

# Dispersant Use Planning Assistant



RRT 6 Presentation

January 27, 2009    Corpus Christi, TX



**Ecosystem Management & Associates, Inc.**

# Project Team

- Don Aurand, Ph.D.
- Charlie Huber
- Gina Coelho, Ph.D.
  - Researched dispersant use procedures in 22 countries
  - MSRC (1993-1995)
  - Principal in EM&A, Inc. (1996 – present)
  - 3 North Sea field trials: dispersed oil toxicity
  - CROSERF dispersed oil toxicity forum
  - Dispersed oil research and ERA projects in USA, UK, Brazil, New Zealand



# Presentation Overview

- Provide briefing to RRT 6 on an American Petroleum Institute funded project
- Demonstrate progress-to-date on the “Dispersant Use Planning Assistant” Tool
- Solicit input from RRT 6 on the utility of the Tool
- Identify a small working group to provide detailed feedback on Tool content



# Background

The American Petroleum Institute (API) funded a “demonstration project” to develop a CD-ROM based training aid for making and documenting dispersant decisions.



Ecosystem Management & Associates, Inc.

# Purpose of the Tool

Assist USCG, RRT's, and RP's in gathering the information and completing the forms to authorize the use of dispersants.



# Scope of the Project

- Conduct data review for five RRTs: 3, 4, 6, 9 & 10
- Prepare matrix of all information requirements for each of these five RRTs
- Project demonstration (*i.e.*- developing the CD-ROM format) limited to RRT 6
- Expand coverage to RRT's 3, 4, 9 & 10



# Schedule

- Draft demonstration for RRT 6: 27 Jan 2009 (originally Aug 08 but postponed when RRT meeting was cancelled)
- Final demonstration effort for RRT 6: Mar 2009
- Expansion to RRT 3, 4, 9 & 10: Apr 2009 (pending funding from sponsors)
- Final Tool for Release: Aug 2009 (pending funding from sponsors)



# Why the Sponsors Thought this Tool would be Useful

- Constant change over of personnel
- Need to expedite dispersant-use decisions
- Different requirements among RRTs
- Provide assistance on what information is required for each form and references as to where and how to obtain the information
- Quickly provide documents to complete electronically
- Rapid distribution of completed forms via internet



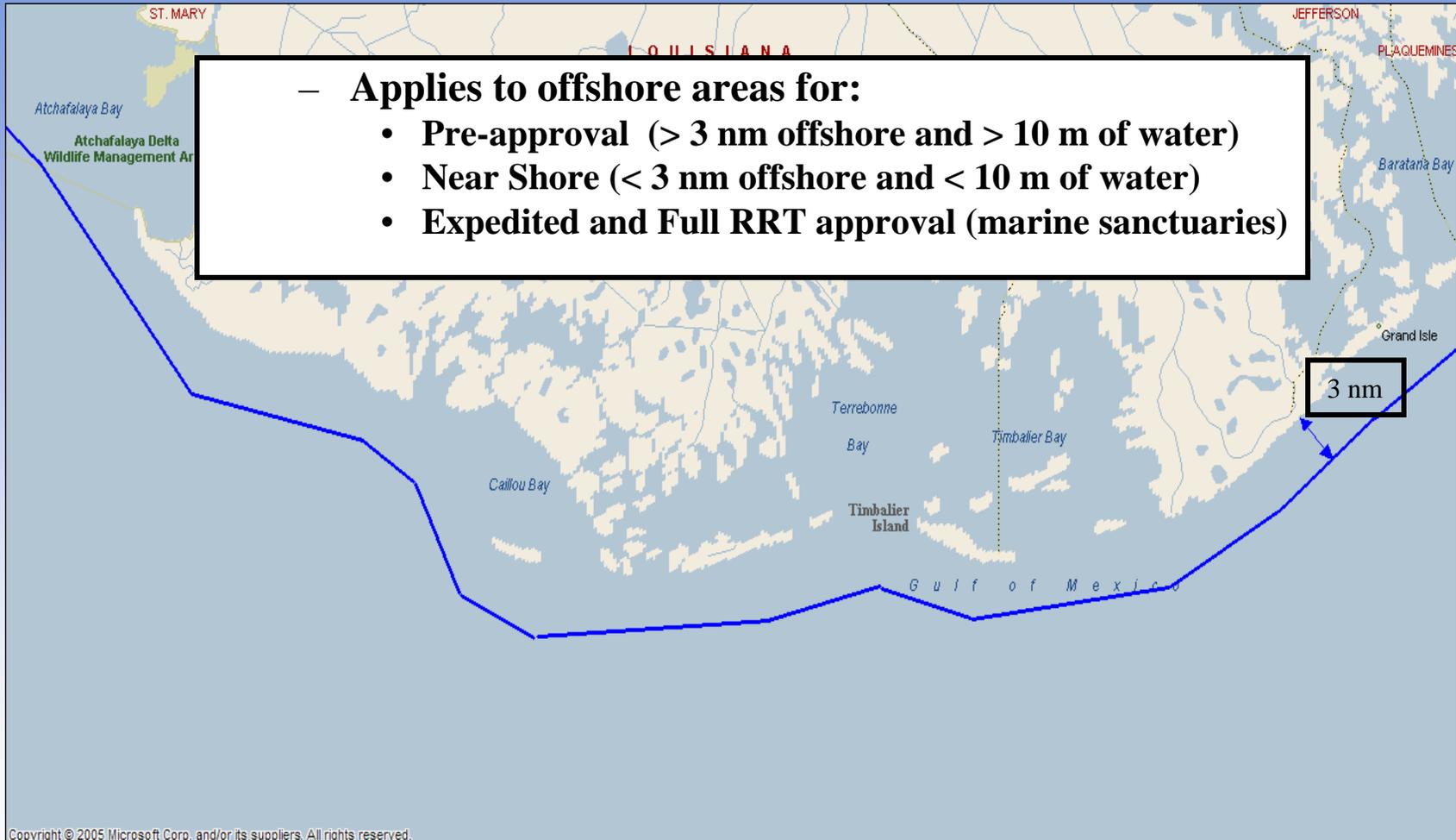
# Where can this Tool be Useful?

