



The Deepwater Horizon Spill: NOAA's Role

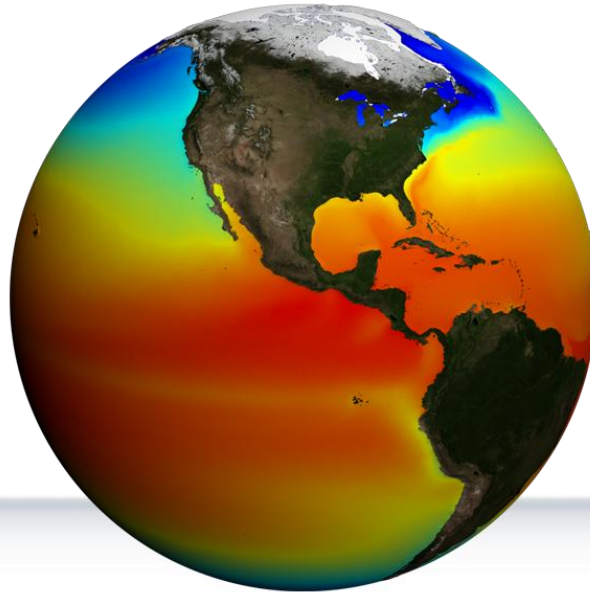
Center for Strategic and International Studies
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NOAA's Mission



To understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our nation's economic, social, and environmental needs



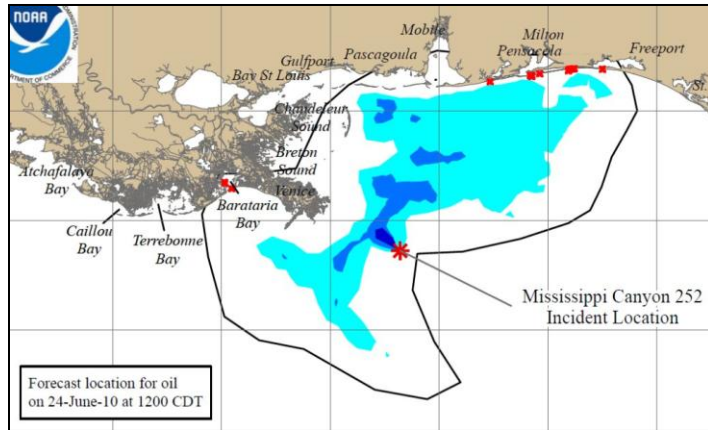
April 20, 2010

NOAA's Role in Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

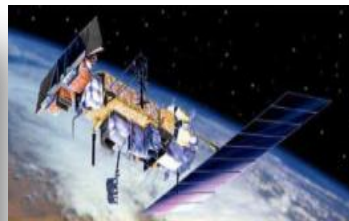
- **Conducting Science to Inform Decision-Makers**
- **Keeping Seafood Safe**
- **Protecting Wildlife and Habitats**
- **Assessing Natural Resource Damage**
- **Restoring Damaged Natural Resources**



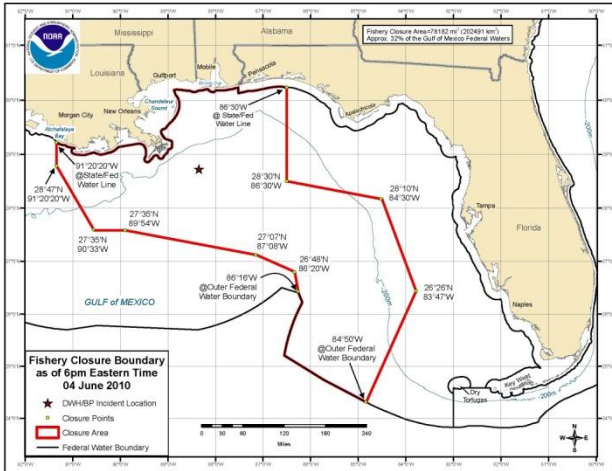
Scientific Support



- NOAA is the lead science agency for coastal and marine oil spill response
 - Predicts where the oil is moving
 - Identifies sensitive habitat to protect
 - Forecasts weather and marine conditions
 - Informs shoreline assessment and cleanup
 - Collects oceanographic observations & subsea samples
- NOAA provided daily oil spill trajectory maps and twice-daily weather forecasts



