

The background image shows an offshore oil rig structure in the ocean. The rig consists of several large, cylindrical legs extending from the water's surface down into the sea. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the rig's structure is illuminated from below, creating a warm, yellowish glow. The overall scene is somewhat dark and moody, with the rig's legs dominating the foreground and middle ground.

**NOIA FALL MEETING - OCTOBER 2010**

**JOINT INDUSTRY OIL SPILL  
PREPAREDNESS and RESPONSE TASK FORCE**

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# JOINT INDUSTRY OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE

The Joint Industry Oil Spill Preparedness & Response Task Force (JITF) is comprised of 60+ task force members from 30+ member companies and affiliates of:

American Petroleum Institute (API),  
Independent Petroleum Producers Association of America (IPAA),  
International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC),  
National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA), and  
US Oil and Gas Association (USOGA).



# JOINT INDUSTRY OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE

The JITF focused solely on spill response activities, not well containment or spill prevention efforts.

The JITF considered:

- the industry's overall ability to respond to a “Spill of National Significance” (SONS),
- the actual response to the DWH incident, based on information currently available, to evaluate what went well, and what needed work, during the DWH response.



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As subgroups, the JITF examined a number of broad topical issues and concluded that there are opportunities for improvement in all areas to varying degrees:

- Oil spill response plans
- Oil sensing and tracking
- Dispersant use and application
- *In situ* burning
- Mechanical recovery capabilities
- Shoreline protection and cleanup
- Alternative response technologies

# JOINT INDUSTRY OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE

## NEAR-TERM ACTIONS – INDUSTRY ONLY

- Review lessons learned from additional sources and develop additional recommendations;
- Develop API-Recommended Practices on Oil Spill Response Planning and PPE for Oil Spill Response Workers;
- Increase mechanical recovery and *in situ* burn capabilities; and
- Consider the development of an agreement for sharing trained personnel and resources in the event of a SONS.

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## NEAR-TERM ACTIONS – INDUSTRY ONLY

- Develop a series of fact sheets concerning dispersants, including how subsea injection of dispersants was utilized during the DWH response;
- Develop of a standard for calculating WCD;
- Develop a plan to investigate whether non-solvent based dispersants can be used for injection at the wellhead; and
- Identify a source Control Branch in industry oil spill response plans.

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## NEAR-TERM ACTIONS – INDUSTRY LEAD WITH GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION

- Review and evaluate existing Effective Daily Recovery Capacity (ERDC) calculations; and
- Develop a policy statement and possible Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the cascading of resources and establish alternative means of compliance.



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## NEAR-TERM ACTIONS – INDUSTRY LEAD WITH GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION

- Develop a program for modeling, plans for scaled testing, and implementation criteria for subsea dispersant;
- Review dispersant surface application techniques; and
- Charter a panel of scientific and technical experts to review data collection efforts as part of a spill impact assessment and evaluation of ecological recovery rates for areas impacted by spills.



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## THE WAY FORWARD

The collaborative nature between private and public sectors in effective and efficient oil spill response cannot be overstated.

Successful lessons need to be incorporated by all stakeholders. For areas where improvements can be made, all stakeholders must agree on priorities and develop the cooperative mechanisms necessary if they are to be successfully implemented.

The ideas presented in this report by industry are offered as a first step in that process. Many, if not most, of these recommendations require the active participation and support of stakeholders other than industry.

Public sector input should be coordinated to avoid confusion.

Education, communication and cooperation are the key to future improvements.