

BP DEEPWATER OIL SPILL

Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

NRDA by the Numbers • October 2010

The NOAA role in the Natural Resource Damage Assessment began on **April 20, 2010**, in the hours immediately following the report of an accident on the Deepwater Horizon mobile drilling unit. Personnel began monitoring the oil's trajectory and collecting baseline environmental data.

By **mid-May**, NOAA and its partners had formed **more than a dozen Technical Working Groups** devoted to assessing damages to various types of natural resources, from our coastlines to the deep seas, and from microscopic plankton to porpoises.

Three federal departments (Commerce, Interior, Defense) and **five affected states** (Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, Texas) are co-trustees in the NRDA.

The co-trustees' "Notice of Intent to Conduct Restoration Planning" (released September 29, 2010) names **eight Responsible Parties**: BP Exploration and Production, Inc. ("BP"); Transocean Holdings Inc. ("Transocean"); Triton Asset Leasing GmbH ("Triton"); Transocean Offshore Deepwater Drilling Inc. ("Transocean Offshore"); Transocean Deepwater Inc. ("Transocean Deepwater"); Anadarko Petroleum ("Anadarko"); Anadarko E&P Company LP ("Anadarko E&P"); and MOEX Offshore 2007 LLC ("MOEX").

As of mid-September, NOAA currently has **295 staff** and **475 contractors** employed in the NRDA effort.

In most large oil spill cases, the total number of samples collected from the field number in the hundreds. To date, NRDA teams have collected more than 23,500 environmental samples for analysis. Of these, almost 5,500 samples have been analyzed and validated by our laboratories and being made available to the public.

The 23,500 total samples include those collected by more than 70 offshore research cruises NOAA either conducted or has under way, including:

- 15,763 water
- 2,573 sediment, and
- 2,149 tissue samples.

About **2,000 linear miles of shoreline** have been surveyed by the NRDA teams; teams have documented **oil on more than 950 miles of shoreline**, including salt marshes, sandy beaches, mudflats and mangroves.

NRDA teams have captured more than **1,900 live oiled birds** and **450 live oiled sea turtles**. They have also collected more than **1,850 dead visibly oiled birds; 17 dead visibly oiled sea turtles; and five dead visibly oiled marine mammals**.

NOAA has been and will be restoring resources in the Gulf for the long-term. NOAA and partners have **380 planned, ongoing, and completed restoration projects throughout the Gulf Coast states**.