

The Gulf Research Program's Initiative on Long-Term Monitoring in the Gulf of Mexico

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The Gulf Research Program (GRP) is a division of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, established in 2013 as a result of civil penalties related to the Deepwater Horizon Disaster. The program was given \$500 million to support grants, fellowships and other activities over 30 years. Our activities are guided by the GRP's Strategic Vision as well as by our advisory board of more than 20 members. The program was directed to operate in 3 areas of responsibility: oil system safety, human health & well-being, and environmental resources; the program was directed to conduct activities in 3 categories: research and development, education and training, and environmental monitoring.

One idea with enduring impact that the Gulf Research Program seeks to advance is to: Catalyze long-term monitoring and research that will advance scientific understanding of deep water ecosystems and processes in the Gulf of Mexico. To advance this idea, the Gulf Research Program is planning a campaign to answer remaining questions on the dominant physical force in the Gulf of Mexico, the Loop Current. A consensus report will be published by the end of 2017 to provide guidance to the GRP on campaign components, including observations, modeling efforts, and technological advances necessary to better understand the dynamics of the Loop Current and associated eddies and increase our predictive skill in forecasting the position, speed and variability of the Loop Current System.