



National Commission on the  
**BP DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL  
AND OFFSHORE DRILLING**

## **Attachment 32**

**Public Comment of Michael Gravitz**

**Environment America**



**Statement of Michael Gravitz, Oceans Advocate, Environment America  
To  
The National Commission on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill  
and Offshore Drilling**

**Economic Impacts from the BP Oil Spill;  
Our Coasts & Economy Are Better Off Wild & Clean**

**September 27, 2010**

**Washington, DC**

**Michael Gravitz, Oceans Advocate  
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## **Introduction**

My name is Michael Gravitz. I am the Oceans Advocate for Environment America and have worked extensively on the issue of offshore drilling for the past five years. Environment America is a federation of 29 state based organizations with more than 100 staff and 1 million members, activists, and allies working together for a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

I want to discuss two things this afternoon:

- How risky offshore drilling really is and the degree to which the work of this Commission, the BOEM, Congress and other bodies can hope to make it safer. And whether, with this level of improvement, expanded drilling off other coasts makes sense.
- What's at stake economically if future accidents of BP scale should occur in the Gulf or along other coasts.

## **Risk of Catastrophic Spills: Not Trivial**

Approximately 4,500 deepwater wells have been drilled in the Gulf to date. Therefore, on its face the BP spill is a 1 in 4,500 event. That's a very far cry from the one in a million event or black swan event that's been described in the popular press. In fact it's 200 times more likely than one in one million.

In the four years 2006-2009, MMS recorded 21 loss of well control incidents, or 5 per year. Loss of well control is what led to the blowout which preceded the Deepwater Horizon explosion on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Now, luckily most well control events are resolved without a spill or spill of sizable proportion. But they are NOT infrequent.

To give you some perspective, I'll use an analogy that the oil companies are fond of to call into question the wisdom of the temporary deepwater moratorium. If oil spills were equivalent to commercial plane crashes, then we would see approximately seven plane crashes per day since there are approximately 35,000 commercial flights in the US every day.

Given all that, how big an improvement in the odds of an offshore drilling catastrophe can we expect from the combined efforts of all the entities working on oil spill reform? Can we get an order of magnitude improvement, making drilling 10 times safer? Is that achievable? I don't know, but if we did that there would still be one BP spill per 45,000 wells drilled. If so, to use the airplane analogy, we'd have 1 plane crash about every day and a quarter.

## **Scale of Economic Damage from Spills: Huge**

In addition to damaging the environment and the Gulf's wildlife, we now know large spills can also be job and business killers. The largest economic impacts of the BP oil spill are on jobs and businesses connected to coastal tourism and commercial and recreational fishing, not on deepwater rig workers and support businesses.

You have all read newspaper articles about hotels, restaurants and tourism related employers losing substantial business in the Gulf. You've read about the tens of thousands of fishermen who couldn't fish because of the extensive oil slicks and fishing area closures. You've read about seafood businesses as far away as Maryland being affected by the decline in Gulf catches. Each business and person has a unique story, but what does it total up to?

Using government data from NOAA for coastal counties only in the Gulf, the conservative value of tourism and fishing is about \$39 billion dollars per year. This excludes, impacts on the value of real estate and many indirect economic effects.

When a reputable economics consulting firm called Oxford Economics looked at the question of how much damage to the tourism industry would be done by the BP spill, using the economic impacts from other spills and adverse weather events, they calculated that the Gulf would suffer from \$7.6 billion to \$22.6 billion in damage to tourism business over a one to three year period. Gulf-wide they calculated the loss to be 12-25% of annual revenues.<sup>1</sup>

To make this real, let me point out that before it closed its effort BP had awarded close to \$400 million in economic claims to affected parties. Since it opened just several weeks ago, Mr. Feinberg's Gulf Coast Claims Facility has gotten over 75,000 claims and paid out almost \$480 million to affected businesses and individuals.<sup>2</sup> So almost \$1 billion has already been awarded in *emergency* payments—often just cents on the dollar of claims--and we haven't moved to the 'final claims' stage yet.

What could we expect if a BP sized spill occurred in other areas of our coasts? If we apply the same ratio of damage in coastal tourism from the Gulf to other regions of the country, some of which are regions where the President contemplated drilling in March 2010 before the spill, the potential for annual damage of a BP sized spill on coastal tourism could amount to as much as:

\$14 billion for the New England states (ME to NJ)  
\$3 billion of the Mid-Atlantic states (DE to NC)  
\$5 billion for the South Atlantic states (SC to east FL)  
\$16 billion for the Pacific (CA to WA)

Clearly, there would be a huge economic impact if a BP sized spill occurred off other coasts of the U.S. where expanded offshore drilling has been contemplated.

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1

[http://www.ustravel.org/sites/default/files/page/2009/11/Gulf\\_Oil\\_Spill\\_Analysis\\_Oxford\\_Economics\\_710.pdf](http://www.ustravel.org/sites/default/files/page/2009/11/Gulf_Oil_Spill_Analysis_Oxford_Economics_710.pdf), pg 21

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.gulfcoastclaimsfacility.com/GCCF\\_Overall\\_Status\\_Report\\_09-25-2010.pdf](http://www.gulfcoastclaimsfacility.com/GCCF_Overall_Status_Report_09-25-2010.pdf)

**Conclusion**

In addition to trying to make offshore drilling safer, I believe it is also incumbent on this Commission to advise the President about whether it will *ever* be safe enough to spread this practice to other coasts around the U.S. I submit it will not be safe enough even with improvement given the odds of an oil spill like BP's and the potential for economic, let alone environmental damage.

Can you really look at a fishermen, restaurateur, or hotel owner in the eye and say that you and BOEMRE and the Congress are going to make drilling safe enough to drill off his coast in a place where drilling has not been done before?

**Contact:**

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AND OFFSHORE DRILLING**

## **Attachment 33**

**Public Comment of Michele Roberts**

**Advocates for Environmental Human Rights**



Upholding our human right to live in a  
healthy environment

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**STATEMENT BY MICHELE ROBERTS  
to the**

**NATIONAL COMMISSION ON BP DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL & OFFSHORE  
DRILLING**

**September 27, 2010**

My name is Michele Roberts. I am the Campaign & Policy Coordinator in the Washington, D.C. office of Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, a public interest law firm dedicated to upholding the human right that we all have to live in a healthy environment. AEHR is headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana.

On August 26th, AEHR hosted a meeting in New Orleans that brought together the legal counsel of this Commission and environmental justice advocates in the Gulf Region. At this meeting, AEHR recommended vigorous enforcement of section 2704 (c) of the Oil Pollution Act in order to ensure full recovery from the BP oil drilling disaster and to prevent further damage.

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In enacting the Oil Pollution Act, Congress made it very clear that it did not want to reward a bad actor with a liability cap. Section 2704 (c) provides 5 exceptions – any one of which removes the statutory limitation on the liability of a party responsible for an oil incident or disaster. One of these exceptions involves the violation of an applicable Federal safety, construction, or operating regulation by a responsible party. It is clear from the Congressional testimony of people who survived the BP oil rig explosion that BP meets this exception, and likely others. For example, federal regulations require periodic inspections of blow-out preventer devices, but inspection of the blow-out preventer on the Deepwater Horizon rig was years past due. However, no federal regulatory agency has issued an administrative enforcement order against BP for violating this or any other federal regulation. The people of the Gulf Coast deserve a determination right now by the government that BP is indeed liable for all of the damages caused by its massive disaster.

Section 2704 (c) of the Oil Pollution Act also provides authority to federal regulatory agencies like EPA and OSHA to establish precautionary measures in the removal of oil from the Gulf of Mexico and coastal areas. But, instead of exercising this authority, the agencies have acquiesced to BP's refusal of their initial requests for reducing the use of toxic oil dispersants and providing protective gear to people involved in the oil removal



work. This authority must be exercised to protect the health of people involved in the oil clean up and containment work as well as the environment.

We urge this Commission to call for the issuance of a federal agency administrative enforcement order against BP which would establish the full liability of this company for all of its damage to the Gulf Region, and call on EPA and OSHA to ensure safety precautions in the oil removal work that are protective of people and the environment.



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## **Attachment 34**

**Public Comment of Micah McCarty**

**Makah Tribal Council**

**Makah Tribal Council Testimony**  
**Councilman Micah McCarty**  
**National Oil Spill Commission Meeting 3**  
**Washington DC**  
**09/27-28/10**

The MTC is very proud of the work we've accomplished with the United States Coast Guard by supporting and commenting to the Gulf Coast Spill of National Significance Temporary Rule Making by asking for a G2G Consultation to recommend means of improvement to oil spill planning. (Please reference MTC letter). Through our continued oil pollution prevention and response work with the Coast Guard the MTC understands there is no more qualified entity at either the federal, state, local or industry level to coordinate and respond to a spill of such magnitude as the Gulf Coast spill than the United States Coast Guard.

The MTC has experienced over 3 million gallons of oil spilled in our treaty protected area in the ocean and marine waters of the Pacific Northwest. This prompted the MTC to create the tribal Office of Marine Affairs to assist the MTC to create effective ocean and oil pollution policy with the federal, state and local governments. Through the EPA State/Tribal Response Program funding the MTC has put together an effective Spill Response Program with the Coast Guard, EPA, Washington State Department of Ecology and Industry.

The MTC would like to offer our policy efforts to include tribal interests in the oil pollution arena as a positive model of success for other state, local and tribal governments to review. The MTC has a history of commenting on numerous oil spill related Coast Guard Rule Makings from a Treaty Tribe perspective , one of which, the Salvage and Firefighting Rule clarified Washington State's ability to station the Neah Bay Response Tug, which we are

very proud of our participation in. The MTC is a voting member of the Region 10 RRT.

**Gulf Coast Oil Spill Lessons Learned:**

- 1.) The MTC is working with CG District 13 and MSRC to put together a Tribal Fishing Vessel Spill Response Program. This program will equip our tribal fishing fleet with spill response equipment appropriate for the operating environment and train our fishing fleet to Coast Guard certification as a Vessel of Opportunity;
- 2.) The MTC has been working with Navy Region Northwest on an Oil Spill Workgroup to determine the need to deploy Navy SupSalv equipment at the strategically located Port of Neah Bay to improve the service of oil spill response assets for the outer coast of Washington State. This workgroup has since been reconvened under the authority of the Region 10 Response Team/Northwest Area Committee.
- 3.) The main lesson learned from the Gulf Coast Spill should be: DRILL BABY DRILL! Which translates to the Makah to mean: Drill and exercise area equipment and personnel often and regularly in a manner that requires all spill response authorities and assets to drill together. This action we believe would ground truth the Area Response Plans in an absolutely meaningful way and would determine the relative strengths and weaknesses of each Area Plan.

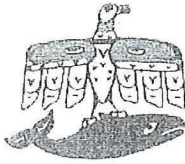
The MTC has an article in the Spring 2010 edition of the CG Proceedings magazine on CG Rule Making which provides a good summary of our Office of Marine Affairs accomplishments in working with the Coast Guard.

The MTC would like to point out we were successful in working with Coast Guard District 13 to develop a Tribal Liaison position at D 13 to assist in institutionalize G2G relations with tribal governments in the Pacific Northwest.

The MTC is coordinating our spill prevention and response work to present to Jodi Gillette Executive Office Intergovernmental Relation Office for a

proposed meeting on improving participation in developing the National Ocean Policy by enhancing Tribal Consultation.

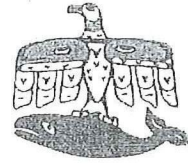
Close by thanking Admiral Thad Allen and Coast Guard D13 for their work in the Gulf Coast and for working so effectively with tribal governments in the Pacific NW.



## MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 115 • NEAH BAY, WA 98357 • 360-645-2201

*The Makah Tribe is an equal opportunity employer*



Secretary Janet Napolitano  
Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

July 19, 2010

Secretary Napolitano -

The Makah Tribal Council (MTC) is writing to request a multi-department Government-to-Government Consultation in regard to the Federal Register Notice dated June 30, 2010 that addresses: **Temporary Suspension of Certain Oil Spill Response Time Requirements To Support Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill of National Significance (SONS 40CFR154-155) Response**. Similar letters are being sent to Secretary of Interior Salazar, Secretary of Commerce Locke and EPA Administrator Jackson.

Pursuant to the Federal Register Notice, the US Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an emergency temporary interim rule suspending oil spill response plan requirements for facilities and vessels whose response resources are relocated in support of the Deepwater Horizon spill of national significance (SONS) response (75 Fed. Reg. 37712). In Part K, Indian Tribal Governments, of Section IV pertaining to the Regulatory Analysis, it declares this rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes.

The MTC takes issue with this finding as a Resource Trustee with treaty-reserved rights to marine resources with-in our treaty area that extends 45 miles offshore of the State of Washington. The MTC would emphasize that the essential role our fisheries represents to our economic and cultural subsistence have not been adequately taken into consideration by this interim rule. Our position is that our marine resources could be significantly jeopardized by an uncontained oil spill due to the depletion of government and private oil spill response assets in the region.

While the MTC absolutely supports the herculean spill response effort being conducted in the Gulf Coast Region, we would like to express concern that our treaty protected resources are being left exposed to the risk of oil spills as the result of British Petroleum's failure to stockpile ample amounts of response equipment in Gulf. The MTC bases our request to consult Government-to-Government on the special Trust Relationship created between the federal government and the Makah Indian Tribe as set forth in the 1855 Treaty of Neah Bay. The right to access the wealth of resources connected to the marine environment was reserved in exchange for signing the treaty and later included the tribe ceding over 300,000 additional acres of timbered property to strengthen the federal commitment to the terms and conditions of our treaty. The Makah Tribe was also party to the 1974 US vs. Washington Boldt Decision that acknowledged Washington State Indian Tribe's reserved right to co-manage hunting and fishing practices at usual and accustomed places. The MTC also was a party to the 1989 Centennial Accord with the State of Washington which built on resource co-management authorities with Northwest treaty tribes.

A fundamental guiding principle between the tribe and the federal government is recognition of inherent tribal sovereign powers and the right to self-determination concerning the protection of Tribal Trust Resources. Accordingly the MTC would like to inform you of our ongoing efforts to be better prepared to respond to oil spills in Cape Flattery region of Washington State. We would also like to bring to your attention our appointment to the NW Area Committee/ Regional Response Team, our efforts to enhance the capacity of the strategic port of Neah Bay as a primary spill response staging area and our efforts to provide training and equipment for our tribal fishing fleet to participate in spill response as a means to backfill the assets that have been re-directed from one of the busiest waterways in North America. These and other examples demonstrate how improved engagement of tribal governments can not only significantly increase our nation's capacity to fight oil spills, but can also further a variety of ongoing marine conservation efforts from ocean research and monitoring to alternative energy development. (see USCG Proceedings enclosed)

We were very encouraged by the five Action Directives made your first day after being confirmed as to the importance of the Department to establish a Consultation and Coordination Policy with federally recognized tribal governments. . We were particularly inspired by your March 2009 comments to the National Congress of American Indian when you said: *"Tribal interests are a necessary and integral part of this department's decision making process. Starting at the outset, even the policy itself will be developed in a consultative way. We will move swiftly to get a good policy on the books, and begin with open and continuous communication to achieve results."* The MTC is equally encouraged by the 2010 White House Tribal Conference Progress Report's endorsement of establishing collaborative departmental and agency efforts to develop comprehensive tribal consultation policy initiatives. We understand this is a work in progress in which we have and will continue to participate. In addition, we would like to be able to participate in the Rulemaking Review and Reform Project initiated by the USCG to help identify ways in which tribal interests could be better reflected in future rulemakings.


However, it is a logistical and administrative challenge for the Makah Tribal Council to track multi-jurisdictional federal actions that impact our tribal resources through to formal consultation. It is important to understand the Makah Indian Tribe signed the 1855 Treaty of Neah Bay with the US government and not with individual agencies. It is our hope that we can assist in building a multi departmental and agency collaborative effort in support of a comprehensive tribal consultation initiative. We appreciate Coast Guard District 13's use of the International Assistance Program to fund a Tribal Liaison position which heightens the acknowledgement of the sovereign nature of Indian Tribal Governments.

The absence of a synchronized Tribal Consultation Policy has also made it a challenge for our treaty interests to be received at the appropriate level of policy and resources consideration during ongoing national ocean planning efforts that have direct bearing on our Treaty-Protected marine resources. While we expend our limited resources to assure our interests are represented in a variety of marine planning forums, the SONS declaration made without consultation demonstrates that there are still challenges to overcome.

In order to initiate our collaborative multi department and agency Government-to-Government Consultation request, we ask that you assign a senior policy staff person to meet with us during our planned visit with the White House to discuss National Ocean Policy.

Thank you for your personal attention to the Gulf Coast disaster. We hope to learn from those lessons while demonstrating how working together on a government-to-government basis can significantly improve our preparedness to a variety of hazards

Sincerely,



Michael J. Lawrence, Chairman  
Makah Tribal Council

Reference:

Bowechop, C. (Proceedings 2010, Spring Edition). Manager Office of Marine Affairs Makah Tribal Council. *USCG Proceedings* Volume 66 Number 4, pp. 51-54.

Cc: Senator Patty Murray

Senator Maria Cantwell

Congressman Norm Dicks

Congressman Rick Larsen

Congressman Jay Inslee

Jodi Gillette Associate Director, White House Office of Public Engagement & Deputy Associate Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs;

Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr. Commandant of the Coast Guard.

