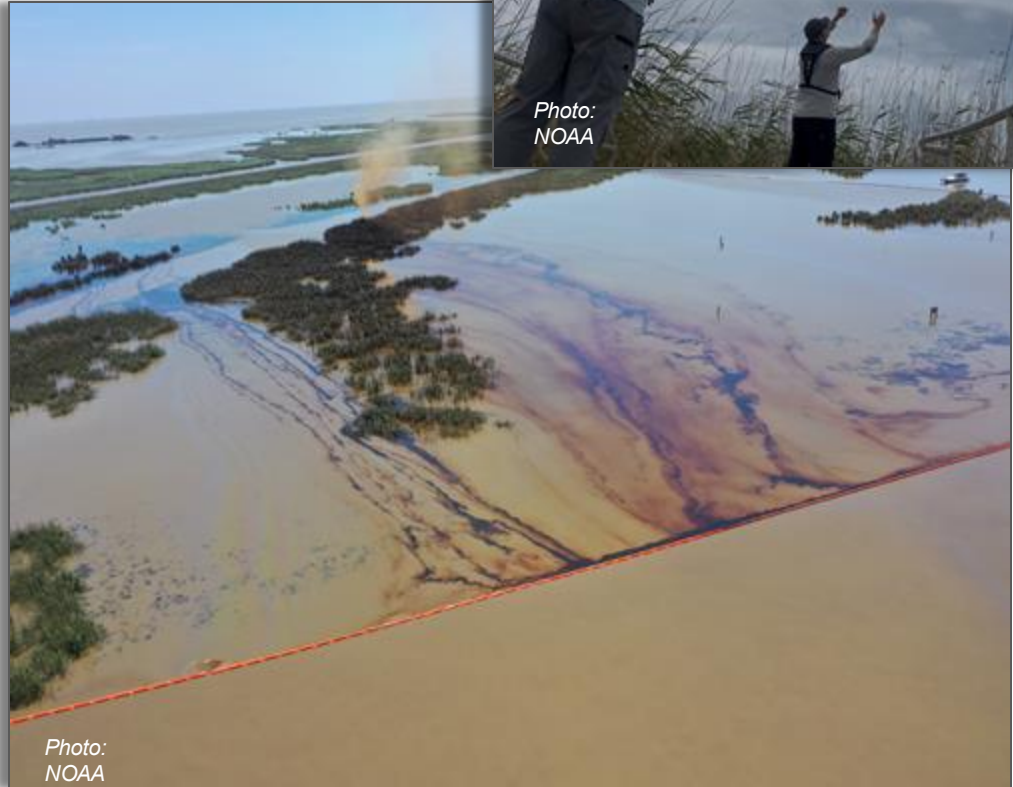


Photo:
NOAA



LOOP Marine Terminal oil spill, Louisiana (Feb-Mar 2026)



Photo:
NOAA



Photo:
NOAA



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rr Air Patrol

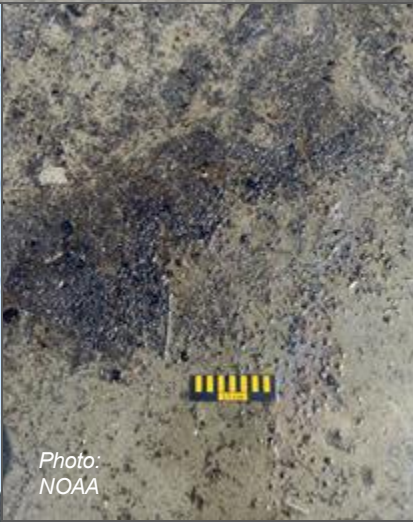
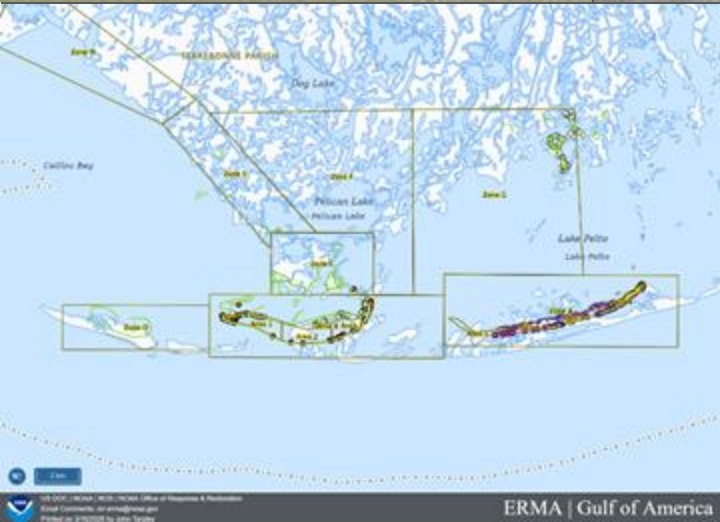


