

## **Vibrios and Petroleum in the Gulf of Mexico**

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On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon (DH) drill platform exploded, burned and eventually sank off the coast of Louisiana. Approximately 4.1 to 4.4 million barrels (172.2 to 184.8 million gallons) of crude oil were released into the Gulf of Mexico, until the well head was capped some 87 days later. There is still ongoing debate as to the fate of the oil, although it is accepted by most experts that much of the oil remains at depth (ca. 1,500 m). This presentation will discuss ongoing research in the author's laboratory that includes the role of Vibrios in bioremediation of the DH oil, work with oil-dispersant microcosms and development of a fluorescence *in situ* hybridization probe for visualization of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon degradation capability in marine bacteria including vibrios.