
News from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

---

*The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) formed the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) in 1999 as the focal point for NOAA's coastal ocean science efforts. We provide coastal managers with the scientific information necessary to decide how best to protect environmental resources and public health, preserve valued habitats, and improve the way communities interact with coastal ecosystems.*

---

**NCCOS Scientists Publish Flow Rates for 14-year-long Oil Spill in Gulf of Mexico (VIDEO)**

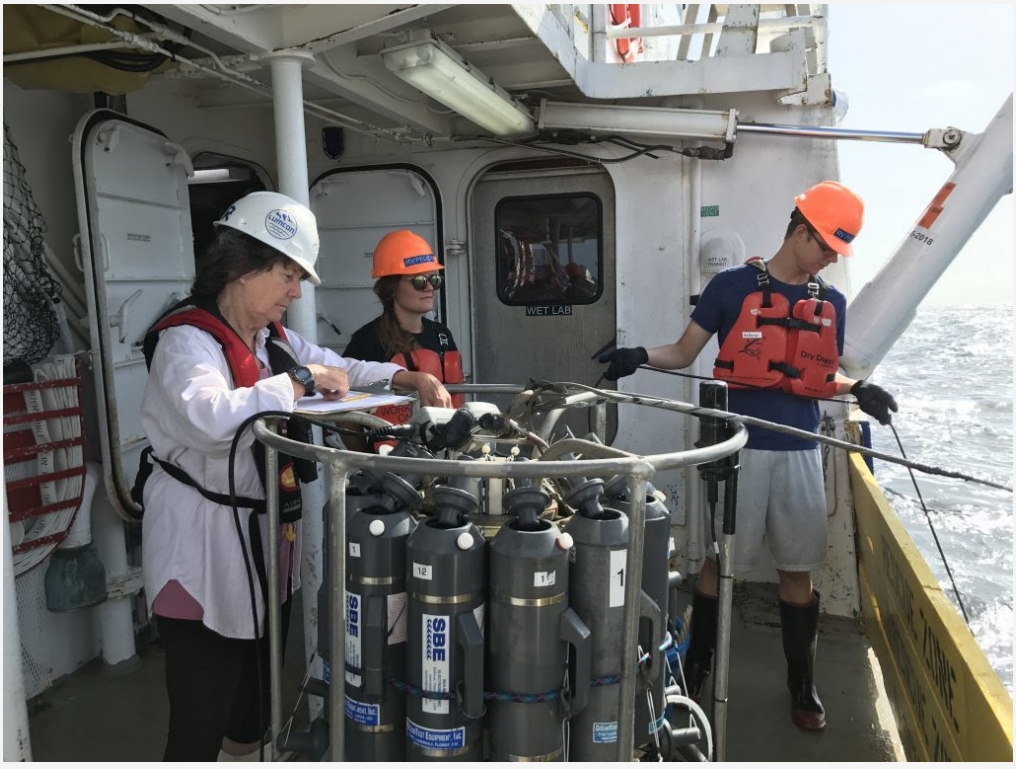
Scientists from NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) have calculated a new estimate of flow rates of oil leaking at the site of the former Taylor Energy Mississippi Canyon 20 (MC20) drilling platform at between nine and 108 barrels (378 to 4,536 gallons) a day. This new estimate exceeds the previous estimate made by Taylor Energy Company of three to five gallons per day. Oil has been leaking from the site's wells since the platform was toppled during Hurricane Ivan in 2004, over 14 years ago.
Continue reading

**Large Harmful Algal Bloom Predicted for Lake Erie this Summer**

NOAA and its research partners are forecasting that western Lake Erie will experience a significant harmful algal bloom this summer. These blooms of cyanobacteria can pose a risk to human and wildlife health, resulting in higher costs for cities and local governments that need to treat drinking water; preventing people from enjoying fishing, swimming, boating, and visiting the shoreline; and harming the region's vital summer tourism economy. Continue reading

