



# The Florida Straits Conference: Model for International Cooperation

March 5 – 6, 2018  
Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography  
Nova Southeastern University  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

The goal of the Conference is to promote dialogue among stakeholders (academic, scientific research, industry and government) in sustaining the environmental quality of the territorial and shared international seas of the Gulf of Mexico and particularly the Florida Straits.

Three themes run throughout the Conference.

**First**, eco-systems, ocean habitats and the potential environmental risks posed by oil spills.

**Second**, advanced technology for preventing, containing and mitigating spill related risks and research analyzing oil migration patterns and advanced technology for prediction and tracking.

**Third**, developments in governmental cooperative agreements enabling an effective, coordinated international response to an oil spill impacting the waters of the United States, Mexico and Cuba.

Participation in the Conference is by invitation to delegates nominated by leading academic institutions, industry research and technology enterprises and participating governmental agencies.

For more information contact Dr. Lee Hunt, General Partner, at [lee@leehuntllc.com](mailto:lee@leehuntllc.com)

Please visit the HUNT PETTY LP website for the latest updates and developments on The Florida Straits Conference at [www.huntpettylp.com](http://www.huntpettylp.com)

**Organized by:**





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**Monday, March 5, 2018**  
**Registration and Refreshments: 08:00 – 08:30**

**Session 1: 08:30 – 10:00**  
**International Cooperation in Offshore Exploration Safety and  
Environmental Protection**

Welcome: Dr. Richard Dodge

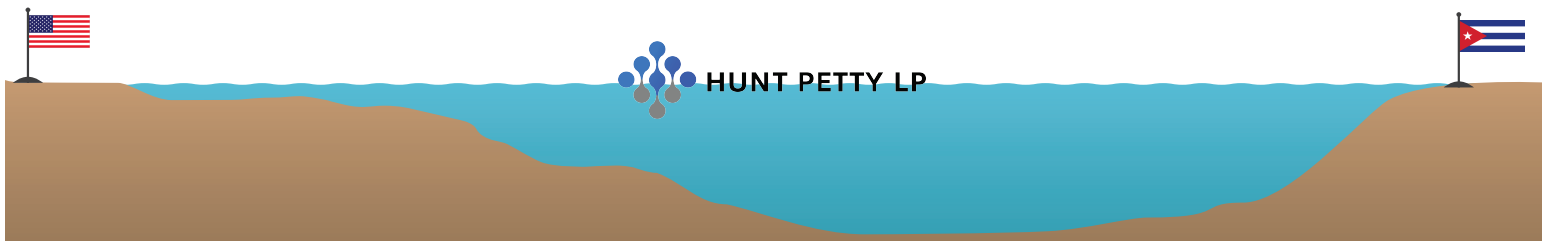
*Dr. Dodge is Dean, Halmos College of Natural Sciences and  
Oceanography, Nova Southeastern University*

Geopolitics and Ocean Resources: Dr. Lee Hunt, Hunt Petty LP

*The short history of International cooperation in mutual agreements for  
ensuring maximum safety, spill prevention and response in the Gulf of  
Mexico and the Straits of Florida.*

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard District 7: RADM Peter Brown

*The Seventh Coast Guard District is responsible for Incident Command of  
oil spill events in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, southeast Atlantic coast and  
the Greater Caribbean.*



## Session 1 (Continued)

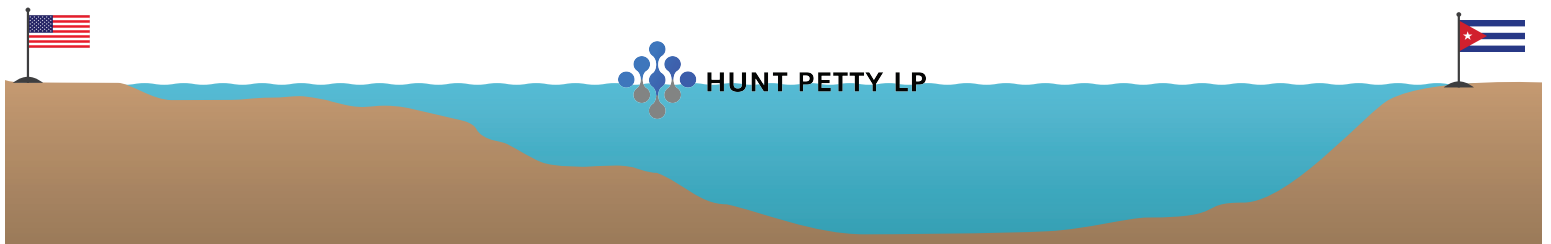
Evolution of US – Cuba Policy: Angela Mariana Freyre

*Ms. Angela Mariana Freyre is a Former Special Advisor for Cuba Policy at the National Security Council and Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the Export-Import Bank of the United States*

Legal Issues in Transnational Oil Spills: Dr. Richard McLaughlin, Endowed Chair for Coastal and Marine Policy and Law, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi.

