

Deepwater Horizon- Oil Spill (April 20, 2010 - Ongoing)

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Introduction

The Horizon Oil Spill is regarded as one of the biggest sources of oil pollution in the world. This horrific accident was the result of unsafe and unregulated offshore drilling gone wrong.

Years later and the environmental impact is still being researched and affects the wildlife there still. Today over ten years after the initial damage over 80 companies are still working at pumping and drilling oil, now with even looser guidelines.

BP Exploration and Production was listed as the main party at fault and resulted in over 15 billion dollars worth of damages to be paid for. This money is still nothing compared to the damage the spill did. Birds and fish all suffered due to the errors and greed for the oil. Continuing down this path will lead the world down a darker and more polluted path.

What Caused It?

- When an oil well was capped with a concrete core, natural gas escaped and caused the disaster. [2]
- Falling and discharging the oil into the ocean starting on April 22.
- When ignited the natural gas exploded on one of the platforms of the Horizon Oil Rig and killed 11 workers and injured 17. [2]
- The rig was operated by an off-shore drilling company Transocean and leased by the Oil Company BP.
- BP, Transocean, and several other companies were charged billions for the clean up and the damages that were caused due to their equipment and bad practices.

Timeline

- April 20, 2010- Explosion at capped well.
- April 22, 2010- Damage causes oil to leak into waterway.
- July 18, 2010- Oil discharge was stopped. (87 flowing days)
- 2012-2015- Fees for BP and partners before CWA (\$8.8 Billion)
- April 4, 2016- Federal Court creating the Clean Water Act Penalties. (Figure 1)
- 2018- BP re-emerges with new owner continuing oil extraction. [1]
- 2020- Highly insoluble coating still detected in marshes and deep-water settlements. [7]
- 2021 - Pollution in ocean still creating low production rates. [7]



Figure 2: Stream flow of oil [5]



Figure 3: Fire On Horizon Oil [7]

