

## When Oil and Seawater Do Not Mix: Two Years After the BP Oil Spill

**Date:** Tuesday, May 15, 2012

**Topic:** This program will address the legal and biological ramifications of the BP oil spill. Discussion will include the current status of the lawsuits, the compensation program that resulted from the spill, and the lessons that can be learned about the adequacy of the law concerning oil pollution. Discussion will revolve around the NSU marine microbiology and genetics laboratory's efforts to develop marine sponges into a sentinel that can indicate changes in water quality due to pollutants, such as dispersants released during BP's Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Other biological topics will include biodiversity of marine life and coral reefs, the onslaught of environmental threats they face, and the ecosystem services that these marine residents provide society.

**Speakers:** **Jose (Joe) Lopez, Ph.D.**, is an associate professor at the Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center. His current research includes diverse projects, including marine invertebrate-microbial symbiosis, gene expression, and placing marine sponges on a global tree of life. Lopez has recently obtained funding from the Florida Institute of Oceanography to develop sponges as bioindicators for oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

**Joel Mintz, J.D., LL.M., J.S.D.**, is a professor of law at the NSU Shepard Broad Law Center, where he has taught environmental law and related subjects since 1982. Mintz was an attorney and chief attorney with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago and Washington, D.C. He is a member of the American Law Institute and Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. In 2011, he organized and led a hot topics panel discussion at the Association of American Law Schools annual meeting at which law professors discussed various legal aspects of the BP spill.

**Time:** 4:30–6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, Nova Southeastern University  
One East Las Olas Blvd | Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301-1807

**RSVP** Lynn Larose at [kl698@nova.edu](mailto:kl698@nova.edu) or (954) 262-2116 by Thursday, May 10, 2012



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Faculty members will have the opportunity to view the new Shark! exhibit after the program.

This is the last Faculty Symposia for this fiscal year.