

The Coastal Waters Consortium Presents:

Scientist Spotlight

Yu Mo



What is your role as a scientist for CWC?

I am a research assistant working on using airborne and space-borne remote sensing (sensors onboard planes and satellites) to monitor the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on coastal marshes in Louisiana.

Can you summarize your oil spill research and describe any surprising findings you have come across?

I am very excited about developing a method of using satellite data to monitor the impacts of the oil spill on coastal marshes. Measuring impacts of the oil intrusion along the coast is very challenging for field studies due to logistics and cost. Satellites offer an inexpensive way to collect data for long-term ecosystem monitoring. The application of this data provides a cost-effective method for post-oil spill monitoring.

The Coastal Waters Consortium's mission is to assess the chemical evolution, biological degradation, and environmental stresses of petroleum and dispersant within Gulf of Mexico coastal and shelf ecosystems.

What is your educational background?

I majored in environment science at Sun Yat-sen University in People's Republic of China and earned my Master's degree in environmental science from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Now I am working on a doctoral degree in wetland science at the University of Maryland.

What inspired you to become a scientist?

Human and environmental interactions are key to sustaining our humanity and coastal wetlands are important sites for these interactions. I study coastal marshes for my doctoral research because I want to protect wetlands and bring awareness to sustainable human-environmental interactions.

Can you describe what you enjoy the most about conducting scientific research?

I like problem solving. Science is about answering different research questions. So the part I enjoy most is the process of coming up with and executing my plans to answer those research questions: design experiments, collect data, analyze data, and test the hypothesis.