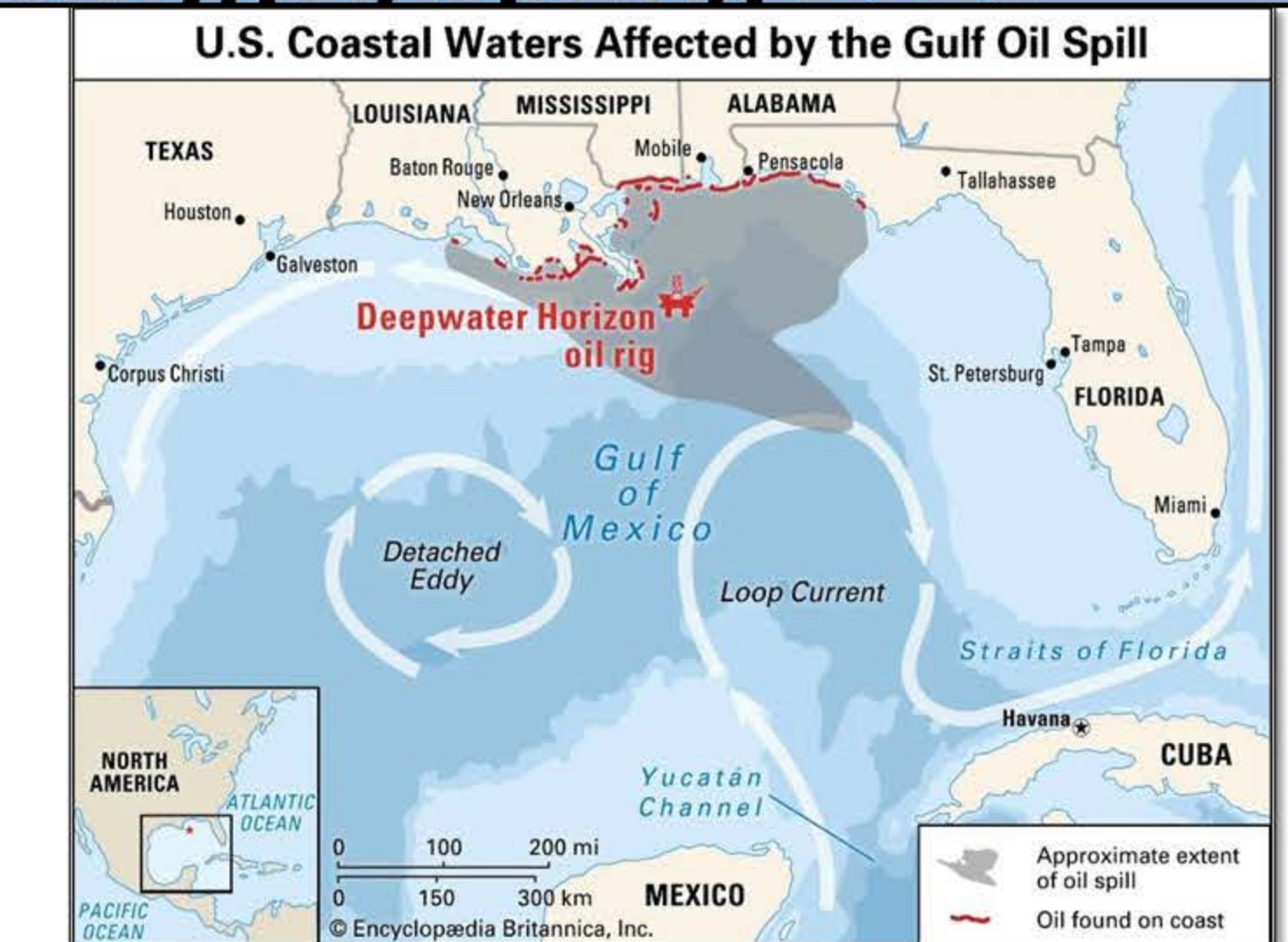


Figure 4: Coastal Waters Affected

Environmental Impact

- The petroleum alone that leaked formed a slick film of oil more than 57,500 square miles inside of the Gulf of Mexico.
- Not only the water was affected the oil was accumulated and became Tar Bars that would float and pollute the beaches.
- Deep into the Gulf many of the Deep-sea communities has oil that stuck to and polluted the ecosystems.
- In 2020, ten years after the disaster studies have been conducted to show that the in the Gulf of Mexico still show evidence of the contamination by polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. (PAHs) [5]

PR Nightmare

- BP was not prepared-
 1. No crisis management until after the incident.
 2. Didn't correctly address the public.
- CEO Insensitivity- "There's no one who wants this thing over more than I do. You know I'd like my life back."-CEO Tony Hayward. [1]
- BP spent \$50 Million on Ad Campaign during clean-up [1]
- Planning for a crisis cannot happen after a crisis, teams and plans are needed in place for all failures that could happen



Figure 1: Clean Water Penalties



Figure 5: Water In New Orleans [6]

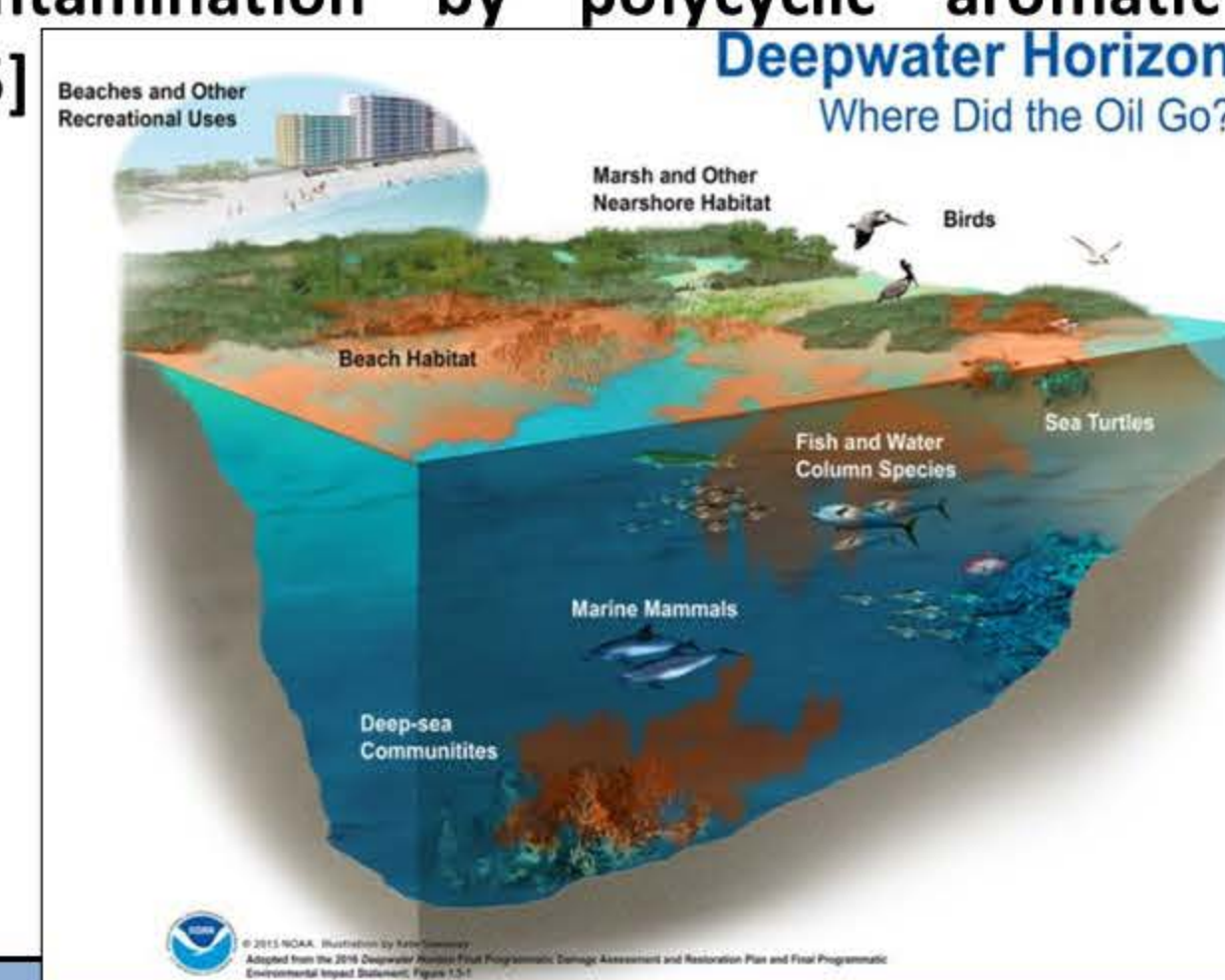


Figure 6: Visual of Oil Distribution [3]

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