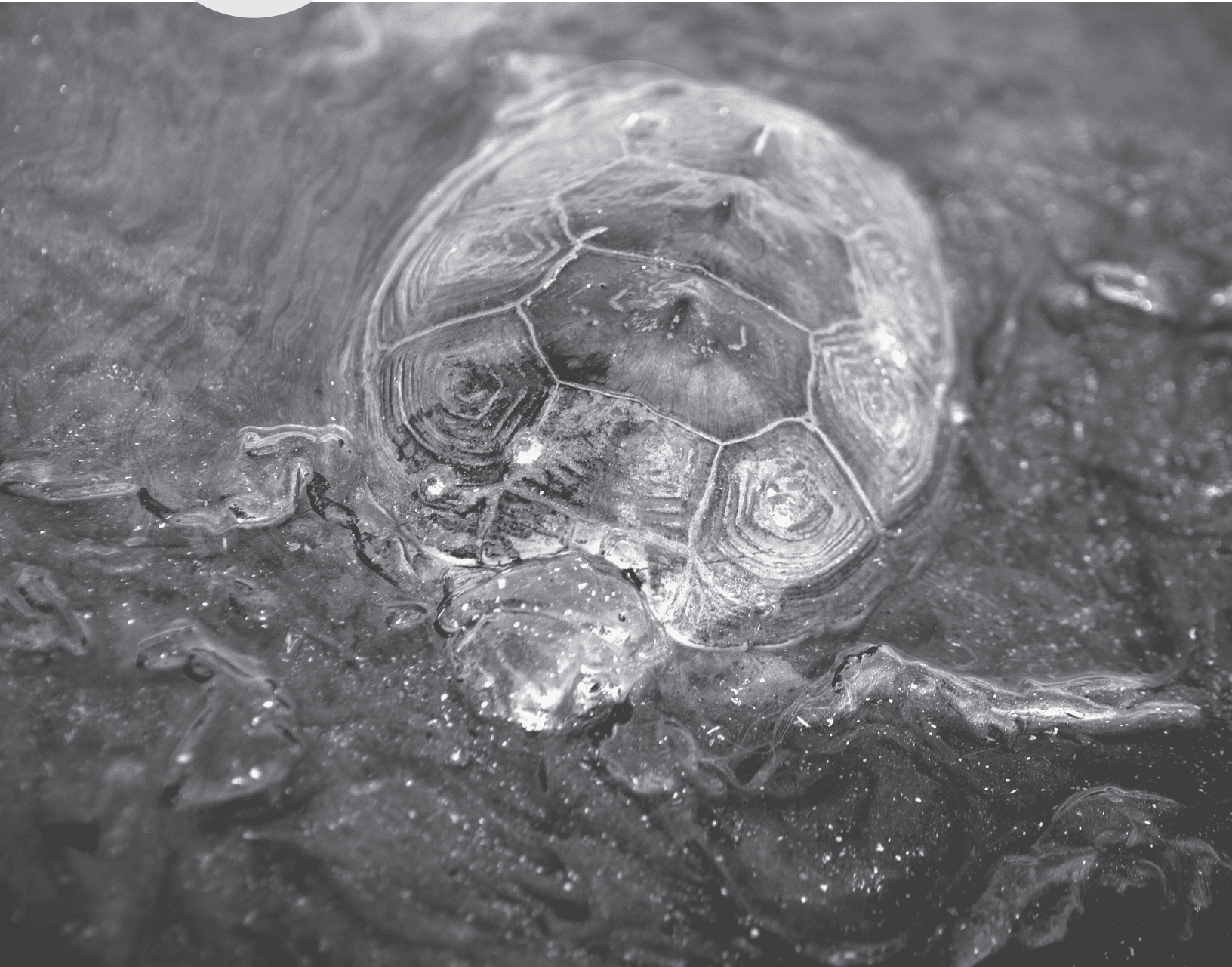


Endangered earth

SUMMER 2010



ENGULFED OIL SPILL ISSUE

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C E N T E R *f o r* B I O L O G I C A L D I V E R S I T Y

A Powerful Voice in a National Crisis

With walls of smoke and a flood of oil and dispersants muddying waters in the Gulf, our team worked overtime to investigate the anatomy of a disaster that was waiting to happen, expose the real story behind the spill and take action to keep it from happening again.

