

# Restore America's Estuaries

## Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill & NRDAR Overview

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# Presentation Overview

- **Event**
- **Response**
- **Deepwater Horizon NRDAR**
- **Restoration**
- **Next Steps**



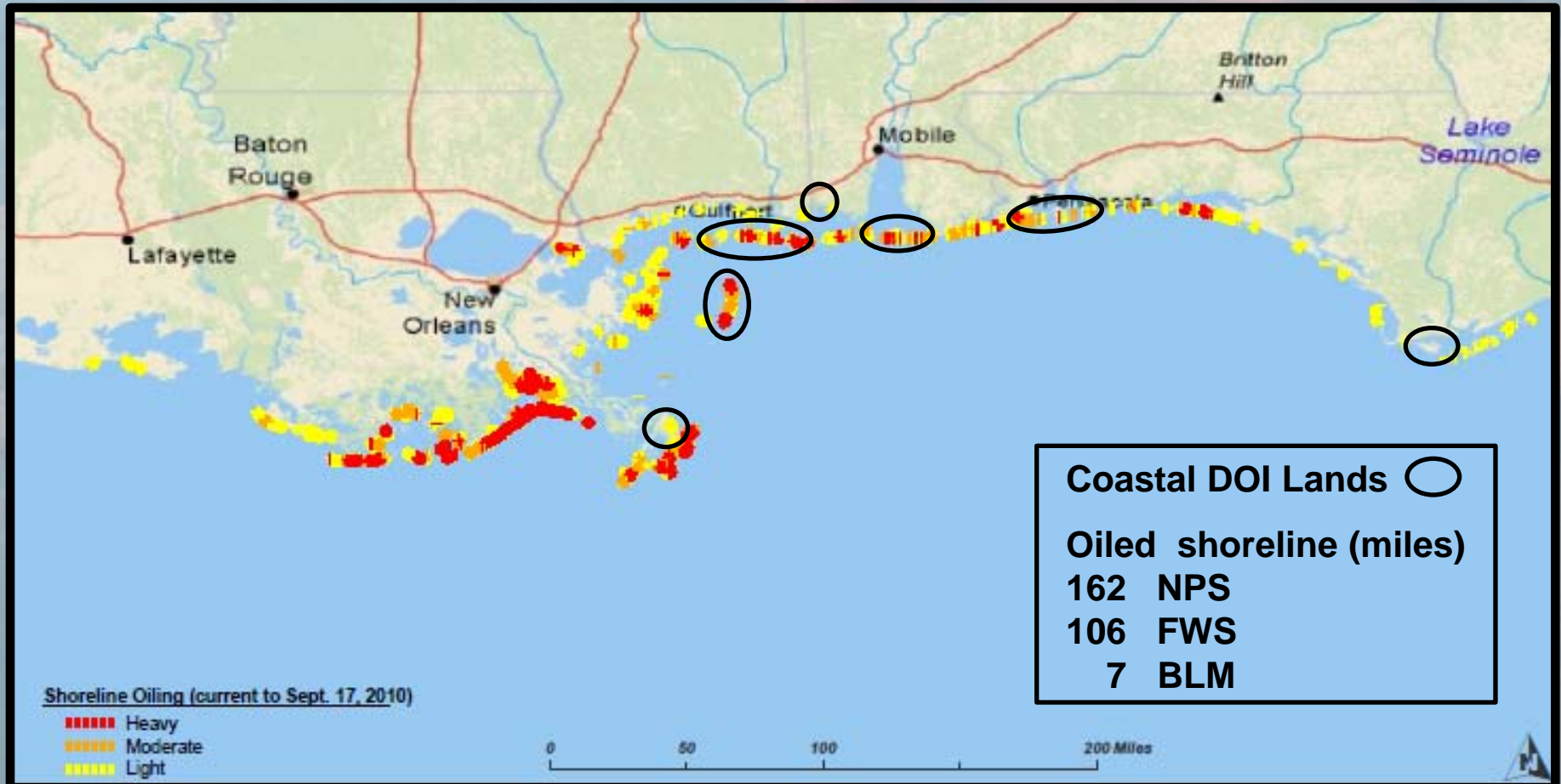
# Event

- 206 million gallons LA light crude
  - released at a depth of 5,000 ft
- ongoing release for 3+ months
- maximum extent of surface oiling ~ 31,000 mi<sup>2</sup>



# Event

- > 1,000 mi. of shoreline affected
  - heavy oiling to tar balls
  - More than 100 trust species



