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PNNL Holds Aquatic Modeling Conference

With support from the DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), PNNL held the second in a series of conferences focused on the challenge of identifying and modeling contamination from weapons of mass destruction in aquatic environments. The first conference, held about a year ago at the PNNL Marine Sciences Lab in Sequim, Washington, focused on understanding the state of modeling for water releases of contaminants. This second conference focused on user needs. Participants in the conference largely represented water-based emergency responders such as the U.S. Coast Guard, Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Seattle Fire and Port Police, as well as industry from the Puget Sound area. The conference identified information needs and uses as well as the form in which information should be provided to be of greatest value to responders. Results of the workshop will be used to inform DHS S&T's Maritime and Borders research and development agenda and further discussions of a National Water Modeling Center similar to what currently exists for atmospheric modeling.

The conference was designed around four potential events that involve water bodies, likely response actions, decision processes, and the information available to responders to effectively execute their jobs. Participants reached the following conclusions:

- Broadly applicable water models for response and recovery actions are generally non-existent or very limited in capability.
- Responders see their general lack of awareness of water modeling capability or appropriate ways to reach analysts a huge weakness.
- Responders strongly support the need for a national reach back capability for water modeling and expertise.
- Any national reach back for water modeling and expertise should be combined with other national modeling and reach back programs so responders have easy access.

These conclusions will be described in greater detail in an upcoming report.

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Upcoming Events

May 14-15
National Visualization and Analytics Center Consortium Meeting
Redmond, Washington

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Around the Region in Homeland Security is a monthly status report from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in support of the Homeland Security Regional Stretch Goal to bring together major stakeholders from across the region that have a vested interest in homeland security challenges and issues and provide a collaborative environment that addresses Northwest regional homeland security requirements, needs, and challenges. For more information on PNNL's involvement in Homeland Security in the Pacific Northwest, contact Steve Stein, Regional Stretch Goal Program Manager at steve.stein@pnl.gov or 206-528-3340. For more information on how PNNL supports Homeland Security across the nation, contact Mike Mitchell, Homeland Security Sector Manager at Michael.Mitchell@pnl.gov or 509-375-6353.