*Ocean currents flow according to the laws of nature. The laws of nations, boundary lines on a map are inconsequential. A noted and respected international lawyer, Dr. McLaughlin will explain the relationship and importance of international boundaries in the Gulf of Mexico and The Florida Straits.*

**Refreshment Break: 10:00 – 10:30**



**Session 2: 10:30 – 12:30**  
**Potential Environmental Impacts**

Moderator: Dr. Larry McKinney

*Dr. McKinney is Executive Director, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi.*

Perspectives from Deepwater Horizon and Ixtoc Spills to Inform Future Incidents in the Gulf: Dr. Paul Montagna, Endowed Chair for Ecosystem Studies & Modeling, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi.

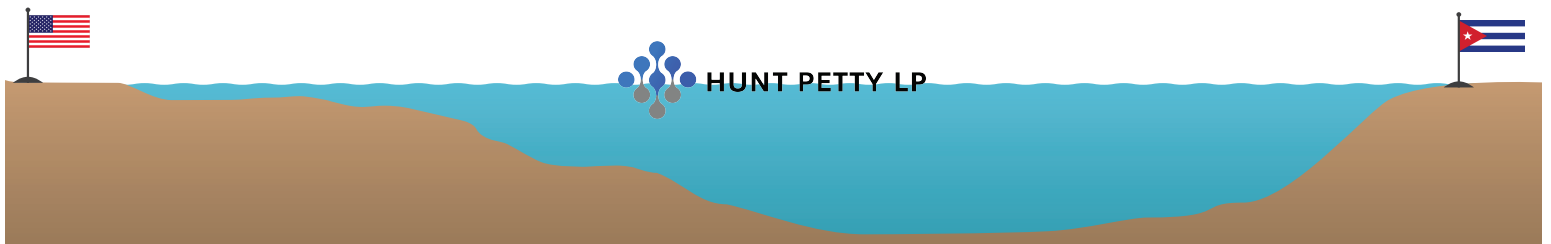
*Dr. Montagna's research on spill effects and recovery is founded on a historical review of these two previous major events in the U.S. and Mexican Gulf of Mexico.*

The Florida Straits and Ecological Risks in the Littoral Territories of Florida and Cuba: Dan Whittle, Environmental Defense Fund

*Senior Attorney for EDF's Cuba Fisheries Program, Mr. Whittle will discuss environmental risks and the importance of two recent Memoranda of Understanding between the U.S. and Cuba for the protection of reefs and aquaculture.*

Cuba's Twilight Zone Reefs Expedition: Dra. Patricia González, Center of Marine Investigations, University of Havana, & Prof. John K. Reed, Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research and Technology (CIOERT), Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Florida Atlantic University

*This expedition's circumnavigation of Cuba explored the island's diverse mesophotic coral reefs at 30 to 150 meter depths, revealing what may be one of the most extensive, healthiest reef habitats in the Caribbean. The expedition was conducted under "The Sister Sanctuaries Memorandum of Understanding," the first agreement of any kind signed by the U.S. and Cuban governments following the reestablishment of diplomatic relations in 2015*



## Session 2 (Continued)

Sustaining a One Gulf Aqua-Culture Habitat: Dr. Larry McKinney, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi.

*Meeting the challenges and opportunities in protecting and preserving the marine environment of the Gulf of Mexico, particularly focusing on the special circumstance occasioned by an oil spill from the U.S., Mexican or Cuban seas impacting the coastal areas of the Gulf.*

**Buffet Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30**



**Session 3: 1:30 – 3:00**  
**Spill Prediction and Prevention**

Moderator: Dr. Richard Dodge

*Dr. Dodge is Dean, Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography, Nova Southeastern University*

High-Resolution Sustained Observations of the Ocean's Surface Currents:  
Tamay Ozgokmen, Professor of Ocean Sciences, University of Miami

*Dr. Ozgokmen recently conducted extensive studies of ocean surface currents in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. The research was conducted under the auspices of the Consortium for Advanced Research on Transport of Hydrocarbon in the Environment (CARTHE).*

