

## Beach Briefs - August 27, 2010

# Where's the Oil?



## Government and Scientists Disagree!

Experts assembled by the National Incident Command estimate that 4.9 million barrels of oil escaped from the Deepwater Horizon well. Using this figure, another interagency team calculated that 26% of the oil spill remains and is being degraded naturally. But independent scientists disagree, claiming that nearly 79% of the oil remains in the Gulf; others say dispersants pushed the oil to the bottom of the Gulf. Still other researchers report a massive underwater plume of oil described as extending 21 miles from the leak site, 650 feet thick, and 1.2 miles wide.

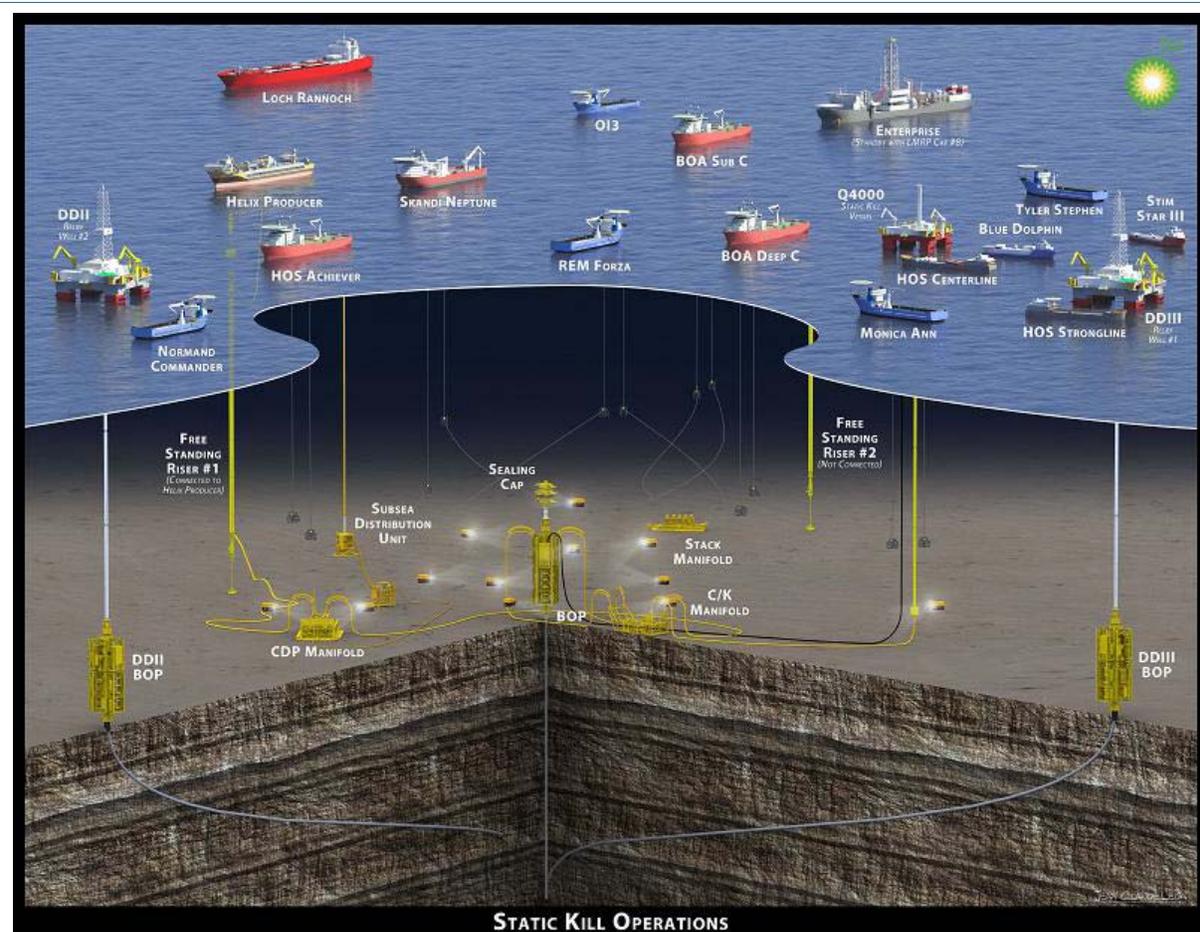
Regardless, little oil is now washing up on the beaches of the Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida panhandle. Booms have been removed,

skimmers are back in port, and local response districts have been downsized. The Coast Guard patrols looking for oil. The job is not done and all agencies will need to be on the alert. Moreover, the well itself has not been "killed." (See the illustration below.)

