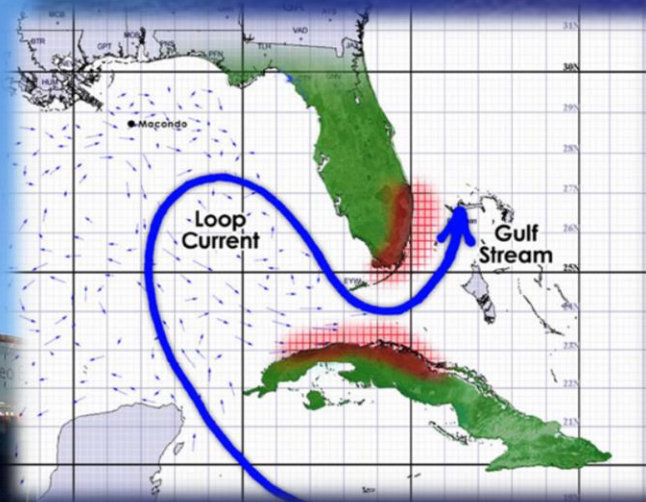


# The Evolution of US-Cuba Cooperation in Offshore Oil Spill Prevention and Response





# DIFFERENT TRAJECTORIES



- Cuba began its offshore drilling activity ~ 20 years ago. (2004 Yamagua Well). No activity in recent years
- US offshore activities for almost 8 decades. (1938 first production of offshore oil took place in the Gulf of Mexico. First deepwater discovery came at Shell Oil Company's *Cognac* field in 1975)

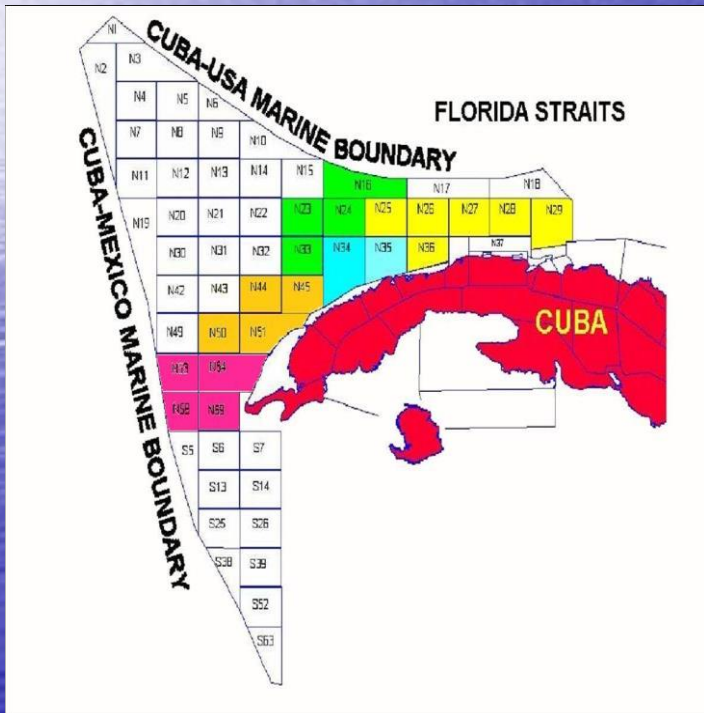
# DIFFERENT SAFETY CONCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES



- Regulatory regime based on Safety Case
- Strong environmental regime in place
- Lack of experience in offshore activities in domestic waters

- Prescriptive approach to regulations
- Mature and well developed environmental regime
- The greater operational experience worldwide.
- Excess of confidence in oil industry

# The Evolution Deepwater Oil Drilling Safety Regulation in Cuba: The three Major Stages

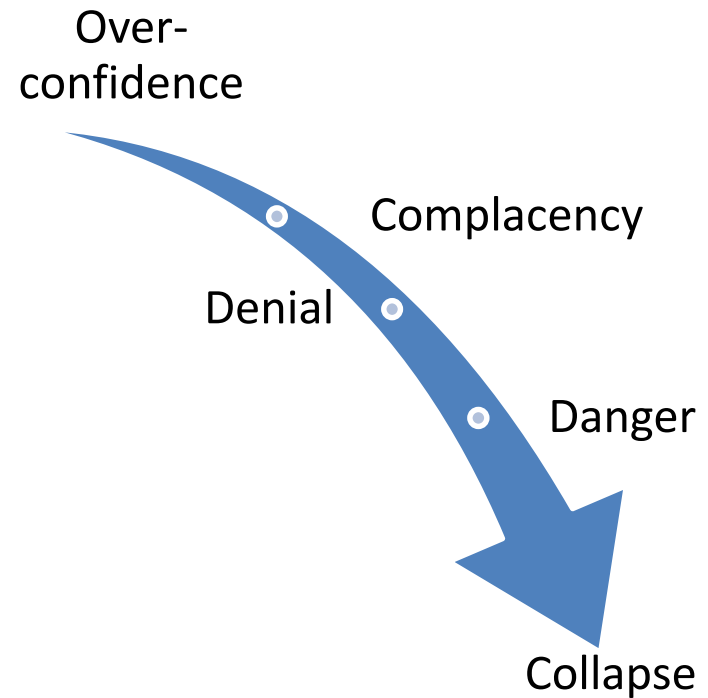


- Before Yamagua Well (2002 – 2004)
- After Yamagua Well (2005 – 2010)
- After Macondo (2010 - present time)