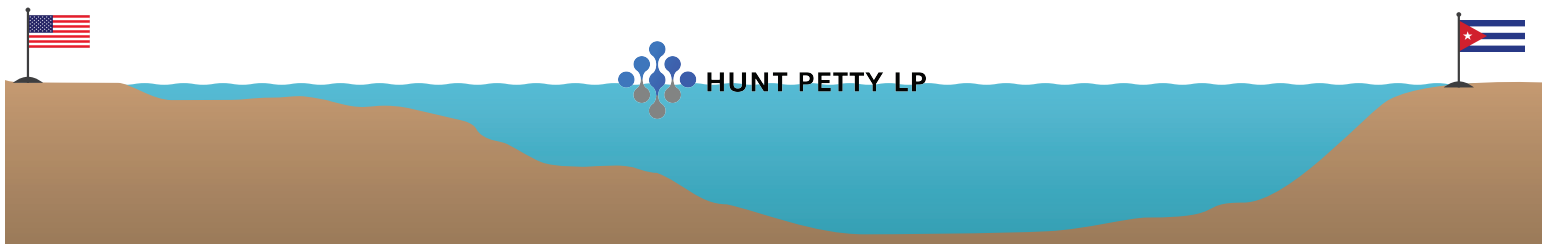
Quantifying Spill Volume: Dr. Amir Paknejad, addenergy

*Essential to effective spill response pre-planning and government permitting is estimating maximum spill potential. Dr. Paknejad explains reservoir analysis methodology used in predicting flow and volume of spills from deepwater wells.*

Well Control Training for Rig Crews: Doug Derr, Boots and Coots

*Crew understanding of well control trouble signs and competency in managing events are the first line of defense in the prevention of blowouts and subsequent spills.*

**Refreshment Break: 3:00 – 3:30**



**Session 4: 3:30 – 5:30**  
**Scientific Research on Oil Spill Behavior**

Moderator: Dr. Rich Roffman

*Dr. Rich Roffman is Publisher of the magazine CUBA TRADE and co-host of Made in America, Radio America*

Water Flow and Horizons in The Florida Straits: Alexander V. Soloviev, Professor, HCNSO, Nova Southeastern University

*Long term observations in the Straits of Florida reveal a transient southward flow in the form of an undercurrent jet attached to the continental shelf. This undercurrent jet is observable during summer months. In autumn, the jet weakens and presumably migrates to the surface, contributing to the development of a coastal counter current during winter months.*

Remote Sensing of Oil Seeps in Caribbean Waters: Dr. Susanne Lehner, German Aerospace Center (DLR), Germany

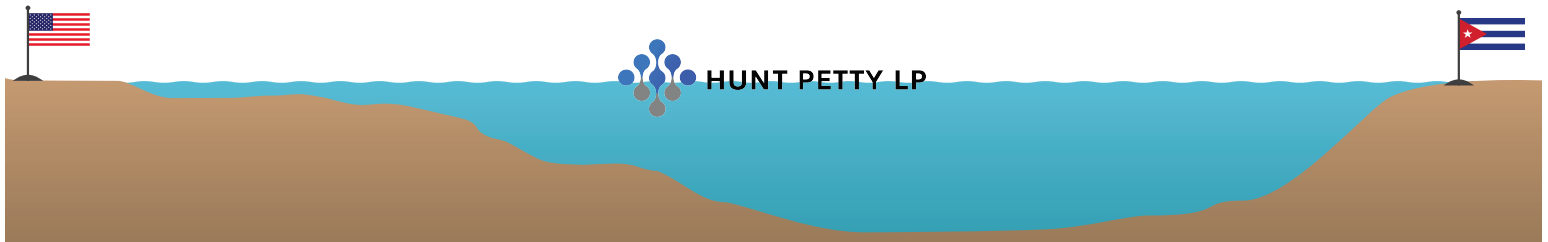
*Possibilities and limitations to image crude oil on the sea surface for optical and radar satellites in low to high wind speeds are presented by Dr. Lehner, with examples from studies conducted in the Gulf of Mexico, the Mississippi Delta and from Cuban waters.*

Remote Sensing of Ocean Surface Features - crude oil, surfactants, breaking waves and other phenomena: Dr. Will Perrie, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

*Satellite remote sensing can detect ocean surface features to resolutions of a few 10s of meters. A problem is always to differentiate the various phenomena that are observed. In this presentation, we provide a summary of the methodologies used, and the processes observed, for example: crude oil, macro-algae and mesoscale eddies, to list a few.*

