

Stanford

Stanford Experts on Oil Spill Impacts

Not for broadcast or publication.

Stanford scholars with expertise on the impacts of oil spills are available to comment for related coverage of these issues in the U.S. and elsewhere.

For assistance locating scholars, contact:

- Rob Jordan: rjordan@stanford.edu, (415) 760-8058
- Christine H. Black: christineblack@stanford.edu, (650) 725-8240

[Stephen Monismith](#)

Expertise: Waterborne transport of oil

Stephen Monismith's research in environmental and geophysical fluid dynamics involves the application of fluid mechanics principles to the analysis of flow processes, with a particular interest in the ecological impacts of those flows. In the case of a disaster such as an offshore oil spill, he can speak about how the oil will be moved through the ocean by currents and tides.

Monismith is the Obayashi Professor in the Stanford School of Engineering and director of the Environmental Fluid Mechanics Laboratory at Stanford. He is an affiliate with Bio-X and the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

Contact: monismith@stanford.edu, (650) 723-4764

[Stephen Palumbi](#)

Expertise: Coastal Adaptation, Coral Reefs, Ecosystem Health, Marine Biology & Ecology, Ocean Risk

Stephen Palumbi's work focuses on the genomics of marine organisms and basic evolutionary questions that can be applied to practical solutions to preserve and protect the diverse life in the sea. He can speak to the legacy of the 1969 Santa Monica oil spill and the huge civic and coastal

changes that it generated, such as The California Coastal Commission. He can also provide insight on shore life and the marine protected areas in the area of the Huntington Beach oil spill.

Palumbi is the Jane and Marshall Steel Jr. Professor in Marine Sciences at the Stanford Hopkins Marine Station and a senior fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment.

Contact: spalumbi@stanford.edu, (831) 601-7002

[Deborah Sivas](#)

Expertise: legal regime around offshore leasing and drilling

Deborah Sivas's litigation successes include challenging the Bush administration's gas mileage standards for SUVs, and light trucks and holding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency accountable for regulating the discharge of invasive species in ship ballast water. Her current research is focused on the interaction of law and science in the arena of climate change and coastal/marine policy and the ability of the public to hold policymakers accountable.

Sivas is the Luke W. Cole Professor of Environmental Law, director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law and Policy Program and director of the Environmental Law Clinic at Stanford Law School, and a senior fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

Contact: dsivas@stanford.edu, (650) 723-0325

[Rob Dunbar](#)

Expertise: Environmental impacts on marine organisms and ecosystems

Rob Dunbar is engaged in using marine science to inform policies directed towards solving key problems involving the oceans. His research group studies global environmental change with a focus on air-sea interactions, tropical marine ecosystems, polar climate change past and present, and the biogeochemistry of elements involved in life processes in the sea, such as oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, phosphorus and carbon. He can speak about offshore oil field operations and logistics and the risks they can cause to the marine environment.

Rob Dunbar is the W.M. Keck Professor at Stanford Earth and a senior fellow at Stanford's [Woods Institute for the Environment](#).

Contact: dunbar@stanford.edu, (650) 725-6830