A long-term, interdisciplinary study of deep sea to coast connectivity in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico

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The Deep-C Consortium is investigating the environmental consequences of petroleum hydrocarbon (oil) on living marine resources and ecosystem health in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico. Deep-C seeks to increase understanding of the fundamental physical, chemical, and biological connections between the deep sea, continental slope, and coastal waters and their linkages to critical habitats and ecological functions.

**RESEARCH AREAS**

- Ecology
- Geochemistry
- Geomorphology & Habitat Classification
- Modeling
- Physical Oceanography

**RESEARCH**

Over 100 scientists and students at 10 academic and research institutions in the USA and Norway are participating in Deep-C. Activities include mapping the sea floor; analyzing water and sediment samples; studying how oil-related toxins may affect wildlife; and determining how currents and other ocean processes transport oil.

**DATA**

Data is collected by hand, boat, plane, and satellite and is analyzed and used in model studies to support improved responses to possible future oil spills. Through computer simulations of possible oil spill scenarios, Deep-C is producing projections of changes in ecosystem services that can support enhanced decision making and forecasting of potential socioeconomic outcomes.

**OUTREACH**

Deep-C seeks to engage students, policy makers, and the general public in the process of scientific discovery and to encourage a sense of stewardship for the Gulf. Our outreach efforts include experiential internships; educational workshops; special events; multimedia production; and social networking.