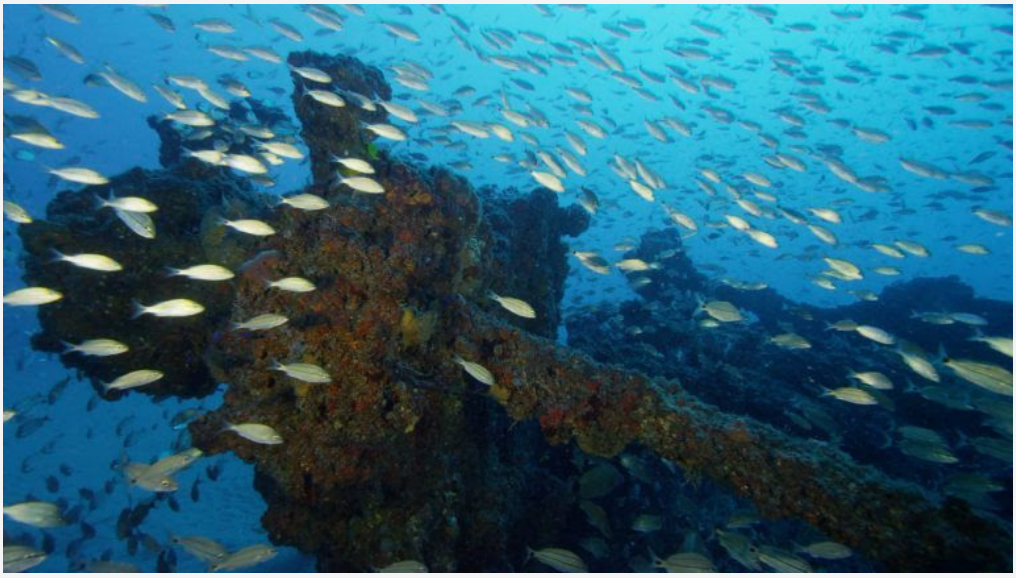
**Large 'Dead Zone' Measured in Gulf of Mexico**

NCCOS-suppported scientists have determined that this year's Gulf of Mexico "dead zone"—an area of low oxygen that can kill fish and marine life—is approximately 6,952 square miles. The measured size of the dead zone, also called the hypoxic zone, is the eighth largest in the 33-year record and exceeds the 5,770-square-mile average from the past five years. Continue reading




**Artificial Reefs May Help Tropical Fish Expand Geographic Range (VIDEO)**

Globally, there is evidence that many tropical fish species are shifting their geographic ranges poleward and to deeper waters in response to changing ocean conditions. Off North Carolina, researchers have found that shipwrecks and other artificial reefs may act as stepping stones for tropical fish that are going beyond their normal range in search of favorable habitats. The team is still trying to understand why the fish prefer the artificial structures to natural, rocky reefs nearby. Continue reading



**NCCOS, Partners Publish Ecological Assessment of Wisconsin – Lake Michigan**

NCCOS and its partners completed a comprehensive ecological assessment of Wisconsin – Lake Michigan and the findings are published in a new NCCOS technical report. The assessment characterizes key physical, chemical, and biological attributes that influence the natural and cultural resources offshore of Wisconsin in western Lake Michigan. Continue reading

## Report Describes Socioeconomics of Human Communities Adjacent to CNMI's Coral Reefs

A new publication describes human dimension information related to coral reef resources in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The National Coral Reef Monitoring Program (NCRMP) findings come from a combination of data gathered through household surveys and additional secondary sources of socioeconomic information for the region. Continue reading


## Researchers Project Fate of Scallop Fishery Under Future Climate Scenarios

NCCOS-funded researchers have published a paper that describes possible futures of the New England scallop fishery under a suite of climate, economic, biological, and management scenarios. The study highlights the potential impacts of carbon dioxide–driven ocean acidification, and management for a subset of future climate scenarios, including: potential ocean acidification impacts, future climate scenarios that incorporate economic development, fishery management scenarios, and future fuel costs to the fishing industry. Continue reading

**The Secret Life of Deepwater Corals in the Gulf of Mexico**
Researchers, through a project funded by the NOAA Restore Science Program, are exploring the connections between different coral communities that live in deepwater and low light (mesophotic) habitats in the Gulf of Mexico. These researchers are looking at the genes in four coral species to find out the family relationship between corals of the same species from different parts of the Gulf of Mexico. This information is then fed into computer models to estimate how far coral larvae are able to disperse. Knowing where the coral larvae that are sustaining a coral community are coming from informs the conservation of the communities and the other organisms that live in these habitats.
Continue reading

To subscribe, click subscribe button in footer on
NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science website