From:	William Landing
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Cc:	Axelrad, Don; Wolfe, Steven; Sedlacek, Linda; "Bill Landing"
Subject:	Gulf of Mexico Hg workshop/December 2008
Date:	Friday, September 26, 2008 2:40:46 PM

Greetings:

Working with the Florida DEP, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA), and the EPA, we have gotten some momentum on conducting significant mercury research in the Gulf of Mexico. This research would have the ultimate goals of understanding why gulf fish have such high Hg levels, and how those levels might respond to various reduction scenarios in Hg emissions and Hg deposition to the gulf and its surrounding watersheds.

Our first action item is to convene a 2-3 day workshop during the first week in December 2008. The workshop agenda is not finalized yet, but would include:
1. presentations to establish the current state of our knowledge on Hg inputs, sources of methyl Hg, and Hg bioaccumulation in the gulf.
2. presentation of a preliminary dynamic-MCM screening model designed to test a series of "what if" scenarios regarding Hg sources and cycling in the gulf.
3. formulation of research priorities to answer questions about total and methyl Hg sources and cycling in the gulf.
4. setting up teams/working groups to develop research proposals (to state and federal funding agencies) to meet the January 2009 NOAA and EPA RFP deadlines.

The purpose of this email is to see if you are interested in attending the workshop in the role of "outside expert" to inform us and to help us develop the research priorities and proposals. For non-federal employees, the GOMA would cover your travel, hotel, and meal expenses. We will assist federal employees with efforts to obtain travel funds using any leverage the GOMA can apply on your agency.

Participation in the workshop would also not preclude you from becoming a PI or co-PI on one or more of the proposals that might result; in fact it would be a great opportunity for you to meet the "local" scientists and agency representatives interested in GOM Hg research and to develop collaborations.

Please respond and let me know your level of interest, and whether you would be available for 2-3 days between December 1-5, 2008. If you know of other people with interests in Hg research in the GOM, please ask them to contact me. Workshop participation will be limited (by funding), but we are trying to be as inclusive as possible.

Best Regards,
Bill

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