

“Scientists in the Schools” FACT SHEET

The Deep-C Consortium developed a “Scientists in the Schools” program in order to provide middle school students with an in-depth look at real-world science applications by bringing Deep-C’s scientists and research related to the Gulf of Mexico into local school systems. This initiative was modeled after a highly successful program at Vanderbilt University. Our goals are to connect with and engage students in scientific research that directly impacts them and their communities, as well as to introduce possible careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (the STEM fields).



For more information about the “Scientists in the Schools” program, visit the Deep-C website:
<http://deep-c.org/education-and-outreach>

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www.Deep-C.org

WHAT IS SCIENTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS?

In partnership with local middle school teachers, Deep-C’s “Scientists in the Schools” provides a series of three classroom visits led by consortium scientists. The visits are designed to introduce and educate students about the habitats, ecological functions, and issues in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the research being conducted into the long term effects of the 2010 oil spill. Each classroom visit concludes with a hands-on activity that allows students to make connections with the concepts that are explored. In addition, guest scientists have the opportunity to inspire our next generation of scientists.

BY THE NUMBERS

Reaction to the programming has been overwhelmingly positive from teachers, students, and the guest scientists. Since inception in 2013, Deep-C’s “Scientists in the Schools” program has:

- Worked with nine middle school classrooms and engaged more than 450 students.
- Involved 12 Deep-C researchers across scientific disciplines.
- Developed materials and lesson plans for distribution to educators throughout the Gulf states.
- Demonstrated 47% improvement in understanding of key concepts related to the Gulf of Mexico (via pre- and post-assessments).

“I loved that my students got to meet scientists and to hear about their research. That’s so important for them!”
– Participating Science Teacher
in Tallahassee, FL

ABOUT DEEP-C

The Deep-C Consortium is a long-term study investigating the environmental consequences of petroleum hydrocarbon (oil) on living marine resources and ecosystem health in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico. Consortium members seek to increase understanding of the fundamental physical, chemical, and biological connections between the deep sea, continental slope, and coastal waters and their linkages to critical habitats and ecological functions. More than 100 scientists and students at 10 academic and research institutions in the United States and Norway are participating in Deep-C. Research activities include mapping the sea floor; analyzing water and sediment samples; studying how oil-related toxins may affect wildlife; and determining how currents and other ocean processes transport oil.

CONTACT

Amelia Vaughan, Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Deep-C Consortium, at Amelia@Deep-C.org or at 850-645-8478.