Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
April 20 – July 15, 2010

4.9 million barrels of oil spilled

8 National Parks & 400 marine species threatened

“Worst environmental disaster the U.S. has faced” - Carol Browner, White House Energy Advisor

Largest accidental oil spill in history
BENEATH THE OIL SLICK

Development Driller III: Reached the leak site Tuesday and is preparing to drill a relief well to stop the oil flow, a process that could take 2-3 months.

Gulf Surface

5,000 feet

Deepwater Horizon oil rig wreckage

Approximately 210,000 gallons of oil leaking per day

Note: Diagram not to scale

Gulf Floor

18,000 feet

Drilling riser: Leaking pipeline that connected the oil well to the rig.

Oil reservoir

Failed blowout preventer: ROVs have unsuccessfully tried to close the valve to stop oil flow.

Source: U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA, BP, Transocean

DAN SWENSON / THE TIMES-PICAYUNE
So what?
Just Keep Swimming…
Through the Oil
Cute, but not efficient!
Boom
Made Out of Hair!
Dispersant
The Dead Zone
What is a Dead Zone?

Excess nutrient runoff → Algae growth near surface → Dead algae sinks to bottom

Marine life dies or moves on → Low oxygen → Oxygen consumed by dead algae

Dead Zone

Earth Gauge
Hypoxia
Can YOU clean up an oil spill?