Summary of Presentations

Sargassum and Oil Spills Monitoring Pilot Project Workshop for the Caribbean Sea & Adjacent Regions
Coordination Partners
Overview of Project

Demonstrate the utility of ocean observations and products to Countries’ interests by focusing on a complete end-to-end delivery of usable products for the monitoring and forecasting of Sargassum concentration and of oil spills.

• Build upon and integrate existing sargassum and oil spill efforts
• User friendly interface (for non-expert users)
• Local supporting infrastructure
• Long-term sustainability
Workshop Goals

• Familiarize participants with existing efforts, management and user needs

• Create a framework for the project

Now (this workshop, the coming months): Develop a co-hesive framework with what can be done with existing knowledge, technology and expertise

Long-term: Identify other observations and data requirements required to support further research, more specific products & advocate for government support of observing infrastructure, research and management efforts
Sargassum Challenges and Information Needs

**Societal Impacts**

- Negative impacts to tourism
- Potential impacts on fish species and biodiversity (flying fish, dolphin fish, etc.)
- Difficulties for fishers
- Health impacts from rotting sargassum
- Potential usage of sargassum for is being explored
Sargassum Challenges and Information Needs

Challenges

• Understanding of the cause of sargassum blooms not fully understood

• Impacts on commercially important species and ecosystems not fully understood

• Clean up efforts can require substantial efforts

Information needs

• Impacted areas need to know when sargassum is coming towards there area

• Impacted areas need to know how much sargassum is expected (volume)
Existing Sargassum Monitoring Efforts

• Research Efforts (CERMES, UNAM, etc.)
• NASA DEVELOP Caribbean II project
• SEAS Program (Texas A&M – Galveston)
• NOAA CoastWatch/OceanWatch products
• CLS Sargassum Monitoring
• Sargassum Watch (USF)
Oil Spill Challenges and Information Needs

Societal Impacts
• Ecosystem damage
• Community health and economic damage
• Oil & Gas industry and marine traffic

Challenges
• Data sharing
• Enforcement
• Coverage and notifications
• Regional collaborations
Oil Spill Challenges and Information Needs

Information Needs

• Detection, monitoring and tracking of accidents
• Detection, monitoring and tracking of operational discharges
• Notification system
Existing Oil Spill Monitoring Efforts

• CIGoM
• EMSA oil spill service
• RPS Group
• Coastal Dynamics, Inc.
• Numerical modeling at UNAM
• NOAA ERMS
• NOAA/NESDIS Operational Satellite