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**Response to Gulf Crisis: Government, Academic, and Commercial
Collaboration Embraces SeaKeepers' Detection Technology**
Powerful Oceanographic and Atmospheric Data Acquisition and Telemetry System Available Now

Miami, FL USA (29 June 2010) – Commercial hydrocarbon sensors have been successfully adapted and deployed in existing SeaKeeper 1000™ installations. Funding is urgently needed to quickly install additional sensors within the existing fleet, to equip new vessels, and to fund the related research.

In response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill crisis in the Gulf of Mexico, the not-for-profit International SeaKeepers Society, in cooperation with their commercial partner YSI, Inc. and the University of South Florida, a member institution of the Florida Institute of Oceanography, has adapted a C3 Hydrocarbon sensor from Turner Designs to integrate into its proprietary SeaKeeper 1000 oceanographic and atmospheric data acquisition system. In incorporating the well-established C3 sensor, the SeaKeeper 1000 unit is now capable of mapping the dilute hydrocarbon (oil) plumes and the extent the of the oil spread.

Under the leadership of Dr. Mark E. Luther at the University of South Florida, the hydrocarbon sensor has been successfully deployed to the area of the spill on R/V *WeatherBird II*. SeaKeepers' ability to gather meteorological and oceanographic data provides a more comprehensive dataset. "The SeaKeeper 1000 system is a powerful ocean observing tool capable of collecting, and both spatially and temporally tagging data from multiple meteorological and in-water sensors from a variety of manufacturers, with real-time data telemetry via satellite," said Dr. Luther, Associate Professor and Director of the USF Ocean Monitoring and Prediction Lab.

SeaKeepers is actively soliciting funding to monitor and track this unparalleled catastrophe. While the sensor works extremely well in blue water, further refinements are needed for close inshore monitoring due to potential interference of color dissolved organic matter (CDOM). "The more data that can be gathered from the open and coastal waters of the West Coast of Florida, the Keys, and the East Coast of the United States, the better equipped scientists will be to provide answers on the effects of the oil spill. A baseline must be established quickly," said SeaKeepers President Dean C. Klevan. "Dr. Luther's research proves that this technology works...and it is ready now."

The SeaKeepers' autonomous, flow-through survey system seamlessly merges GPS data with crude oil concentration (and data from other 3rd party sensors) to allow quick mapping of the survey area. All data are logged to the onboard computer and are transmitted to the SeaKeepers' servers, via satellite telemetry. The information is available, without cost, to marine and atmospheric scientists, enabling further study.

SeaKeepers is in the process of expanding the installations to include vessels of the NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries. Coastal installations at strategic locations are under study. A smaller portable solution has been engineered by YSI and has been installed on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's 21-foot monitoring boat. While the SeaKeeper 1000 unit usually involves a thru-hull fitting, this new design is capable of being installed in a matter of hours on the transom or gunwale of a small

boat, or the existing seawater system of any large vessel. This system's operational simplicity allows vessels of opportunity to be utilized for rapid spatial, surface surveys of relative oil concentrations using Turner Design's C3 oil sensor.

Carnival Cruise Lines Agrees To Add New Sensor

Carnival Cruise Lines has long been a supporter of SeaKeepers and has agreed to become part of the oil mapping fleet-team. SeaKeeper 1000 units on board CCL's *Triumph*, *Legend* and *Miracle* will soon be modified to carry the C3 hydrocarbon sensors. These three ships, which cruise out of New Orleans, Tampa and New York, will assist in mapping the extent of the extremely dilute hydrocarbon plumes at the shelf break, in the loop current, and eventually in the Gulf Stream. While the ships are not passing directly in the spill, their operation in "clean water" will be invaluable for establishing a baseline for future study. CCL will be funding these important installations.

The innovative SeaKeepers hydrocarbon solution can greatly enhance the scientific understanding as the spill spreads. This is vital for coastal areas in the Keys and up the east coast of the United States. These deployments represent an important collaboration by private, public, and academic parties.

For more information on The International SeaKeepers Society[®], images and/or interview requests, please contact Averill Conley at +1 (786) 877-0757 or via email at conley@seakeepers.org. For information on the research, please contact Dr. Mark Luther at the University of South Florida at +1 (727) 553-1528 or via email at luther@marine.usf.edu. For technical information about the system, please contact Tracy Spranger at YSI at +1 (727) 565-2201 or via email at tspranger@ysi.com.

About The International SeaKeepers Society[®]

Mission: The International SeaKeepers Society[®] is a not-for-profit international institution focusing on the marine environment.

- The Society is an organization of opinion leaders which believes that the best way to protect the environment is to protect the world's seas. SeaKeepers' mission is to gather and distribute the most useful oceanographic and atmospheric data from which to draw rational conclusions concerning the health of the world's oceans and climate.
- The Society provides funding and/or support to the scientific community with specific focus on the use of data for marine preservation and restoration (universities and like-minded organizations).
- The Society serves as an advocate to protect the marine environment.

Vision: SeaKeepers as an organization believes that accurate data is essential in improving the environment through protecting the seas. As a private/public collaborative effort, the Society focuses on critical ocean issues in cooperation with government agencies, other like minded organizations, and the academic community. *Protect and Restore*

The SeaKeeper 1000 is endorsed by the United Nations' World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and used by three divisions of NOAA – its National Marine Fisheries Service, National Marine Sanctuaries Program, and National Weather Service. To find out how to become a SeaKeeper, "adopt" a SeaKeeper 1000[™] monitoring system, or to learn more about the Society, please visit www.seakeepers.org.