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WaterMan Blog Below The Surface Of The BP Oil Mess

Below The Surface Of The BP Oil Mess

Sep 02 | 22:38 Maryruth Belsey Priebe

Last Updated on Wed, 03 Nov 2010 21:23



With the explosion on yet another oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico ... Its time to see the full impact of the recent and still ongoing BP oil spill mess.

In a fantastic attempt to demonstration how the Gulf oil spill is impacting the marine environment *below* the surface, the **Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)** has put together this **interactive Disaster in the Gulf image**. By hovering over the various

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bubbles, you'll soon see for yourself what we've all feared - that the BP oil spill is having profound and devastating impacts on the natural world far below the surface of the sea

...

What's hiding beneath the surface slick are problems that will likely take weeks and months to manifest, and whose effects will be felt for decades to come, if the Exxon Valdez oil spill is any indication. The dissolved and dispersed oil suspended beneath where cameras can see are creating problems such as these:

- Those small creatures that aren't killed immediately as a result of contact with the chemicals and oil will become contaminated with hydrocarbons and then in turn pass those toxins up the food chain in higher and higher concentrations, causing untold health challenges for many generations of marine creatures.
- As underwater plumes of oil contaminate larger areas, it will be impossible for fish and mammals (like dolphins and whales) to swim through the area without becoming coated in the stuff. This could kill dolphins born in the area and significantly decrease their population size.
- Turtles - all species in the area are endangered - may be too ill because of exposure to the oil to mate and lay eggs, having a major negative impact on their numbers.
- Deep sea corals which are the nurseries of many other fish will be smothered by oil, making it difficult for fish populations to feed, breed, and so on.

We won't spoil all of the secrets of the illustration. If you're concerned about the full impact of the BP oil disaster, go and **discover it for yourself**, virtually of course.

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