Rear Admiral Gary T. Blore, Commander Thirteenth Coast Guard District





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## **Attachment 35**

**Public Comment of John Long**

**Citizen of Point Hope Village, Point Hope, Alaska**

*Public Comments from: Mr. John Long Jr., Advocate from Point Hope Village: Point Hope, Alaska*

Mr. John Long Jr: I come from Point Hope and the preserve there and I would like to let you guys know that in Point Hope we still practice a subsistence way of life. Our ancestors have been living in Point Hope for thousands and thousands of years. Point Hope is the longest existing village inhabited in Alaska, probably all of the North Slope area originated in Point Hope.

So with that said we still hunt the Bow Head whales in a traditional way. With all man power, no borders, we hunt the Bearded seal, the Bow Head whale we hunt. We share the catch that we catch. One whale, will feed, at least all of North Slope area, the outlining villages down south, the people from Anchorage and whoever comes into our village. Everyone is given a portion of that whale to eat. And that whale that we catch, we have a feast for that and it is also taken for Thanksgiving, Christmas, everything is used from that whale. The jaw head bones are used for markers for whaling captains for when they pass away, the ribs we used for our grave yard site, as fence. We do hunt the Bearded seal, fish, everything we hunt from the ocean, we don't go chasing after them. Everything, all the animals come to us, because our village is at the point of Alaska, which is why it is called Point Hope. All the whales, sea animals that migrate from the south pass by our village, so we don't have to go out and chase them, they come to us. And that being said, also, coming back, they, the whales, on their way to the North side of Canada, where Shell is going to do some drilling, on the Fall of 2007, at the same time, that Shell was planning to drill at the arctic refuge 4,000 Bow Heads originated that day, raised their calfs. They ate around that area and they travel all around that vicinity where Shell was going to drill. Sorry to say that, I would like you guys to [not] consider drilling anywhere in our ocean, because our ocean is our garden. We live, our tradition, everything, originates around the ocean that passes by our village.

And it does not only pertain to Point Hope, we have the villages from down south Gambel, we have the villages from up north, Barrel [another town]. And you know the polar bears, the walrus, as we know, at this time, the climate is changing up north, it is getting warmer than usual, and our winters seem to be getting shorter, and the polar bears, walrus, we hunt, they are using our lands now for resting spots, resting areas because the walrus back then had.....

Moderator: Sir, you are coming to the end of your time, we are going to have to ask you to wrap up, so if you could wrap up....

Mr. John Long Jr: I would like you guys to consider, you know, time-out please on your drilling, consider my words I've said, I not only speak from myself, but I speak for my village, I speak for the North Slope, I speak for everyone that hunts in the ocean. And I thank you very much for your time.



Thousands of walrus found near Point Lay, Alaska

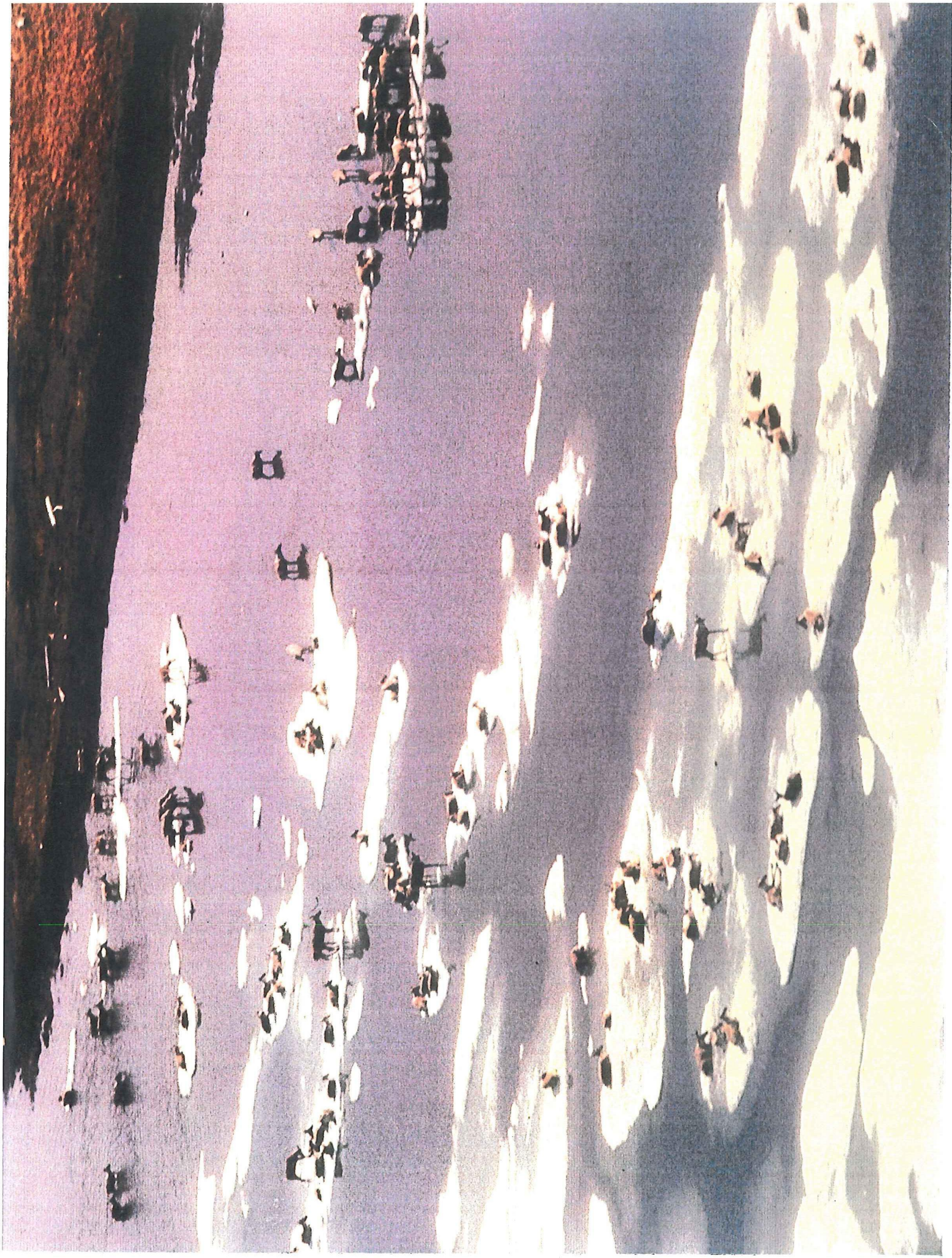
September 2010

BP's Gulf oil spill devastation prompts people of the Gwich'in Nation to send aerial message with their bodies to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil development.



The 'Protect' image with a Porcupine Caribou Herd antler and threatened Yukon River Salmon was done at the confluence of the Yukon and Porcupine Rivers by participants at the Gwich'in Gathering in Fort Yukon, Alaska. The message was dedicated to the memory of the late Jonathon Solomon Sr. Photo by Cammy Roy. July 21, 2010.







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## **Attachment 36**

**Public Comment of Luci Bezich**

**Gwichin Steering Committee, Fairbanks, Alaska**

*Public Comments from: Luci Bezich, Gwitchin Steering Committee: Fairbanks, Alaska*

Luci Bezich: Hello, I'm the executive director at the Gwitchin Steering Committee. The Gwichin Nation has been in the interior of Alaska, Norwest Alaska, Northeast Alaska and Northwest Canada for over 20,000 years. At one time we were a nomadic people that followed the Porcupine caribou herd which gave us everything we needed to survive, we are somewhat the care takers of the Porcupine caribou herd. The resources of the arctic refuge, we still depend on today, we didn't go away, we are still there and are going to be there and. This is a photograph of the Porcupine caribou herd out on the ice flow off of the costal plane of the Alaska wildlife refuge. If you've ever been to Alaska, the insects are veracious. They can take out a quart of blood from an adult caribou, so they get out on the ice flow and that provides them insect relief. This is at a time of their calving, and it is a time when they, they have the longest migration of any flesh toed mammal in the world and in this area they have about 40,000-50,000 caribou calfs; it is really a remarkable thing, and something as Americans we need to be proud about, but we are also a part of an ecosystem and we've been a part of the ecosystem. Even though it is a terrestrial mammal, all of the ecosystems work together. And, the birds from all 50 states and 6 continents go there and we also utilize those birds as well.

We're concerned about the impacts of the Exxon Valdez, I myself went down to the Gulf right after the spill and my heart goes out to the people that really reminded me of the folks back home. They are really salt of the earth type people that live off the land; that is what they have known, that's what they've always known and want to pass it off to the future generations.

We've had gatherings, we had the first one in 100 years, in 1988, and that's when we formed our, took our position and last summer we had one on Porcupine River and 194 people formed the message that this is a caribou antler, this is a salmon, and this is protect. We are asking to support the time-out and asking not to let political pressure influence the decision, there needs to be really clear and informed decisions. We know what oil can do to the ecosystems, we seen it with the Exxon Valdez. Thank you very much.





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## **Attachment 37**

**Public Comment of Sharon Hanshaw**

**Coastal Women for Change, Biloxi, Mississippi**

*Public Comments from: Sharon Hanshaw, Executive Director for Costal Women for Change: Biloxi, Mississippi*

Michele Roberts: Hi my name is Michelle Roberts, and one my colleagues from Biloxi Mississippi, Sharon Hanshaw, who was the executive director for Costal Women For Change, a member of the Steps Coalition out of the Mississippi area, was not able to get here from Biloxi today and asked that I give her testimony and share for the record. She asked that if you please I give her testimony and share for the record:

"I Sharon Hanshaw give permission to Michelle Roberts to my testimony my name is Sharon Hanshaw the executive director for Costal Women for Change, a member of the Steps Coalition, please take my testimony and concerns for the folks in the Gulf region. In a city that is already battling poverty and a legacy of severe hurricanes, the BP Oil disaster could bring a different kind of disaster.

As the multi-million gallon BP oil gushes from the Gulf of Mexico, people in Biloxi Mississippi are worried and have grave concerns about their lively hoods. While we are working to help communities prepare for hurricane season, we being Costal Women For Change, the Steps Coalition, we are hit with another disaster, we are trying to merge the two together, the BP Oil disaster along with hurricane season. Now we have many locals that fear that they will no longer be able to earn a living from Gulf waters in a city already battling poverty and the legacy of hurricane Katrina, this could be one uncertainty too many. I estimate that at least 20 percent of people in my native of East Biloxi rely on fishing and shrimping to support their families. Many more work in related industries including restaurants, ship building and the city's 11 seafood processing plants. Seafood is a way of survival for us.

Contrary to Gov. Barbour testimony this morning, there are many people still in harm's way. Cultural and language barriers also lend to a sense of exclusion and misinformation for certain populations, such as the Vietnamese community, a majority of fisherman here. It is their lively hood, many Vietnamese fishermen don't have computers or internet access and key resources like the BP insurance claim phone line. It does not provide Vietnamese translators. We also want to know how many members of the Commission represent people of color. All people need to understand that the needs of the Gulf coast are real. We need economic development in our communities to be able to survive.

We are under major attack. We must let our legislators know that we need to create non-traditional sustainable jobs now. We know that oil is still here, contrary to what Gov. Barbour said, and that it is dangerous for health and environment. That factor has already proven dangerous for our children who have high rates of asthma and our senior population with respiratory problems. Our first priority should be the vulnerable communities at risk let's take a realistic approach to this. Thank you very much. I would like to submit her copy for the record. Also, she said mental health issues are a big issue. Thank you.

Sharon Hanshaw  
Coastal Women for Change  
CWCBiloxi@gmail.com  
228-297-4849

**National Commission on BP deepwater Horizon Oil Spill & Off shore  
drilling.**

I, Sharon Hanshaw, give permission to Michelle Roberts to my testimony. My name is Sharon Hanshaw, ED of Coastal Women for Change, a member of The Step's Coalition.

Please take my testimony in concerns for folks in The Gulf Region.

In a city that is already battling poverty and a legacy of severe hurricanes, the BP oil spill could bring a different kind of disaster.

As the multi-million gallon BP oil spill gushes from the Gulf of Mexico, people in Biloxi MS are worried and concerns about their livelihood.

While we are working to help communities prepare for hurricane season, we're hit with another disaster. We're trying to merge the two together the BP oil disaster along with the hurricane season. Now we have many locals fear that they no longer will be able to earn a living from Gulf WATERS. and in city already battling poverty and the legacy of Hurricane Katrina, this could be one uncertainty too many.

I estimate that at least 20% of people in my native East Biloxi rely on fishing and shrimping to support their families. Many more work in related industries, including restaurants, shipbuilding, and the city's 11 seafood processing plants. Seafood is a way of survival for us.

*Contrary to Gov Barbour's testimony this morning*  
Cultural and language barriers also add to a sense of exclusion and misinformation. The Vietnamese -American community is a majority of fisherman here. It's their livelihood, many Vietnamese fishermen don't have computers or internet access-and key resources like the BP Insurance claim phone line, doesn't provide Vietnamese translators.

*We want to know how many members of the Commission are people of color?*  
All people to need to understand the needs of the Gulf Coast are real. We need economic development in our communities to be able to survive, we're under major attack. We must let our legislatures know we need to create non-traditional jobs now.

- We know that the oil is still here and that is dangerous for health and environment. That factor has already proven dangerous for our children asthma, our senior respiratory problems. *Mental health trauma*
- Our first priority should be the vulnerable communities that are at risk.

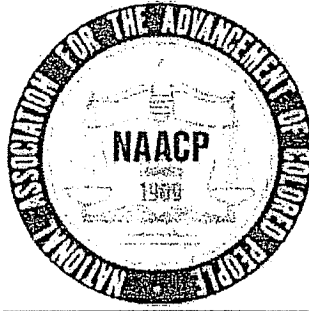
Let's take a realistic look at this problem and become pro-active and not reactive when the next disaster comes our way.



National Commission on the  
**BP DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL  
AND OFFSHORE DRILLING**

## **Attachment 38**

**NAACP Research Agenda on the Oil Drilling Disaster and  
Sustainability in the Gulf**



## **Historically Black Colleges and Universities & the Research Agenda on the Oil Drilling Disaster and Sustainability in the Gulf**

*8 September 2010*

Dillard University--New Orleans, Louisiana

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **Overview**

On September 8, 2010 at Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana, NAACP convened a meeting of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the five Gulf Coast states (Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas) to discuss the engagement of HBCUs in planning and executing a research agenda on sustainability in the Gulf region. The meeting had four primary aims: 1) Provide an opportunity for HBCUs to come together and determine priorities for our communities regarding the Gulf oil disaster and sustainability in the Gulf, as well as draft strategies to advance those priorities; 2) Provide a forum for HBCUs to learn about the various opportunities available to support their engagement in addressing the Gulf oil disaster and sustainability in the Gulf region; 3) Showcase to federal agencies and BP the assets and capabilities of the HBCUs as potential partners; and 4) Explore options for combining complementary assets in creative partnerships amongst HBCUs and with federal, state, and corporate partners to execute a Gulf region sustainability research and policy agenda.

The 42 participants included representatives from 12 historically black colleges and universities, NAACP membership and leadership, as well as representatives from Zion Travelers Baptist Church, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, the National Institutes for Environmental Health Sciences, the United States Coast Guard, BP, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), BP, and the White House Initiative on HBCUs.

#### **Grounding Us in Community Realities**

Consistent with the aim of grounding the research agenda in the communities it seeks to serve, these proceedings commenced with a foundation in community perspectives. Reverend Tyrone Edwards, Pastor of Zion Travelers Baptist Church in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, spoke on behalf of the many community groups with whom he works. Reverend Edwards painted the picture of communities yet to recover from Hurricane Katrina and now besieged with another disaster. He described issues of distrust of BP and, to some degree, also federal agencies. For affected communities, these concerns have plagued the response to the oil drilling disaster since the beginning. He spoke of the imperative for independent research, conducted by trusted entities. Referencing the elevated death rates that have plagued the Hurricane Katrina affected region, Reverend Edwards warned that if swift action is not taken on engaging in appropriate, community-responsive, and effective research now, the scenario might be similar years down the line.

#### **Charting an HBCU Gulf Research Agenda**

The discussion on the HBCU vision for research in the Gulf region was framed using the following categories: Social Sciences; Public Health, Environmental Science, Environmental Justice, and Environmental Law and Policy. NAFEO provided

# Historically Black Colleges and Universities & the Research Agenda on the Oil Drilling Disaster and Sustainability in the Gulf

8 September 2010

Dillard University--New Orleans, Louisiana

## FULL REPORT

### I. Greetings and Introductions

The HBCU convening began with greetings by Dr. Ernest Johnson, President of the Louisiana State Conference of the NAACP and Jacqui Patterson, Director of Climate Justice, NAACP National Office. Dr. Marvalene Hughes, President of Dillard University and Vice President Dr. Walter Strong then brought greetings on behalf of the university. Dr. Lezli Baskerville of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), as a partner in implementing the event through outreach to NAFEO member institutions, brought greetings as well. Lenny Springs, NAACP National Board Member and official with the Department of Education gave an overview of the state of funding for HBCUS and challenges with gaining support for the critical work of these institutions.