# Major hazard accident prevention



Frequency of occurrence:  
1/ decades!



# Testimony of IADC Vice-president Alan Spackman on IADC's experience in the implementation of Performance-Based Regulation in the form of a Safety Case

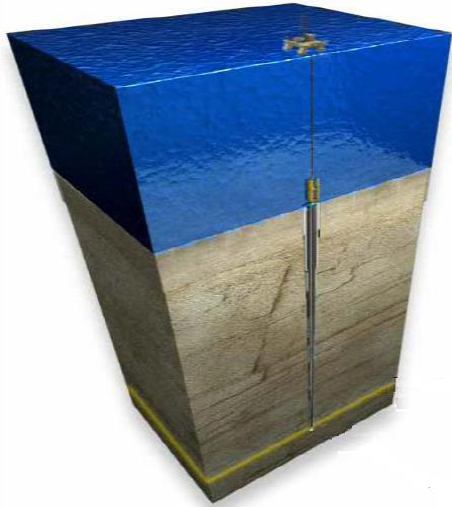
June 2010



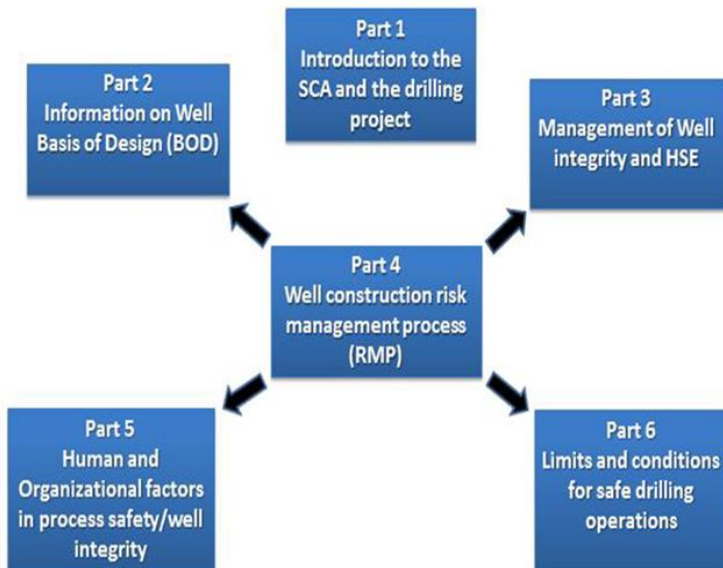
**HOUSE  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON ENERGY AND  
MINERAL  
RESOURCES**

Other countries that already mandate use of a Safety Case or HSE Case for offshore oil and gas activities include:  
Cuba.....

# The Cuban Response to Macondo: The Safety Case Addendum



- Focuses on oil spill prevention
- Extends the Safety Case approach to well integrity aspects of drilling operations
- Ensures bridging between the Well Operator and the Drilling Contractor & subcontractors



# THE CONTEXT FOR THE INITIAL CONTACTS

Cuba's determination to reinitiate offshore drilling activities ( 4 exploratory wells)