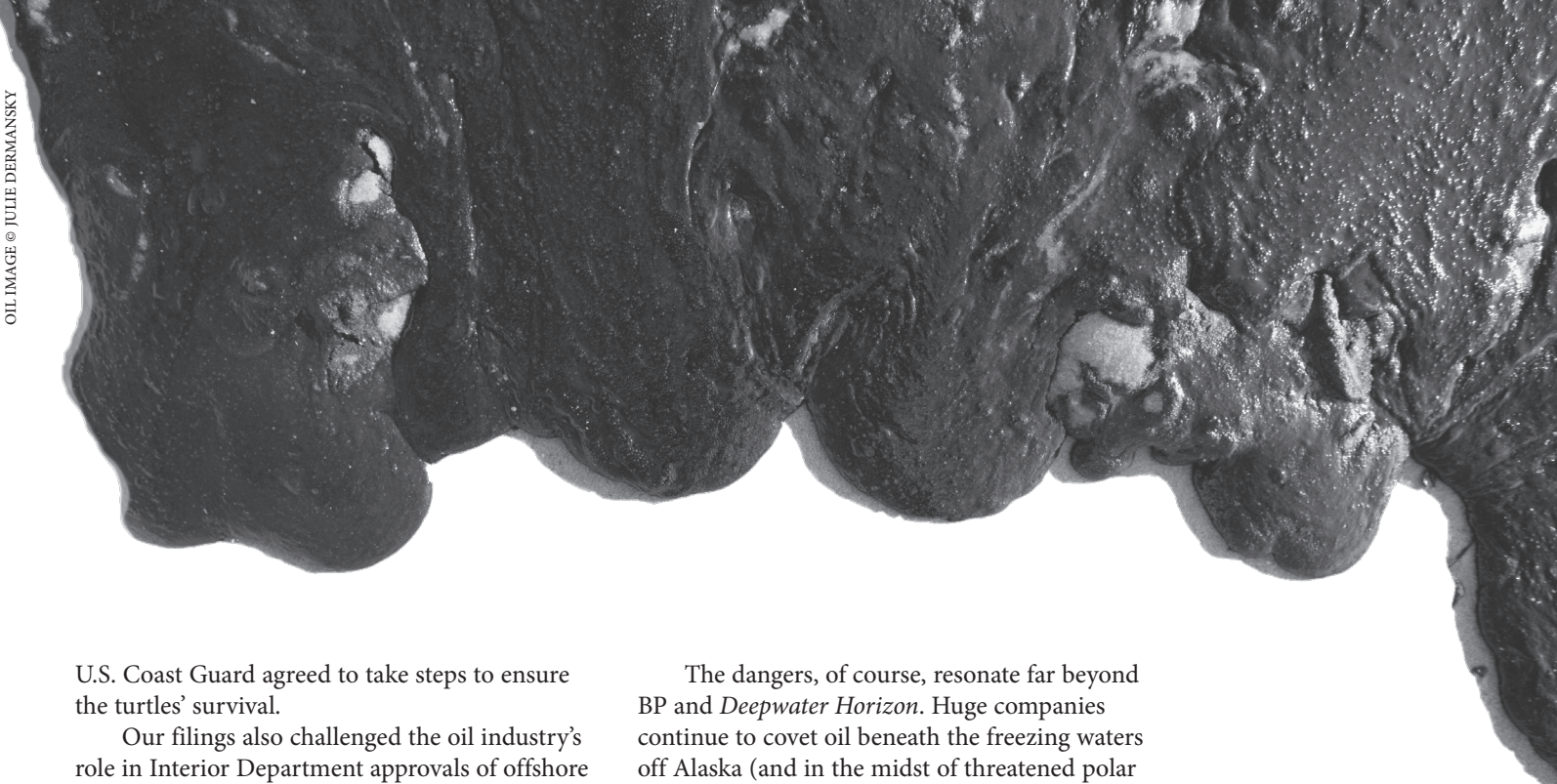
One of the first jobs was figuring out how the Deepwater Horizon project went so wrong, so fast. But then the Center uncovered — and broke to the media — the story behind the government’s scandalous approval of hundreds of drilling plans, including BP’s Deepwater plan, without even basic environmental review.

On April 20, we were supposed to be gearing up for the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Instead, the nightmarish explosion of the *Deepwater Horizon* drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico launched the worst environmental disaster in U.S. history. It also kicked off an unprecedented effort by the Center — full of all-night sessions digging through government documents, countless media interviews and a string of powerful legal filings — to hold BP and the Obama administration accountable and to ensure a similar disaster doesn’t happen again. It would have been easier to stand aside and join millions around the world watching in horror as this catastrophe unfolded. But, as you’ve no doubt learned, the easy way rarely suits us. One of the first jobs was figuring out how this project went so wrong, so fast. We spent days working around the clock, combing through thousands of pages of government documents. Finally we found out that *Deepwater Horizon* was one of many projects approved by the now-infamous Minerals Management Service without even basic environmental review. In fact, the

one-page document used to approve the complex and risky plan was the same used to approve trivial actions like building a new outhouse. We pushed hard to break the story about the origins of the *Deepwater* fiasco. Our efforts shifted the national discussion toward what led to the spill and heaped on the pressure to fix the fundamental flaws at the Marine Management Service. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has since changed the agency’s name and brought in a new director — but much more still needs to be done.

We followed our research by launching a string of strategically targeted lawsuits and legal petitions. The most ambitious was a citizen suit under the Clean Water Act — the biggest of its kind — to make BP pay about \$19 billion in penalties to the U.S. Treasury for spewing millions of gallons of oil and other pollutants into the Gulf. That case could take years to go through the system. Other legal efforts met with quick success, including an emergency filing to stop sea turtles from being burned alive as part of the cleanup’s “controlled burns.” Two days later, BP and the

OIL IMAGE © JULIE DERMANSKY



U.S. Coast Guard agreed to take steps to ensure the turtles’ survival. Our filings also challenged the oil industry’s role in Interior Department approvals of offshore drilling, sought to stop 49 Gulf projects wrongly exempted from environmental review, and urged the Environmental Protection Agency to analyze the effects on wildlife of the toxic chemical dispersants BP has employed to break up the oil. We also filed a scientific petition to protect Atlantic bluefin tuna under the Endangered Species Act and sought additional measures to safeguard wildlife in the Gulf.

The Center’s national profile has risen dramatically since the crisis began. We’ve become the go-to organization for accurate, incisive and unflinchingly honest commentary on the spill. Over the last several months, Center staff have been featured as Gulf experts on PBS, ABC, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, Al Jazeera and similar platforms across the country and internationally, via the BBC. We’ve also been central to prominent coverage of the spill and its repercussions in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and other key news outlets.