### II. Community Perspective, Grounding Us in the Realities—Reverend Tyrone Edwards, Zion Travelers Baptist Church

"My community is in Plaquemines Parish, which is where the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico meet in Southern Louisiana. We were devastated by Hurricane Katrina when it happened and we're still devastated. We reached the point where when we walk into a bank they assume we're robbing it because we don't have any other reason to be in there. We have since built up homes and services with no government funding. We don't want to beg anyone for anything. Now we have this oil spill. What BP has done to our communities is criminal. The fishermen are still pulling in traps with seafood that is polluted. Today BP put out an investigative report giving themselves a clean bill of health. *What do you expect when you put Dracula over a blood bank?*

We need independent research. We don't trust BP and, to be honest, we don't really trust the federal agencies either. BP has demonstrated it can't be trusted. They can put 20 black people in their commercials and it still won't change the fact that what they're saying is not true. From what we've seen from the federal agencies they are often just siding with what BP is saying. When our experiences contradict what they're saying and they don't have an explanation, the mistrust continues to build. That's why we need the HBCUs to be resourced to do this work. We trust you! Our communities trust you.

We need the research to start looking at issues we care about now. During Katrina the image a lot of people remember most is people walking through the water with stuff on top of their heads. What folks didn't think about was the toxicity of that water that was inundated with dead bodies, backed up sewage, etc. Five years later, where before Hurricane Katrina our death notices were only 1 page long, now the notices are 3 pages long! No one is making the correlation. If we don't do research now, 2 years from now things will be going on that we can't explain.

We need research by people we trust. Working with Dillard University and the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice under the leadership of Dr. Beverly Wright, has radically changed how we've been engaging in this disaster. We were struggling around the language, the process, etc. but the minute we hooked up with Dr. Wright, things changed. Because of Dillard, Dr. Wright, and the Deep South Center, we've been able to go to Washington and tell our own stories. If there's ever a time we need HBCUs, it is now. There is a lot of research to be done and we need the HBCUs to do it because we have history and relationship with them and we trust them. We need to make sure that NAACP advocates for resources for the HBCUs and that they receive it. We will sign, endorse, and support whatever it takes to ensure that the HBCUs are doing this research."

### III. Forming a Sustainability and Public Policy Research Agenda in the Gulf —Small Group Work

To begin to establish priorities for the HBCU research agenda the participant split up into five discussion groups according to the following categories: Social Sciences; Public Health, Environmental Science, Environmental Justice, and Environmental Law and Policy. Each group was asked to identify issues and research questions that the collaborative should explore in addition to the selected five areas, as well as any missing categories.

Research Category	Group Members	Issues	Research Questions	Suggested Additional Categories
<b>Social Sciences</b>	<p>Sunny E. Ohia, Texas Southern University</p> <p>Rubye Braye, Wu Li Turtle Corp.</p> <p>Carolyn Scantlebury, Pres. NAACP Houston, TX.</p> <p>Brittany Brown, NAACP</p> <p>Sharron Herron-Williams, Alabama State Univ.</p> <p>Leonard Springs, Dept. of Ed.</p> <p>John P. Brown, White House Initiative on HBCUs</p> <p>Felix Okojie, Jackson State University, Jackson MS</p>	<p>Mental health</p> <p>Trust</p> <p>Cultural competency</p> <p>Existing repository of information</p> <p>Linguistic connections</p> <p>Demographics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who are those affected?</li> <li>• Where are they located?</li> <li>• What are the numbers of those most affected?</li> </ul> <p>Possible long term effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased unemployment</li> <li>• Increased crime</li> </ul> <p>Preliminary mental health assessments</p> <p>Available services to meet <i>needs</i></p> <p>Identify and recommend mitigating conditions</p> <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Existing Repository</li> <li>❖ What is the impact on the sustainable living environment of the community? (e.g., housing value, and schooling)</li> </ul> <p>Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Effect on the “shadow economy”</li> <li>❖ Understand the system of living</li> </ul>	<p>Is there a social science research repository for minorities regarding the BP oil spill?</p> <p>What makes the impact of the BP oil spill different on minorities than other populations?</p> <p>What are the short and long term psycho-social economic effects of the BP oil spill on minorities?</p> <p>What is the impact of the BP oil spill on sustainable living environments for minorities?</p>	<p>Education/Training</p> <p>Economy</p>
<b>Environmental Justice</b>	<p>Jullian Pugh, Tallahassee Community College</p> <p>Brian Rowland—TX NAACP</p> <p>Lewis Jennings, Florida State Conference, NAACP</p> <p>Beverly Wright, DSCEJ/Dillard University</p> <p>Mary Williams DSCEJ/Dillard University</p>	<p>Economic disparities</p> <p>Disaster training</p> <p>Workers organizing</p> <p>Service delivery (culturally sensitive)</p>	<p>Education and training of transition workers to new occupations</p> <p>Where is the waste going? Who is affected? What are the environmental impacts?</p> <p>Contamination of seafood? Who is collecting data and how?</p> <p>Health impacts for dispersants?</p> <p>Who is impacted?</p>	<p>Economic—seafood industry, oil industry workers, hotel tourism business developed in the clean-up, transitional</p> <p>Environmental Degradation—waste disposal, coastal erosion</p> <p>Health Issues—unknown (uptake of seafood) dispersants (never used) long term health effects,</p>



			What are the mental health impacts of the oil spill?	mental health Innovations
<b>Environmental Science</b>	<p>Richard Gragg Florida A&amp;M University</p> <p>Richard Green, Alcorn State University</p> <p>Chris Zarba, EPA</p> <p>Safloat H Shakur, Prairie View A&amp;M University</p> <p>Rachel Cruthirds, Xavier University</p> <p>Irvin Osborne Lee, Prairie View A&amp;M</p> <p>Adebayo Oyekan, Texas Southern</p> <p>Louis J. Hall, MS Valley State</p> <p>Vida A. Dennis, Alabama State University</p> <p>Mamie Coats, Alabama State University</p>	<p>Ecological Mapping</p> <p>Microorganisms</p> <p>Water Analysis</p> <p>Effectiveness of Remediation Technologies</p> <p>Fate, Effect and Impacts of Dispersants</p> <p>Deep Water Use of Dispersants</p> <p>Integrated Synthesis Report</p> <p>Workforce Development for Environmental Disaster</p> <p>Sustainability</p>		<p>Assessment of economic, social and human health impacts</p> <p>Cumulative and Longitudinal Risk assessment and communication</p> <p>Community Outreach</p> <p>Long term Ecological Mapping – Temporal Baseline</p> <p>Grant opportunities and review participation invitation</p>
<b>Public Health</b>	<p>Thomas E. Wiese, Ph. D, Xavier University of LA</p> <p>Cynthia Sonich-Mullin, National Homeland Security Research Center</p> <p>Karen Bailey, Dillard University</p> <p>Robert Bullard, Environmental Justice Research Center at Clark Atlanta University</p> <p>Barbara Howard, Tuskegee-Macon County NAACP</p> <p>Wanda Battle, Montgomery County NAACP, AL</p>	<p><b>Direct Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toxic Pollution</li> <li>• Exposure Effects of the BP Oil Spill: Via Air, Soil, Water, Food (Fish)</li> <li>• Oil, Dispersants, and Bi-Products</li> <li>• Exposure Effects to Workers and Residents</li> </ul> <p><b>Indirect Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Dislocation – Loss of Jobs</li> <li>• Workers health and safety</li> <li>• Resources for green and sustainable reconstruction and recovery</li> <li>• Risk Communication</li> <li>• Community Education</li> <li>• Translational research</li> <li>• Changing Behavior</li> <li>• Mental Health – Stress</li> <li>• Resources and relief for subsistence fishermen</li> <li>• Availability of Social Services</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Health Model</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total community health as opposed to medical model</li> <li>• Effects Change in Diet</li> <li>• Research to look at the cumulative impact of a community already under stress recovering from Katrina</li> </ul>		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Health Center</li> <li>• Community Survey</li> <li>• Community-driven and community-based participatory research model</li> <li>• Medical monitoring</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><i>Trust Issue – the Message and the Messenger</i></p>		
<b>Environmental Law and Policy</b>	<p>Lezli Baskerville, NAFEO</p> <p>Musheer Robinson, NAACP</p> <p>Ernest Johnson, NAACP</p> <p>Sam Coleman, EPA</p>	<p>Recommendations from the Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Focus on 3 federal laws: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Miscellaneous Receipts Act</li> <li>○ Anti-Deficiency Act</li> <li>○ Natural Resource Damage Assessment Act</li> </ul> </li> <li>2) Meet with Attorney General Eric Holder for four purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide notification that NAACP, <i>et al</i>, wants a percentage of settlement funds to go to HBCUs.</li> <li>• Request AG leadership in securing assessment dollars for HBCUs to play central/leading role in natural resource damage assessment.</li> <li>• Move Government Ops Committee to hold an oversight hearing that will lead to any amendments that may be required to get funding to HBCUs and associations that are directly linked to most underrepresented and most adversely impacted communities</li> <li>• Provide notification of the intent of NAACP <i>et al</i> to move to intervene in the BP case as a third party plaintiff (NAACP, NAFEO, CBC Institute, NCBM, NBCSL, NBA, etc., with HBCU Environmental Justice Centers, &amp; HBCU Law Centers shaping and advancing the issues of paramount concern to HBCUs and their service communities).</li> </ul> </li> </ol>		

**IV. HBCU Assets and Capabilities—Dr. Lezli Baskerville, NAFEO**

HBCUs are a tremendous and rich resource (representing 3% of colleges and universities) producing graduates who are 32% of African Americans in STEM fields, 50% of African American teachers, and 60% of African American doctors.

HBCUs are a \$10 billion per year industry with 188,000 employees, 350,000 enrolled students, and 5 million alumni. In order to move the Gulf region from where it is now, to where it needs to be, the HBCU community must be strategically involved. Renowned academic and research programs in environmental sciences and studies, engineering, medical and public health sciences, and social sciences among the HBCU community warrant their involvement in addressing the Gulf oil disaster and other sustainable communities and public policy issues.

NAFEO shared a book entitled *The State of America’s Black Colleges*, which details the programs of all HBCUs.

**V. FEDERAL RESEARCH INITIATIVES/ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Dr. Joseph “Chip” Hughes, National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences**

Dr. Hughes discussed NIEHS’ focus on protecting and training workers responding to the oil spill. They have been training beach cleanup workers addressing environmental damage. Clark Atlanta University and Dillard University have been included in their worker training and environmental justice programs.

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, NIEHS released an announcement on a request for applications for a Gulf Coast Research Consortium from universities. Money will be available over the next year to establish a research presence in gulf. They will also be looking at the 10,000 most exposed people in terms of oil spill cleanup mental and physical impacts, as community based studies. NIEHS is trying to meet with different groups and universities to conduct outreach. A partnership for environmental public health is underway as well.

**Sam Coleman, Cindy Sonich-Mullin and Christopher Zarba—U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Cindy Sonich-Mullin is from the EPA Office of Research and Development, working in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security on research. Her goal has been to examine existing research and help the emergency operation scientific team make informed decisions. EPA is beginning to move from response to long term recovery. “The EPA wants to do the right thing and I’m here at this meeting to learn.”

The EPA has a 60-day monitoring plan which will serve as a transition to a long term plan. The long term research strategy will examine health impacts, effects of by-products, where oil is going, risk communication, mental health, and more. They will also look at how their research strategies compare to those of other federal agencies.

Research, both In-house and external, is being supported through RFAs being issued in the next 8 or 9 weeks. Two million dollars has recently been dedicated to dispersant research. Additional funding will be available for remediation using different technologies. Proposals on economic impacts on communities are accepted as well. EPA acknowledged that information needs to be shared in a way people can understand and believe.

“Some of the things that the reverend said this morning are actually in our proposal,” stated Christopher Zarba. He promised to examine where there are overlaps from the HBCU convening discussion and possibly change the RFA and include things deemed important by participants at the meeting.

They emphasized the competitiveness of the process and advised that universities should team up with others who complement their strengths. To find the guidelines, interested groups should Google EPA/NCER. Everything is online.

EPA also shared that two big things have been done with ongoing research and field work. Pre imposed impact sampling is being done by EPA in near shore (defined as up to 3 miles from shore line). NOAA is doing the work further out. Secondly regarding dispersants, much work is needed in the area of communication and advancing understanding in the communities.

EPA’s involvement in use of dispersants is related to volume and frequency of use. No one thought this much would be used. In the history of this work, there have only been one or two oil spill occurrences that have not been controlled within the first 48 to 72 hours. Thus, the concept of using dispersants daily was not what EPA had been doing. The pre approval process played itself out and, as the amounts grew, the situation was at the point where BP tried the top kill activity. They knew something different needed to be done with dispersants. BP brought in the best experts around the world on dispersant application and use. They were not good at communicating what was happening. EPA put together a better approach to how the daily use was approved and documented it. This added

a lot of confidence regarding where the dispersants were used and how. Plus, a paper trail now exists. Samples have been taken and analyzed for toxicity. According to the EPA, dispersants and all of its components are more toxic to aquatic life than humans.

**Lt. Commander John Settle, US Coast Guard**

The Coast Guard puts the fire out and has a narrow lane within which to work. The Coast Guard then hands the reins to those with knowledge when response stops and the restoration stage begins. The emergency response is winding down soon.

**Dr. Charlie Henry, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency**

Dr. Henry lives in Baton Rouge and was born and raised in Louisiana. He covers most of the Mississippi River, up to St Louis. His role is Lead Science Advisor to the Coast Guard on all hazard response.

Dr. Henry shared that the story of the BP Oil Spill went from unfortunate to tragedy when the rig sank and the pipe broke, starting the oil spill. It starts out as trying to make things less bad.

There was a decision to eject dispersants on the sea floor as a more efficient delivery system. The deep ocean has not been studied well (about as much as the moon). Oil doesn't act the same at 5,000 feet. The coastal zone has been researched much more.

He further stated that over the last month, no hydrocarbons or any chemicals have been detected in the boom area. A significant amount of oil is released by natural seeps. That does not make the oil spill less bad, but it may mean that adaptation is less challenging. More samples need to be taken in order for the data to be stronger statistically. Emergency response is not research. Much more monitoring must be done to protect public.

NOAA's position is that in a response to the oil spill, the job is to protect the public and environment, and ensure the protection of property. One challenge is that the tools used to respond were actually tools created shortly before or after the Exxon Valdez spill, in the early nineties. The technology was outdated, particularly given that they had never had this type of spill. Funding is great after spill, but then it tends to trickle off. Like with the Exxon Valdez, undoubtedly there will be large amounts of funding after this spill.

Furthermore Dr. Henry pointed out that damage assessment is more research prone. Long term research is looking back at things done in the beginning to look at what was good and bad, and what could be better.

**Q&A, Comments, and Recommendations**

**1. QUESTION: For the \$2 million grants, what would be the average size?**

*RESPONSE: Christopher Zarba-* The range would be approximately \$200k to \$600k. The grants run for 3 years with a possible one or two year extension with the potential for additional money, if available and warranted. A panel of 12-15 nationally recognized experts, unconnected to EPA, vet the proposals.

*RECOMMENDATION:* Put people that look like us on that panel. A lot of times proposals that come from the African American community get dropped out. Individuals should have connectivity to the African American community because if you don't, it is going to be same ballgame.

*RESPONSE: Christopher Zarba-*There are a lot of people from this community on the review panel.

**2. QUESTION: Can we submit names for the national review committee?**

*RESPONSE: Christopher Zarba-* I will find out what I can do.

*RECOMMENDATION:* -Everything goes to the big universities. Basically the reviewers would say we know these guys will do it. Those from small universities are not recognized. There may need to be a tiered system.

*RESPONSE: Christopher Zarba-*I encourage people to team up, if you don't have the expertise. For the RFA requirements, optimize connections and lead with being uniquely able to tap into resources. We want to make sure that the institutions within the area are getting resources. This is a test case. There is strong interest within the agency to do what you all are saying.

*COMMENT:* EPA used to be lead in making sure communities and HBCUs were included. As a reviewer there is a definite in the culture of the scientific community have their own rules and set of ideas. Hopkins, MIT, those are the ones that make the decisions.

*RESPONSE: Christopher Zarba-*We used to set aside money for HBCUs and that is not allowed now, as this was changed by the Supreme Court.

*COMMENT:* This is a misconception that needs to be corrected. That's not what that the law means. This interpretation is being misapplied.

*RECOMMENDATION:* Vetting of reviewers should be done better.

3. **QUESTION: How do you have continued transition from emergency response data to restoration and what is the process to communicate the data to the community?**

*RESPONSE: Charlie Henry-*It depends on different compartments. Marine transition goes to Natural Resource Damage Assessment. It has to go through the public review process. Groups do research and see if something was done wrong and if there is claim potential.

Issues such as seafood safety, has a cyclical effect on the community. The research piece is not done by those close to the issues and the message is confused. Fish don't complain. People do. Understanding what are real affects and those that are fabricated is key. We need to get risk communication out to the public and get the public to respond.

*COMMENT:* Let's not undermine some of the teachable moments from his presentation today. He did say that they were going to take input from group to respond to the gaps in the RFAs. This means this group does have some influence on the critical elements that EPA will be examining.

*COMMENT:* The review process is going to be very sensitive to collaborative efforts. We have a high probability of success in collaborating. Collectively we can address these critical issues.

4. **QUESTION: How do you verify different proposals?**

*RESPONSE: Christopher Zarba-* There is an extensive vetting process and candidates must sign that they have no conflict of interest.

*COMMENT:* I have sat through reviews and listened and they all have biases. We get even letters from Congress promoting universities. But this process has been our firewall. It is not perfect, but it is the best tool that we have.

