

Tyler Crowe
Spring 2009 Update

Its been a long interesting journey from my last post to today, so lets see if I can capture it in this posting:

-After finishing the Fall 2008 academic semester I shipped off to Cedre (Center for Documentation, Research and Experimentation) in Brest, France to work as a partner on the Discobiol project. This is a multi year, collaborative study program investigating the effects of dispersant use in near-shore and estuarine environments (link: www.cedre.fr/project/discobiol). CRRC, as a contributing partner to the project, has asked me to participate in this project to do laboratory analysis and develop experimental designs for later studies. So far I have worked on water concentration analysis and bioaccumulation studies, but the major chunk of my work here involves the development of a mudflat mesocosm which will behave similarly to real world spill scenarios which have been observed over the years. Work for this project has indeed been vigorous and has brought me to many places in France as well as London to work with the people at the International Tankers Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF).

-Based on the work done both here in France and in Louisiana this past summer. I have been developing a master's thesis. In discussions with people within the CRRC and NOAA, I am looking at developing metrics for assessing sub-lethal effects and how they correlate to lethal effects. The ultimate hope of this project will to take this data and incorporate it with the current PAH toxicity field guide (in development) as a way to better assess damage and risk associated with PAHs.

-On a more personal note, I am getting reacquainted with the French way of life. The rust from my language skills has worn off and it is becoming easier each day to communicate and live a normal life. This time as well and my previous stay in France have given me a much greater appreciation for those who leave their home countries in search for new opportunities. I think many people do not realize the everyday difficulties faced by a newcomer to a country. If anything comes from this trip, I will definitely have a better appreciation for those away from their homelands.