The dangers, of course, resonate far beyond BP and *Deepwater Horizon*. Huge companies continue to covet oil beneath the freezing waters off Alaska (and in the midst of threatened polar bear habitat) and we’ve been doggedly trying to keep them at bay. We helped expose BP’s massive *Liberty* project — a farcical attempt to get around an offshore moratorium by building an artificial island for a drilling platform — and have appealed the EPA’s approval of a Shell Oil pollution permit in Alaska. We also continue to press for a halt to offshore Arctic drilling, which met with some success when President Obama agreed to implement a six-month moratorium in the region.

No doubt there will be more long days and late nights here at the Center as we continue to work in the Gulf, Alaska and everywhere in between. Here’s hoping the 41st anniversary of Earth Day next April is a brighter one. •

Kieran Suckling is the Center’s executive director. He has been interviewed on PBS NewsHour and Countdown with Keith Olbermann, among many other shows, as one of the prominent voices in discussions about the Gulf disaster and its aftermath.

The Center’s work in the wake of the Gulf disaster shifted the national discussion to address the root causes of the spill and expose fundamental flaws at the Minerals Management Service.

TIMELINE UNPRECEDENTED RESPONSE TO AN UNPRECEDENTED DISASTER



May 1	May 4	May 5	May 7	May 18
With scope of April 20 Gulf disaster expanding, Center calls on Obama administration to issue moratorium on new offshore oil leasing, exploration and development on all coasts, beginning with Alaska.	Center and other conservation groups appeal an Environmental Protection Agency decision to issue Clean Air Act permits to Shell Oil for its plan to drill exploratory wells off Alaska.	Center announces plans to sue Interior Secretary Salazar for failure to assess impacts on endangered species of a possible large oil spill from proposed offshore oil drilling in polar bear habitat off Alaska.	Center researchers expose Minerals Management Service’s approval of 27 new offshore drilling projects after disastrous April 20 <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> explosion.	Center sues Interior Secretary Salazar over his continued approval of offshore drilling plans in Gulf of Mexico without environmental review.

U.S. COAST GUARD

As toxic brew takes toll on Gulf ecosystem, Center moves swiftly to save species harmed

The Gulf of Mexico and its sensitive coastal habitats are home to more than 15,000 species. About 25 percent of the nation's wetlands lie in the Mississippi River Delta, and one of the world's most important bird migration corridors, the Mississippi Flyway, brings approximately 1 billion birds of more than 300 species through the region each year. Roughly 40 federally threatened and endangered species live in or migrate through the region, including five species of endangered sea turtles, four of which nest on beaches along the coast.

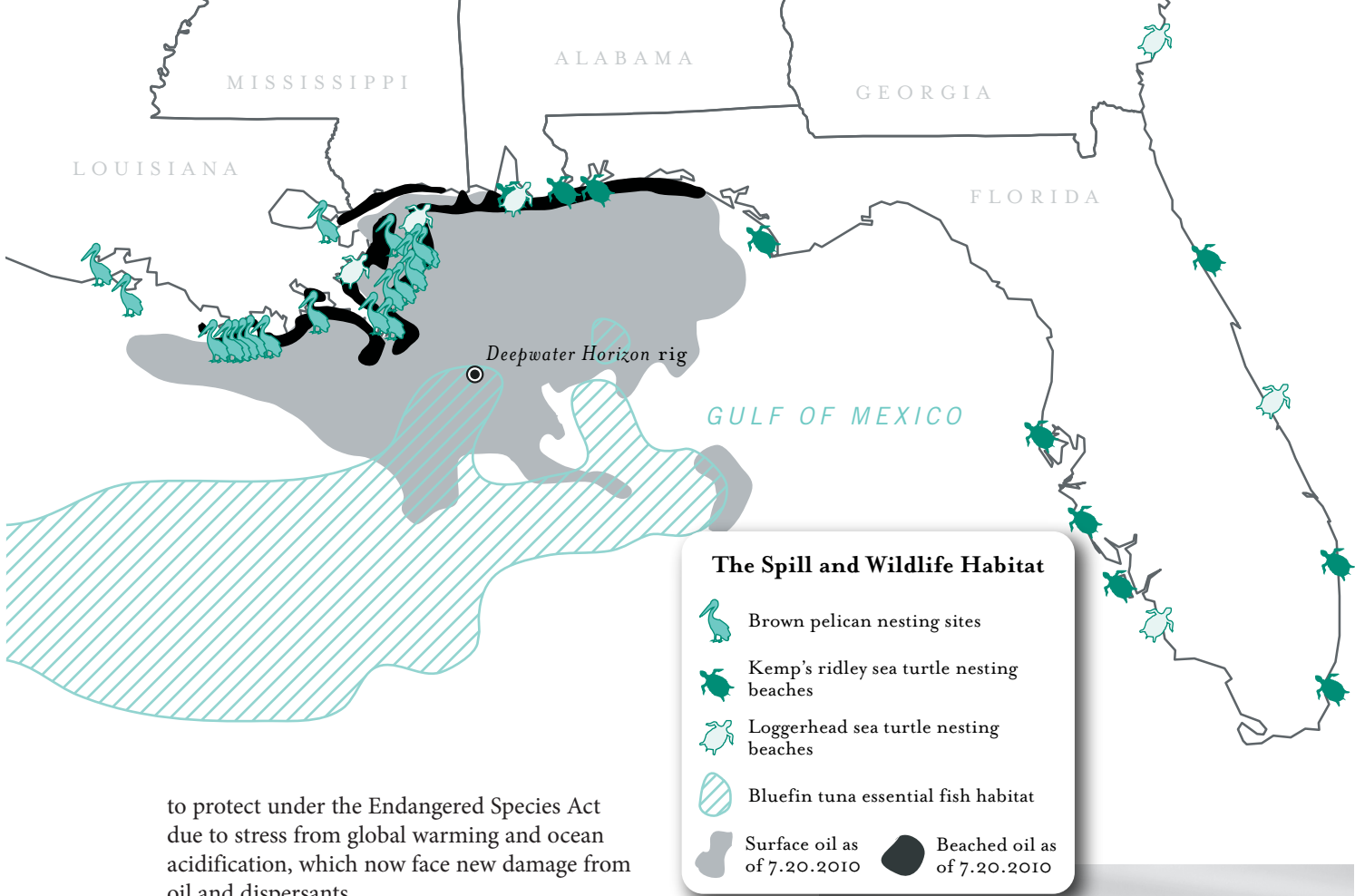
The *Deepwater Horizon* disaster exacted a heavy toll on this diverse but fragile ecosystem, as vast quantities of oil permeated the ocean's depths or washed ashore, coating beaches and wetlands. By early August, more than 3,900 birds had been found dead, with another 1,800 oiled birds sent to rehabilitation centers with a slim chance of survival. Most of those were brown pelicans, a bird recently deemed sufficiently recovered to remove from the endangered