The impact of Macondo disaster in oil industry worldwide







# 2010. Initial contacts

## First IADC delegation to visit Cuba



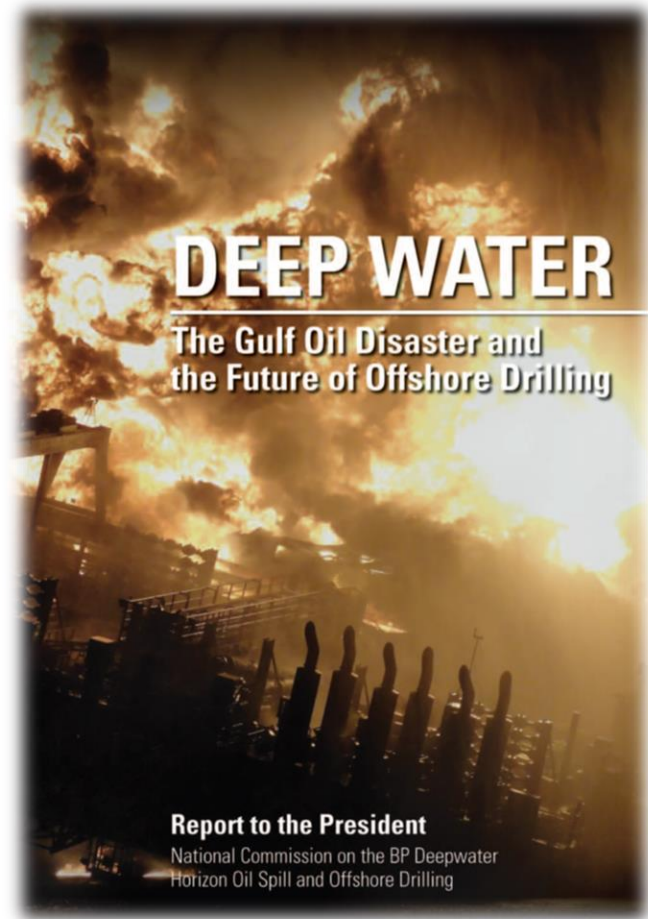
August 2010. An historical visit

**2011: A DECISIVE YEAR**

# JANUARY

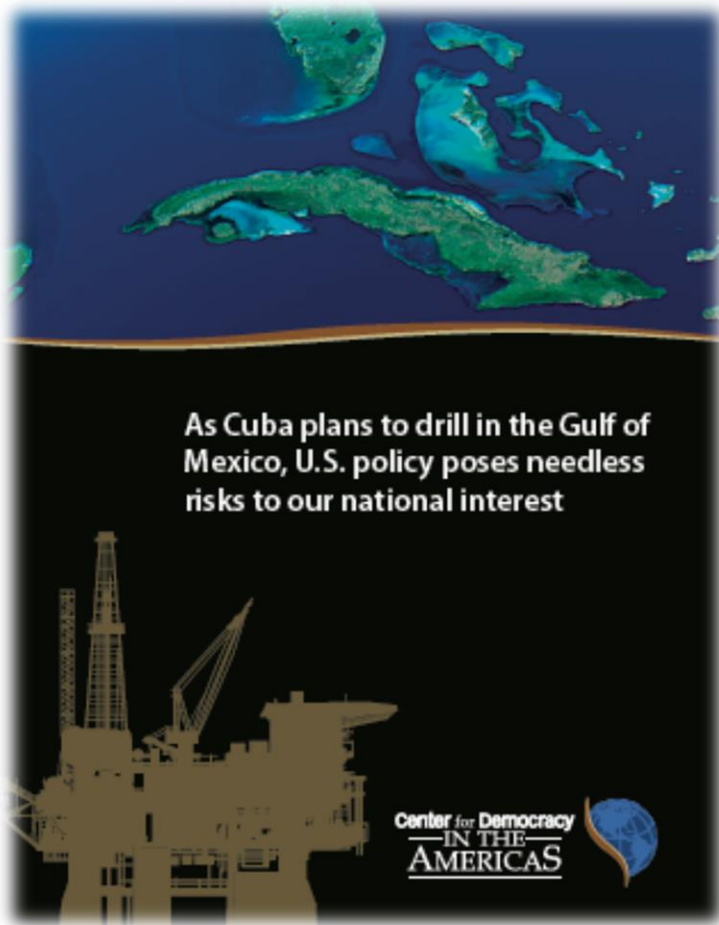
# OIL SPILL COMMISSION REPORT

*“It is in our country’s national interest to negotiate now with these near neighbors to agree on a common, rigorous set of standards, a system for regulatory oversight, and the same operator adherence to the effective safety culture called for in this report, along with protocols to cooperate on containment and response strategies and preparedness in case of a spill”.*



# FEBRUARY

## CDA's report on Cuba drilling and US policy



- *embargo imposes real constraints on the government's ability to protect our nation against the ....consequences of an environmental disaster linked to drilling for oil*

- *embargo denies Cuba access to US equipment for drilling and environmental protection*



