

Abstract # 949

Title: Developments From Disaster: Florida's Progressive Approach to Long -Term Effects of the 1993 Tampa Bay Oil Spill

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In 1990, as a result of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound, the federal government required each state to develop a spill response plan. Lawton Chiles, Florida's former governor, assigned state agencies to assist the U.S. Coast Guard in creating area contingency plans for vulnerable regions. As a result, the Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) in collaboration with the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) developed the Florida Marine Spill Analysis System (FMSAS) to effectively manage spill events. The 1993 oil spill in Tampa Bay was the first real-life application of the FMSAS. The disaster put many natural and economic resources at risk. Initially the response seemed successful; however, unforeseen effects arose several years later when dredging created another spill by disturbing oil that had settled in the sediment during the 1993 event. Monies received from the federal lawsuits against the responsible parties produced numerous ecological and recreational restoration projects. In addition to the restoration projects, reaction to these events drove further development that culminated in an ongoing GIS-based response system.