*COMMENT:* We can make it fair, but we also need to have good proposals. Some of us have competed and won.

*COMMENT:* We need to make sure our people accept the positions when they are called to be reviewers. We are so busy sometimes.

*COMMENT:* We have colleagues that are not at HBCUs that are our friends. We have to make sure they also say yes.

## VI. White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities--John Brown

"Given my job, which is to build capacity of HBCUs, so far this has been a wonderful learning process."

### ❖ John Brown's Take-Aways:

- This meeting has been a tremendous resource.
- The meeting has highlighted the need for improved communication.
- We should explore how to leverage the resources of White House to support this effort.
- We request the list of attendees from this meeting so that we can conduct outreach.
- Discussions have revealed how much we don't know re what's going on in our communities.
- We recommend connecting with the Philander Smith Curriculum on social justice (Walter Kimbrough). This could be a strategic and profitable relationship for moving forward.

## VII. BP-- Paula Hubbard

Paula started out by stating that the initial intent of BP's participation in this event is a little bit different than why she was at the event. In talking with NAACP about the Gulf of Mexico research initiative, at the end of the day, she discovered that BP is not far enough long to bring the desired level of detail and information. As she only had cliff notes shared by the technologies, she stated that she probably would not be able to answer technology questions. But she promised to get the answers and send subsequently.

BP interested in how we diversify university populations. Paula shared that she came prepared to provide a high level overview of what is going on with the Gulf Research Initiative. BP has committed 500 million dollars for a 10 year research project. Forty million dollars of the \$500 million have already been awarded.

The five core areas for BP's research priorities are as follows:

1. Physical distribution and ultimate fate of contaminants related to spill;
2. Chemical evolution and biological degradation of contaminants;
3. The impact of the contaminants on the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem;
4. Technology developments for offshore oil spills; and
5. Impacts on health.

There is an advisory council which will be responsible for making decisions around funding allocation. Governance of the funds will be independent of BP. Members will be scientists and researchers and there appears to be no diversity on the council. Paula asked question about how BP will ensure that there is diversity in the allocation of funds. Diversity and inclusion is one of BP's 4 priorities.

As soon as the consultation process is finalized, BP will be ready to announce. "As soon as we have the final process for submitting proposals, Jacqui/NAACP will be one of my first phone calls." BP will be "more than happy to come back and answer questions and give assistance where needed."

### Q&A, Comments, and Recommendations

#### 1. QUESTION: How is the organization giving the funds?

*RESPONSE: Paula Hubbard-* I am not really sure.

*COMMENT:* Before you came there was a lot of discussion about BP doing what's right with our communities. \$500 million is a lot of money. I am a former banker and I count well. \$40 million is already gone and I didn't hear about it going to one organization that represents our community or HBCUs. LSU and University of New

Orleans don't count. This community, NAACP and HBCUs need to send a strong message to BP that this is not the right thing.

With your advisory committee that is going to control the funds, you're indicating that there is no diversity. That has to be corrected because if it doesn't start there, it will not be corrected. That is something we need to examine at the national level. I can tell you that from a NAACP perspective I'm going to be talking to our National President immediately to follow up on this. Unless it starts there, we will look around and see the other \$460 million gone and HBCUs will have nothing. I will strongly encourage Jacqui that there has to be some more talk about this I am disappointed that we weren't in a position to talk today.

*RESPONSE: Paula Hubbard-* I have taken a note on it. I will have an answer by the end of the day on whether there is diversity on the advisory panel..

*COMMENT:* I am so pleased with what I am hearing and seeing with HBCUs in this region. This is a good start, but the real work will start after this. We must continue to collaborate, and continue to work and make sure research dollars become available. That \$2 million is small. The only way the schools are going to be successful is to work together. John and I are here from DC and I'm going to go back to talk about what I heard today and about how the schools are working together as partners.

There are a few things we have left, the black church and our HBCUs. Most HBCUs started in the church. BP must be held accountable, but unless we work together collectively that will never happen. I know that NAACP can play a major role in this moving forward. I hope you come back soon and have some of the decision makers with you.

*RESPONSE: Paula Hubbard-* I feel like all I'm saying is no. We are looking to find areas where we can partner. Whether you believe me or not, when I presented to the person that owns the initiative we all agreed that this could be a win for all. This is very important to me personally. There are number of us that are making sincere efforts to make a change in the organization. We can't do everything, but in those spaces where we find opportunities, we will do what we can.

**2. QUESTION: What role are the governors going to play in distribution?**

*RESPONSE: Paula Hubbard-* I don't have the exact answer, the purpose of the consultations is not to involve the governors in the allocation.

*COMMENT:* The \$40 million that has already been dispersed was based on the consultations with the governors, who made recommendations. A joint decision was made between BP and governors of the states. There was a big meeting at LSU on this.

*RECOMMENDATION:* It is good to open for competition. If we can get at least some sensitivity to HBCUs, that would be good. They should fund projects that are representative of impacted areas. If we focus on the 5 priority areas and how they affect minorities, we will be more effective.

*RESPONSE: Paula Hubbard-* In terms of follow up, I have the questions that came out around the advisory board and the diversity of it, the \$40 million and how they were selected, the review panel and the diversity of that.

**3. QUESTION: What you do you perceive as a barrier to the commitment to partner?**

*RESPONSE: Paula Hubbard-* We have gotten many proposals and many of them have not fit where we are today and where we think we're going, or it's something that we are already doing unbeknownst to all. We need proposals that will benefit both sides. What we have to do is look at what are the two or 3 things that BP is

going to look at to commit to. We're looking to go out and say "these are the 4 areas we are looking to support."

**4. QUESTION: When will you start receiving proposals?**

*RESPONSE: Paula Hubbard*-We are not far along enough yet to start receiving proposals.

*COMMENT:* You weren't here to hear all of the information that we provided earlier. Everything centered around the individual, even social science. If they are not far along in developing the funding guidelines, perhaps they can include some of our ideas.

**5. QUESTION: Is BP looking out for itself, or the people?**

*RESPONSE: Paula Hubbard*-It's all about the community. It is not just us.

*COMMENT:* If it's about people, when you look at demographics I don't see anything in what you talk about being focused on the type of people that are affected. If you as company have not realized where some of your emphasis needs to be, I begin to wonder if this is worthwhile.

**6. QUESTION: Is there somewhere where you post all the proposals?**

*RESPONSE: Paula Hubbard*-Generally for the proposals submitted, because we are not being specific in what BP is committed to supporting, we are getting something about everything. We need to get more specific. Right now we are spending a lot of time in minority schools.

**VIII. HBCU Gulf Coast Sustainability Research and Public Policy Consortium—Robert Bullard, Clark Atlanta University, Beverly Wright, Dillard University, Richard Gragg, Florida A&M University**

Dr. Bullard started this presentation by making a compelling case with regard to the environmental justice issues prevalent in the Gulf. He clearly illustrated the myriad areas where communities of color are being disproportionately impacted by pollution/contamination showing slide after slide demonstrating elevated rates of illness and poor quality of life resulting from disproportionate exposure to emissions from various plants in the petro-chemical corridor that characterizes the Gulf region. He went on to show how funding streams do not track with the level of impact which burdens some communities far more than others. Dr. Beverly Wright followed and shared the unique contributions that HBCUs make in executing a research agenda that is built on community relationships, engagement of most affected persons, and is sensitive to local contexts as a result. She shared the "Communiversality," a community based participatory model which is a collaboration between HBCUs, community members, civil rights/non-profit/legal organizations, environmental justice centers, and others, to engage in research that combines community experience with academic knowledge and theories and performs research in a non-threatening environment. Dr. Gragg wrapped up this presentation by sharing the proposed foci and structure of the HBCU Research and Public Policy Consortium on Gulf Coast Sustainability. The deliverables of the Consortium would include improved community resilience, generation of transferable experiential knowledge in the areas of indicators of community and ecosystem health, geospatial analysis, and integrated environmental decision tools.



## **IX. Debriefing Comments**

- a. In terms of chronology preceding where we are today, NAACP called and pulled us together. Southern University, Texas Southern University, Jackson State University, and Tuskegee University had already started a process of developing a consortium. After we had the initial planning meeting for this convening, they agreed to expand that original consortium. A core of institutions has been at the table during this planning process and had already started working. Some of the people in this new core were not in the initial group/consortium.
- b. The proposed structure of the consortium is to have a core group of institutions who are the strongest in terms of capacity, resources and research. Additionally the consortium general membership would be eligible to team on proposals. In this way there will be a manageable, focused core group that will be evaluated when external entities are considering the merits of the consortium, and other member institutions will still be included, as warranted, in various research initiatives.
- c. We need the NAACP to push. When race is raised as a basis for a pattern of discrimination/exclusion, there is often pushback. When the community sees NAACP lifting up their issues, they will join. We need to speak with one voice. When that happens, communities will join.
- d. Universities haven't always been in the same place as communities, but this model will be centered in our communities. Once you make the connection with communities, you have to be genuine and they will back you up all the way. They need to be included.
- e. We can't settle for chicken dinners. If we experience X% of the impact, an argument needs to be made to justify that the proportionate amount flows to our communities and institutions. "We have not because we ask not."

## **X. Agreed Conclusions**

- a. Trust is an issue as it relates to the research agenda in the Gulf. It is not just the message. It is the messenger. HBCUs are uniquely positioned to mitigate this challenge.
- b. Community participatory models are critical to the success and integration of sustainability and public policy research in the Gulf region.
- c. Human dimensions and impacts of the oil spill and other environmental and health threats in the Gulf region must be addressed and serve as the objective and endpoint of the research agenda. Considerable shifting of emphasis and re-prioritization are needed in the current and forthcoming research initiatives.
- d. Most affected communities are missing from decision making forums and this must be remedied in order to have an effective response, recovery, and restoration plan, as well as a long term sustainability plan. Inclusive review panels/advisory boards/commissions specifically recognizing HBCU investigators must be established at all levels of these processes.
- e. Institutions holding the trust and respect of impacted communities (communities of color are among the most impacted groups and underrepresented at the decision making forums) must be prominently engaged in developing and executing the Gulf research agenda.

## **XI. Next Steps**

- a. We will put together a statement with recommendations engage directly with the BP advisory committee.
  - i. A top recommendation will be that the RFP change its fifth priority area to "human dimensions in health" — not just "health."
- b. We will ensure that the BP Advisory board and EPA review panel have persons representing our communities.
- c. We will ensure that a letter is sent from President Benjamin Jealous advocating for diversity on the BP advisory board/review panel, and altering the language/focus in the RFP to reflect human dimensions in public health.
- d. We will increase youth involvement in the HBCU initiative as a priority, following the principle of engagement of the most affected communities and persons.
- e. We will request that the White House Initiative on HBCUs help move other agencies to work with HBCUs.
- f. NAACP will send a letter to the Presidents of Prairie View, Alabama State, Xavier, and Alcorn requesting that they appoint representatives to be engaged in the HBCU Consortium Planning Committee (HCPC).
- g. NAACP will organize a debriefing call to plan next steps within two weeks.
- h. NAACP will establish a listserv for the HCPC.
- i. NAACP will set up a minimum monthly telecom for the HCPC.
- j. NAACP will establish an online "Blackboard" for ease of sharing documents among HCPC members.

## **XII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS**

This rich and fruitful meeting and report would not have been possible without the partnership of several notable people and organizations we would like to acknowledge and thank. First, Dr. Beverly Wright, Dr. Robert Bullard, Dr. Richard Gragg, Dr. Adebayo Oyekan have worked with us since this was a mere kernel of an idea. They were immediately responsive to our call for collaborators and worked from the beginning on fleshing out the idea, the agenda, and collaborated with us to decide who needed to be in the room. Special thanks go to Dr. Beverly Wright, Celeste Cooper, and Mary Williams of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice for hosting our planning meeting, as well as working with us on the logistics of hosting this meeting. We warmly thank Dr. Marvalene Hughes, Dr. Walter Strong and Dillard University for bringing greetings and hosting the HBCU Convening in their lovely state of the art facility on their historic campus which has produced so many of the thought leaders who grace our communities and society today. Meta Williams Esq. and Dr. Lezli Baskerville of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education partnered with us on outreach and we are deeply appreciative of this. Meta Williams Esq, further joined Dr. Leslie Fields of Howard University and the Sierra Club, Dr. Samuel Washington and Dr. Michael Stubblefield of Southern University as well as Samuel Coleman of EPA as we convened our strategy/planning meeting with the core organizing team listed above in advance of the September 8<sup>th</sup> gathering and we were gratified by their engagement. Sam Coleman further assisted us in identification and outreach with the participating federal agencies and we thank him. Though he is one of our own, serving on our National Board, we thank Lenny Springs who also worked with us in his capacity with the Department of Education, as he helped us with conceptualizing and planning and has also committed to continuing on as we advance this initiative. We extend our thanks to Julia Tolbert, Dr. Steve Murawski, Jacqueline Rousseau, and Gail Adams who all worked with us behind the scenes in ensuring that representatives from the federal agencies were there to share the information we sought on research initiatives underway in the Gulf. Our warm and most heartfelt gratitude goes to Reverend Tyrone Edwards who, representing the communities we seek to serve, blessed the proceedings with his grounding perspective and statements. We thank our other guest speakers who enhanced the proceedings with their contributions to the discourse, enabling us to better understand the landscape, the research initiatives, and the available resources, as we chart our course forward—Dr. Charlie Henry of NOAA, Dr. Chip Hughes of NIEHS, Lt. Commander John Settle of the US Coast Guard, John Brown of the White House Initiative on HBCUs, Paula Hubbard of BP, Cynthia Sonia-Mullich and Christopher Zarba of EPA and Dr. Larry Robinson of NOAA who was fully committed to joining us and supporting these efforts but was unable to connect with us, due to scheduling and technology challenges. Though he is also one of our own, we'd like to acknowledge Gary Bledsoe Esq, NAACP State Conference President of Texas and NAACP Gulf Oil Disaster Taskforce Member, for originating the idea of having this gathering of HBCUs to plan a joint initiative. Finally, we would like to thank all of the HBCU representatives as well as NAACP members for participating in a very productive day which resulted in this rich report with its research agenda planning ideas, critical agreed conclusions, and the establishment of the HBCU Gulf Coast Research Consortium on Sustainability and Public Policy.

## Appendix A

### AGENDA

8:30am	Continental Breakfast	
9:00am	Welcome	Dr. Ernest Johnson, NAACP
9:10am	Greetings From Dillard University	Dr. Marvalene Hughes, Dillard University
9:15 am	Greetings From NAFEO	Dr. Lezli Baskerville, NAFEO
9:20am	Overview of Meeting Purpose and Agenda	Jacqui Patterson, NAACP
9:30am	Grounding Us in the Realities—Community Recommendations	Reverend Tyrone Edwards/Byron Encalade
10:00am	Group Work—Discussion of Issues and Priorities Related to the Gulf Oil Drilling Disaster and Beyond <b>GROUPS:</b> Social Sciences, Environmental Law and Policy, Environmental Justice Sustainability, Environmental Sciences, And Environmental Public Health	Facilitator, Jacqui Patterson
11:00am	BREAK	
11:15am	Report Back From Group Work	Facilitator and Rapporteurs
11:45am	Challenges and Opportunities—Funding Issues for HBCUs	Leonard Springs, NAACP/Dept of Ed

### PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSIONS

<b>12:00pm</b>	<b><i>Welcome to Federal Agencies and BP Guests</i></b>	<b><i>Dr. Ernest Johnson, NAACP</i></b>
<b>12:05pm</b>	<b><i>HBCU Assets and Capabilities</i></b>	<b><i>Dr. Lezli Baskerville, NAFEO</i></b>
<b>12:15pm</b>	<b><i>Federal Research Initiatives/Engagement Opportunities Q&amp;A</i></b>	<b><i>NOAA, EPA, NIEHS, Coast Guard</i></b>
<b>1:15pm</b>	<b><i>LUNCH</i></b> <b><i>White House Initiative on HBCUs</i></b>	<b><i>John P. Brown, WHIHBCUs</i></b>
<b>2:00pm</b>	<b><i>Overview of Upcoming BP Financed RFP, including 5 focal areas Q&amp;A</i></b>	<b><i>Paula Hubbard, BP</i></b>
<b>2:30pm</b> <b>--3:30pm</b>	<b><i>Proposed HBCU Gulf Coast Sustainability Research And Public Policy Consortium—Plus Q&amp;A</i></b>	<b><i>Dr. Robert Bullard, Clark Atlanta University</i></b> <b><i>Dr. Beverly Wright, Dillard University</i></b> <b><i>Dr. Richard Gragg, Florida A&amp;M University</i></b>

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3:30pm	BREAK	
3:45pm	Debrief from Discussions with Federal Agencies and BP How do presented priorities mesh with our agenda?	Facilitator, Jacqui Patterson
4:15pm	Other Funding Sources/Partnership Opportunities	Brittany Brown, NAACP
4:30pm	Next Steps, Timelines, Commitments (Group Work)	Facilitator, Jacqui Patterson
5:30pm	Report Backs	Facilitator and Rapporteurs
5:50pm	Closing/Adjournment	Dr. Ernest Johnson, NAACP

