

GULF RESTORATION NETWORK

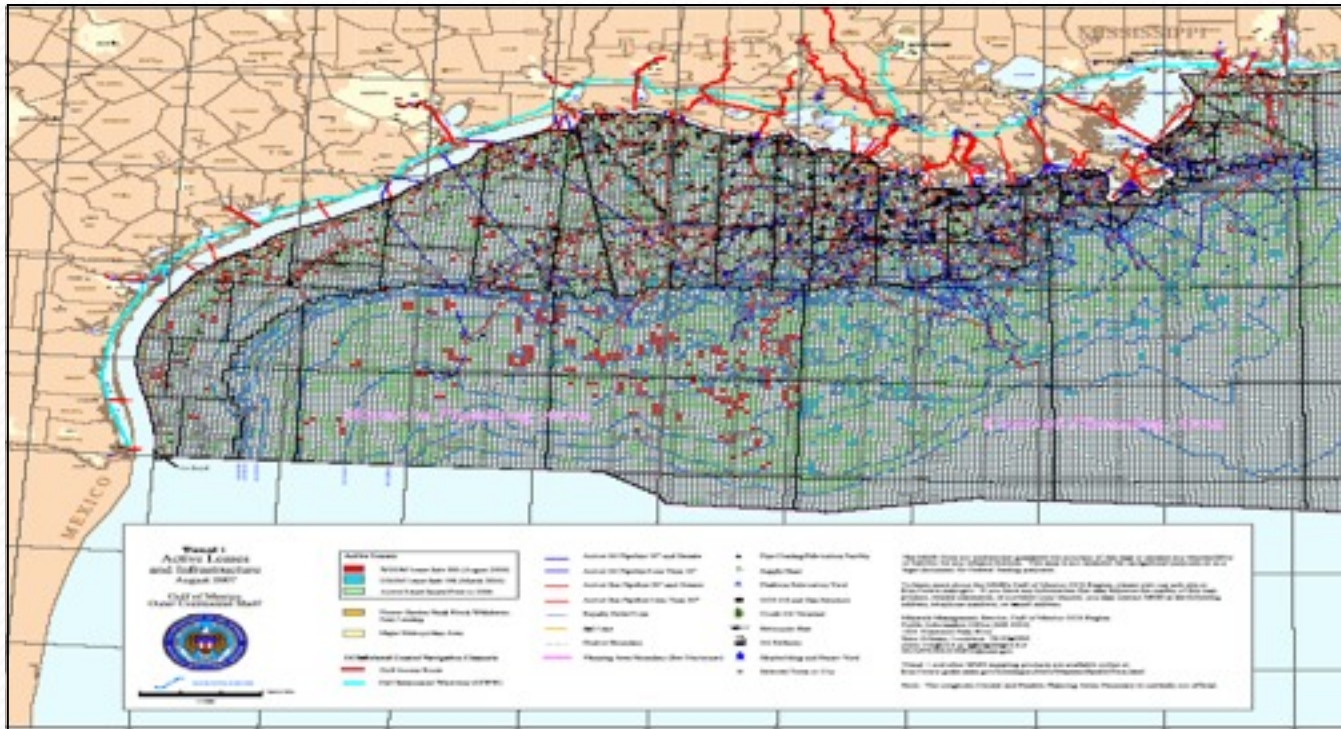
**“United for a Healthy
Gulf”**

Gulf Restoration Network

A satellite image of the Gulf of Mexico coastline, showing the Gulf of Mexico in the center, surrounded by landmasses. The water is a deep blue, and the land is a mix of green and brown. The coastline is irregular, with many bays and peninsulas. The text 'Gulf Restoration Network' is overlaid in the top left corner.

The GRN is a diverse network of individuals and local, regional and national groups committed to uniting and empowering people to protect and restore the resources of the Gulf region for future generations.

Oil & Gas Industry Wetland Impacts



By the 1980s, the petroleum industry and the Corps had dredged more than 20,000 miles of canals and new navigation channels from the coast inland across the wetlands.

Indirect effects



The web of waterways injected saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico into salt-sensitive freshwater wetlands/marshes.

- **Removal of oil beneath the wetlands increases subsidence.**



Cumulative shore impacts of the BP Horizon Disaster



BP Disaster's Adds to the Wetlands Crisis



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Presidential Response to the BP Disaster

- Appointment of the National Oil Spill Commission to determine the causes of the disaster and recommendations for reform
- Tasks Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus with developing a Long Term Recovery Plan after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Plan, issued in September, recommended that:
 - Congress should a percentage of the Clean Water Act (CWA) penalties to fund comprehensive restoration;
 - The President establish ,by Executive Order, an interim Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force headed by the Administrator of EPA
 - Congress should then establish a Gulf Coast Restoration Council to focus on environmental restoration - not dealt with under NRDA