species list, but now made newly vulnerable. The death toll for sea turtles had surpassed 500, many of those the critically endangered Kemp's ridley. Harm from the oil itself was frightfully exacerbated by measures BP took in response to the spill, including its "controlled burns" of oil slicks that trapped sea turtles and burned them alive. Meanwhile, millions of gallons of chemical "dispersants" that BP has poured into the Gulf have merely made the spill's effects less visible on the surface, pushing oil underwater where marine life must swim through the toxic brew.

The Center quickly stepped in on behalf of Gulf wildlife, launching legal action challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's approval of the dispersants used by BP without analyzing their effects on endangered species. A Center emergency filing to stop BP from burning sea turtles alive also met with success, when two days later the corporation and the Coast Guard agreed to take new measures to rescue turtles before setting fire to slicks.

We're looking out for wildlife, not yet protected as threatened or endangered, that may be pushed to the brink by the *Deepwater* disaster. Atlantic bluefin tuna, for example, have suffered severe losses due to overfishing; now, millions of gallons of oil and dispersants gushing into the tuna's spawning habitat in the Gulf threaten to devastate the western Atlantic population. In May, the Center petitioned to protect the Atlantic bluefin tuna under the Endangered Species Act.

We'll seek additional protections, as necessary, for other species for whom impacts of the oil spill are compounding already grave threats — for instance, eight corals of the Gulf that we petitioned last year



to protect under the Endangered Species Act due to stress from global warming and ocean acidification, which now face new damage from oil and dispersants.

We also petitioned, on the eve of the re-opening of shrimp season in the Gulf in July, to keep the region's fishery closed until the federal government can ensure protection of sea turtles, which are frequently caught and suffocated in shrimp nets.

And we'll continue to pursue stronger Endangered Species Act protections for northwest Atlantic loggerhead sea turtles, which the Center and allies have long sought to have uplisted from "threatened" to "endangered." With the spill's harm to loggerheads and their nesting beaches in the Gulf, those increased protections are more urgently needed than ever. •

Shaye Wolf is a staff biologist in the Center's San Francisco office, where she works to protect ocean animals and other species threatened by climate change.



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The spill's contamination of their Gulf of Mexico spawning habitat has put already overfished Atlantic bluefin tuna at even greater risk.

May 24

With spill poised to devastate spawning habitat, Center files scientific petition to protect imperiled North Atlantic bluefin tuna under Endangered Species Act.

May 27

Center sues Interior Secretary Salazar and Minerals Management Service to stop 49 Gulf drilling projects previously exempted from environmental review. And in response to administration's six-month moratorium on offshore Arctic drilling, we call out true need to revoke flawed or illegally issued leases and permanently protect Arctic.

June 2

We notify Environmental Protection Agency of plans to sue over use of toxic dispersants without ensuring chemicals won't harm endangered species or their habitats.

June 15

Center files legal petition urging White House and secretary of interior to rescind policy that allowed BP's *Deepwater Horizon* drilling plan — along with hundreds of other projects — to escape environmental review.

Flurry of legal work launched to protect wildlife, hold BP and government accountable

With oil gushing uncontrolled from the Gulf of Mexico’s seafloor — and the government dragging its feet on civil or criminal charges — the Center’s legal team stepped in to hold the companies accountable.

On June 18, we sued BP and Transocean in what’s believed to be the largest citizen action ever taken under the Clean Water Act. The lawsuit targets the companies for spewing millions of gallons of oil and other toxic pollutants into the Gulf. If the spill is deemed the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct, BP’s liability could be around \$19 billion.

The suit also seeks to force BP to finally disclose the identities and amounts of toxic pollutants — likely benzene, arsenic and other nasty materials — that were mixed with the oil.

The case is just one in a series of rapidly developed legal efforts launched by the Center in the days and weeks after the spill.

Among them are initiatives to reform the government’s oversight of offshore drilling. The Gulf of Mexico is an incredibly productive and diverse ecosystem with several endangered whales and sea turtles, as well as a vast array of fish, marine mammals and seabirds. Unfortunately, it’s also an industrial frontier with nearly 4,000 oil platforms and a vast network of pipelines, rigs and service vessels.