## Captiva's Beach is Untouched

As beautiful as ever, Captiva's beach remains untouched by the disaster. To keep it that way, CEPD is prepared, vigilant, engaged, and proactive. The experts **DO** agree on one thing: all bets are off if a hurricane hits! CEPD is not relaxing during hurricane season. Other agencies appear to be winding down, but not CEPD. The District:

- Completed its sponsorship of beach clean-up volunteers and has developed a resource database in case a call goes out from local authorities for trained personnel to remove tar balls from the beach.
- Continues to monitor the situation through the Florida Emergency Operations Center and the Florida DEP Deepwater Horizon Response Update.
- Developed and filed with the Lee County Emergency Operations Center an emergency plan for Captiva if an oil spill incident does occur. The CEPD continues to update this plan to ensure that Captiva's environmentally sensitive areas are not overlooked.
- Maintains regular communications with Lee County agencies.
- With the assistance of volunteers from the SCCF turtle research program, inspects Captiva's beach for signs of oil.
- Monitors beach erosion.



The well that the Deepwater Horizon was drilling is still not "killed." Coast Guard officials have said that it will be early September before the wellhead is completely closed. The picture above depicts the final effort to permanently plug the well, the "Static Kill." It shows operations and the large number of both surface and submersible vehicles involved.

- [List of Florida Legislators](#)
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- [Meet your CEPD Commissioners](#)
- [CEPD Summer 2010 Newsletter](#)

## Important Dates

Tentative Budget Hearing	9/7	5:01 p.m.	'Tween Waters Inn	Wakefield Room
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Regular Board Meeting	9/8	12:00 p.m.	'Tween Waters Inn	Wakefield Room
Final Budget Hearing	9/21	5:01 p.m.	'Tween Waters Inc	Wakefield Room
Last Day to Register to Vote	10/2			
Regular Board Meeting	10/19	12:00 p.m.	'Tween Waters Inn	Wakefield Room
Town Hall Meeting	10/20	1:00 p.m.	'Tween Waters Inn	Wakefield Room
Apportionment Hearing	10/20	5:01 p.m.	South Seas Resort	Auger Room
Last Day to Request a Ballot by Mail	10/27			
Referendum Vote	11/2	All day	Captiva Community Ctr.	
Regular Board Meeting	11/19	12:00 p.m.	'Tween Waters Inn	Wakefield Room

**Have You Registered to Vote?**

CEPD's mission is to preserve beach and shoreline, but **YOU** play a role in keeping Captiva's beach as one of the top 10 beaches in Florida ([www.lovetoknow.com](http://www.lovetoknow.com)). With another nourishment project in the offing, a referendum to approve this project is on the November 2 ballot (see "Important Dates" above). Future *Beach Briefs* will be devoted to keeping you informed about issues relating to the referendum.

Call Lee County Supervisor of Elections, (239) 533-8683 for more information; or register online at: [www.leeelections.com/voterreg.htm](http://www.leeelections.com/voterreg.htm)

To request a ballot by mail, call (239) 533-6919.

**Commissioners**

Chair:	Michael Mullins	Secretary	Henry A. Kaiser
Vice Chair:	Doris Holzheimer	Treasurer	Dave Jensen
	Rene Miville		

**Senior Administrative Consultant**

Kathy Rooker

The Captiva Erosion Prevention District is comprised of 5 elected, unpaid Commissioners dedicated to preserving and maintaining Captiva's beaches and shorelines. For more information on CEPD, visit [our website](http://our website) at [mycepd.com](http://mycepd.com) or join our email list at: [mycepd@gmail.com](mailto:mycepd@gmail.com)

(239) 472-2472.

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