

DEEPWATER HORIZON: LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF BP OIL SPILL ON SHRIMPING

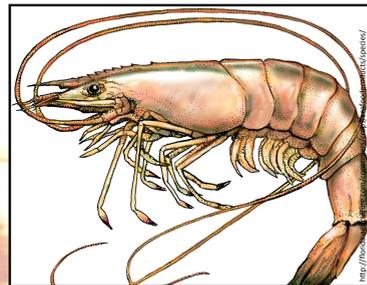


Whitney Canton

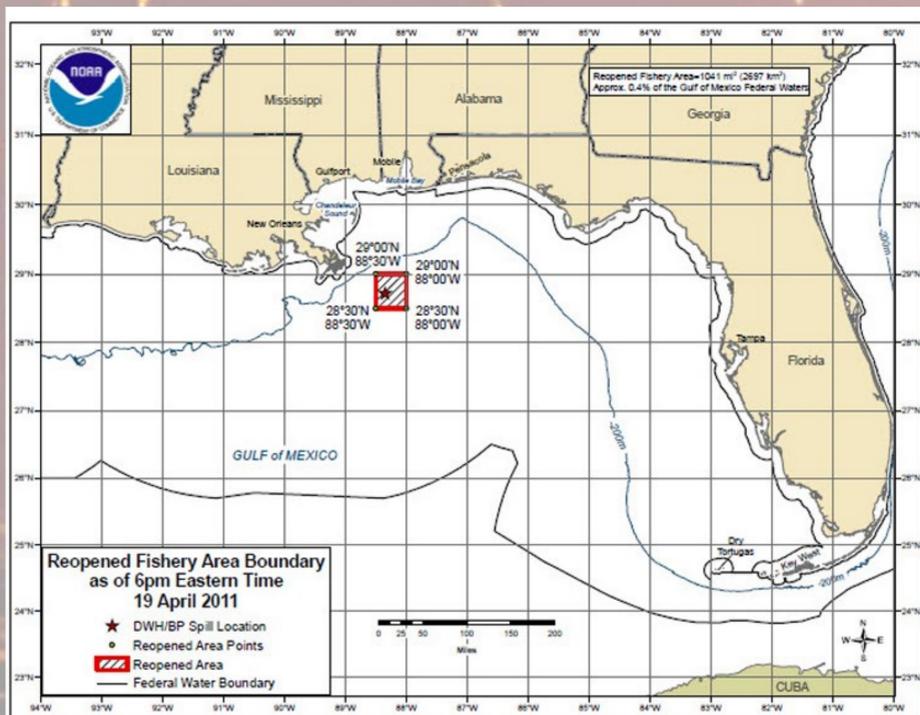
Advisors: Dr. Jean Lavigne and Dr. Richard Bohannon
CSB/SJU Environmental Studies Spring 2013

Abstract

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon (better known as the BP oil spill) spewed large amounts of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico, harming entire ecosystems. The spill had large effects on shrimp environments, shrimp sales, shrimpers' livelihood and also on human health through consumption of shrimp. The one mile depth at which the oil spill occurred is different from any previous oil spill so many of the long-term effects are unknown. I believe that continued monitoring of Gulf ecosystems is needed, that BP should continue to compensate large businesses and small shrimp farmers until they are fully paid and lastly, that the FDA needs to reevaluate their acceptable levels of contamination within shrimp to make them specific to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.



PROBLEMS	SOLUTIONS
Environmental Contamination	Continued testing, especially in the deep water column where the spill occurred and in the sediment in environmentally vulnerable areas such as wetlands on the coast
Suffering Fisheries (Economically)	BP needs to continue to pay all businesses and individual fishermen that lost revenue or livelihood are paid back fully.
Human Health (Consumption)	The FDA should create age-specific levels of concern (LOCs) for this particular oil spill and also include vulnerable populations. Additional contamination sampling should also occur.



Methods

A majority of the information was collected through the following:

- Literature reviews
- Florida, Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana state department websites
- The National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) official website

Additional research was done through interviews with environmental activists and local food suppliers.



Conclusion

Since the oil spill is unique, continued testing needs to occur for many years to come to protect the health of the ecosystems, the livelihoods of the fishermen and also the overall health of consumers.