# A High-Level Overview of The Consortium for Advanced Research on Transport of Hydrocarbons in the Environment (CARTHE)



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#### Processes Affecting Transport in Deep Water Oil Blow-Outs:



# Our Main Goal:

To accurately predict the fate of hydrocarbons released into the environment, thereby guiding risk management and response efforts to minimize damage to human health, the economy and the environment. This goal will be achieved through:

 (A) Interconnection of a number of state-of-the-art hydrodynamic models across a vast range of spatial and temporal scales of motions caused by different physical processes;

(B) A dedicated set of in-situ and laboratory experiments designed for model evaluation and parameterization;

(C) Uncertainty analysis to asses model performance and solution space.

#### Summary of CARTHE's Innovative Aspects and Team Members:

- Buoyant plume modeling through Large Eddy Simulation (LES): Özgökmen, Poje (CUNY), also Fischer (ANL).
- Near-surface wind/wave driven Langmuir circulation modeling (Zha, UM) and a three-phase air-sea-oil model (Soloviev, NSU).
- Coupled ocean-wave-atmosphere modeling systems with extensive experience in tropical storms: Chen, Donelan (UM), Jacobs (NRL prediction group)
- Atmospheric LES model for small-scale feedback to ocean models: Zhu, FIU
- Connectivity across shelf break to land fall using coastal (Dawson, UT Austin) and surf zone models (Reniers, UM; MacMahan, NPS)

- Expertise in 2D and 3D transport analysis using theory (Dewar, FSU) and Lagrangian Coherent Structures: Haza, Olascoaga, Griffa (UM), Kirwan, Lipphardt, Huntley (UD)
- In-situ dispersion (UM PIs), near-surface turbulence (Bogucki, TAMU-CC) and bottom oil (Rosenheim, Tulane) observations
- Laboratory experiments of air-sea interaction at ASIST and SUSTAIN salt water wind-wave facilities (Haus, UM)
- Novel uncertainty quantification tools: Iskandarani, Srinivasan, Mariano (UM), Restrepo, Venkataramani (UA)

# Buoyant Plume Model: (Özgökmen, Poje, Fischer)



# LES of a plume interacting with mixed layer flows (Özgökmen, Fischer)





- 1000-fold density difference between air and water is handled
- Will be extended to include a third phase, namely oil.



#### Ocean-Wave-Atmosphere Coupled Model: Forecast of Hurricane Katrina (Chen, Donelan, UM)



# Data Assimilation and Operational Forecasting Expertise with Coupled Ocean-Wave-Atmospheric Models (Jacobs & prediction team, NRL)

#### Example of CARTHE work initiated

- 16 ensemble members have been initiated starting at the DWH event time.
- A constant inflow of contaminant is injected into each member by a simple 2D surface dispersion model.
- The results show the possibility of three main possible paths.
- Two paths (black arrow) follow the observed trajectory.
- One other paths(red arrow) shows that forecasts errors could lead to incorrect application of resources if the error information is not accounted for.



#### NOAA analysis of observed oil position



# High-Resolution Coastal Model: ADCIRC+SWAN (Dawson, UT-Austin)



- Evaluation against satellite-observed spill extents provided by NOAA NESDIS.
- Overlap of 60% of observed spill, even a full week into the simulation.
- Research thrust: improve circulation and transport in the nearshore including 3D and biogeochemical effects.

# Near-shore Model - Transport in the Surfzone Using Delft3D and Experiments: (Reniers, UM; MacMahan, NPS)



time ≐1 min



GPS drifters

A Transport Analysis Tool – Lagrangian Coherent Structures (UM and UD PIs): To Identify Transport Barriers in Time-Dependent Velocity Fields



2D LCS:

"Forbidden zones" in the GoM circulation area (left panel, Olascoaga);

Application of 2D LCS to understand areas of uncertainty caused by chaotic regions for the DWH spill using the intersection of backward (red, stretching) and forward (blue, uncertainty) in time transport barriers (right panel, Huntley, Kirwan, Lipphardt).

# 3D LCS (Özgökmen and LLNL): computed from ~100 million particles releases

Important to understand how vertical motions in eddies and waves influence transport



#### Why Do We Need A Lagrangian Dispersion Experiment?



LCS from 1/12 degree OGCM

1/48 degree OGCM

- Which turbulent features control the transport?
- Are the long-living, slow mesoscale features enough to compute transport?
- Or, rapidly-evolving, smaller submesoscale transport barriers are needed?

