



# South Carolina GREEN PARTY

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## Facts About Offshore Drilling

- South Carolina has 187 miles of coastline, More than 2,800 shoreline miles of bays, inlets and islands and ranks 4th nationally in salt marsh acreage.<sup>[1]</sup>
- Before the Gulf Coast spill, U.S. Offshore oil drill operators have had 40 spills greater than 1,000 barrels since 1964, including 13 in the past 10 years.<sup>[2][3]</sup>
- Oil spills kill fish, birds and other sea life.<sup>[4]</sup> Oil spills in the marsh sediment decrease oxygen levels, starving grasses and plant life, increasing erosion and loss of marsh habitat. “Oil has been found in marsh soil 7 years after a spill, which indicates the potential for long term effects.”<sup>[5]</sup>
- Oil spills may result from hurricanes damaging oil drilling equipment, delivery systems or refineries. According to the Oceanography Society, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita “destroyed 46 platforms and damaged 20 others...Nearly 50 oil spills were reported in the nearshore environment...”<sup>[6] [7] [8]</sup>
- Six category 5 hurricanes have struck the United States in the past twenty-five years: Mitch, Isabel, Ivan, Katrina, Rita, Wilma. In that time, South Carolina and its coastal waters experienced at least five major hurricanes: Gloria, Charley, Hugo, Bonnie and Floyd.<sup>[9]</sup>
- The oil rig Deepwater Horizon exploded and sank off the coast of Louisiana on April 22, 2010. Eleven crew members were killed. As of June 10, the oil spill from the disaster covers more than 1,800 square miles. The wellhead is leaking from 20,000 to more than 40,000 barrels of oil (or 168,000 gallons) per day.<sup>[10][11]</sup>
- The National Center for Atmospheric Research estimates that the oil could reach the South Carolina Coast by July 22, within 90 days of the Deepwaterhorizon explosion. The leak will not be stopped before August and may continue to expell oil until December, if not years.<sup>[12]</sup>
- A 2009 report to the SC General Assembly found that “offshore natural gas drilling will not likely have a significant, direct economic impact in terms of new jobs and capital investment in South Carolina.”<sup>[13]</sup>

**Vote  
Green**



**Conserve Resources.  
Work for Sustainable  
Energy: Wind, Wave  
Solar Power.**

Hurricanes damage oil rigs.

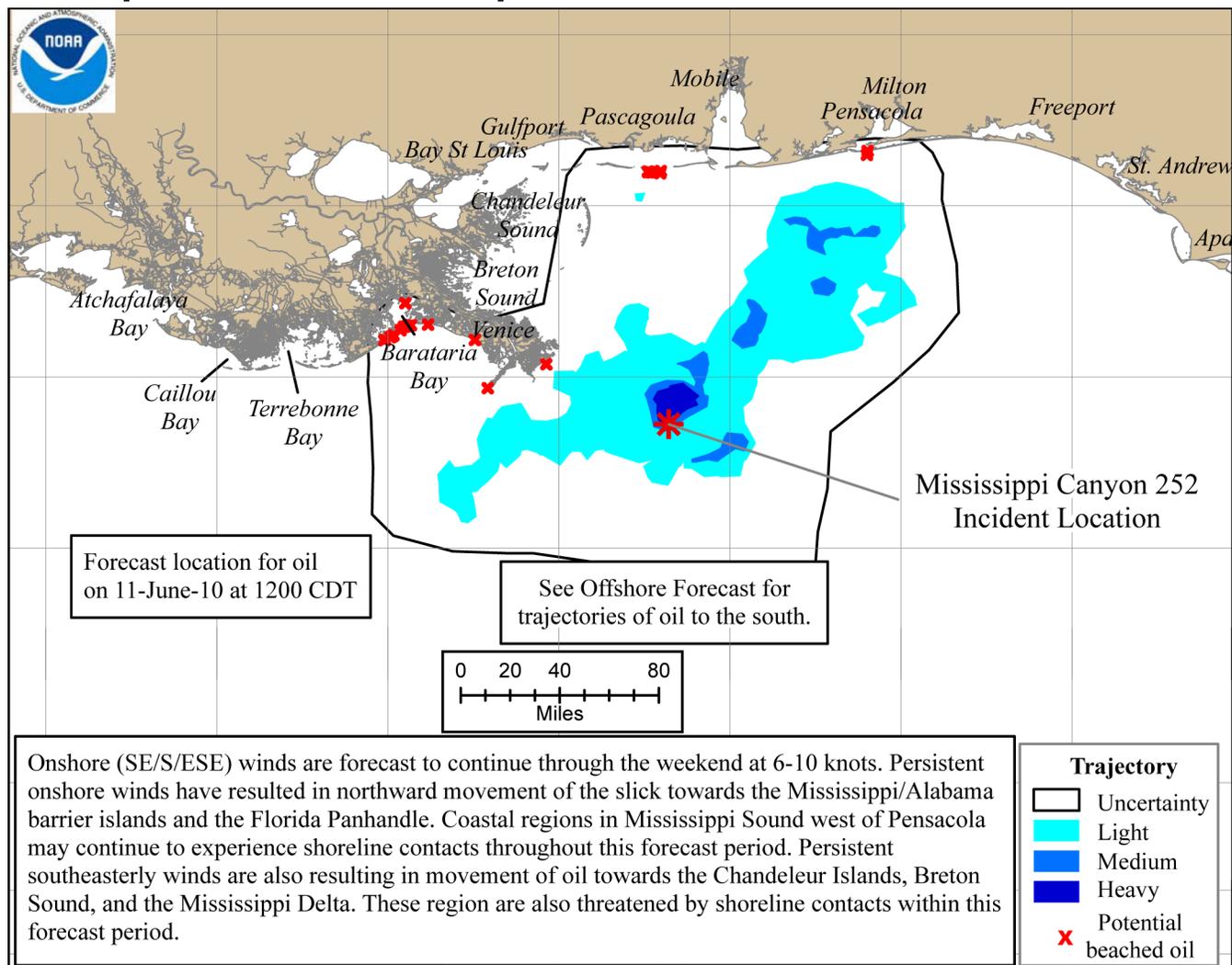
This Chevron/BHP oil rig from the Typhoon oil field WAS located in blocks 236 and 237, in the central Green Canyon area of the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 100 miles off the coast of Louisiana, in water depths of 2,000 ft.