## **Appendix B**

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

1. Julie Andrews-**Southern University at New Orleans**
2. Karen Bailey-**Dillard University**
3. Lezli Baskerville-**NAFEO**
4. Wanda H. Battle-**Alabama NAACP**
5. Rubye Braye- **W U LI Turtle Corp**
6. Brittany Brown, **NAACP Headquarters**
7. John P. Brown- **White House Initiative on HBCUs**
8. Robert Bullard- **Clark Atlanta University**
9. Mamie Coats-**Alabama State University**
10. Sam Coleman- **US EPA**
11. Marcus Cook- **BioJam**
12. Rachel Cruthirds- **Xavier University of Louisiana**
13. Vida Dennis-**Alabama State University**
14. Richard Gragg- **Florida A&M University**
15. Richard Green- **Alcorn State University**
16. Louis J. Hall-**Mississippi Valley State University**
17. Charlie Henry, **NOAA**
18. Sharron Heron-Williams- **Alabama State University**
19. Barbara Howard- **Alabama NAACP**
20. Paula Hubbard--**BP**
21. Joseph "Chip" Hughes, **NIEHS**
22. Marvalene Hughes, **Dillard University**
23. Lewis Jennings- **Florida NAACP**
24. Artra "Abraham" McNeill II- **Dillard University**
25. Sunny E. Ohia- **Texas Southern University**
26. Felix Okojie, **Jackson State University**
27. Irvin Osborne-Lee- **Prairie View A&M University**
28. Adebayo Oyekan- **Texas Southern University**
29. Jacqui Patterson—**NAACP Headquarters**
30. Jullian Pugh—**Tallahassee Community College**
31. Musheer Robinson- **Louisiana NAACP**
32. Brian Rowland- **Texas NAACP**
33. Carolyn Scantlebury- **Houston NAACP**
34. John Settle—**US Coast Guard**
35. Safwat Shakir- **Prairie View A&M University**
36. Benard Simelton-**Alabama NAACP**
37. Cynthia Sonich-Mullin-**US EPA/ORD**
38. Lenny Springs- **NAACP/Department of Education**
39. Walter Strong—**Dillard University**
40. Thomas Wiese- **Xavier University of Louisiana**
41. Mary Williams- **Dillard University**
42. Beverly Wright- **Dillard University**
43. Christopher Zarba- **US EPA/Research**

**APPENDIX C**

<b>Sampling of Relevant HBCU Departments in the Gulf Region</b> <i>Partially Extracted from NAFEO HBCU Inventory</i>	
<b>Research Programs</b>	<b>Historically Black Colleges and Universities</b>
<b>Environmental Studies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Alabama State University</li> <li>➤ Alcorn University</li> <li>➤ Dillard University</li> <li>➤ Florida A&amp;M University</li> <li>➤ Mississippi Valley</li> <li>➤ Prairie View A&amp;M University</li> <li>➤ Southern University</li> <li>➤ Texas Southern University</li> <li>➤ Xavier University</li> </ul>
<b>Aquatic Sciences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Florida A&amp;M University</li> <li>➤ Prairie View</li> <li>➤ Xavier</li> </ul>
<b>Engineering</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Alabama A &amp; M University</li> <li>➤ Florida A &amp; M/Florida State University</li> <li>➤ Prairie View A &amp; M University</li> <li>➤ Southern University</li> <li>➤ Texas Southern University</li> <li>➤ Tuskegee University</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Florida A&amp;M University</li> <li>❖ Jackson State University</li> </ul>
<b>Social Work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Alabama A&amp;M University</li> <li>❖ Bethune-Cookman University</li> <li>❖ Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University</li> <li>❖ Grambling State University</li> <li>❖ Huston-Tillotson University</li> <li>❖ Miles College</li> <li>❖ Oakwood College</li> <li>❖ Prairie View A&amp;M University</li> <li>❖ Southern University and A&amp;M College</li> <li>❖ Southern University at New Orleans</li> <li>❖ Southern University at Shreveport</li> <li>❖ Texas Southern University</li> </ul>
<b>Nursing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Alcorn State University</li> <li>➤ Bethune-Cookman University</li> <li>➤ Bishop State Community College</li> <li>➤ Dillard University</li> <li>➤ Florida A&amp;M</li> <li>➤ Grambling State University</li> <li>➤ J.F. Drake State Technical College</li> <li>➤ Oakwood College</li> <li>➤ Prairie View A&amp;M University</li> <li>➤ Southern University and A&amp;M College</li> </ul>

*For More Information*

NAACP Climate Justice Initiative

Jacqueline Patterson, Director

410-580-5786

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National Commission on the  
**BP DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL  
AND OFFSHORE DRILLING**

## **Attachment 39**

**Press Materials from The Nature Conservancy**



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sandra Rodriguez  
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### Immediate Efforts Needed to Reverse Decades of Decline to Restore the Gulf

ARLINGTON, VA — September 28, 2010 — Testifying today at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, The Nature Conservancy called for key actions that can be undertaken immediately **to restore the Gulf's health and productivity**, which directly impacts the lives and livelihoods of 24 million Americans from [Florida](#) to [Texas](#), who rely on a healthy and vibrant [Gulf of Mexico](#).

“The future of the Gulf of Mexico is at stake,” said Brian McPeck, North American Regional Managing Director testifying on behalf of the Conservancy. “The Gulf tragedy has made it painfully clear just how closely linked healthy and vibrant human communities are to a healthy and resilient environment.”

Drawing on recommendations from the Conservancy's “[Gulf 20/20](#)” report, McPeck noted that because of decades of degradation in the Gulf, merely cleaning up the spill will not be enough to save it and all the benefits — food, habitat, livelihoods, recreation, shelter — it provides. He outlined key actions that can begin to **reverse the long years of damage and restore the natural infrastructure** — the bays and estuaries, the rivers, coastal forests and reefs — that is the foundation of all life in the Gulf.

“We don't have to start over — a new approach can be built on efforts that are working at the local, state and regional level,” said McPeck. “What is needed is a new, more accountable system of prioritization, coordination and leadership to truly advance long-term restoration in the Gulf of Mexico.”

The Conservancy emphasizes that it will be important to expand and accelerate [conservation and restoration work](#) on areas that were spared from the oil. Restoration planning and activities must include these places as well. Bays and estuaries with clean water, [healthy oyster reefs](#) and seagrass beds will be important lifelines for other parts of the Gulf as it struggles to heal itself from the oil.

The following are several of the recommendations offered by the Conservancy to the Commission:

- Establish a “Gulf of Mexico Restoration Task Force” to create the agenda and coordinate the implementation of the many environmental restoration and protection programs being carried out by federal agencies, state and local governments, and organizations in the private sector.
- Invest most of the Clean Water Act Fines from the BP Deepwater Horizon spill in long term Gulf of Mexico restoration; use the remainder of the fine money to establish a permanent trust fund for the Gulf of Mexico.
- Begin, expand and accelerate restoration in key bays, estuaries and rivers considered critical to the Gulf's survival. Restoring estuaries helps to replenish damaged fisheries, putting fishermen back to work. Investments in a fraction of these “no regrets” places can serve as model demonstration sites to restore reefs, rebuild marshes and protect communities from storms and sea-level rise.
- Invest in science and long-term monitoring and research to ensure that all of the restoration planned and completed add up to meaningful improvements in ecological functioning at a Gulf-wide scale.



- Establish an Ocean Trust Fund and provide full funding of the [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#), which by statute is already supported by Outer Continental Shelf revenues.

To download the Conservancy's full testimony and recommendations to the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, visit [nature.org/gulf](http://nature.org/gulf).

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**The Nature Conservancy** is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. To date, the Conservancy and its more than one million members have been responsible for the protection of more than 18 million acres in the United States and have helped preserve more than 117 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. Visit The Nature Conservancy on the Web at [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org).

# Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

AMERICA DEPENDS ON THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Healthy land. Clean water. These basic necessities of life are more and more at risk due to population growth, development, climate change and pollution. Ensuring our health, and that of future generations, now depends on how well we protect our natural world.

We can help save America's land, water and our quality of life with legislation that guarantees permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

This program helps protect some of America's most important natural areas:

- National parks and forests
- Land by rivers, lakes and oceans
- Working farms and ranches
- Fish and wildlife refuges
- Neighborhood parks

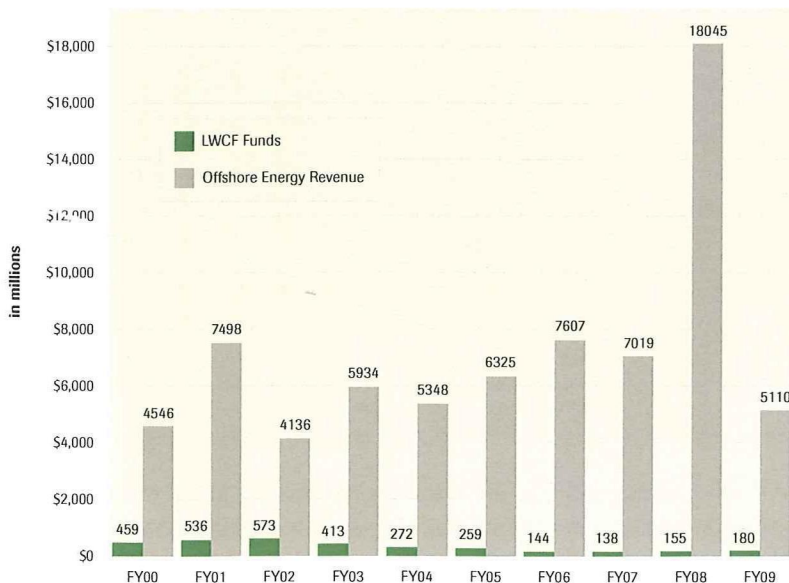
The impacts of the program support:

- Clean water supplies
- Jobs and local economies
- Fire-fighting cost reduction
- Our common heritage of natural areas for wildlife, recreation and enjoying nature



The Land and Water Conservation Fund protects land and water for nature and people. Money from the program also has a positive impact on the economy. More than 500 million people visit national parks and monuments, wildlife refuges, and recreational sites each year, helping local economies. Outdoor recreation provides millions of jobs and contributes \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy. Above: A cattle ranch in the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area in Montana © Jeff Van Tine

**LWCF Funds and Offshore Energy Revenue FY00-FY09**



The Land and Water Conservation Fund's goal is to balance the loss of one natural resource - offshore oil and gas - by using a portion of drilling fees to protect important land and water elsewhere. But despite an increase in energy production, funding for land and water protection has been low and unpredictable. The program is authorized to receive a small percentage of offshore oil and gas fee revenue - up to \$900 million a year - but most of these funds have been diverted elsewhere. With America losing 3 million acres of land to development each year, it is now critical that we guarantee permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

◀ In 2009, the Department of the Interior collected \$5 billion from offshore energy production, but only \$180 million, or about three percent of that revenue, was set aside to protect America's land and water.



Hells Canyon National Recreation Area along the Oregon-Idaho border © Rick McEwan

Americans strongly support protecting our land and water:

- More than 80 percent of the public supports using funds from oil and gas fees to help preserve our natural areas.<sup>1</sup>
- More than three-quarters of voters believe we can continue to protect the environment while strengthening the economy.<sup>2</sup>
- Voters strongly support public investments in conservation. Over the past decade, voters have passed statewide and local open space ballot measures at an overall rate of 73 percent.<sup>3</sup>

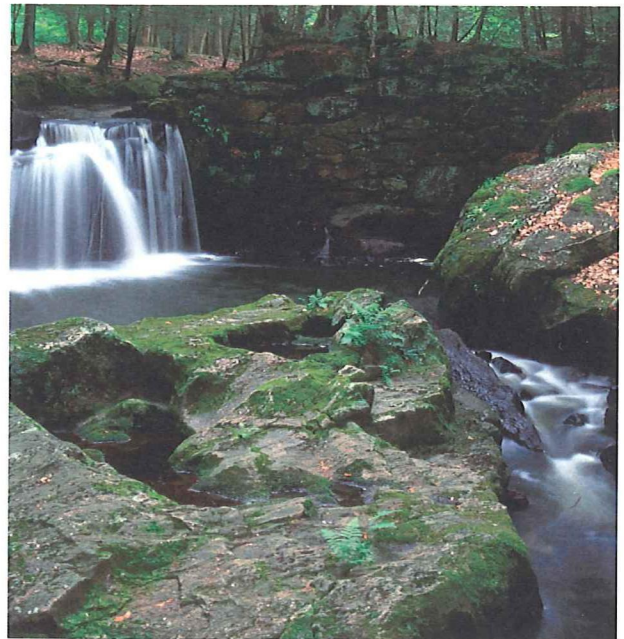
## EVERY STATE DEPENDS ON THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

From the Grand Canyon National Park to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped protect some of America's most treasured places. Over the past four decades, it has provided more than \$13 billion for land and water protection across every state and several of the territories.

If permanently funded at the authorized level of \$900 million a year, this program will help ensure our quality of life, from the water we drink to our enjoyment of the great outdoors. The Nature Conservancy strongly supports legislation for this full and permanent funding, including the Land and Water Reauthorization and Funding Act of 2009 (S. 2747) and the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2009 (H.R. 3534).

### VALUE OF THE FUND

- Protection of America's most treasured natural places benefits our national heritage and the livelihoods of our children and grandchildren
- Protection of water the old-fashioned way through watershed, forest and wetland conservation is the most cost-effective way to ensure clean and adequate water supplies
- Visitor-driven business is important to local communities surrounding national parks and other public lands
- Hunting and fishing have become an economic building block in our national economy generating more than 1.6 million jobs and more than \$76 billion in sportsmen-related activities, according to the Congressional Sportsmen Foundation
- Wildlife-related recreation generates \$122 billion annually, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Pine Brooks Falls, Salmon River, in the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Connecticut © Alden Warner

### For more information, contact:

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<sup>1</sup> Lake Research Partners, 2009

<sup>2</sup> Nature Conservancy poll, FM3 and Public Opinion Strategies, 2009

<sup>3</sup> The Trust for Public Land, LandVote.org Database, www.landvote.org

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Contact: Sandra Rodriguez  
703-841-4227, [srodriguez@tnc.org](mailto:srodriguez@tnc.org)

**Statement from Mark Tercek, President and CEO of The Nature Conservancy, on the Mabus report to President Obama**

ARLINGTON, VA - September 28, 2010 – The following is a statement from Mark Tercek, President and CEO of The Nature Conservancy, in response to the Mabus report released today titled, *“America's Gulf Coast: A Long Term Recovery Plan After The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.”*

“The Nature Conservancy strongly supports the Gulf Coast recovery plan outlined in the Mabus report. With the release of this report, our nation has the opportunity to take a positive step toward a sustainable future for the people and natural systems in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Gulf of Mexico is one of the few places on Earth where the health of the environment is so obviously linked to the health of the economy and community on such a vast scale. Its citizens know this. In a soon-to-be-released poll conducted by a coalition of Gulf-wide environmental, business, and social justice groups, it is clear that coastal restoration is a high priority for the region – nearly three-fourths of Gulf Coast voters say they would be more likely to vote for federal legislators if they support funding for Gulf Coast restoration.

The Deepwater Horizon spill—the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history—has refocused the nation’s attention on one of the most important and productive ecosystems on Earth. The lives and livelihoods of 24 million Americans living along this coast are linked to the health, resilience and sustainability of the plants, animals and natural communities that share this geography. The economy of the United States as a whole is tightly linked to the energy, shipping and other industries that operate in the Gulf region.

BP will be held accountable for the full cost of the damages associated with the spill, but given what’s at stake, the nation’s response must go well beyond cleaning up the spill. Coming on top of decades of degradation, merely cleaning up the effects of the spill will not be enough to restore all of the benefits the Gulf should be providing for the people of the region and our country. We need a bold vision and a robust long-term effort to protect and restore ecosystems across all five states, from Texas to Florida. No single entity or agency at any level of government can successfully resolve the complex and pressing issues facing the Gulf of Mexico, and we all have a role to play in restoring the region.

With the release of the Mabus report today, we can move from responding to a crisis to restoring the Gulf’s diverse ecosystems. While the full impact of the spill will not be known for some time, we can start recovery now with dedicated investment and accountable leadership grounded in collaboration with state and local partners. The goal should be no less than complete restoration of the bounty of the Gulf of Mexico – from its bays and estuaries to its marshes, seagrasses, fish, mangroves, coral reefs, and other plants and animals that make it one of the most biologically important and productive places on Earth.”



# Gulf 20/20:

Case for Long-Term  
Restoration

The Nature  
Conservancy   
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

JULY 2010

## Gulf 20/20: The Case for Long-Term Restoration

The Deepwater Horizon blowout has now become the largest offshore oil spill in US history. With the loss of the 11 men killed in the explosion and the ongoing loss of livelihoods for thousands of Gulf Coast residents, this disaster shows with painful clarity how environmental disaster is also human tragedy.



Oil slicking the surface of the Gulf. © Bridget Besaw

Coming on top of decades of degradation, merely cleaning up the effects of the spill will not be enough to save the Gulf and all the benefits—food, lives and livelihoods, shelter from storms—it provides for the plants, animals and people of the Gulf, as well as the nation. This is a pivotal moment and people are asking stark and sobering questions, “What will the Gulf be like next year? What will it be like in five years or 10? Or even 20? What will the Gulf be like when present generations pass it to our children and our grandchildren?” Will we leave a legacy of abundance or a history of devastation? Right now, we have a choice.

BP must be held accountable for the full cost and extent of damages associated with the effects of the spill. But given what’s at stake, the nation’s response must go well beyond cleaning up the current mess to restoring the Gulf’s resilience and health in all areas—social, economic and environmental.