The problem is, we found Big Oil has operated there for years with scant environmental oversight. The Center promptly challenged the policy that allowed *Deepwater Horizon* to move ahead without a full environmental review, and we’ve also challenged 49 other drilling operations that were rubber-stamped in the same way. And to investigate the extent to which the oil industry itself may have been involved in government decisions green-lighting offshore drilling, we sued Interior Secretary Ken Salazar for failing to turn over requested documentation of his interactions with industry lobbyists since becoming secretary.

We also went after the Environmental Protection Agency over the use of chemical dispersants. The agency authorized use of the dispersants before finding out whether they’d cause serious problems for the Gulf’s fish and wildlife, as well as hundreds of response workers.

The Center also seeks to address other problems associated with offshore drilling, especially those that threaten rare species and marine mammals.

Since Obama took office, three lease sales, more than 100 seismic surveys and more than 300 drilling operations have been approved without permits required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the

Endangered Species Act. To ensure an end to this blatant disregard for our wildlife laws, the Center also took legal action against the Department of the Interior for flouting the law when approving offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico, and for ignoring risks to the Gulf’s endangered whales and sea turtles from a large oil spill resulting from drilling.

Somewhere among this flurry of legal activity we also managed to intervene in a case to uphold a moratorium on deepwater drilling, submit an emergency filing to protect sea turtles from being burned alive in the cleanup, and announced plans to sue Salazar for violating the Endangered Species Act in approving offshore drilling in the Arctic.

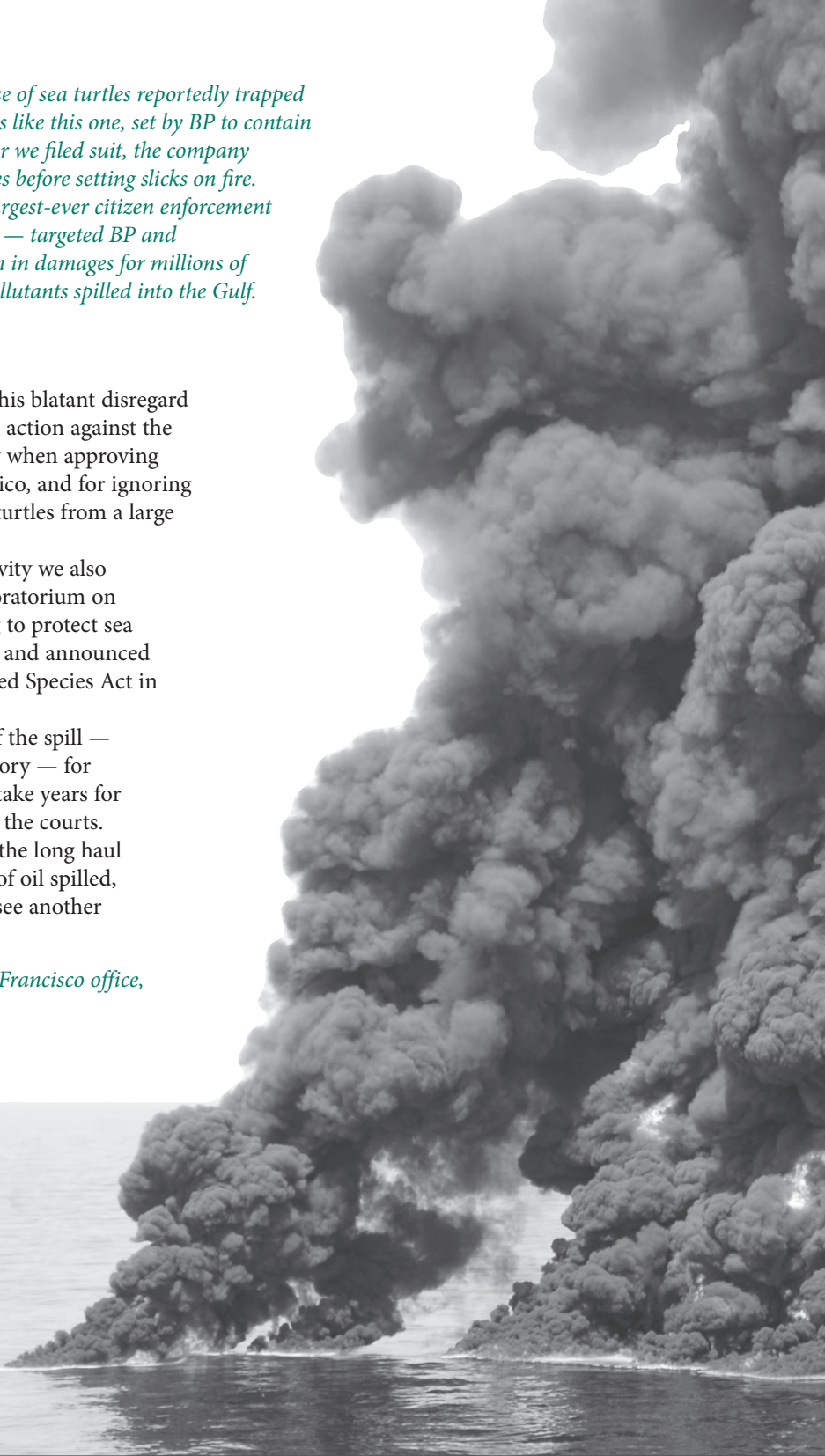
It will take years to assess the total costs of the spill — far and away the largest oil disaster in U.S. history — for the wildlife and people of the Gulf, and it will take years for many of these cases to work their way through the courts. The Center is prepared to stay in this fight for the long haul — until BP is held accountable for every drop of oil spilled, and until we can be confident that we’ll never see another disaster like the *Deepwater Horizon*.

