



U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

Technical Announcement

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Assessing the Impacts of the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill on Tourism in the Gulf of Mexico Region

[OCS Study BOEM 2014-661](#)

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), announces the availability of a new study report, *Assessing the Impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on Tourism in the Gulf of Mexico Region*. The *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) oil spill, which began on April 20, 2010, in the Gulf of Mexico, directly affected various coastal resources such as beaches, fishing areas, wetlands, and wildlife that support tourism activities. The DWH oil spill also impacted various people and businesses that depend on tourism, such as hotels, restaurants, retailers, and tour operators. These impacts on tourism were spread across a variety of geographic areas, and the extent of the impacts on people and businesses did not always correspond to the extent of the physical oil damage. Rather, the impacts of the spill on tourism activities in any particular area were determined by various factors, such as the structure of the area's economy, cleanup activities, compensation programs, and public perceptions.

To better understand the various impacts of the DWH oil spill on tourism in the Gulf region, the Eastern Research Group (ERG) undertook four methodological approaches. First, ERG analyzed data from the Gulf Coast Claims Facility for DWH oil spill-related claims received between August 22, 2010 and March 1, 2012. Second, they reviewed local-level information on travel, tourism, and recreation in the Gulf of Mexico region related to the DWH oil spill in newspaper articles and tourism bureau websites. Third, ERG analyzed quarterly employment, establishment, and payroll data for tourism-related sectors in the Gulf region. Fourth, they conducted a limited amount of fieldwork in the Gulf region, including interviews with tourism officials, trade associations, and businesses. ERG also developed profiles for 64 Gulf region counties and parishes that aggregate the findings of the four methodological approaches. The varied methodologies reveal a complex pattern of impacts and provide important lessons to be learned about the impacts of an oil spill on tourism.

This report is available on CD from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, for \$15.00, and free of charge as a pdf file downloaded from the BOEM Website. Copies can also be viewed at selected Federal Depository Libraries. The addresses are listed below.

To order a CD, use the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region contact information below and reference OCS Study BOEM 2014-661. To download a pdf copy, use the [Environmental Studies Program Information System](#) (ESPIS) and search on the study report number. In the near future, you will also be able to get this report also from the National Technical Information Service.

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