The decisions made over the next several months will echo—for good or for bad—far into the future.

*A healthy economy does not need to come at the expense of a healthy Gulf of Mexico.*

While the magnitude of the disaster is still unfolding, one thing is clear—the long history of decline in the Gulf of Mexico must be reversed and restoration must occur at a scale that is beyond what has previously been accomplished. Business as usual will not be enough and the people of the Gulf and the nation must realize that healthy Gulf habitats are the foundation of a robust and diverse economy.

On the cover (top to bottom): Aerial of the Mississippi River delta and river channel below New Orleans, Louisiana. Marsh grasslands and coastal forest exist on a landscape built from thousands of years of silt carried from the midwest and great plains into the Gulf of Mexico. © Bridget Besaw, With less than 400 in existence, whooping cranes migrate to the Texas coast every year. © Kendal Larson, Mel Landry, Public Involvement coordinator for BTNEP, adjusts yellow oil containment booms that lay along an artificial oyster reef near the coast of Grand Isle on the Louisiana Gulf Coast. © Bridget Besaw

**To change the future and avoid the obstacles of the past, we all—state and federal governments, NGOs, oil and gas, tourism, communities, and all of those who value and rely on the Gulf—must come together around a truly comprehensive plan to re-imagine, revitalize and restore it.**

At more than 1.3 billion pounds of annual seafood production with a dockside value of \$661 million, the Gulf of Mexico produces more finfish, shrimp and shellfish than the entire U.S. Atlantic seaboard fisheries combined.

More than 24 million recreational fishing trips—28 percent of the US total—were taken in 2008 alone.

Tourism and recreation, much of which is related to healthy Gulf beaches and waters, provides more than 600,000 jobs and \$9 billion in wages annually.

Half of the nation's domestic oil and gas is produced in the Gulf region, and seven of the 15 largest ports in the nation are in the Gulf.

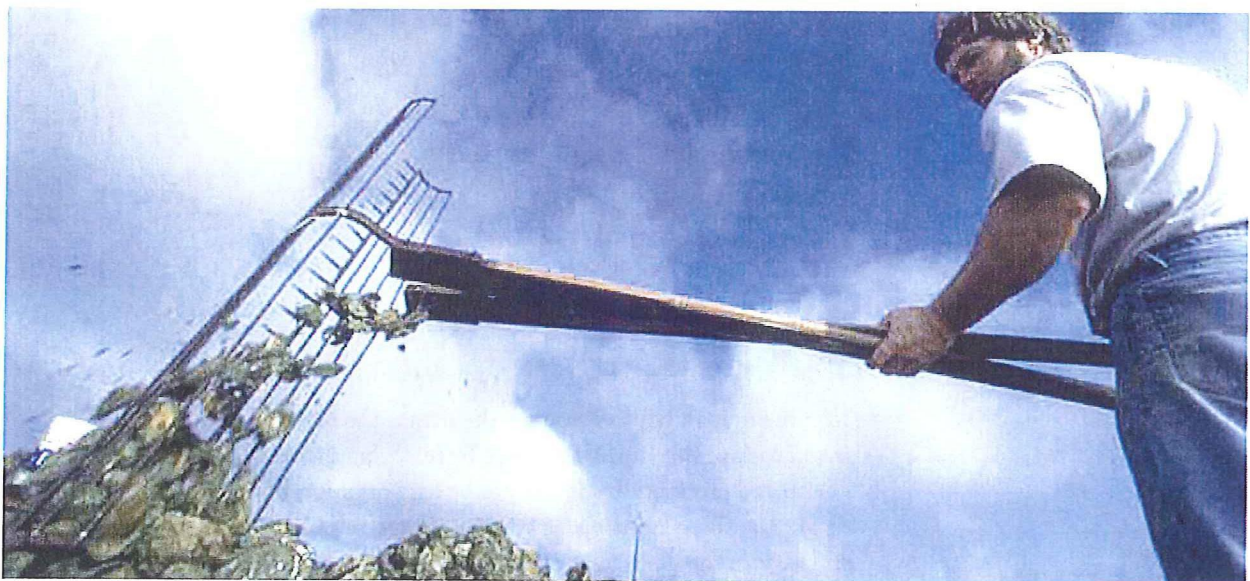
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## A Place Like No Other

The Gulf of Mexico is one of the few places on Earth where the health of the environment is so obviously linked to the health of the economy and community on such a vast scale. In the Gulf, clean and healthy marshes, beaches, and bays mean abundant fisheries, protection from storm surge and hurricanes, and a vibrant tourism economy. Vital commerce and industry and rich coastal and marine ecosystems have coexisted for generations in the Gulf. The economy of the United States as a whole is tightly linked to the energy, shipping and other industries that operate here.

However, decades of damage affect the Gulf's ability to support these needs and the needs of wildlife. The effects of the Gulf oil spill have now added urgency to a problem that was already ingrained, and directly impacts the lives and livelihoods of 24 million Americans from Florida to Texas who rely on a healthy and resilient Gulf of Mexico.

Over the last 90 years, the Gulf and the natural systems that support it have changed dramatically. Rivers have been altered by levees and dams that restrict fresh water and sediments needed for healthy coastal wetlands; coastal prairies and forests have been developed and fragmented, dredging and overharvesting are harming shellfish beds, and coral reefs and sea grass beds have been severely damaged.



Oystermen tonging in Apalachicola Bay, Florida. © Richard Bickel

The Gulf of Mexico is among the fastest-developing regions in the world. Already lost are up to 50 percent of the Gulf's inland and coastal wetlands, up to 60 percent of its seagrass beds, over 50 percent of oyster reefs, and up to 33 percent of its mangrove forests.

In Louisiana, a football field of land disappears into the Gulf every half-hour. Since the mid-1900s, nearly 2,000 square miles of fish nurseries, shrimping grounds, storm buffers, recreational paradise, and communities have been lost.

As of July 4, 2010, the federal no-fishing zone in the Gulf resulting from the oil spill was expanded to 81,181 square miles<sup>4</sup>, representing 33.5 percent of Gulf federal waters. If managed properly, Texas' healthy coastal nurseries—which currently remain largely unaffected by the oil spill—can help fill the void created by fishing bans. However, it will be important to strike a balance between making up for lost production and maintaining the delicate balance of life within Texas's waters.

As a result, millions of acres of marshland and other habitats have been lost, fisheries and shellfish stocks have lost productivity, dozens of species have become threatened or endangered, and the resiliency of these systems in the face of natural or man-made disturbances has been compromised.

There are still areas in the Gulf that have remained untouched by oil, and in addition to meeting the immediate needs of oiled wildlife, it will be increasingly important to continue, expand and accelerate conservation and restoration work on areas that have so far been spared. Once the full impact of the oil spill is fully realized in other areas of the Gulf, restoration planning and action will need to include those places as well.

Restoration work must continue as quickly and at as broad a scale as possible. At the end of the day, every animal—every sea turtle or pelican, every juvenile shrimp or blue crab—needs a safe, healthy refuge.



Brown Pelicans on Shamrock Island off the Texas coast. © Erika Nortemann/TNC

## The Three-Strand Restoration Strategy

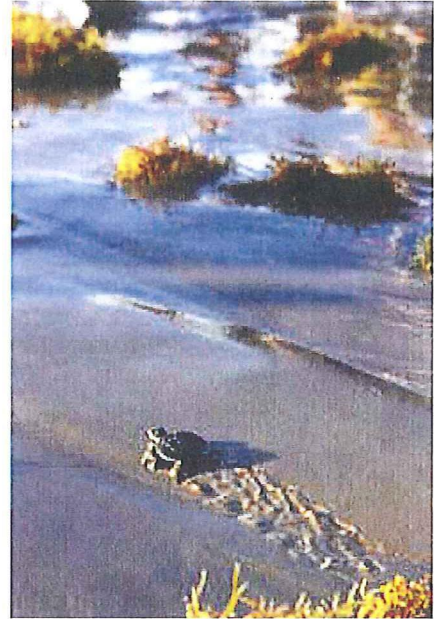
It's time to look beyond slowing the damage to the Gulf. We must reverse it and restore the Gulf's resiliency by restoring the sources of its strength, health and productivity. It will not be easy or quick, but it can and must be done. The three key actions we must take to reverse the tide of degradation and restore the Gulf are very clear. Like strands in a rope, each action is reinforced, strengthened and bound by the others.

<sup>4</sup> (U.S. Federal waters)  
[http://www.noaa.gov/newsroom/stories/2010/20100704\\_closure.html](http://www.noaa.gov/newsroom/stories/2010/20100704_closure.html)





Bayou Heron at Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi. © Lynda Richardson



Kemp's ridley sea turtle hatchling. © Erika Nortemann/TNC

The marshes of the Atchafalaya Basin in Louisiana are growing due to the sediments carried to the coast by the Atchafalaya River. These sediments spread out at the mouth of the Atchafalaya where it enters the gulf, forming the only actively growing delta in the region, and demonstrating the important connection between rivers and long-term restoration.

The future of our wildlife depends on a healthy Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf of Mexico provides nesting, resting and feeding habitat critical to some 243 North American bird species, including 75 percent of the migratory waterfowl traversing the United States. The only known nesting beach for the most endangered sea turtle in the world, Kemp's ridley, is found along the western coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

### **First—Restore Key Bays and Estuaries**

The bounty of the Gulf of Mexico begins in its bays and estuaries. These are the natural foundations of the entire ecosystem and contain the marshes, seagrasses, fish, mangroves, coral reefs, and other plants and animals that make the Gulf one of the most important and productive places on Earth. Experts can point to key bays, estuaries and rivers that contribute to the Gulf's health (see attachment).

Investments in even a fraction of these places can serve as Model Demonstration Sites for implementing restoration with long-term impacts. Restoring estuaries helps to replenish damaged fisheries, putting fishermen back to work and ensuring a future for the next generation of fishermen.

- Rivers are the lifeblood of the Gulf's marshes and other coastal habitats. Restoring coastal rivers flowing to key Gulf estuaries provides the fresh water and sediments needed to rebuild marshes while reducing the nutrient loads that create persistent dead zones in the Gulf.
- Restoring millions of acres of estuarine and coastal habitats such as oyster reefs, seagrass beds, sand dunes, coral reefs, marshes and migratory bird areas. These habitats are critical for re-building Gulf fisheries and protecting Gulf communities from storms and sea-level rise.

*As the Gulf struggles to heal itself from the oil, bays and estuaries with clean water, healthy oyster reefs and seagrass beds, will be important life support systems for the people, plants and animals who depend on life in the Gulf for their own lives and livelihoods.*

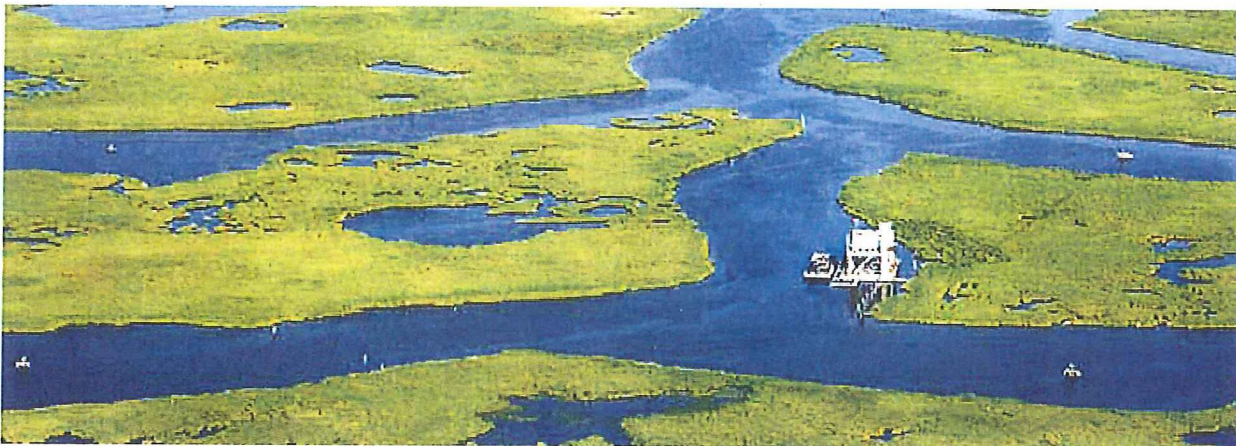
**Second—Ensure oil and gas development is carried out in a safe and sustainable manner**

It is now evident that the response plan prepared by BP for the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform was wholly inadequate. The nation should take strong measures to ensure ongoing oil and gas development in the Gulf minimizes harm to coastal and marine biodiversity and habitats. More than 50,000 wells have been drilled in the Gulf's federal waters since 1947.

The Oil & Gas industry is tremendously important to the economy of the Gulf of Mexico. In the past, many companies have given back to Gulf Coast communities to support conservation. Going forward, a renewed and expanded commitment by the oil and gas industry will be vital to restoring the health of all the Gulf Coast Communities—plants, animals and people—that share the resource.

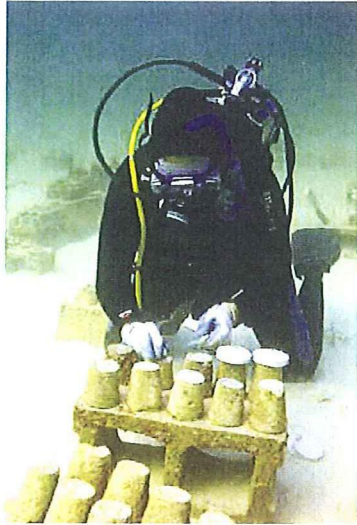
Currently, the Gulf of Mexico has 7,000 active leases, 64 percent of which are in deepwater. Energy development in the Gulf should minimize impacts to important natural resources, be carried out in a safe and responsible manner, and contribute to the long-term restoration of Gulf ecosystems. Specifically, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) should be amended in the following ways:

- Enact robust safety regulations to ensure energy and mineral development does not harm coastal and marine environments.
- Ensure future oil and gas leasing is guided by a comprehensive regional marine plan that integrates and coordinates other marine uses, including conservation of important marine habitat.
- Ensure that revenue generated through oil and gas development contributes to the conservation and restoration of Gulf ecosystems.

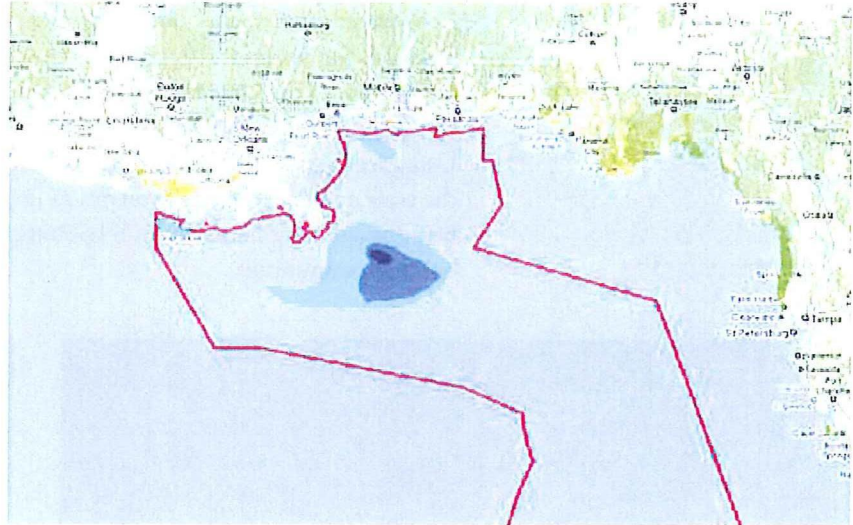


Aerial view of the extended marshland comprising the Mississippi delta, south of New Orleans, Louisiana. © Bridget Besaw

*Comprehensive, well-planned and managed efforts to harvest the Gulf's resources responsibly will also reduce conflict between oil and gas development and preservation of the environment and wildlife.*



A diver glues cuttings of coral to cement blocks in a water nursery near the Florida Keys in an effort to reverse the decline of coral in the Keys.  
© Ken Nedimyer



Global Coastal Resilience Assessment Tool © The Nature Conservancy

### Harnessing the Power of Data: Gulf of Mexico Decision Support System

An online, interactive planning tool, the Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Decision Support, provides multi-layered information to support decision-makers as everyone looks beyond the immediate challenges of the spill to the long-term challenges of meaningful restoration.

From showing real-time reports on forecasts for oil spill trajectories, locations of beached oil, to the locations of important ecological areas such as marshes, seagrass beds and important oyster reefs, this tool can be used to inform future decisions about large-scale restoration.

The tool is available online at <http://globalcoastalresilience.org/>

### Third—Invest in science and technology to inform decision-making and restoration plans for the Gulf of Mexico.

The full impact of the spill on the Gulf's ecosystems will not be known for some time, and significant study will be needed. Science tells us that a spill of this magnitude would have profound effects on even the healthiest of ecosystems, but the risks to Gulf coastal habitats are greatly magnified by the decades of degradation that preceded it.