Miyoko Sakashita, a senior attorney in our San Francisco office, directs the Center’s Oceans program.

The Center rushed to the defense of sea turtles reportedly trapped in the flames of controlled burns like this one, set by BP to contain spreading oil. Just two days after we filed suit, the company agreed to ensure rescue of turtles before setting slicks on fire. Another Center action — the largest-ever citizen enforcement suit under the Clean Water Act — targeted BP and Transocean for up to \$19 billion in damages for millions of gallons of oil and other toxic pollutants spilled into the Gulf.



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June 18

In largest-ever Clean Water Act citizen enforcement action, Center sues BP and Transocean Ltd. for illegally spewing millions of gallons of oil and toxic pollutants into Gulf of Mexico.

June 22

Federal judge rules in favor of oil industry in lawsuit that challenged Obama administration’s deepwater oil-drilling moratorium; Center announces plans to appeal.

June 30

To stop burning alive of endangered sea turtles in chaotic Gulf cleanup efforts, Center joins shrimp-boat captains and conservation partners in lawsuit to halt BP oil-burning operations until turtles’ safety can be ensured.



LOUISIANA FISH AND WILDLIFE

July 2

Center and allies broker agreement with BP and Coast Guard to ensure rescue of sea turtles from ocean’s surface before Gulf oil slicks are set on fire.

July 12

Center sues Interior Secretary Salazar for not turning over documentation of his interactions with oil-industry lobbyists since becoming secretary of the interior.

Never Again

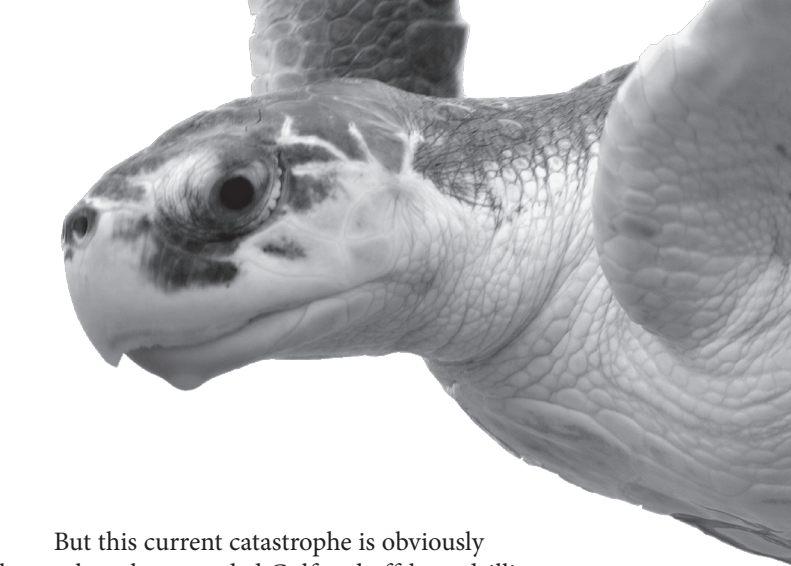
Avoiding next spill will require reforms, moving beyond fossil fuel risks

After a disaster, history often judges society not only by how it deals with the immediate effects, but also by whether the body politic takes action to fix the underlying problem so that it never happens again.

The massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico — like the 1969 Santa Barbara spill and the 1989 Exxon Valdez debacle — is one of those historic moments. The first responsibility is to clean up the horrific mess in the Gulf and hold the government and private industry accountable for what happened. But the job doesn't end there. The BP spill exposed long-neglected weaknesses in our energy policies that demand immediate and fundamental change.

The fix starts with an honest analysis of offshore drilling. We must have new reforms that examine the true cost and consequences of this inherently dangerous industrial activity. We need to change the permitting process, including an immediate ban on “categorical exclusions” that allowed these harmful projects to go ahead without any meaningful public environmental review. And until we figure out this process, we need a moratorium on all offshore drilling.

We were heartened by our federal court victory in July that halted drilling and associated harmful actions in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska after a judge found that the Department of the Interior hadn't done enough to understand all of the environmental effects, including for the polar bear.



But this current catastrophe is obviously larger than the wounded Gulf and offshore drilling. It's a clear signal to begin a true shift toward calculating the cost of fossil fuels, combating climate change and pursuing alternative energy from solar, wind and geothermal. The only real way to reduce the risk of these kinds of oil spills is, simply, to reduce our dependence on oil.

That's why we're keenly focused on upcoming legislation and administrative action designed to regulate large polluting sources that harm people and the environment. And when it comes to reducing carbon emissions, lawmakers must rely on what science tells us is needed to reduce the risk of the worst effects of climate change: reducing current atmospheric carbon levels from 390 parts per million to at least 350 parts per million. We continue to advocate for using the existing Clean Air Act to reach those goals and for an end to huge financial subsidies to the oil, gas and coal industries.

Over the coming months, listen carefully to what your elected and appointed officials are saying. If they spout excuses about political reality or economic expediency, it will be a strong clue that they're captive to corrosive “business as usual.” We must demand more. Ending the current addiction to fossil fuels — and avoiding another mess like the one in the Gulf — is the challenge history now presents us. •

Bill Snape, senior counsel, coordinates the Center's legal and policy work on energy, endangered species and wilderness from Washington, D.C., and was a national voice in Gulf Disaster coverage.