Hurricane Rita brought it into the surf.<sup>[14]</sup>

**<http://scgreenparty.org>**

[1] [http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/factsheet/pdf/Georgia/DARRP\\_State\\_Factsheets\\_NC\\_SC\\_Georgia.pdf](http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/factsheet/pdf/Georgia/DARRP_State_Factsheets_NC_SC_Georgia.pdf)  
[2] [http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci\\_10015770#ixzz0kGqHeYXL](http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_10015770#ixzz0kGqHeYXL), citing data from the U.S. Minerals Management Service.  
[3] <http://www.mms.gov/incidents/IncidentStatisticsSummaries.htm>  
[4] [http://www.amsa.gov.au/Marine\\_Environment\\_Protection/National\\_Plan/General\\_Information/Oiled\\_Wildlife/Oil\\_Spill\\_Effects\\_on\\_Wildlife\\_and\\_Non-Avian\\_Marine\\_Life.asp](http://www.amsa.gov.au/Marine_Environment_Protection/National_Plan/General_Information/Oiled_Wildlife/Oil_Spill_Effects_on_Wildlife_and_Non-Avian_Marine_Life.asp)  
[5] <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/PI/PDFImages/ESPIS/3/3221.pdf>  
[6] [http://www.tos.org/oceanography/issues/issue\\_archive/issue\\_pdfs/19\\_2/19.2\\_cs\\_pine.pdf](http://www.tos.org/oceanography/issues/issue_archive/issue_pdfs/19_2/19.2_cs_pine.pdf)  
[7] <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/whatsnew/newsreal/2006/060119.pdf>  
[8] <http://www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2006/press0501.htm#Table%201>; rig map: <http://www.cccarto.com/katrina/>  
[9] <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/history.shtml>  
[10] <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doc/2931/627011/>  
[11] [http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/60162/title/Feds\\_up\\_estimates\\_of\\_BP-spill\\_rate](http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/60162/title/Feds_up_estimates_of_BP-spill_rate)  
[12] <http://www2.ucar.edu/news/ocean-currents-likely-to-carry-oil-spill-to-atlantic-coast>  
[13] [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/citizensinterestpage/NGEFStudyCommittee/NGEFSC\\_Report\\_Published.pdf](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/citizensinterestpage/NGEFStudyCommittee/NGEFSC_Report_Published.pdf)  
[14] <http://thomko.squarespace.com/journal/2005/9/28/billiton-oil-platform-beached-by-rita.html>

# Deepwater Horizon Spill Is An Environmental Disaster



Deepwater Horizon Spill as of June 10, 2010

Image Source: NOAA: [http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/book\\_shelf/2168\\_TMF24-2010-06-10-2100.pdf](http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/book_shelf/2168_TMF24-2010-06-10-2100.pdf)

“Offshore oil drilling and oil spills have the potential to critically impact pristine marine ecosystems and lead to industrialization of our coastlines.

“Ultimately, America cannot drill our way out of an oil consumption problem. We must look toward sustainable solutions that protect our natural resources, rather than drilling for fossil fuels off our coasts. It is in the best interest of our environment and economy to wean America off oil, and develop a sustainable “energy portfolio” that includes renewable sources and conservation.

“Energy conservation is the most economical and environmental way to achieve energy independence from fossil fuels. Riding mass transit, increasing auto efficiency, improving building insulation, and better management of electrical use in homes/businesses, are just a few ways we can reduce our oil and energy consumption. Conservation is much cheaper and healthier than investing in further development of offshore oil reserves.

“It’s imperative that America shifts away from an old mindset of relying on fossil fuels. Climate change, and other environmental problems are not waiting for us to ‘rebuild our energy portfolio’. Oil drilling and continued use of fossil fuels will only exacerbate climate change, and keep us trapped in a ‘backwards frame of mind’ which overlooks sustainable energy and conservation. The answers for sustainable energy are already in front of us—and offshore drilling is not part of the answer.”

- Surfrider Foundation

<http://www.surfrider.org/nottheanswer/factsheet.pdf>