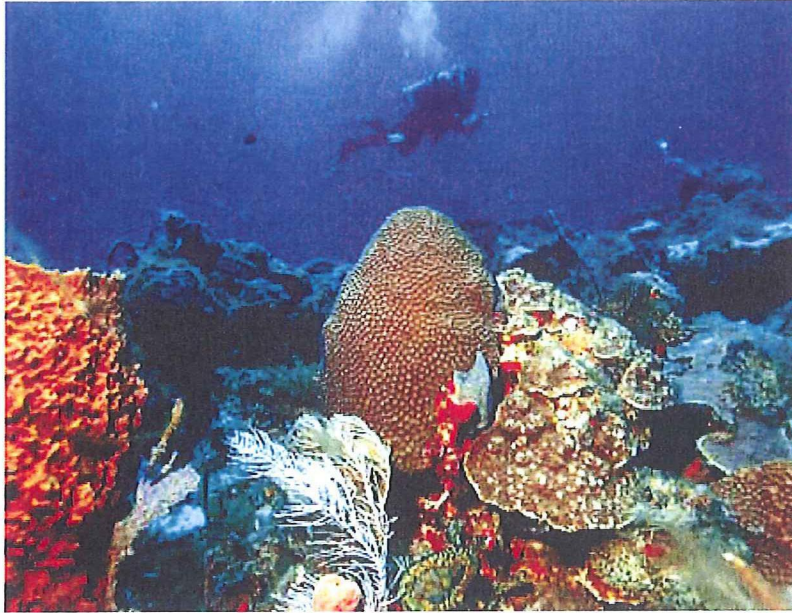
Fortunately, there is a rich history of research in the Gulf that shows us where to start work. For decades, Gulf scientists have studied what has had the greatest impact on Gulf habitats—rising sea levels, altered salinities, habitat destruction, depleted oxygen. Restoration practitioners must rely on this science—and the multitude of plans developed from it—to inform our strategies as the agenda for Gulf-scale restoration is developed.

In the near term, we're also going to need to turn to the vast body of study on oil spill clean up in marine and estuarine systems to inform our restoration practices and identify gaps in our knowledge. Many of our restoration strategies will also rely heavily on the body of engineering science developed around coastal restoration and the process of adaptive management to perfect our implementation of these projects.

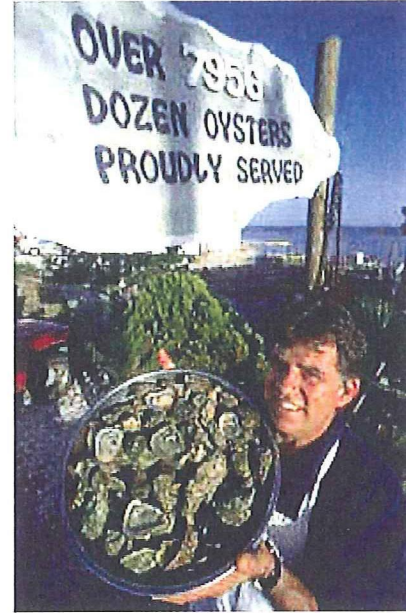
Even with the vast store of knowledge and expertise that exists in the Gulf, there is need to expand a comprehensive science and research program that spans the entire Gulf. Currently, there is no comprehensive Gulf restoration plan that encompasses the geography from Texas to Florida, as well as the open ocean.

Key pieces of a Gulf-wide restoration program are already captured in existing plans for specific places, such as the Louisiana-Mississippi Roadmap for Ecosystem Resilience and Sustainability, the Hypoxia Action Plan, and various planning and science efforts related to the National Estuary System.

Accelerated and expanded research and scientific study will offer research priorities for continued response to the oil spill, as well as comparisons to the state of the Gulf today against historical time spans and the functions of marine species and habitats like marshes, and oyster and coral reefs. Using science to inform restoration planning and activities will ensure that the scale and location of conservation investments will deliver maximum benefits and least harm for Gulf habitats and the services they provide to coastal communities.



Florida Keys coral with diver. © Jiangang Luo



Oysters for sale in Florida. © Richard Bickel

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## Moving Beyond Reaction to Coordinated, Meaningful Work

The current tragedy has given us perspective that should guide our future actions and direct how we invest in the future of the Gulf of Mexico. Governments have written many plans for restoring pieces of the Gulf beginning before Hurricane Katrina. Due to their lack of a comprehensive view and adequate funding, these plans have only been a patch on the larger problem. Patches aren't enough. We can no longer afford to focus on short-term wins at the expense of long-term success.

The breadth of our work must match the scale of the problem. The key to success in the Gulf will be to coordinate across the Gulf, secure funding for long-term restoration, and collectively focus on actions that provide the most benefits. We need a robust long-term effort to protect and restore Gulf coastal ecosystems, across 5 states from Texas to Florida that will combine to elevate the Gulf to a level of health and resilience that it has not seen in decades.

## Funding Opportunities

Create an Endowment for the Gulf of Mexico to be administered by an agency designated by the President and funded by Clean Water Act fines that must be paid by BP.

If passed, dedicate a portion of the barrel tax increase proposed in Congress on oil produced in and imported into the United States to fund Gulf Coast restoration and, in time, large scale restoration in other estuaries. By earmarking 10 cents of this tax—roughly ¼ cent per gallon—for long-term restoration of the Gulf of Mexico, it could be possible to generate funding needed for long-term restoration efforts.

Use revenues from offshore oil and gas leasing to create a \$1 billion Ocean Trust Fund to support long-term marine and coastal stewardship. The principle that offshore revenues should be reinvested is not new, but today more than ever we stand witness to the environmental pressure that coastal development creates on our natural resources.

On-the-ground action is needed, and can begin by focusing on the following:

**Build a Gulf of Mexico coalition** representing government, local communities, academic institutions, scientific leadership, NGOs, oil and gas, and other private industry leadership to support a vision for a sustained Gulf and to commit to working in concert to carry out a roadmap to success. Many organizations, including The Nature Conservancy, are already beginning to coordinate efforts in the Gulf to begin the work of long-term Gulf restoration.

Meaningful restoration of the Gulf will require the leadership, skills, coordination and resources of the public, private and NGO sectors. The actions of government and BP alone will—at best—return the Gulf to pre-oil spill conditions, but it will not be enough to reverse decades of decline.

**Dedicate funding** to support long-term restoration—beyond damages caused by the oil spill—to reverse decades of degradation and neglect. Despite years of conservation and restoration in the Gulf, appropriations to fund this work have lagged far behind the estimated need. Even before the oil spill, the cost of meaningful restoration of the Gulf was estimated at \$600 million per year for 20 years. It is important to understand that currently, BP restoration funds can only be used for damages caused by the oil spill and cannot be used to address pre-existing problems.

The Administration and Congress must hold BP accountable for the full cost and extent of the damages resulting from the spill. Decisions are being made in Congress and by the administration right now that can create opportunities for much needed funding for long-term restoration in the Gulf of Mexico. These funds should provide the resources to go beyond cleaning up the effects of the spill and begin long-term restoration of the Gulf of Mexico and the way of life of those who depend on it.



Mangroves in West Content Key, Florida. © Jeff Ripple

According to the “Shellfish Reefs at Risk” Report, globally 85 percent of oyster reefs have been completely lost. However, the Gulf of Mexico is one place where investments in oyster reef restoration can make a difference.

The report can be viewed online at [www.nature.org/shellfish](http://www.nature.org/shellfish)



Piping plover. © Billtacular/FlickrCC

**Start restoration now in “no regrets” places.** Science shows us where it’s possible to start right now. Experts can point to key bays, estuaries and rivers that contribute to the Gulf’s health. Investments in even a fraction of these places can contribute to immediate recovery and demonstrate effective large-scale restoration that focuses on restoring habitat and reestablishing natural systems. A number of organizations from nonprofit, public and private sectors have been working across the Gulf for many years in these places and others around the Gulf to restore marshes, seagrasses, mangroves, coral reefs and oysters.

**Five case studies from each Gulf state can be used to illustrate how large-scale restoration can be applied:**

**The Barataria Estuary, Louisiana:** The Delta of the Mississippi River, which includes the Barataria Estuary, is a 3-million-acre ecosystem containing extraordinary biodiversity. It provides habitat for an array of plant and animal species, including 79 that are rare, threatened or endangered. It contains 25 percent of the world’s population of Piping Plover, 75 percent of Mississippi and the Central Flyway’s wintering waterfowl. From the Delta comes 34 percent of the nation’s oysters and one-third of its total fisheries.

Beginning in 1928, levees were constructed along the Mississippi River to prevent flooding and facilitate navigation, ending the natural process of spring flooding that provides regular replenishment of sediments and freshwater to the coast of Louisiana. In addition, thousands of miles of canals were dug to support oil and gas exploration, allowing saltwater deep into the Delta. These events, coupled with natural and man-induced subsidence, has resulted in the rapid loss of marshes and the disappearance of Louisiana’s coast at the rate of 25 square miles per year.

The most rapidly disappearing place on the continent, the Barataria Estuary has also been one of the estuaries hardest hit by the oil spill. But Barataria was struggling even before oil came ashore and made an already urgent situation more challenging.

Returning fresh water and sediment to the Delta has long been recognized as key to restoring coastal wetlands and sustaining this ecosystem. It is also an important step in helping the estuary recover from the losses caused by the spill. Restoring key habitats, such as oyster reefs, will directly benefit the species—both recreational and commercial—that are important to the economy of the region.

**Mississippi Sound, Mississippi:** The Mississippi Sound represents the entire Mississippi coastal area, and its health is critical to everything that happens on the Coast. The Sound is set off from the open Gulf by the pristine barrier islands of Gulf Islands National Seashore, creating a large and highly productive brackish water estuary, home to important commercial and sport fisheries. All Mississippi coastal rivers and bays empty into the Sound—each of these bays are home to large expanses of productive salt marshes.



Oyster restoration work © Nicole Vickery/TNC

Like all North American coastal areas, Mississippi has undergone rapid population growth, with the accompanying conversion of marshes, savannahs and coastal forests to commercial and residential use. Habitat loss and degradation has reduced marsh areas, damaged oyster reefs and seagrass habitats and exposed Coast residents to increasing risk from tropical weather. The newest challenge to the Mississippi Coast and all of its neighbors is the massive Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Habitats critical to Mississippi Sound—seagrasses, coastal marshes, oyster reefs—have already been identified and work is ongoing. The restoration of the Mississippi Sound is the key to environmental, economic, and aesthetic future of the Gulf Coast.



Oystermen tonging in Apalachicola Bay.  
© Richard Bickel

**Apalachicola Bay, Florida:** Located along Florida's Panhandle, the Apalachicola Bay is the ultimate destination of many of the South's most important rivers—rivers that supply drinking water, waste management, hydropower, irrigation, and navigation to one of the fastest growing regions of the nation. Given the high demand for the water that eventually flows into the Apalachicola River, maintaining fresh water flow into the bay is an ongoing challenge.

But without this water, the Apalachicola River basin would lose much of its biodiversity and Apalachicola Bay would lose its productive oyster reefs, reefs that supply approximately 10 percent of the nation's entire oyster harvest each year. However, most of the reefs in Apalachicola Bay are worked and harvested within a short timeframe. Natural oyster reef structures are nearly completely gone.

This is significant because natural oyster reefs are not flat, but rather have significant three-dimensional structure provide important habitat for numerous species of fish and invertebrates. While it is important to maintain the vibrant oyster fishery in Apalachicola Bay, the resilience of the fishery as well as the health of the entire Bay would benefit greatly from expanded restoration and protection of core natural oyster reefs.



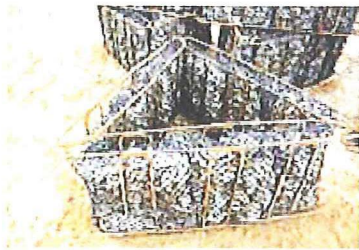
Seagrass off the Texas Coast  
© Erika Nortemann/TNC

**Matagorda/San Antonio Bays, Texas:** The marshes, coastal prairies and islands of the Matagorda and San Antonio Bays lie at the end of the Central Flyway, one of four primary routes for migratory birds in North America. And while the Gulf of Mexico is a very large system, its parts are connected—by ocean currents, by the annual migration of marine life and birds, and by the economic, cultural and historical relationships among its communities.

And, increasingly, its parts are linked by common problems. The natural and human communities around the Gulf face rising threats that include polluted water, over-fishing, and loss of natural habitat, including marshes, oyster reefs and seagrass.

The seagrasses that grow in the shallows of coastal bays and estuaries are the foundation of life in the Gulf of Mexico. Underwater meadows of shoalgrass, turtlegrass, manateegrass and other seagrasses protect water quality and clarity, and serve as a nursery for the shrimp, shellfish and the sport fish prized by anglers, including redfish, drum and sea trout. Yet, conservationists, anglers and concerned citizens are becoming increasingly aware that seagrasses are in decline.

Over the past 20 years, studies show that shoalgrass, for example, has decreased by 60 percent. At the same time, underwater areas that lack vegetation entirely have increased by nearly 300 percent. The declining quantity and quality of these seagrass habitats now represent a major threat to shrimp, fish and other species depending on them. Ducks and other birds, sea turtles and crabs need seagrass to thrive.



One of three oyster restoration projects in Alabama, ReefBLK cages are being used in Mobile Bay to create 750 linear meters of breakwater reefs. © Jeff DeQuattro/TNC

Oysters are the engineers of the ocean. Functioning oyster reefs provide reef fish habitat, protect adjacent marshes and encourages re-establishment of marshes and seagrass habitat. Implementing on-the-ground restoration like this is a smart use of Gulf restoration funding and builds the infrastructure critical to necessary longer-term restoration needed in the Gulf.

**Mobile Bay, Alabama:** Adding a distinctive notch to Alabama's Gulf Coast shoreline, Mobile Bay—with an average depth of 10 feet—is one of the shallowest bays of its kind. It is also the fourth largest estuary in the United States and plays an important role in sheltering and nurturing many species, including the finfish, shrimp and oysters, that are vital to Gulf communities.

Over the last decades, Mobile Bay has seen significant loss of marsh, seagrass and oyster reef habitats through dredge-and-fill activities, sea walls and jetties, erosion, storm events and other causes, thus offering one of the largest potential areas for outright restoration, replacement and enhancement of these lost habitats on the Northern Gulf Coast.

This type of habitat replacement/restoration has long-term benefits in helping to improve on-going problems in Mobile Bay, from stormwater to the “free-floating bottom sediment” issue to shoreline erosion. While the marsh component is critical to rebuilding habitat for quick fish stock recovery, it will also aid in stormwater remediation, including nitrogen capture. This effort will also make the coastline more resilient to any impacts from hurricanes, oil spills or climate change.

A Gulf-wide restoration program should seek to work with organizations working in the Gulf to select such other “no regrets” sites that can have an immediate impact while advancing the science needed to inform long-term restoration plans.

In starting with the work we already know needs to happen, everything benefits. Our coastal communities will be safer in the face of increasing storms and sea level rise; our fisheries will be more stable and productive, providing a livelihood for generations to come; our wildlife will have nurseries and refuges; and our tourism economy can continue to fuel the needs of local communities.

But restoration at this scale cannot be accomplished alone. The problem is bigger than any one group or organization can solve independently, and interests ranging from environmental to industry to community, must be part of restoring the Gulf to health.





Padre Island National Seashore in Texas. © Erika Nortemann/TNC

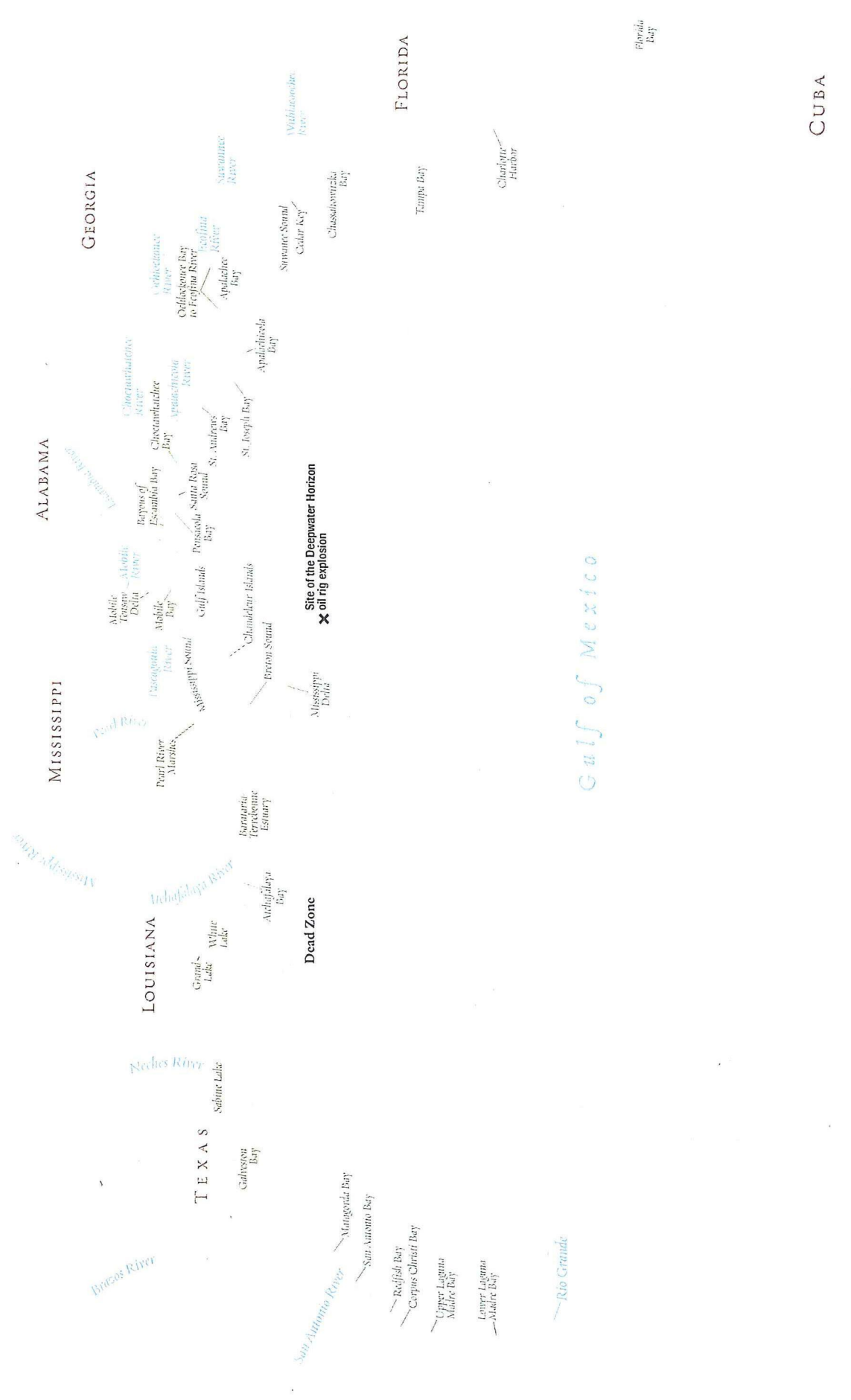
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## The Future of the Gulf Depends on Us

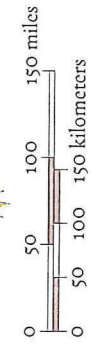
Restoration is, like politics, the art of the possible. Restoring the Gulf of Mexico, then, is not about turning back time, it's about seeing a new way forward. Over the last 100 years, human activities both in the Gulf and in upstream reaches, have altered the natural infrastructure of the Gulf—the marshes and the oyster reefs, the seagrass beds, the mangroves, the barrier islands and the nearshore environments. As these places have been degraded, the overall health of the Gulf has suffered. The suffering shows itself in Dead Zones in the Gulf, in declining fisheries and lost water quality, in disappearing marshes and dying reefs.

