

## **Building Coastal Community Capacity through Innovative Citizen Science Training for Oil Spill Planning and Response**

In this innovative project, local community groups will learn about the value of the data required for effective oil spill treatment plans and develop skills as citizen scientists in valuable shoreline data collection.

### **GOALS:**

- To develop community-based, shoreline data collection program focused on creating an understanding of shoreline environments;
- To train local Citizen Scientists and Subject Matter Experts who could take leadership in the community to improve oil spill preparedness and response;
- To provide new perspectives for communities and enable them to better understand the shoreline environment, the disruption caused by oil spills, the potential environmental changes, and socio-economic impacts;
- Collect quantitative beach dynamic and tar ball data for oil spill planning and response in coastal regions with offshore oil and gas operation;
- To generate valuable data relevant to analyzing the effects of oil spills on the shoreline.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Identify Citizen Scientist Volunteer teams who can commit to the project over the lifetime of the project;
- Facilitate hands-on, interactive volunteer training led by coastal scientists and oil spill experts;
- Lead field-based beach data collection training using well-established methods;
- Collect two critical key data sets that typically are lacking at the time of a spill response: Seasonal Beach and Sediment Dynamics and Background Shoreline Oiling;
- Facilitate a workshop for citizen scientists and coastal managers to share and interpret data collected and discuss ways in which coastal managers may use the data to adapt to potential chronic oil spill effects;
- Share data with decision making end-users (e.g. LOSCO, NOAA) for data integration into existing and future scientific coastal environmental databases.