



**OCEANA**

Protecting The  
World's Oceans.

[www.oceana.org](http://www.oceana.org)

# Who we are



## Oceana is:

**MARINE-FOCUSED:** Oceana is 100 percent dedicated to restoring and protecting abundant oceans.

**GLOBALY-LOCATED:** Campaign teams are located in North America (Washington, New York, Alaska, California...) Europe (Madrid, Copenhagen, Brussels) ; South America (Chile) and Central America (Belize).

**CAMPAIGN-DRIVEN:** Our resources support a small number of strategically-chosen campaigns that achieve specific policy outcomes and help protect the marine environment.

[Habitats protection – Responsible Fishing – climate and Energy](#)

**SCIENCE-BASED:** Science is essential to identifying problems and finding solutions that matter, which is why Oceana's campaigners work closely with marine biologists and other ocean scientists.

# Oil Spill impacts

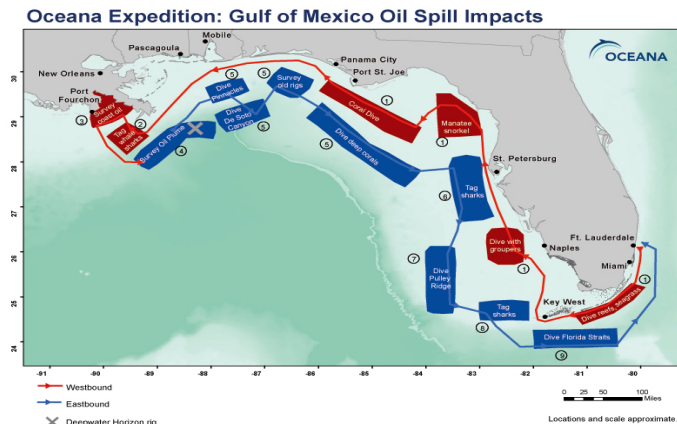


Oceana Gulf of Mexico expedition Aug - Oct 2010

## *Oceana Latitude Expedition*

- **Assess impacts on marine ecosystems**  
seafloor, migratory species, plankton, eggs
- **Detect contamination so far unnoticed**
- **Focus attention on underwater impacts**
- **Document habitats vulnerable to future oil spills**  
coral reefs, wetlands, seamounts, canyons,  
seagrass which provide breeding, feeding and  
spawning grounds for a multitude of species.

*Variety of methodologies and equipments: ROV, CTDs instruments, wildlife tagging, planes.*



# Oil Spill impacts



## *Offshore drilling impacts*

- **Human risks** 11 deaths, thousands of people out of work. It has shut down fisheries, and threatened businesses that depend on tourism in five states. **Health issues** on coastal communities and clean-up workers.
  - **Inadequacy of spill response:** should be devised *a priori*, and not include activities that, in themselves, are harmful to the marine environment (e.g. chemical dispersants)
  - **Food chain disturbances**, impacts on complex marine ecosystem as a whole may not be known for decades (timing of the spill, effects of dispersants)
- **Oceana findings showed that these impacts could have been much more dramatic if climatic conditions had been different (currents, wind).**

**A similar disaster would be catastrophic on EU closed seas such as the Mediterranean or the Black Sea, which are highly populated and host a rich biodiversity. We need to adapt the current legislation and include lessons from the Gulf of Mexico.**

# Offshore drilling in Europe



## Myths of offshore drilling

### *Offshore drilling is safe*

- **Deepwater Horizon disaster is not an isolated incident. Offshore drilling is extremely dangerous**
- **Response Capability is very poor (e.g extreme conditions)**

### *Offshore drilling will make the EU energy independent*

- **The EU does not have enough domestic oil to reduce its dependence on imports**
- **The only way to become truly energy independent is to end our addiction to oil**
- **Need to move to a clean energy economy and materialize political commitments with coherent measures: EU 20-20-20 strategy, UNFCCC, MSFD GES objectives, etc.**

## Oceana recommends to:

- Stop Offshore Drilling
- Stimulate clean energy solutions
  - Pursue stricter legislation on safety standards, liability, accident prevention and response for existing activities.

## Identified gaps on existing regulation

*Regulation of offshore installations is seriously lacking at EU levels. Review should include the followings:*

- **Precautionary principle and extension – EIA/SEA Directive**
- **Independent supervision with coherent regulatory approach**
- **Contingency plans and emergency response**
- **Reduce level of current emissions from rigs – IPPC Directive / MSFD**
- **Liability and compensation rules – ELD directive**

**EU safety offshore regulations should integrate stronger environmental elements into its scope of action. Liability and transparency for such risky operations must also be reinforced, all the more because of the existence of trade-off between profit and risks/environmental costs.**

# The way forward



## What needs to be done

*In light of the recent Gulf oil spill, the EU has an opportunity to take clear actions to achieve a **clean energy economy** that will allow us to finally break our fossil fuel addiction, stimulate our economy and show leadership in energy technology. By doing so, we can stop placing the profit interests of the oil industry above those of the fishing industry, the tourism industry, human health and marine ecosystems.*

*In the meantime elements of the current legislation of offshore activities need to be urgently reinforced, particularly to insure **environmental concerns** are integrated and strengthened and that the **EU plays a key role** in monitoring and regulating offshore activities across its waters.*

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**Thank you**