Photo:
NOAA



Innovation

- Real-time overflight observations into Command Post.
 - Flight track
 - Photographs
 - Location, Altitude
- Hi-Res Ortho-mosaic images w/UAS
- Initial development of digital field applications for rapid shoreline (oil) and hurricane assessments.
- UAS-based SCAT



ERMA® | Gulf of America

Overflight Quick Capture Photo Observations 18-Mar-2026 (NOAA)

- Dark Oil
- Leading Edge
- Other
- Sheen
- Source

Overflight Quick Capture Trackline 18-Mar-2026 (NOAA)

- Trackline

Sentinel 2 Imagery (Best Available Tile)

3 of 106

UAS

The figure shows a user interface for a mapping application. It includes a legend for oil spill observations, a trackline legend, and a section for Sentinel 2 satellite imagery. A specific tile is selected, showing a high-resolution aerial view of a coastline with a large body of water on the left and a landmass on the right. The interface also displays a scale of 3 of 106 tiles and a 'UAS' label. At the bottom, there is a NOAA logo and a circular logo with the NOAA text.

NOAA

Research and Workshops

Workshops:

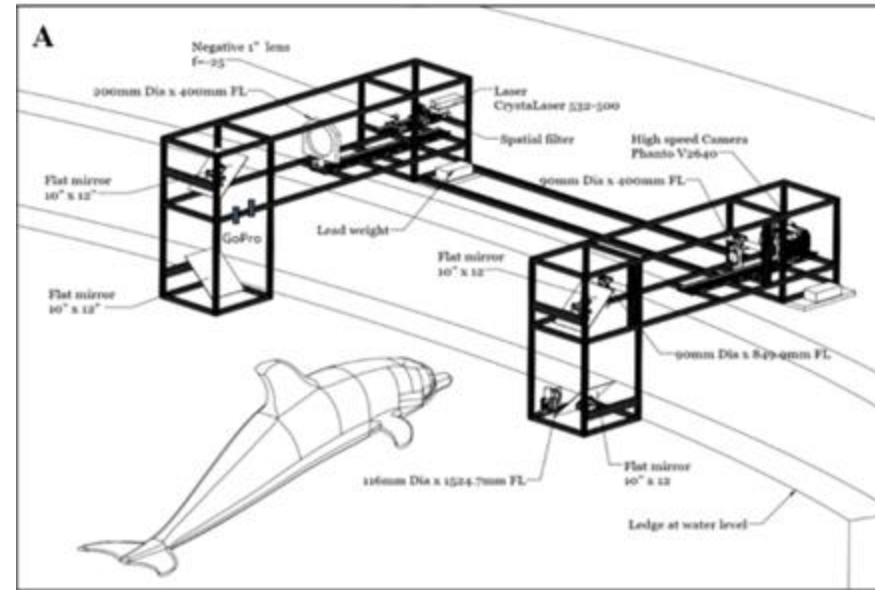
- Hurricane Preparedness Workshop (May 2025)
- Pre-Production Plastic Pellets (PPPP) releases: International virtual webinar (June 2025)
- Underwater Remote Sensing Workshop (September 2025)

Arctic:

- Tsunami layers added to Arctic ERMA (UNH/CRRC/ADAC project).
- UNH coordinating visualization tool development for storm, oil spill, and natural threats [DHS ADAC-ARCTIC at UAA].
- UNH/OSRI testing airborne mid-wave infrared sensor to detect oil and assess spill volume/thickness.

Notable Science:

- Dolphin breathing modeled (without oil) using holographic cameras and trained animals (UNH/CRRC/OR&R, Nat'l Aquarium, Johns Hopkins) to inform future risk/injury assessments after spills.
- Desktop modeling of dolphin respiration w/ oil is ongoing.