#### Multi-Scale Finite Size Lyapunov Exponent: A Practical Estimate for Expansion Time of Oil Spill Patch



Hypothesis-I : energetic and slowly-evolving turbulent features in control, data-assimilating OGCMs would be adequate to give good predictions

Hypothesis-II : rapidly-evolving small scales dictate relative dispersion at submesoscales, parameterizations for submesoscale processes would be needed in OGCMs

#### Multi-Scale Drifter Deployment Module and A-Priori Error Analysis



~100-200 drifters will be deployed near the DWH site; never been done at this scale

positions and dispersion can be accurately measured to to quantify both model evaluation and parameterization

# **Project Timeline:**

- Year 1:
  - Idealized studies of transport within individual components
  - Historical reconstruction of DWH event from OGCM hindcasts
  - Coupled modeling
  - Lagrangian dispersion experiment

#### • Year 2:

- Integration of modeling components
- Quantification of submesoscale transport
- Model evaluation and submesoscale parameterization
- Surfzone experiments and laboratory tank results

#### • Year 3:

- Effect of extreme events (hurricanes) on oil dispersion
- Uncertainty quantification and hazard maps

#### Management Structure:



CARTHE Kick-off Meeting: 17-18 November, 2011, at UM

- THANKS VERY MUCH FOR THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY!!!
- We are looking forward to establishing close ties with other GRI consortia.

# CARTHE Outreach (Mariano, Pitman):

Our goals are to (i) bring exciting, multidisciplinary science to children, especially underrepresented students, (ii) present our research findings to the public, and (iii) exchange information with scientists and public officials.

- Publicly available presentations with lecture notes on the GoM Oil Spill
- Series of high school level science lecture modules to teach important multidisciplinary scientific topics, using the GoM oil spill as our prime example, will be developed with the Miami-Dade County School Systems and the Upward Bound Math and Science/IMPACT Program.
- Public seminars and outreach events at host institutions.
- LAPCOD meetings will have dedicated sessions for GoM oil spill; special sessions at AGU, EGU, and Ocean Science Meetings
- The Ocean Current Web Site:

A web-based educational reference site for ocean/coastal currents and phenomena that will contains summary articles of all the major ocean currents, schematic maps of ocean circulation, basic concepts and glossary of oceanographic terms, ocean data, summary figures, and external links to other educational and research sites.



# Portable (off-line, any mesh), parallel tracer advection code (Poje):



# Large Eddy Simulation of Langmuir Circulation (Zha, UM)

## **Background:**

LC creates organized oil spill pattern on ocean surface
Understanding LC crucial for oil spill Mitigation
LC not currently incorporated in global circulation/climate models

# **Scientific Unknowns:**

Turbulence of LC, breaking waves effect,
Instability growth of small structures,
Interaction of large coherent vortices with small cells

## **Strategies:**

waves

Large Eddy Simulation of turbulence
High order WENO scheme with high resolution Riemann solver for air/water Interface discontinuity
Level set/volume of fluids for breaking



Langmuir Circulation



# Air-Sea Interface Laboratory Experiments

(Haus, UM)

- Air-Sea coupling in Extreme Winds (Chen)
- Langmuir Circulations, turbulence (Zha,Soloviev, Bogucki)
- Surfactant effects (Soloviev)
- Multi-phase model validation (Zha)



Spray Ejection from breaking wave in RSMAS ASIST lab, U10 40 m/s



Surfactant damping of surface waves in ASIST, U10 7 m/s (Soloviev et al., 2011)



**RMAS SUSTAIN- model validation** strategy

#### Near-surface turbulence measurements (TAMU-CC, Bogucki)

• We plan to carry out shallow water turbulence/particle dynamics measurements using our ROV equipped with the Optical Turbulence Sensor (OTS) and a traditional shear sensor (VMP200).







The OTS and VMP 200 mounted on the ROV during tests in the swimming pool.

*Turbulence: Comparison of temperature dissipation spectra: OTS, thermistor, PIV.*  Particulate: OTS – in the shadowgraph mode, a single 500 µm particle embedded in the turbulent flow.

### **Model Integration:**



Fundamentals of 2D Dynamical System Theory:



Intersections of blue and red ridges are *hyperbolic trajectories* that cause chaotic stirring in time-dependent flow fields.

17% recovered by surface vessels
5% burned
3% skimmed
16% chemically dispersed
13% naturally dispersed
24% evaporated
22% unaccounted