In more technical terms, the Gulf has lost much of its resilience—it is no longer robust and strong. It has lost the ability to absorb damage and recover its health and now has many underlying health problems that magnify the damage caused by natural and manmade disasters. The oil spill in the Gulf is adding profound insult to what was already dire injury.

This is a moment of decision for the Gulf and the nation. The effects of the BP spill on the communities and ecosystems of the Gulf are tragic and still unfolding. But the crisis of the spill is bringing renewed focus on the need for a new future for the Gulf of Mexico, one that begins to restore and reverse decades of degradation and decline that have affected the region. The people and the ecosystems of the Gulf are incredibly resilient, but they need our help. We owe it to them to do everything we can to help restore this valuable ecosystem for the benefit of the Gulf and the nation.



**BAYS, ESTUARIES AND RIVERS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO**



MEXICO

CUBA

FLORIDA

ALABAMA

GEORGIA

MISSISSIPPI

LOUISIANA

T E X A S

Gulf of Mexico

San Antonio River  
Mangrove Bay  
San Antonio Bay

Reefish Bay  
Corpus Christi Bay  
Upper Laguna Madre Bay  
Lower Laguna Madre Bay

Rio Grande

Neches River  
Sabine Lake  
Sublime Lake  
Galveston Bay

White Lake  
Grand Lake  
Atchafalaya River  
Atchafalaya Bay

Dead Zone

Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary

Pearl River  
Marishes  
Pascagoula River  
Mississippi Sound

Chandeleur Islands  
Baton Rouge

Site of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion

Mobile-Tensaw Delta  
Mobile Bay  
Pensacola Santa Rosa Bay  
St. Andrew Bay

Bayou of Esambilla Bay  
Choctawhatchee Bay  
Apalachicola River

Choctawhatchee River  
Choctawhatchee Bay  
Apalachicola River

Coddrick River  
Oodick River  
Apalachee Bay  
Suwannee River

Sarasota Sound  
Clear Key  
Charlotte Harbor

Tampa Bay

Florida Bay



National Commission on the  
**BP DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL  
AND OFFSHORE DRILLING**

## **Attachment 40**

**Public Comment Sign-In Sheet**

National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling Meeting  
 September 27, 2010 • Public Comment Sign-In

	Name	Organization	City, State
✓ 1	<del>Jen Berkuta</del> ATHAN MANTO	SIERRA CLUB	WASH, DC
✓ 2	Michael Gravitz	Environment America	Washington DC
✓ 3	RICHARD GRACE	FRIENDS AM UNV	WASHINGTON DC
✓ 4	<del>MARK TEMPLETON</del>	<del>PHOS TRUST</del>	<del>SILVER SPRING, MO</del>
✓ 5	Nancy Sopko	Oceana	Washington, D.C.
✓ 6	Mabel Roberts	Advocates for Environmental Human Rights	Washington DC
✓ 7	Micah McCarby	MAKAIT TRIBE	Washington State
8*	<del>SUEANOR HUFFNER</del>	<del>PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP</del>	<del>WASHINGTON DC</del>
✓ 9*	Dan Fraser	Argonne Natl Lab	Argonne, IL
✓ 10*	Destiny Jarvis	Public Lands Service Coalition	Washington, DC

\*Numbers 8-10 are on a wait list.

✓ 11. Earl Comstock

Alaska Eskimo Whaling Barrow, Alaska  
 Commission

✓ 11 "Probabilistic risk analyses"  
 Dan Fraser, Argonne

National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling Meeting  
 September 28, 2010 • Public Comment Sign-In

	Name	Organization	City, State
1	John Long, Jr.	Village of Point Hope	Point Hope, AK
2	Jasmine Edo	Environment America	Washington DC
3	Cynthia SARTIHO	Gulf Restoration Network	New Orleans, LA
4	Allison Fisher	Public Citizen	Washington, DC
5	Luci Beich Bach	Gwich'in Steering Comt.	Fairbanks, AK
6	Peter Van Tuyn		Anchorage, AK
7	Michelle Roberts For Robert's Avia	STEPS Coalition MS	Biloxi, MS
8	SHARON HANSHAN		
9	John Gustafson	National Response Team Exec Director (Retired)	Washington DC
10			
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National Commission on the  
**BP DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL  
AND OFFSHORE DRILLING**

## **Attachment 41**

**Public Observers Sign-In Sheet**

Name	Organization	City, State
Andrew Mack	North Slope Borough	Barrow, Alaska
Dana B. Johnson	in	in
Elisaver Huffoes	PEW	Washington DC AK
John Arvon	NRE	Alexandria, VA
EMILIE SCHWARTZ	WSECA	Arlington, VA
PAUL SWEET	Blue Planet Solutions	W, DC
Jennie Dean	Sea Grant	Washington DC
Lindsay Dubin	BOEMRE	Washington, DC
Tih McLaugh	Clean Conservancy	W, DC
Jennifer Thompson	Office of the Federal Coordinator for AK	National Gas Transportation Projects Washington, DC
Cam Teehey		
John Farrell	USARC	Arlington VA
Earl Comstock	Alaska Estimo Whaling Com-	Barrow AK
Kata Moran	OSTP	Wash. DC

Name	Organization	City, State
Kellin Blosson	PHS	Washington, DC
Meghan Wilson	EPA	DC
Amanda Fessenden	ClearView Energy Partners	DC
John Schauer	EPA	DC
Ken Lane	DOI	DC
Alexis St. Juliana	Status Consulting	Washington, DC
Dan Fraser	Argonne National Lab	Chicago, IL
Joshua Klein	NA	DC
JOHN AMOS	Sky Truth	Shepherdstown, WV
Joe Hernandez	OSC	Washington, DC
Kim Nguyen - Entrepreneurial	Public Commission	DC
DAVID GREENBERG	Commission	DC
Alex Tauriel	League of Conservation Voters	Washington, DC
Lisa Sandorel	Stratoc + Johnson	Washington, DC
Melissa Prior	Pew Envir. Group	Seattle, WA



Name	Organization	City, State
Chris Blackburn	NOAA	Washington, DC
Theodore Chiens	DHS	" "
Rachel Wilhelm	NOAA	" "
Jenny Kardick	SURT Club	" "
Regan Nelson	NEPC	Washington DC
Lisa Hemmer	cons.	D.C.
Glenn Boedovich	NOAA	D.C.
Johanna Polsenberg	Gulf Restoration Network	New Orleans   DC.
Monica Saunders	Rep Anh Cao - New Orleans	D.C.
Micah McEnty	MAKAA TRIBAL COUNCIL	Nearby WA.
MARtha MARDEN	B hate	D.C.
Kyle Graham	<del>LA</del> STATE OF LA	BATON ROUGE, LA
Hossein Ebnegouf	IRE	McLean, VA 22102
Jacqueline Patterson	NAACP	Baltimore, MD
Casey O'Brien	FTI	WASH DC

Name	Organization	City, State
Dennis Clark	Canadian Embassy	Washington, DC
J Gustafson	NRT Alim	Washington DC

Name	Organization	City, State
Jennifer Kang	Arnold & Porter LLP.	Washington, DC.
Betsy Parker	EPA	Washington, DC
ANDREW LAUGHLAND	US FWS	Washington DC
ALBI MODIANO	US OGA	Washington DC.
Sam Rosinblum	CH2M HILL	Washington DC
Tim Lenders	EPA	Washington, DC
KALIL ACKAL	ARENA OFFSHORE	HOUSTON, TX.
Roger Helm	DOI / FWS	Arlington, VA
Brandeis Sitzenauer	—	W.D.C
BRITANY CROWN	ORISE EPA	WASHINGTON DC
KYLE GAFFAN	LA CIV.	BATON ROUGE, LA
Jennifer Harris	Ecology and Environment	Arlington, VA
Mike Grawter	Environment America	Wash DC
Ben Longstreet	NRDC	W. DC.
Theresa Carr		W. DC

No	Name	Organization	City, State
	Montira Pongsin	the U.S. EPA	Washington, D.C.
	Colin Reid	Audubon	Wash DC.
	Chris Mann	Pew	Wash. D.C.
	Ariane Suth-Grier	AATAS	Silver Spring, MD
	Chris Zganjar	TNC	Washington DC
	Terence Houston	Ecological Society of America	Wash DC
	Ed Chen	NRDC	DC
	Bob Huddell	NOAA	D.C.
	TRAM STEIN	CYX	Houston, TX
	Sison Lee	Harvard	DC.
	JENNIFER VU	CONGRESSMAN CAO CAO	WASHINGTON D.C.
	JAN SEHOONMAKIL	VAN SCOROC ASSOCIATES	WDC
	Shannon Connerney	Nature Conservancy	Arlington, VA
	Kameron Onley	The Nature Conservancy	Arlington, VA

Name	Organization	City, State
Kim Nguyen <del>Friedrich</del>	N/A	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Scott Wagner	Autubon Society	Washington, DC
David Halverson	Bingham McCutchen LLP	Washington, DC
Debbs Nelson	Arena Offshore	Houston, TX
PAUL SWEET	Blue Planet	W, DC
Lori LeBlanc	Gulf Economic Survival Team	Thibodaux, LA
Gov Jim GERWIGER	ESRI	Cheyenne, WY
Allie Dodd	IADG/Vanscoyoc	Washington DC
Ann BERANE	- N/A	WASH DC
Gordon Binder	WWF	WDC
Jill Tynnosky	EPA	Washington DC
Clay MILLER	EPA	WASHINGTON DC
Barf Brewery	W. Tumbler	Washington DC
Ken Lane	DOI	DC
Heather Drayton	EPA	DC

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Name	Organization	City, State
Meghan Wilson	EPA	DC
Alexis St. Julianay	St. Status Consulting	DC
Dan Frazer	ANL	
Josh Klein	NG	DC
Lisa Sandoval	Strobe + Johnson	DC
Emily Wautford	Rep. Steve Scalise	DC
Melissa Prior	Pew Environment Group	SEATTLE, WA
ESPEL MATHA	NORWEGIAN EMBASSY	DC
Jenny Kaduk	Suma Club	DC
Lisa Kemmer	cons.	DC
Alex Demas	U.S. Geological Survey	DC
T. Sampson	Consultant	DC
Anna Gowan	Oceana	DC
Jacqui Patterson	NATACP	MD
Kim DeFusco	EPA	DC

Name	Organization	City, State
Garret Graves	State of Louisiana	Baton Rouge, LA
Megan Erhardt	CRC Public Relations	Alexandria VA
Alex Trayson	The Nelson Group	Washington DC
Courtney Taylor	EDF	Wash, DC
Emily Wagon	Ocean Conservancy	Washington DC
Ellen Bolen	"	" "
Johnna Lokenberg	NRN	DC
Cheryl Coates	"	
Raul Wilhelm	NOAA	DC
Cory Ock	FTI	
Carolyn Cooper	EPA	DC
Amy Mathews Ames	Turnstone Consulting	Shepherdstown WV
Kelly Kinote	Ocean Conservancy	DC
Tom McHugh	Ocean Conservancy	DC
Eric Young	NRDC	DC

Name	Organization	City, State
Sandra L. Rodriguez Doug Helton	The Nature Conservancy NOAA	Arlington, VA Seattle, WA
David Dickson	N/A	Arlington, VA
Megan Bivens	AKAS	Washington, DC
Mather Madder	m/m	"
Elizabeth Fox	citizen	Washington DC
Vann Alvin	NRC	Alexandria, VA
KATE WING	MOORE FOUNDATION	PALO ALTO, CA
Jennifer Kawfer	Environment America	Washington, DC





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## **Attachment 42**

**Press Sign-In Sheet**

National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling Meeting • September 27, 2010  
 Press Sign-In

Name	Organization	E-mail	Phone
Liz O'Leary	Monvly	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Julia Staller	Bloomberg	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Dina Cappiella	AP	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Jill Estabrook	Arling	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
AJ Smartwood	TRNS	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Sec-louis Sartin	Agence France Presse	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Suzanne Goldberg	GUARDIAN	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
B. A. Part	Times Square	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Paul Courson	CNN	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Raymond DeRube	Sepp's Howard Foundation	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Kevin Dietrich	UPI	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Ben Geman	The Hill	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Hyunyoung Kim	Korea	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Amanda TeBard	Energy Guardian	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Jennifer Kanfer	Environment	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
	American	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling Meeting • September 27, 2010  
 Press Sign-In

Name	Organization	E-mail	Phone
Reeve Slesoff	McClatchy Newspapers	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Deel Achenbach	wash Post	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
DAVID TETZAN	CBS	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
William Murray	ETG	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Donna Leinwand	USA Today	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Natalie Newajis	ABC News	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Denise Pao	"	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Tom Willigius	Roll Call	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Darrin Samuelson	Politico	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
DAN FRAUMKIN	HUFFPOST	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Laura Parker	AOL News	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
WB Smith	Belo/WWC-TV	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Mitra Taj	Living on Earth/PR1	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
STANN JONES	CLEAN SKY TV	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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 Press Sign-In

Name	Organization	E-mail	Phone
Randall Brown	NBC	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Geoff Parker	CNN	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Chris Turner	CNN	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Seth Bernstein	The Associated Press	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Alex Ogle	AFP	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Wilbur Wasthman	Wired Magazine	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Jen Dlouhy	Hearst/Houster	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Mandy Wilson	GETTY IMAGES	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
DAVID IANOVICH	ARGIS MEDIA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Gary Geunhe	Platts	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
MARY CETHA	AP PHOTO	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Ayesha Pascoe	Reuters	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Louise Bowman	VDA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
LYNN GARNER	BNA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Blythe	Douty	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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 Press Sign-In

Name	Organization	E-mail	Phone
Kenneth Austin	NBC News	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Lamar Ladd	C-SPAN	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Tom Albridge	"	"	"
James Coors	"	"	"
Ruthann Winterhalter	"	"	"
Geoff Koss	Congressional Quarterly	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Garry Shubs	Baton Rouge Advocate	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Patrick Reis	Greenwire	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Marty Cover	CNNews.com	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Matthew Dax	AP	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Christopher Boudie	ABC News	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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 Press Sign-In

Name	Organization	E-mail	Phone
Eric Hansen	C-SPAN		[REDACTED]
Justin Metzger	C-SPAN		[REDACTED]
Bill Heffley	C-SPAN		[REDACTED]
Alex Ogle	AFP		[REDACTED]
Sibban Hughes	Down Jones	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
MANDEL NGANO	AFP	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Dina Ceppiello	AP		
Geray Shields	The Boston Room Advocate	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Ayscha Rascoe	Reuters		
ALAN KOVSKI	BNA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
HARRY CEREDA	AP PHOTO		
Laura Parker	AOL News		
Katie Howell	Gizmodo	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Matthew Lehner	Sen. Landrieu	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Jonathan.buc	The Times Picayune	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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 Press Sign-In

Name	Organization	E-mail	Phone
Allison Winter	E&E Publishing	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Ji Hwan Yoo	Talk Radio News Service	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Ben Gevan	The Week	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Andrew Clark	NBC News	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
J. COHEN	C-SPAN	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Christopher Morda	NBC News	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<del>Christopher Morda</del>	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Donna Harris	C-SPAN	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Tom W. Scher	C-SPAN	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Ruthann W.	"	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
L. Hansen	"	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
R. Quisenberry	E&E Publishing	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]