Keep Seafood Safe



- NOAA, FDA, and EPA: Comprehensive, coordinated, multiagency program ensuring seafood safety
- Coast Guard and NOAA monitored and enforced closed Federal areas
- Strict reopening protocols by state and federal agencies
- Extensive testing to ensure seafood safe from oil and dispersant contamination



Protect Wildlife and Habitats



- NOAA is responsible for protection of sea turtles, dolphins, whales and other marine protected species
- NOAA research ships study impact of the oil on marine mammals and fisheries
- Implemented region-wide protocols caring for turtles in distress
- Partnered with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others to address sea turtle nesting beaches issues

Assessing Natural Resource Damage

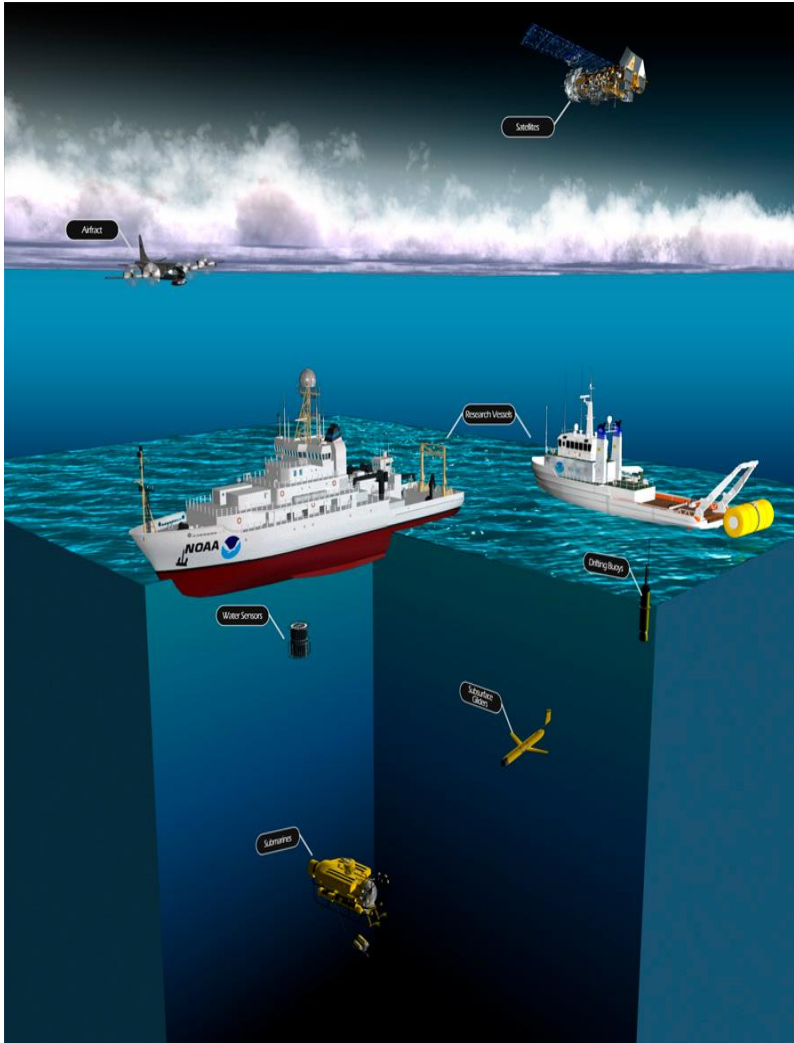


- **Trustees for NRDA**
 - Federal: DOC/NOAA & DOI, DoD
 - States: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Texas
- **NRDA determines**
 - Injuries/lost use of public's natural resources & services
 - Amounts & types of restoration needed to offset losses
- **NOAA Conducts the following 3 phases of NRDA**
 - Pre-assessment
 - Injury Assessment and Restoration Planning
 - Restoration

Restoring Injured Natural Resources



NOAA Assets



Challenges and Public Concerns



- Seafood safety
- Fate and effect of surface and subsurface oil
- Short and long-term effects of oil on species and habitats
- Human health
- Use of dispersants
- Hurricanes & tropical storms
- Public access to information

Moving Forward

- Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
 - Established through Executive Order on October 5, 2010
 - Purpose to coordinate and ensure seamless transition between the immediate response and long-term recovery
- National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling
 - Established through Executive Order on May 22, 2010
 - Purpose to examine the facts and circumstances to determine the cause of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill
 - Developed options for guarding against future oil spills
 - Final report released January 11, 2011
- Natural Resource Damage Assessment Ongoing



National Ocean Policy

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning





Questions?