Gupta et al. 2026; *Frontiers in Marine Science*.
10.3389/fmars.2026.1748534

<https://crrc.unh.edu/>



Job Aids and Fact Sheets

Oil Spills and Pelagic Sargassum



Oil Spills and Pelagic *Sargassum*: Planning and Response Considerations

- Technical “job aid” for spill response planners and scientists
- Assist spill response and planning where pelagic *Sargassum* is at risk from or may interact with oil spills

response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/oil-spills-and-pelagic-sargassum

Maritime Environmental Response Oil Mission Guidelines (USCG sUAS Addendum)

(GLCOE funded, CRRC administered)

- Best practices and internal processes for safe and effective flight ops for documenting oil releases
- Emphasis on offshore vessel based UAS ops
- Spills of any size benefit from these guidelines

Oil Fact Sheets for Spill Responders:

response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-fact-sheets-spill-responders



Oil Fact Sheets for Spill Responders

Oil Spills: Oil Spills, Weathering Processes, Oil Fact Sheets

The following fact sheets, created for spill planners and responders, provide technical information about the characteristics of different oils, their behavior when spilled, and their effects on wildlife, plants, and habitats:

- Biodiesel Spills (PDF, 124 KB)
- Denatured Ethanol Spills (PDF, 651 KB)
- Detergents/Plastic Spills from PCB Fluids (PDF, 167 KB)
- Small Diesel Spills (500-5,000 gallons) (PDF, 346 KB), Revised 5/23/23
- Diluted Bitumen (2000) Spills (PDF, 217 KB)
- Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) Spills (PDF, 232 KB)
- Kerosene and Jet Fuel Spills (PDF, 191 KB)
- Non-Petroleum Oil Spills (PDF, 120 KB)
- Light Shale (Light) Oil Spills (PDF, 191 KB)
- Synthetic Based Drilling Mud Spills (PDF, 158 KB)

USCG UAS Classroom Training Materials



Projects

- New Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) data
 - ESI for Lakes Superior, Huron, St. Mary's River – in process
 - ESI for AK North Slope (BSEE) - started
- Coast Guard NOAA Partnership Expands Oil Spill Planning Tool to Lake Erie
- Coast Survey's Operational Forecast System Informs Shipwreck Oil Spill Scenarios
- NOAA Intern's Spill Modeling of Potentially-Polluting Wrecks Helps Protect Louisiana's Coast
- Oil Type Fact Sheets on ORR Webpage
 - Ammonia as a Marine Fuel
 - Hydrogen as a Marine Fuel
 - Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG as a Marine Fuel)



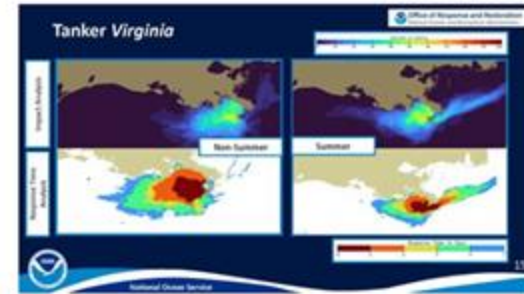
New Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) Data for Lake Michigan



NOAA Intern's Spill Modeling of Potentially-Polluting Wrecks Helps Protect Louisiana's Coast

SEPT. 16, 2025 — For Ainsley Vanderhyde, a NOAA scholar and rising senior at Barry University, a summer project supporting NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) wasn't just about updating a database—it was about modeling real-world threats.

Using NOAA's spill trajectory model, GNOME, and statistical data tool, Trajectory Analysis Planner (TAP), Vanderhyde analyzed the fate and transport of potential oil spills from



Training Opportunities in 2026

Science of Oil Spills (SOS)

- Baton Rouge: March 9-13, **Postponed**
- Virtual SOS (Pilot for WA ECY): March - In Progress
- Charleston: April 20-24
- Seattle: June 1-6 - **APPLICATIONS OPEN**

Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR)

- Mobile: March 3-5 - Complete
- Second SOCR Class- TBD

Shoreline Cleanup & Assessment Technique (SCAT)

- 6-8 Regional courses: Refer to Regional SSCs
- Regional Virtual Courses

Natural Resource Advisor

- Puerto Rico: March 19-20, 2026- Complete

** Online
SOS course
– now testing



Visit: <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/resources/training>

Or contact regional [Scientific Support Coordinator](#) for SCAT





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- Marine Debris Newsletter
- Disaster Preparedness News

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- [Pollution Settlement to Fund Habitat](#)
- [Restoration Along the Lower Duwamish River](#)
- [NOAA Spill Scientists Complete Initial](#)
- [Guidance for Response to Oil Spill](#)
- [NOAA Changes in the Great Lakes](#)
- [NOAA, Coast Guard Partner to Collect Data](#)
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WHAT WE DO

Develop scientific solutions to keep the coasts clean from threats of oil, chemicals, and marine debris.



Questions?



response.restoration.noaa.gov