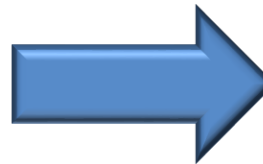
**MAY**

**IADC Environmental Conference and  
Exhibition, Trinidad and Tobago.**

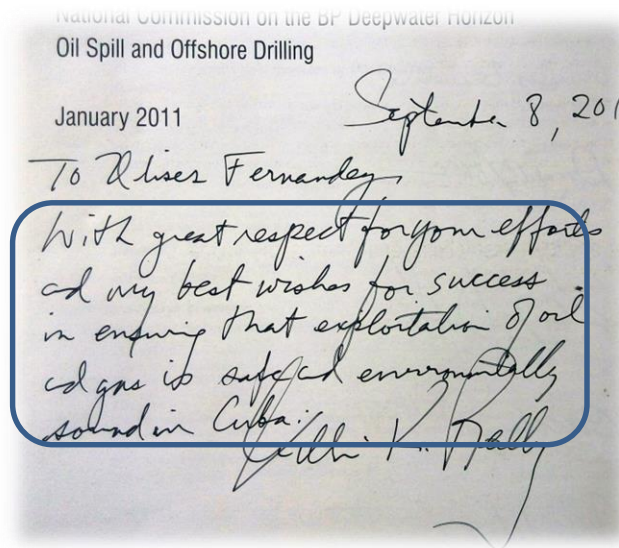
**OFAC Authorized IADC to invite a Cuban  
Delegation to attend a meeting outside  
US**

# SEPTEMBER

**IADC & EDF arranged visit of US Delegation  
including Co Chairman of Presidential Oil Spill  
Commission for DWH**



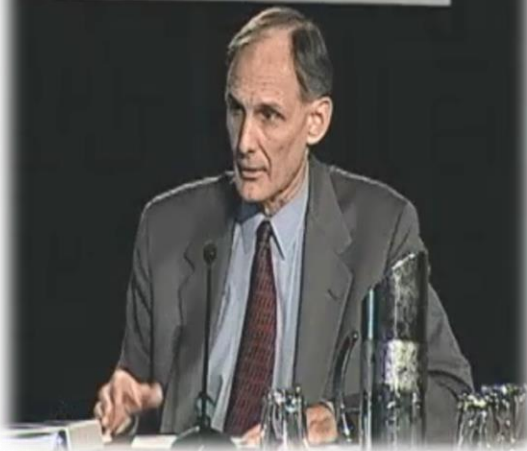
# William Reilly 's impressions



***With great respect for your efforts and my best wishes for success in ensuring that exploration of oil and gas is safe and environmentally sound in Cuba***

# Richards Sears's impression

PILLCOMMISSION.GOV



**Macondo**  
THE GULF OIL DISASTER

Chief Counsel's Report | 2011

Ulises,  
Thank you  
very much for  
the interest you  
have shown  
in our work,  
and for your  
hospitality during  
our visit.  
My best  
wishes to you,  
and I wish  
you good  
fortune in  
Cuba's exploration  
efforts in the  
EEZ, and for  
you personally.  
Best Regards,  
Rich Sears

Thank you very  
much for the  
interest you have  
shown in our work

Good fortune in  
Cuba exploration  
effort in the EEZ



**OCTOBER**  
**HEARING OF THE SENATE ENERGY**  
**AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**COMMITTEE**



**TO EXAMINE THE STATUS OF RESPONSE CAPABILITY AND  
READINESS FOR OIL SPILLS IN FOREIGN OUTER  
CONTINENTAL SHELF WATERS ADJACENT TO U.S. WATERS.**

*By working through the International Maritime  
Organization, we've garnered support for a regional,  
multilateral seminar ... to which other Caribbean nations  
including the Bahamas, Jamaica, **Cuba** and Mexico for the  
purpose of discussing oil spill prevention and response  
issues.*

**ADMIRAL BRIAN SALERNO**

# DECEMBER

## 1<sup>st</sup> IMO Workshop



**OPRC SEMINAR ON DEVELOPING NATIONAL PLANS FOR MARINE POLLUTION READINESS AND RESPONSE RELATED TO OFFSHORE UNITS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION.**



- First encounter with US governmental agencies (USCG, EPA, BOEMRE, NOAA, DOS)

# AAAS engagement

- December : A delegation of independent U.S. scientists, facilitated by the AAAS and the Cuban Academy of Sciences, traveled to Havana to engage in technical discussions with Cuban scientists.

# 2012 : Subsequent IMO Workshops

- **Curacao (Willmstead) February 2012**
- **Jamaica (Kingston) April 2012**
- **Mexico (DF) August 2012**

# EDF Report “Bridging the Gulf”. June 2012



**Bridging the Gulf**  
Raising Concerns Over on- and Offshore Oil and Gas in Cuba

“Shared environmental resources at risk”

“The United States and Cuba should develop a bilateral agreement that maximizes protection for ecosystems in both countries.”

# 2013 : MTOP agreeded

- Bahamas Workshop (95% agreed MTOP document)



# IADC Environmental Conference New York. April 2013



- By IADC invitation , Cuban delegation from CUPET, CITMA, former Cuba Interest Section in US attended the conference



## 2 RELEVANT VISITS.

The interest in cuban regulatory regime continues.



