

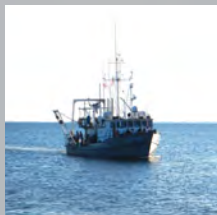


March 2013  
Issue 1

# FIO NEWS

The Florida Institute of Oceanography

*Facilitating Marine Science Education and Research for Florida*



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## Notes from the Director



Dr. William Hogarth,  
Director, FIO

Welcome to the first FIO Newsletter, in which we plan to give you a glimpse into the dynamic life of FIO. For those who are new to FIO, we operate two large research vessels for the state of Florida, the R/V Bellows and the R/V Weatherbird II, and we also manage the Keys Marine Lab (see photos above). We are an SUS Academic Infrastructure Support Organization and are hosted by the University of South Florida. Our headquarters are in St. Petersburg, Florida, on the USF-St. Petersburg campus. We have 27 members (see website, <http://fio.usf.edu>) and provide a forum at which the marine science research and education community in Florida can come together to discuss issues of importance for Florida's marine environment.

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## Feature

Following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, BP pledged \$500M for science research in the Gulf of Mexico, to be distributed evenly over 10 years. FIO received \$10M of these funds in 2010 to look at the response of the Gulf immediately following the spill. This money was used to support 27 projects that involved scientists from over 30 institutions, more than 45 graduate and undergraduate students, and over 15 post-doctoral research associates. These projects ended in the summer of 2012 and have produced 17 peer-reviewed papers and more than 55 presentations at scientific meetings. FIO plans to release the final reports of these 27 projects during 2013. In 2011, a board was established by BP and the five gulf states to oversee the distribution of the remaining pledged funding. From 2012-2014, another \$150M is being used to fund eight centers of excellence in the five gulf states. Florida is host to three of these centers (total award exceeding \$53M), each led by an FIO Member Institution. To learn more about the work of these centers, visit their websites: DEEP-C (Florida State University, [deep-c.org](http://deep-c.org)), CARTHE (University of Miami, [carthe.org](http://carthe.org)), and C-IMAGE (University of South Florida, [cimage.rc.usf.edu](http://cimage.rc.usf.edu)).

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## Voyages at Sea



Prof. Jeffrey working with  
the CTD on the R/V  
Bellows.

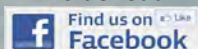
Last December, Professor Wade Jeffrey from the University of West Florida (Pensacola) took students out on the R/V Bellows on a microbiology/shelf sampling cruise in the northern part of the Gulf of Mexico. This is part of a series of cruises that started after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in 2010 to measure water quality and collect water samples off the panhandle. This was part of the DEEP-C Consortium project, which looks at all aspects of the connections between the deep Gulf of Mexico waters (where the Macondo oil well is located) and the coast of northern Florida.

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## Did You Know?

Florida's oceans and coasts drive Florida's economy to the tune of \$62.7 billion and create about one million jobs. - Florida Ocean Alliance

[fio.usf.edu](http://fio.usf.edu)



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