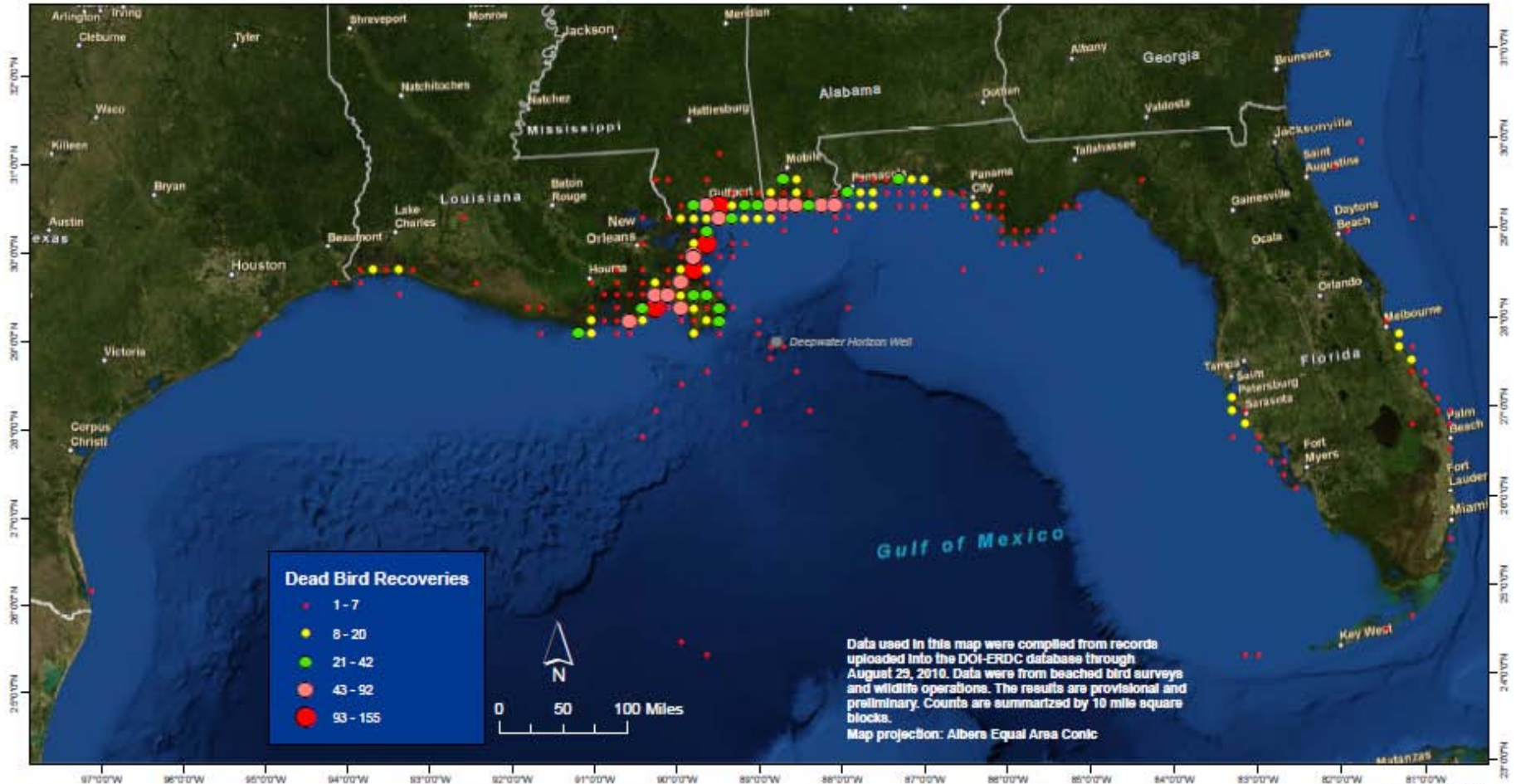
# Event



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

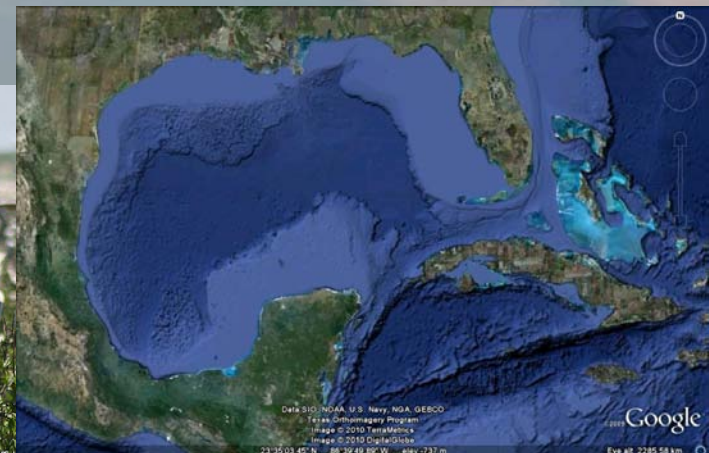
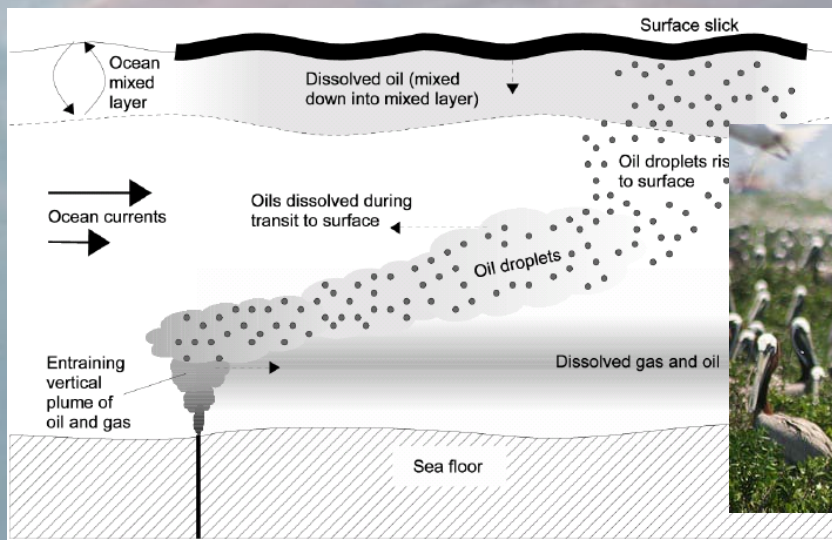
Deepwater Horizon

