

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

CASE FILE: Equinox—Louisiana

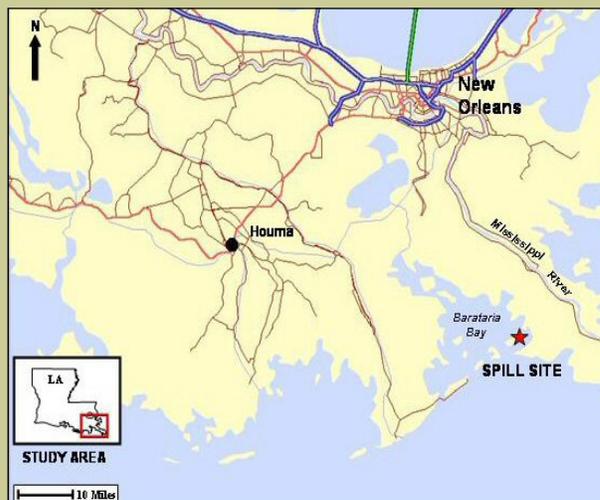
September 22, 1998, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana—The blowout of a well owned by Equinox Oil Company, Inc. discharged oil into the waters of Lake Grande Ecaille. The exact volume of oil discharged is unknown, but estimates range up to 1,500 barrels. Several thousand acres of surface water in Lake Grande Ecaille and the Gulf of Mexico were covered by slicks or sheens from the incident, and more than 1,200 acres of wetlands were exposed to oil. Four days later, Hurricane Georges passed near the area suspending response efforts, but also removing some of the oil from the marshes and surface waters. After the hurricane, there were newly oiled areas that had previously been oil-free.

Trustees

The federal, state, and tribal agencies responsible for the natural resources impacted by this oil spill are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the State of Louisiana.

Settlement

A settlement of \$1.2 million was reached in September 2006.



Restoration

Restoration has not yet been completed due to delays from Hurricane Katrina, but the restoration plan calls for the creation of 9 acres of brackish marsh in Bay Champagne, Louisiana. Within the interior southeastern wetlands of Barataria Bay, 3.5 to 4 acres of intertidal marsh wetland will be re-established. It will be similar to those affected by the spill and will provide habitat for juvenile fish, shellfish, birds, and mammals. Water quality will be improved by filtering sediments and other pollutants from the water column, and storm surge and flood protection will be provided. The application of thin-layer dredged sediment will enhance and nourish 8.4 acres of



www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov

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