



Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Update May 2, 2010

As you all know the oil spill is enormous, out of control and will likely remain so for at least another 6 to 7 days, maybe much longer if the attempt to place a concrete dome over the well head more than a mile below the ocean surface fails. An alternative plan would be to drill relief wells in close proximity; however this may take 60 to 90 days.

Right now the location of the major spill is pretty close to LA coastline, which is no doubt disastrous for the coastal communities and wetlands and fisheries. This may also do damage to the spawning and larval concentrations of bluefin when it reaches what is known as the "Loop Current". This not where the greatest concentration of BFT spawning takes place. That occurs more west and south towards the boundary between Mexico and U.S. It may affect the juveniles/fingerlings that will want to migrate out of the Gulf.

When the slick hits the Loop current some of it will be carried out of the Gulf and enter the Gulf Stream and begin to threaten the entire East Coast, first offshore but then hurricane season is coming up and all bets are off where the spill could go. Even New England fishing grounds are under threat.

Sorry for all the bad news but there is more. British Petroleum is dumping a never before used practice of a chemical directly on the well head where the leak is occurring in an effort to break up the leaking oil at the source. The trouble is scientists do not know what will eventually happen to the chemical. Will it stay there, or worse, will it get into the marine food chain?

Here is an animated link to view the oil spill.

http://blog.al.com/live/2010/05/animation_gulf_of_mexico_oil_s.html

I will keep you informed of further developments.

Rich Ruais
ABTA