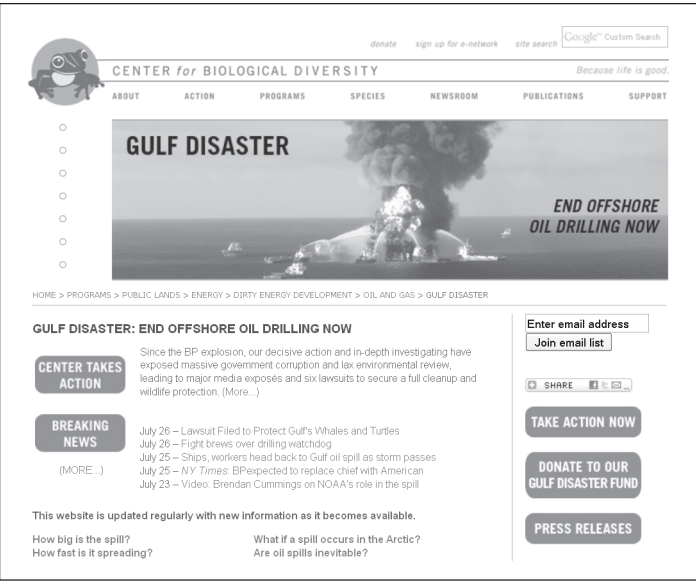
Center's Gulf Disaster website is must-read source for latest actions on oil spill and offshore drilling

Just as swiftly as the Center pulled together its expert legal and science teams, we launched the Gulf Disaster website to get the truth out about what led to the BP spill, how big it really was, and much broader systemic problems in the regulatory process. The website became *the place* for our members, supporters and the media to find daily updates on the spill, our press releases and latest legal actions, and the most recent offshore drilling scandals.

The BP oil spill brought to light the true — and heartbreaking — costs of offshore drilling. While BP immediately went into spin mode and kept cameras, scientists and volunteers away, the Center posted slide shows of wildlife affected by the spill, maps of oil spreading into the Gulf's endangered species habitats and daily updates on the extent of the spill.

The public's response to the website and our aggressive campaign to expose the scope of the disaster was powerful and clear: Offshore drilling is dangerous and our oceans, wildlife and wildlands must be protected. In coordination with breaking news stories and our weekly newsletter, the Center kept the focus of the BP spill not on just a one-time, technological failure but on an opportunity for action and much-needed reform.

Tens of thousands of supporters responded to our calls to action and sent messages to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and President Obama to shut down all drilling projects in the Gulf until they pass safety and environmental review. And when our supporters urged them to cancel plans to *expand* dangerous offshore oil drilling, the administration did just that — canceling new oil and gas lease sales in the Atlantic as well as in the Gulf.



While BP scurried to spin the spill and keep cameras away, the Center kept up a rapid-fire information feed to our Gulf Disaster website. With breaking news stories, press releases, action alerts, slide shows and maps, the site is the place to go to stay connected to our work in the Gulf and stand up against offshore drilling.

While BP's gushing oil seems to be stopped for now, our work is far from over. The Center will be fighting its disastrous effects (and causes) for years to come — and the website will continue to follow our work in the Gulf, as well as our work to stop new offshore drilling across the country. Go there now, tomorrow and the next day to learn more and join our efforts: www.biologicaldiversity.org/gulf_disaster. •

We won't let up — and we need your help.

Give to our Gulf Disaster Fund

Together these past few months, we've made a huge difference in the fight for the Gulf. We couldn't have done it without your help. But cleaning up the spill, assessing its long-term effects on wildlife and making sure BP pays will take years. Help us stay in this fight as long as it takes by contributing to our *Gulf Disaster Fund* at http://donate.BiologicalDiversity.org/gulf_fund, or by calling our toll-free number: (866) 357-3349.

Leave a legacy for the future

Making a legacy gift is another way you can be sure the Center will still be the strongest voice around, decades from now, to hold the line for endangered species and fragile habitat. **To learn more about membership in the Center's Legacy Society** with a commitment made through your will, living trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy, please call us at (866) 357-3349 x. 318 or email tjanes@biologicaldiversity.org.



FLICKR COMMONS/SIGMA EYE

Reintroduction efforts and federal protections have shored up isolated gray wolf populations in the northern Rocky Mountains and upper Midwest, but this great predator still occupies less than 5 percent of its historic range in the lower 48 states. The Center filed a petition in July asking the government for a sweeping national recovery plan to connect wolf populations and habitat across the continent.

National plan sought for gray wolf recovery

Long before bounties, government extermination programs and expansive human development, wolves roamed much of the United States. Scientists estimate there were once some 2 million in North America.

Most were gone by the early 1950s. In recent decades — thanks to federal protections and reintroduction efforts — wolf numbers have increased dramatically in the northern Rocky Mountains and the upper Midwest.

But the job of restoring this great predator is far from over. Today, wolves occupy less than 5 percent of their historic range in the lower 48 and continue to be killed by poachers and state and federal agents.

That's why the Center filed a petition in July with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a national recovery plan for wolves. The plan would provide a much-needed roadmap for establishing

gray wolf populations in suitable habitat in the Pacific Northwest, California, Great Basin, southern Rocky Mountains, Great Plains and New England.