- Respond to actual spills
- RRT training exercises
- Dispersant workshops
- Area Committee meetings
- Discussions related to expansion or contraction of dispersant authorization zones
- Facilitate understanding between different RRT processes for personnel who provide coverage in more than one RRT



# Tool Coverage

- **Applies to offshore areas for:**
  - **Pre-approval (> 3 nm offshore and > 10 m of water)**
  - **Near Shore (< 3 nm offshore and < 10 m of water)**
  - **Expedited and Full RRT approval (marine sanctuaries)**



# The Challenge . . .

- Approximately 300 different information items
- Very few information items are common among the 5 RRTs we are examining. Here are a few:
  - Visibility
  - Ceiling
  - Wind Speed
  - Wind Direction
  - NCP Product List Status



# Progress To Date

- Compiled all data (documents, forms, etc) for RRTs 3, 4, 6, 9 & 10 and organized information into matrix
- Developed a menu-driven format for the Tool (via *CS3 Dreamweaver*)
- Input select date for RRT 6 into the software to create mock up of Tool



We Want Your Input

Will this Tool be useful  
to RRT 6?

If so . . .



Ecosystem Management & Associates, Inc.

# Topics for Discussion

- Apparent inconsistencies between RRTs and within documents of individual RRTs
  - Standards have changed and RRTs have not necessarily kept up
  - For example, our project team identified approx. 15 inconsistencies in RRT 6 documents, mostly stemming from recent changes in standards (e.g., ASTM requirements for fire monitors)
- Current forms do not directly lend themselves to electronic format
- Beta-test the Tool with small RRT 6 working group



# Next Steps

- Update dispersant policies to make them internally consistent
- Modify the checklists to enable electronic completion
- Identify working group to help test and refine the Tool
  - Comprised of approx. five RRT 6 individuals responsible for dispersant approval checklists
  - Three to four telecons over next six weeks
  - Access the demo Tool via internet while on the telecon
  - Estimated 8-hour commitment
- Our project team can assist with the first two items



# Consider Separating the “Why” from the “How”

- Current process couples the dispersant approval decision with the operational plan
- As written, pre-approval requires you to determine:
  - (1) if the spill is in a pre-approved area and the oil is dispersible; and
  - (2) what the operational plan is to treat the spill
- Consider separating the operational plan from the dispersant approval process since the operational plan:
  - takes time to prepare and is not really needed to decide if dispersants should be used.
  - states how to apply dispersants and should not be considered for approval to use the dispersants.



# Future Process Changes to Consider

- Require dispersant spray companies to provide an informational sheet (equipment, stockpiles, personnel, response times, capability, etc.) so you know in advance the dispersant contractor can do the job.
- Operational specifics (which staging airport to use, time to the spill site, etc.) can be prepared and provided to the FOSC for approval prior to commencing spray operations
  - Time is available to do this while the operation is being put in place (which takes at least 2-8 hrs).



# Questions? Comments?



**Ecosystem Management & Associates, Inc.**