

From: Donald F. Boesch [boesch@umces.edu]  
 Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 8:10:23 AM  
 To: 'Terry Garcia'  
 Subject: RE: Sea Grant Report on spill status

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 ct. have the very  
 noted parasitoides.  
 Many other colleagues  
 folks, in part,  
 ut also greatly  
 the NOAA-USGS report.

However, continuing to raise the specter of oil contaminating the Georgia coast at this point is beyond the pale, as is their mention of diminished air quality in Atlanta, for which there is just no evidence. Maybe they should turn their attention to the more realistic problem for water use in Atlanta is damaging Apalachee Bay on the Gulf Coast. In any case, such wild claims depete their credibility in my book.

Perhaps the most sensible statement in the report is "Fortunately, natural weathering processes are transforming, diluting, degrading and evaporating the various compounds that make up what we collectively call crude oil." In a particular, the dilution of subsurface oil, which seems to be the focus of their perspective, in the turbulent and dynamic water column, has had to, at this point, render the residual oil to extremely low concentrations with our without biodegradation. Contrast their estimate of biodegradation (3-17%) to the order-of-magnitude (90%) dilution of dispersed oil droplets observed within 10 km of the well head. Most of the subsurface oil "plume," most discharged more than two months ago now has been diluted by several orders of magnitude. Their focus on the mass of this residual oil, as opposed to its concentration, which is what pelagic organisms are exposed to, leads them to an unrealistic projection of actual ecological threat posed at this point. The

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Dr. Don Deason, Francis Omer, David J. Borini, William R. Francis, Deborah Cherry, Murray Cor, Richard Lazarus, Eric Roatony, Jay Rakes  
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 A slightly different take on the amount of oil that remains in the Gulf.

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