

FDA U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Protecting and Promoting Public Health www.fda.gov

## Multi-Agency Response Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill



2011 Symposium on Food Safety & Public Health  
Monterey Marriott, Monterey, California  
May 27, 2011

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### Presentation Overview

- Preventive measures
- Re-opening protocol
- Seafood safety criteria and methods
- Testing for re-opening and results
- Extended surveillance testing and results
- Federal and state interagency coordination

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### Preventive Measures

- Closure of oil-spill impacted waters to commercial & recreational watercraft and fishing
- Closure of areas expected to be impacted by oil to commercial or recreational watercraft and fishing
- Testing of seafood from open waters to verify that closures were protective
- Performance of HACCP Inspections at Primary Seafood Processors & Wholesalers across Gulf Coast

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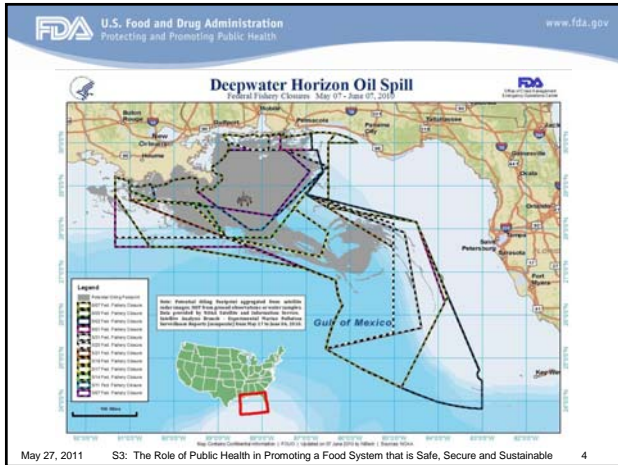
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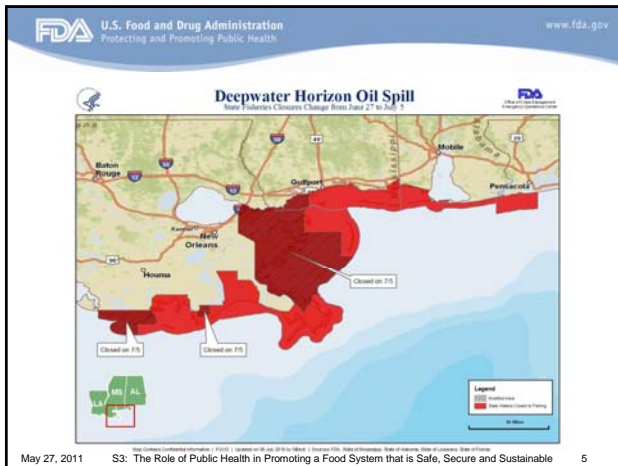
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Re-opening Protocol

- Developed by federal and state multi-agency consensus – completed June 18, 2010
- Established strict criteria for decision-making and the assessment of Seafood Safety

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### Testing to Re-open Waters for Fishing

Performed June 2010 – April 2011  
(continued)

- 2,824 specimens collected from state waters and tested by organoleptic and chemical analyses
- 5,387 specimens collected from federal waters and tested by organoleptic and chemical analyses
- 20% of all tests verified by repeat testing in other laboratories
- 50% of specimens subjected to testing for dispersant residue

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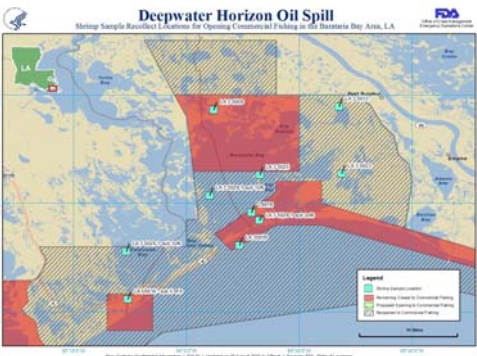
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### Results from Testing to Re-open Waters for Fishing

Performed June 2010 – April 2011

- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) levels in all test samples found to be 100 to 1000 times below levels of concern
- Dispersant (DOSS) levels in all test samples found to be below LOD in majority of samples and > 1000 times below level of concern in the few samples in which it was detected
- Results are available at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov) > More Public Health Focus > Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Update

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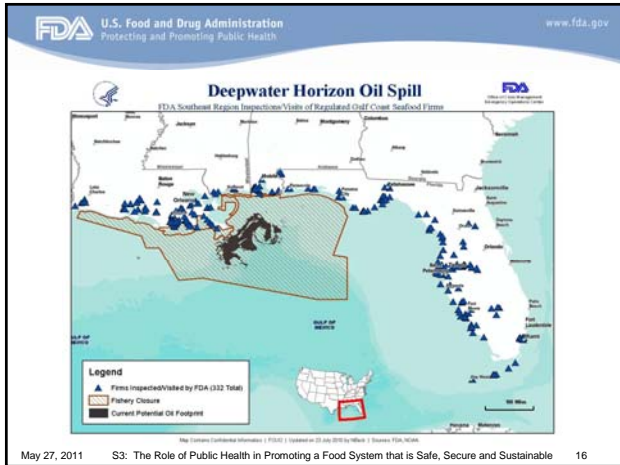
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### Results from Extended Surveillance Testing

Completed from October 1, 2010 to April 8, 2011

- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) levels in all test samples found to be 100 to 1000 times below levels of concern
- Dispersant (DOSS) levels in all test samples found to be below LOD in majority of samples and > 1000 times below level of concern in the few samples in which it was detected

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### Federal – State Interagency Coordination

- NMFS and State public health agencies also testing for PAH and dispersant residues
- FDA, NMFS and State cooperation on uniformity of methods established
- Seafood testing is currently scheduled to continue for two years by FDA
- Data is reviewed every six months to ensure proper targeting of vulnerable species

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Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill  
Status of Seafood Safety

Fish and shellfish harvested from areas reopened or unaffected by the DWH oil spill closures are considered safe to eat

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