**Carol Browner. Director of the Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy 2009-2011**

**Former EPA Administrator**



**Bob Graham co chair of the Oil Spill Presidential Commission**



# **CLEAN GULF CONFERENCES**

**2013 TAMPA**

**MTOP Meeting arranged by  
USCG**

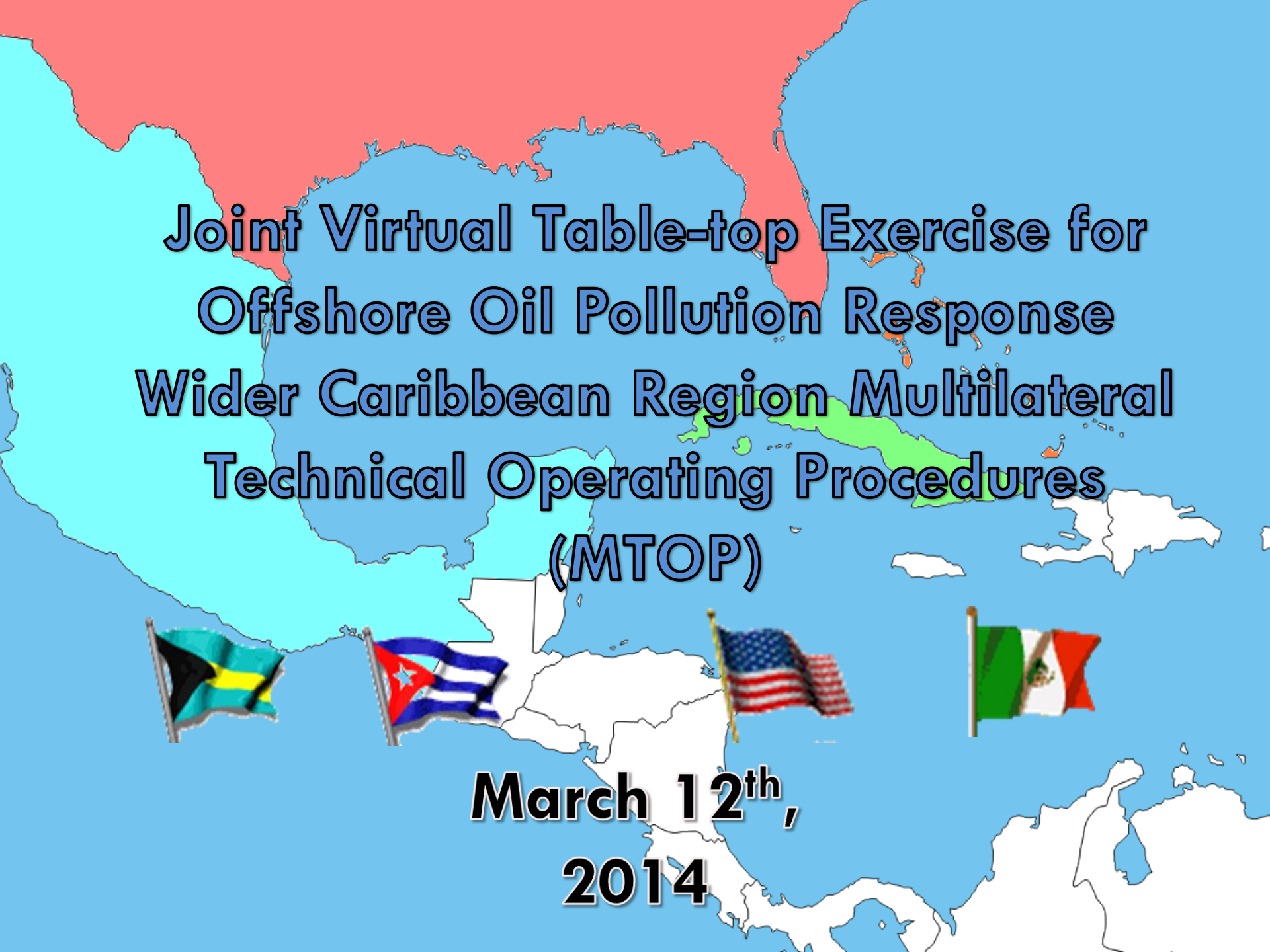
**1<sup>st</sup> Multilateral Technical Visit  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
USCG Air Station- Clearwater,  
Florida**

