

Marine Debris Short Course Abstract
Safe Seas, 2006

Marine debris issues associated with oil spill incidents and response operations will be incorporated into the 2006 Safe Seas drill at several levels. First, there will be a marine debris component in the shoreline cleanup and assessment technique (SCAT) training leading up to the drill. There is also a marine debris component to the NOAA SCAT database structure and integration into SCAT forms (paper forms and electronic PDA forms). Second, marine debris will be incorporated into the drill scenario, and SCAT teams will be expected to record marine debris data along with traditional SCAT observations. Third, a more comprehensive marine debris short course will take place during drill week. The short course is designed for a broader audience and will incorporate local experts responsible for cataloguing and managing chronic inputs of land and marine-based debris associated with the Northern California shorelines. The course will include a general overview of marine debris, issues and impacts and its relation to incidents and response. Case studies will be presented from past spills (e.g., Selendang Ayu) and the 2005 Hurricane events to illustrate how marine debris can complicate, hinder, and drive response operations. In some situations it will be important to characterize the magnitude and extent of incident-specific debris for accident investigation and subsequent cleanup operations. Local experts will provide relevant information about marine debris monitoring and mitigation efforts, marine debris collection points, and yearly trends in marine debris along shorelines that will be impacted by the spill scenario. Resources at risk and wildlife concerns will be identified and discussed by local experts with a focus on how types of marine debris present cumulative hazards. Participants will have classroom training on marine debris identification, classification, and proper documentation as well as in-the-field training and demonstration.

Draft Outline: Coordinators: Amy Merten (NOAA) and Jenna Jambeck (UNH)

Those in Bold are confirmed:

Classroom (Aug 7th, 1-5 pm):

- A. Introductions – 15 mins
- B. NOAA's Marine Debris Program and Role in Spill Response – **Megan Forbes** – 15 mins
- C. Intro to marine debris; importance of sources, classification and toxicity associated with types of marine debris – (**Jenna Jambeck**, UNH) – 30 mins
- D. Wildlife resources at risk and special concerns associated with marine debris – NPS or FWS – 30 mins
- E. California Marine Debris Monitoring and Mitigation Efforts – (**Eben Schwartz**, CA Coastal Commission) – 30 mins
- F. Marine Mammals and Marine Debris – (**Trevor Spradlin**, NMFS) 30 mins
- G. Resources at Risk and GIS data management – (**Michele Jacobi**, NOAA) 30 mins
- H. Marine debris and oil spills – case studies (**Amy Merten**, NOAA) – 30 mins

- a. Selendang Ayu – incident-specific debris, incorporation of marine debris removal into NRDA restoration planning
- b. Impacts from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- I. SCAT/Marine Debris Mechanics – (**Ian Zelo**, NOAA) – 45 mins
 - a. Drill Expectations for SCAT teams
 - b. Sketching, photo-documentation, GPS guidelines
 - c. Marine debris database and field tools

Field: 2 hours – Integrated with SCAT field training on Aug 8th, ~ 2 – 4 pm.

Practice SCAT/marine debris team deployments

Discussion on the beach about group observations

Shoreline type/geomorphology

Photodocumentation/trenching

Drift cards

Calibrating eye-balls

Estimating oiling

Estimating marine debris: type, size, complications