Value of *in situ* data for Predicting Ocean Current Behavior: Matt Cadwallader, Horizon Marine

*Data demonstrating variability in the Loop Current and the Florida Current.*



**Tuesday, March 6, 2018**  
**Morning Refreshments: 08:00 – 09:00**

**Session 5: 09:00 – 11:00**  
**Subsea Source Control**

Moderator: Bill Loveless

*Mr. Loveless is Co-host, Columbia Energy Exchange; Director, Columbia Energy Journalism Initiative*

The Three Pillars of Spill Response - Capping, Containment and Relief Well: Mike Cargol, Trendsetter Engineering

*The mechanics and structure of a sub-sea response entail very specific denotation of the individual missions of response elements.*

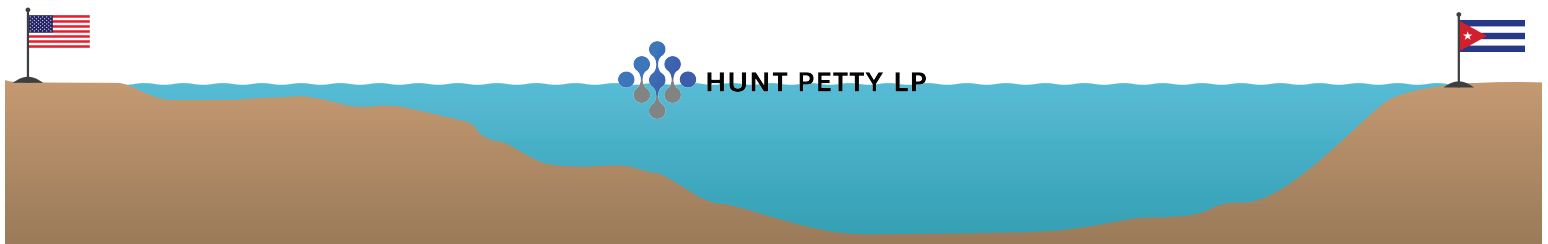
Application of a Tightly Integrated Systems Modeling Framework to Quantify Complex Subsea Blowout Capping Operations: Steve Fitzgerald, Intuitive Machines

*The physics of a subsea response entail many different forces, which must be viewed as part of a whole. Advances in computer processing are allowing industry to bridge the hardware gap to create high fidelity Capping Stack installation models encompassing the entire subsea environment.*

Capping and Containment - The Mechanics of a Soft Shut In: Brett Morry, Trendsetter Engineering

*How to operate a capping stack once it is on a well to effect a safe shut-in or to mitigate flow into the environment.*

**Refreshment Break: 11:00 – 11:30**





**Session 6: 11:30 – 1:30**  
**Surface and Subsea Response to Oil Spills**

Moderator: Bob Tippee

*Mr. Tippee is editor of Oil & Gas Journal*

Industry's Response Capabilities: Subsurface & Surface: Paul Schuler,  
Direct External Affairs – Americas, Oil Spill Response Ltd.

*Mr. Schuler will discuss the full suite of surface response capabilities: mechanical recovery, in-situ burning, surface/aerial dispersants, surveillance as well as complementary technologies for subsea capping, containment, dispersant injection and monitoring.*

Dispersant Science: How dispersants work and why you would or wouldn't use them: Thomas Coollbaugh, Oils Spill Response Advisor, Exxon Mobil Cooperation

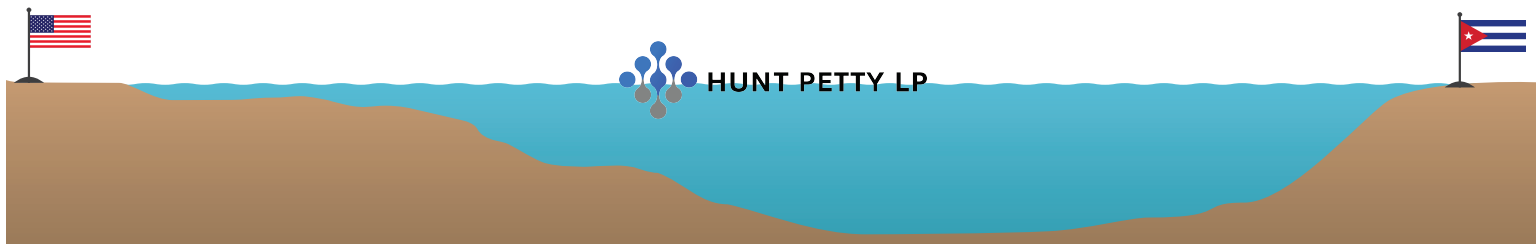
*The importance of understanding the trade-offs associated with different response tools through a Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA) / Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA) approach.*