**2014 SAN ANTONIO, TX**

**MTOP Meeting arranged by USCG**



**Results of Virtual Table Top  
Exercise presented by Cuba**

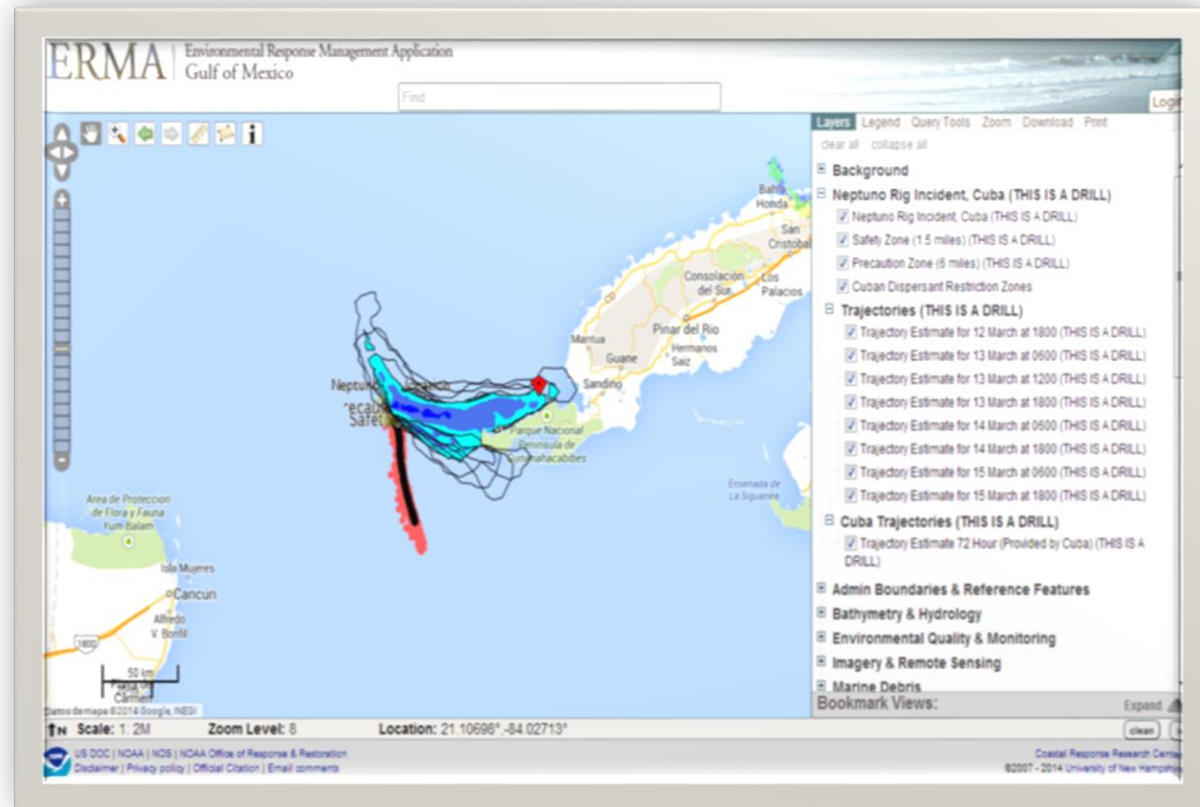
A map of the Caribbean region is shown in the background. The landmasses are colored in shades of red, cyan, and white. The sea is a light blue. Overlaid on the map is the title text in a large, bold, black font with a white outline. At the bottom of the map, four flags are displayed on poles: the flag of Jamaica, the flag of Cuba, the flag of the United States of America, and the flag of Mexico.

**Joint Virtual Table-top Exercise for  
Offshore Oil Pollution Response  
Wider Caribbean Region Multilateral  
Technical Operating Procedures  
(MTOF)**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>,  
2014**

# VIRTUAL TABLE-TOP EXERCISE LESSON LEARNED


Use of NOAA's ERMA Platform proved to be a highly useful tool that permitted to have similar understanding



# QUICK EVOLUTION



Professional and respectful relationship 

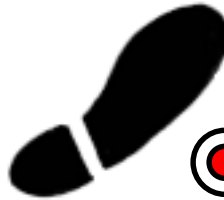
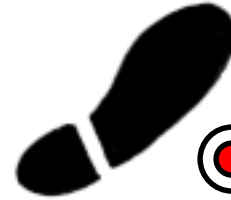
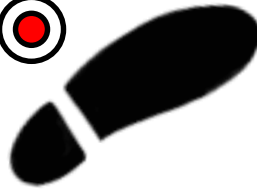
 Achievement of Practical Way for cooperation ( MTOP)

Mutual Recognition of Competences 

 Common Interest Definition

 Identification/Discovery

**2010**



# Process safety research cooperation lessons

- The process safety science is still under development
- Knowledge is needed from other disciplines.
- Complex interactions between man-technology and organizations (the so-called “human factors”) not yet fully understood.
- New comers often lack adequate resources but can make valuable contributions.
- It is imperative to coordinate efforts among countries in the GOM and the Caribbean Region.

# DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

**December 2014**



# Governmental agreements

- Marine Protected Areas Nov 2015
- Joint Statement on Environmental Protection Nov 2015
- Terrestrial Protected Areas and Wild Life Conservation
- Meteorology
- Seismology  
(December 2016)
- Twinning agreement between Cienaga de Zapata National Park and Everglades National Park

Last but not....

## OIL SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AGREEMENT



**Havana January 9, 2017.**



# National Security Presidential Memo

## June 16, 2017

### Sec. 2. Policy

It shall be the policy of the executive branch to:

... (f) Ensure that engagement between the United States and Cuba advances the interests of the United States and Cuban people. These interests include: ... **advancing the understanding of the United States regarding the scientific and environmental challenges.**

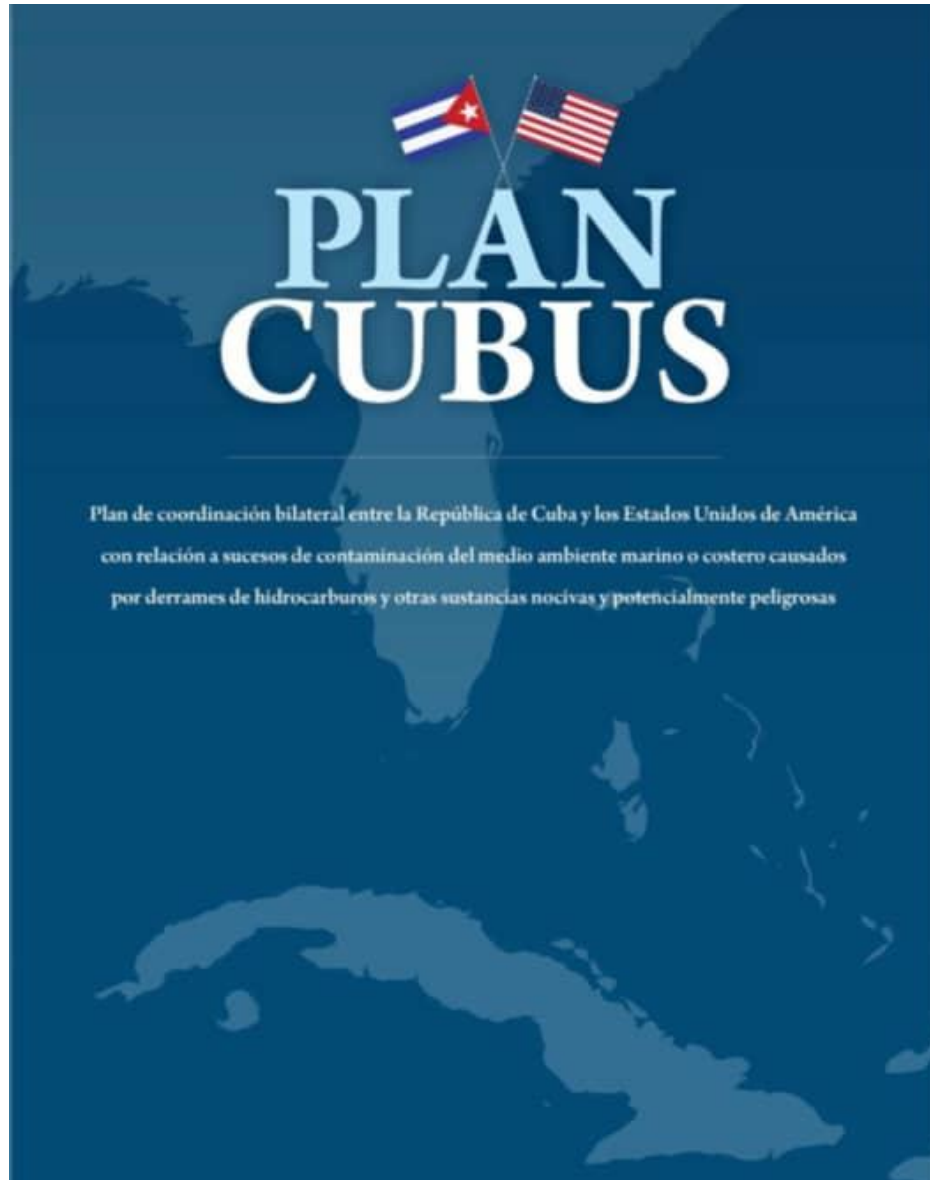
# 2017 : 4 Major Joint marine scientific expeditions

- Regional connectivity study of the mesophotic reefs of Cuba, R/V **Walton Smith**, FAU ,May 16 to June 14
- Collection of environmental data from the Gulf of Mexico from the northwestern coasts of Cuba, R/V **Weatherbird II** USF from May 10 to 25.
- Ocean acidification campaign in the Gulf of Mexico, R/V **Ronald H. Brown**, NOAA July 11 to August 16