Dead Bird Recovery Locations - 29 August 2010



# Event - Unique Challenges

- not a typical oil spill – extended release
- large use of dispersants on surface & at depth
- large amounts of submerged oil
- spill in “reproductively active” season
- complex food web in Gulf
- potential for long-term impacts to numerous species
- potential for Gulf-wide ecosystem impacts



# Response Efforts

- State and Federal efforts
- Staffing ICs at NOLA, Houma, and Mobile
- Wildlife Recon and Response
- Rehab Centers
- SCAT
- Resource Advisors
- Safety, air, and boats
- Communication Experts
- NRDAR



# Response Effort

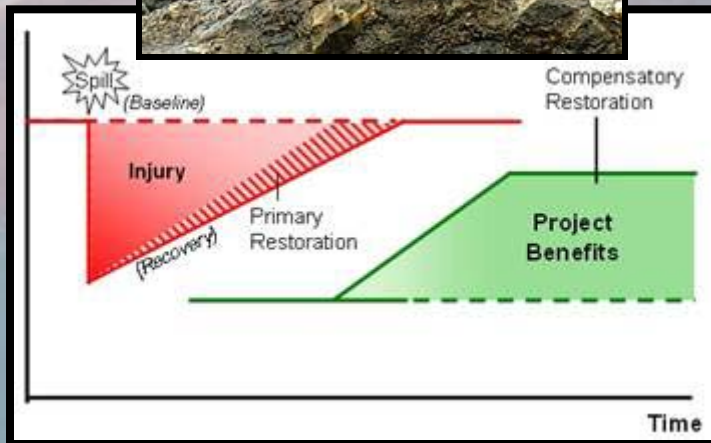
## Wildlife Operations & NRDA

- FWS responds within hours (total ~ 2000 staff )
- Nearly 1,800 Federal and State employees
- Agreements with 9 State F&W Agencies
- 8 Other State agencies
- 10 Federal agencies



# NRDAR

- OPA, CERCLA, CWA
- Legal-scientific process
- Compensate for injuries
- Primary and compensatory restoration
- Partnership
- RPs



# NRDAR

## Major Concepts

- **Restoration is the objective**
- **Not a punitive process**
- **By statute, the public and RP are involved**
- **Requires scientific, legal, and economic support**
- **Trustee led process**
- **Collaboration is key**



# NRDAR



- Document the release
- Identify natural resources potentially affected
- Demonstrate the pathway
- Document exposure
- Quantify the resulting injury
- Identify, appropriately scale, and implement relevant restoration

# **NRDAR Trustee Council**



- **Alabama**
- **Florida**
- **Louisiana**
- **Mississippi**
- **Texas**
- **Others?**
- **NOAA**
- **DOI**
- **DOD**

# NRDAR

## Legal Process



- Oil Spill
- Pre-assessment
- Notice of Intent (NOI)
- Damage assessment & Restoration Plan
- Public scoping
- Public comment
- Final Restoration Plan
- Implement projects

# Technical Work Groups

(September 2010)

- Water Column
- Birds
- Fish
- Terrestrial/Aquatic Life
- Marine Mammals/  
Sea Turtles
- Shoreline
- Submerged Aquatic Veg.
- Corals
- Human Use
- Aerial Imagery
- Data Management/GIS
- Chemistry/Sampling
- Response Injury

## Assessment Studies

- 61 Assessment Plans Completed
- 46 Plans Under Development



# Restoration

- **Emergency Restoration**
    - To prevent or minimize injury
  - **Early Restoration\***
    - Implemented during NRDA
  - **Activities outside NRDA**
    - GOMA, CWPPRA, LA & MS Roadmap, Mabus report and the GCER Task Force
- \* Nexus to injured resources, public participation required, and consistent with long-term restoration.**



# Next Steps

## Response

- Right Sizing
- Contingency Plans
- STRs

## NRDAR

- Trustee MOU
- NOI
- Refine Case with Trustees
- Ecosystem considerations
- Restoration Planning and Implementation
- Partial early settlement



# Questions?



Photo Credit: USEWS / Greg Thompson



Photo Credit: USFWS / Greg Thompson

