

COSEE CENTRAL GULF OF MEXICO

- **Administrative Principal Investigator:**
Dr. Steven E. Lohrenz, USM-Stennis Space Center, MS
- **Programmatic Principal Investigator:**
Dr. Sharon H. Walker, Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS)-Center for Marine Education and Research (CMER) in Gulfport, MS
- **Location:** COSEE CGOM is based at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM)-Gulf Coast Research Laboratory-Marine Education Center (MEC) in Ocean Springs, MS.
- **Website:** cosee-central-gom.org
- **Collaborators/Partners:** USM-GCRL-MEC; IMMS-CMER; University of Florida (UF), its Natural Museum of History (NMH), and Florida Sea Grant College Program (FSGCP); Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) and its Estuarium; Mississippi State University and its Center for Educational Training and Technology (CETT); State Science Teachers Associations, States Departments of Education, and Public Broadcasting Stations within FL, AL, MS, and LA; National Marine Educators Associations (NMEA) and the Regional Chapters within the Gulf of Mexico; and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA).
- **Co-Principal Investigators and Key Project Partners:** Dr. Jessica Kastler at USM-GCRL-MEC; Dr. Michael Spranger at UF, its NMH, and FSGCP; Drs. John Dindo and Tina Miller-Way at the DISL and Estuarium; Drs. Dan Brook and Brian McCann at MSU and its CETT; Dr. Sharon Walker at the IMMS-CMER; Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO); State Departments of Education and Public Broadcasting Stations within FL, AL, MS, and LA; and other professional organizations. Other informal centers for 2011 will include the Audubon Aquarium and Sci-Port in Louisiana; the Museum of Natural Science in Mississippi; the McWane Center and the Little River Canyon School in Alabama; and 4-H Centers in Florida.

Mission: To assist the COSEE Network in “bridging the gap” between ocean and coastal sciences research and the relevance of those data by engaging scientists with a broad range of audiences via informal centers and professional development programs for educators.

What We Do: To improve environmental literacy, specifically ocean literacy, the COSEE CGOM Management Team and Advisory Board involve and excite K-Gray audiences by:

- Professional development programs involving formal and informal educators and scientists’ research within the Gulf of Mexico
- Engaging scientists and the public concerning man-induced hazards, specifically the impacts of oil spills in 2011
- Expanding and leveraging collaborations through regional partners with similar missions
- Enhancing living and static exhibitry within partnering informal centers
- Increasing workforce diversity through programmatic recruitment efforts
- Providing opportunities aboard U.S. Navy oceanographic survey ships for formal and informal educators-based on ship availability
- Making presentations and serving in leadership rolls within professional societies at local, state, regional, or national levels



Who We Are: Since its inception, COSEE CGOM has been and continues to be a unique, regional effort involving formal and informal educators, scientists, and the general public representing universities, informal centers, middle schools, and agencies.

Audience: K-Gray

Date Established: September 2002

Why We Were Established: The COSEE CGOM Co-PIs have strengthened environmental literacy and professional relationships by forming catalytic and engaging collaborations among scientists, educators, and the general public.

History: COSEE CGOM personnel have 1) engaged in bridging the gap between scientists’ research and the interpretations of those data for K-20 educators, precollege students, and the general public and 2) assisted scientists in better understanding mechanisms to use for broader societal impacts, “how” children learn, the instructional skills used for this learning process, the use of state and national standards, and evaluation and assessment processes.



What We Offer...

The COSEE CGOM staff offers an array of programs/resources, encompassing:

- Two-Day Workshops and/or three-week Summer Institutes (face to face and distance-learning) were offered from 2003-2009 involving engagement between formal and informal educators and scientists.
- Living and static exhibitry within the aquariums, museums, and science centers serving as regional sites;
- Hands-on, curricular materials, aligned with State Science Standards and NSES based on sound science. These activities are on the COSEE CGOM Website;

- The COSEE CGOM website with resources and programmatic information; and
- Opportunities for underserved and underrepresented groups.

Example Offerings...

Due to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico during the spring and summer of 2010, NSF-COSEE Program Managers requested COSEE CGOM personnel to focus its fifth year funding on this man-induced catastrophic event.

- Community Forums will involve scientists serving as panelists via distance learning and face to face venues. These Community Forums will be conducted on Saturday mornings once each spring and fall in three different locations per state in FL, AL, MS, and LA. From 100 to 150

members of the public will be invited to the Community Forums focusing on the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Three scientists at each host site and a minimum of one scientist at each of two satellite sites per state will comprise each panel. The three sites within each state will be connected to each other via videoconferencing capabilities. Questions will be asked at each site by participants and the panel of scientists will provide responses. Four, one-hour webinars will be developed (one from each state) using the Saturday morning host locations as a “backdrop” for the video production. These webinars and the oil-spill curricular materials will be added to the COSEE CGOM and <SpillScience.com> websites.