

# DEEPWATER BP OIL SPILL

## Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

### NRDA BY THE NUMBERS — November 1, 2010

NOAA's role in this Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) began on April 20, 2010, in the hours immediately following the report of an explosion 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 agencies* (Commerce, Interior, Defense) and *five affected states* (Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, Texas) are co-trustees in the NRDA.

The "Notice of Intent to Conduct Restoration Planning" (released by the co-trustees 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").

In most large oil spill cases, the total of samples collected from the field number in the hundreds. As of October 21, NRDA teams have collected *25,803 environmental samples* for analysis. Our laboratories have conducted *35,478 NRDA analyses* on these samples.

*6,835 analyses* have been validated and made available to the public.

The *25,803 total samples* include those collected by more than *70 offshore, research cruises* NOAA has either conducted or currently has under way, including:

- *10,236 water samples*
- *3,060 sediment samples*
- *3,286 tissue samples*
- *1,840 tarball samples.*

About *2,000 linear miles of shoreline* have been surveyed by the NRDA teams; teams have documented oil on on about *1,000 miles of shoreline*, including salt marshes, sandy beaches, mudflats, and mangroves.

Response teams have documented *2,263 visibly oiled dead birds; 2,079 visibly oiled live birds; 18 visibly oiled dead sea turtles; and 456 visibly oiled live sea turtles.*