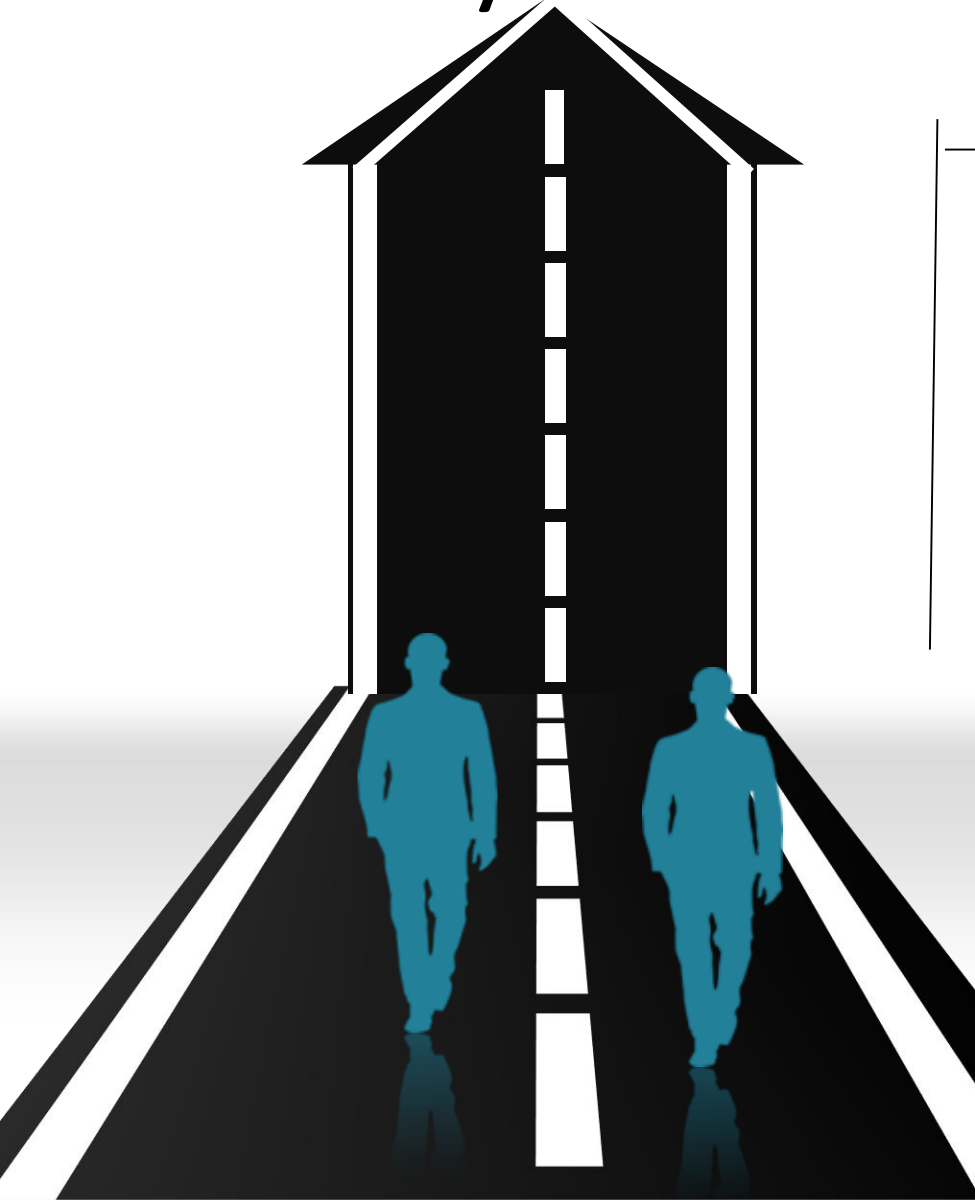
# 2017 : 4 Major Joint marine scientific expeditions (cont..)

- Survey the most protected and restricted marine area in all of Cuba “Gardens of the Queen” from the research vessel **Alucia**. It was the first non-Cuban vessel to be granted permission to conduct a comprehensive research program within during 23 days. (November).

# 2019: Bilateral Coordination Plan adopted



# The Way Ahead



- **THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM FOR COOPERATION** in process safety and environmental sciences and oil spills
- Common approach towards Safety Culture oversight
- Development of agreed Process Safety Performance Indicators
- Resilience of vital shared ecosystems to global challenges (Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution)
- Arrangements for **expedite an effective** assistance in case of oil spills

A tropical beach scene with palm trees and a blue sky with clouds. The foreground shows a sandy dune with green coastal vegetation. The middle ground features a line of palm trees and a single palm tree standing on the beach. The background shows the ocean and a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

THANKS