Well Containment Screening Tools (WCST): Lance Labiche, J Conner Consulting

*Pushing the technology envelope with WCST +, Mr. Labiche, a former BSEE official, explains Relief Well Screening and Cap & Contain Screening tools being developed to a new level of proficiency and utility.*

Relief Wells – The Final Solution: Dr. Ray Tommy Oskarsen, Sr. Vice President, Well Control & Blowout Support, addenergy

*If we drill it, can we find it? If we find it, can we kill it? The mechanics of a relief well explained. Emerging technology in relief well hardware.*



**Session 7: 1:30 – 3:00**  
**Practical Factors in Cooperative Response**

Moderator: Edward Porner, Director, Recovery and Resilience Division,  
Virginia Department of Emergency Management

*As a Senior Officer CAPT (ret), Edward Porner was the US Coast Guard and Department of Homeland Security liaison at the US Special Interest Section in Havana Cuba.*

*Cooperative Agreements for Spill Resource Deployment: Dr. Lee Hunt, Hunt Petty LP*

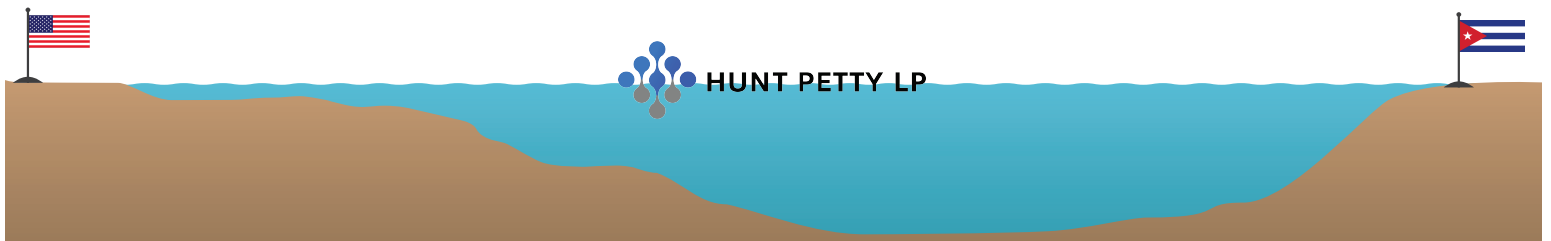
*Two major response consortia exist in the U.S. By charter their resources are restricted for use within US Gulf of Mexico. Cuba has no corresponding consortium. A vexing issue is whether US Embargo legislation will permit the export of US spill response technology and resources to address a spill originating in or traversing Cuban territorial seas.*

The Architecture of Simultaneous Operations: Barry Compagnoni, US Coast Guard CAPT (ret), Trendsetter Engineering

*What does an integrated response look like offshore? CAPT Compagnoni discusses the structure of a Common Operating Picture for the management of vessel, aircraft and the wide array of equipment involved in a response and what this would look like in the Straits of Florida.*

MEXUS Exercise: An Example of Joint Industry-Government Engagement: Mike Drieu, Anadarko Petroleum & Mike Sams, U.S. Coast Guard District 8

*MEXUS is a bilateral oil spill agreement between the U.S. and Mexico detailing specific roles and responsibilities of Mexican and U.S. regulatory agencies: the US Coast Guard, the Mexican Navy and private oil industry resources.*



**Session 8: 3:00 – 3:30**  
**The Way Forward and Conference Closing**

Moderator: Brian Petty, Hunt Petty LP

Oil Spill Risk Management in the Florida Straits - planning and exercising to prevent and mitigate spills.: Paul Lattanzi, Senior Consultant at The Paratus Group.

*A critical review of current response plans and a proposal for an improved planning and exercise regimen. Prior to founding The Paratus Group, Paul was a career officer with the U.S. Coast Guard. His previous tours included serving as the Senior International Maritime Organization's consultant to the United Nations at the Regional Activity Center in Curacao, where he assisted 29 Caribbean nations and territories to prevent and respond to pollution events.*

Preserving Progress in Marine Environmental Protection: Dan Whittle, Environmental Defense Fund

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