Establishing wolf populations throughout much of the country — and corridors for individuals to travel between back and forth — will not only increase numbers but will also allow for needed genetic exchange.

But the problem is, this sort of national perspective on wolf restoration has never been applied by the government.

Instead, the Fish and Wildlife Service relies on outdated, decades-old plans that view wolf restoration as a piecemeal project — a few wolf populations here and there — and underestimates how many are needed for true recovery.

"Small, isolated wolf populations are a recipe for extinction," said Michael Robinson, the Center's conservation advocate for the recovery of large predators.

"Science teaches us that we need far more wolves that range across a much wider swath of the continent than the current minimalistic approach."

We hope our petition sparks a new national conversation about finishing the job of wolf restoration in a way that identifies suitable habitat, considers connectivity between populations and gives this vital animal the opportunity to thrive once again. •

Petition filed to save 400 freshwater species in Southeast

"The Southeast's rivers," says the Center's Endangered Species Director Noah Greenwald, "are the extinction capital of North America."

He's not exaggerating: The southeastern United States is both a hotspot of aquatic biodiversity and a major extinction hub. Its streams and rivers boast more than 90 percent of American mussels — at least 269 species — and more than 60 percent of U.S. fish species. But dams, sprawl, logging, mining,

grazing, pollution, invasion by exotic species and other troubles are quickly driving the animals in these waterways toward oblivion.

The Mobile basin is already home to fully half of all the North American species that have gone extinct since European settlement.

To stem the tide of extinction in these richly populated rivers, the Center and six regional allies filed a petition in April asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Endangered Species Act protection for 404 species.

The extensively researched 1,145-page document asked for help for 48 fish, 92 mussels and snails, 92 crustaceans, 82 plants, 13 reptiles, four mammals, 15 amphibians, 55 insects and three



© GIFF BEATON

The Cherokee clubtail dragonfly is one of 404 freshwater animals in the southeastern United States for which the Center is seeking Endangered Species Act protection.

birds. The list included Florida sandhill cranes, salamanders like the hellbender and Black Warrior waterdog, and nine freshwater turtles.

In July, we also notified the Service of our plans to file suit on behalf of Southeast river species, calling the federal government to account for failing to lock in protection for the colorfully named Georgia pigtoe mussel, interrupted rocksnail and rough hornsnail.

It had proposed the three mollusks for protection in June 2009 but didn't finalize their listing.

Of the three, the interrupted rocksnail is the closest to extinction: It has only a single population left, which is in sharp decline and exists in less than a mile of stream. •

As bat-killing disease moves west, caves scheduled to close

Under pressure from the Center to help prevent the spread of a bat-killing disease, the U.S. Forest Service issued an emergency order in late July to close caves in five Western states.

The move came a half-year after the Center filed a petition to close all federally managed bat caves in the lower 48 to stem the spread of white-nose syndrome, a mysterious ailment that has already killed more than 1 million bats in the East.

So far, nine bat species — including the endangered Indiana bat and gray bat — have been affected. In the Northeast, where white-nose syndrome has been ravaging bats the longest, some species are virtually wiped out. In some caves, mortality rates are 100 percent and scientists fear several species could be wiped out within a few years.

The fungus associated with the disease has already been found on bats in 14 states and two Canadian provinces. Its presence in western Oklahoma and Missouri is raising concerns that it could quickly move into the heart of the West.

Researchers believe it spreads primarily via bat-to-bat transmission but could also be transported on the clothing and gear of those who enter the caves.



RYAN VON LINDEN/UT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

The little brown bat is one of nine bat species so far known to be affected by white-nose syndrome, a mysterious ailment characterized by fungal growth on the muzzle. The disease has killed more than 1 million bats in the East and is moving west, prompting cave closures to slow the spread.

That's why the Center sought to limit human access to all federal caves.

The Forest Service's year-long order will close all caves and abandoned mines in national forests and national grasslands in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas.

Meanwhile, the Center is pursuing protections for two bats affected by the outbreak, the eastern small-footed bat and the northern long-eared bat. In June the Center notified the government of its intent to sue for failing to move fast enough to protect these two species.


"Bats are essential members of North America's ecosystems, eating immense quantities of insects every night, and helping to keep bug populations in check," said Center conservation advocate Mollie Matteson.

"If we ignore the need to take precautionary measures to protect bats, we do so not only at their peril but also at our own." •



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The past four months at the Center for Biological Diversity have been like no other. The world witnessed one of the worst environmental disasters it's ever seen when BP's *Deepwater Horizon* rig exploded, ultimately unleashing more than 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. At the Center, that unprecedented disaster launched an unprecedented response, to which we've dedicated this issue of *Endangered Earth*.

Inside, learn more about the scope of our work to become a leading voice on behalf of recovering the Gulf and its wildlife, demanding that BP be held accountable and calling for reform of the reckless offshore-drilling policies that continue to place our oceans and coasts at risk.

Of course, even as we've led the charge on taking action for the Gulf, we haven't slowed our work for endangered species that need us elsewhere. In these pages, you can also find top stories on our campaigns to recover gray wolves from coast to coast and to protect bats from the westward spread of white-nose syndrome. In addition, you can make sure you get the most up-to-date news on *all* our work for wildlife — and what you can do to help — delivered straight to your inbox every week. Join the ranks of more than a quarter-million readers who subscribe to *Endangered Earth Online*, the Center's weekly e-newsletter, at www.biologicaldiversity.org/EEO/. •

Endangered earth

is the quarterly newsletter of the Center for Biological Diversity, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting endangered species and wild places.

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