- Insufficient expertise and training within the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement (formerly MMS) needed to enforce regulations effectively, requiring reliance on industry assertions;
- Issuance of a notice to lessees in 2008 waiving of many of the requirements that drilling plans including a blowout scenario and discussion of blowout response capabilities
- BP's Gulf regional oil spill response plan was approved despite the fact that it:
 - Grossly exaggerated BP's response capability, claiming it could contain any possible spill by vacuuming up over 20 million gallons of oil per day.
 - Claimed that within hours personnel, equipment and materials in sufficient quantities and recovery capacity would respond

BP Horizon Disaster A Symptom of Oil Industry Failures

Root Causes:

- lack of peer review of changes in drilling procedure
- Failure to ensure that personnel fully considered the risks created by time- and money-saving decisions
- Failure to acknowledge the inherent risk associated with deep water development
- Reliance on unrealistic spill response plan

One of the Oil Commission Recommendations

Create a Regional Citizens Advisory Committee (RCAC) in the Gulf, like the one created in Alaska, that would

- Be an independent nonprofit groups whose mission it would be to promote environmentally safe operation of the oil and gas industry and help prevent future spills;
 - Although given no more power to comment than the general public, the level of funding allows hiring of technical staff able to hold the industry accountable

NGO Response

Weeks Bay Principles for Gulf Recovery

46 Groups, One Document:

Community, local, regional, national and international environmental, social justice, and fishermen


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Restore the Gulf • Defend our communities • Create a clean future

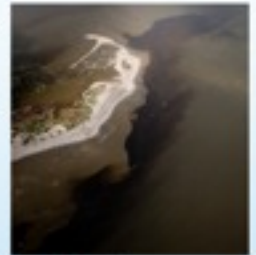
A Unified Action Plan for a Healthy Gulf

One year after it first began, BP's oil drilling disaster is not over. America's Gulf Coast is still suffering, and we need the support of the nation for a full and fair recovery. This is an on-going environmental and humanitarian crisis. BP's crude and toxic dispersants continue to impact the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf Coast, poisoning people, killing wildlife, threatening ecosystems, and putting fishermen and tourism workers out of jobs.

After a full year, Congress and the federal government have yet to adequately act to restore and protect the Gulf, and BP is working to minimize their liability and the perception of the severity of their disaster's impacts.

All along the Gulf Coast, however, communities, citizens, and non-profit organizations are coming together to address the crisis and restore our Gulf. We are a diverse group made up of fishermen, faith leaders, environmentalists, clean-up workers, and residents who live, work, and play on the Gulf Coast. We come from all five Gulf Coast states, and represent culturally and racially diverse communities.

We've all been impacted by the BP oil disaster, and together, we have come up with a way forward. This is the *Gulf Future: A Unified Action Plan for a Healthy Gulf*. Divided into four areas of concern, marine restoration and resiliency, coastal restoration and resiliency, community recovery and resiliency, and public health, this plan represents our immediate goals—including specific demands of Congress, federal agencies, and the Obama administration—for a healthy and whole Gulf Coast. In the coming weeks and months, we will work together to realize these goals.



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Weeks Bay Principles: Collective Goal

Call for the government to:

- Make coastal communities whole again
- Commit to cleaning up and restoring the Gulf
- Hold BP accountable
- Ensure local participation in decision-making (RCAC)
- Conduct short and long-term monitoring; and
- Invest in economic opportunities to support locally-driven, sustainable recovery that restores and enhances America's Gulf coast.

Current Legislative Goals of the Gulf Future Campaign

Working to educate Congress to the need
for legislation to:

- Establish a Regional Citizens
Advisory Council
- Raise the cap on the Oil Spill
Trust Fund
- Set aside 80% of CWA fines

The Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

- November 2010 , the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, called for in Gov. Mabus's Gulf Recovery plan, and started holding meetings throughout the Gulf
- Chaired by EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, the Task Force is a who's-who of federal agency folks, a rep from each state government,
- Task Force Executive Director is John Hankinson, who once served as Regional Administrator for Region 4, headquartered in Atlanta.
- The Task Force is required to produce a comprehensive strategy for Gulf Coast restoration by October 2011 – a tall task.

Task Force Citizens Advisory Committee

- In May 2011, the Task Force announced its intent to form a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) (25 members from 5 states)
- The CAC will provide advice to the Task Force on a broad range of environmental and community restoration issues associated with development and implementation of the Task Force Restoration strategy.
- The EPA is currently accepting nominations for membership

The NGO Response

- A broad coalition of NGOs groups have created a list of interests that we feel must be on the CAC to ensure strong diverse representation of communities and issues.
- Vital interests include: Fishing, Environmental/Conservation, Socially Vulnerable/Affected Communities, Recreational Water Use, Ecotourism Tribal/Indigenous Communities and Scientists
- Nominations close in August
- The NGO community is working together to ensure that the Task Force receives nominations from a diverse and representative group of individuals



<http://bpdrillingdisaster.org>

<http://youtube.com/healthygulfi>

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