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6 Months Later, More Gulf Oil Research Needed



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Reported by: Mitch Carr

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The Deep Water Horizon oil rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico six months ago Wednesday. At Texas Tech, They're doing their best to make sure interest and research in the area do not leave with the TV cameras.

Researchers at the Institute for Environmental and Human Health did not find cancer-causing agents in samples of seafood over the summer but that does not mean, they say, that we should stop looking.

Most of the 200 million gallons of oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico have disappeared from the surface of the water. But Dr. Ron Kendall with the Texas Tech Institute for Environmental and Human Health says that just because it isn't seen doesn't mean it won't be heard from.

He says much of it has now settled on the Gulf floor, where it can still do great damage to marine life. His biggest worry is that the young of certain species will not survive what adults of the same species could. If he's right, entire age groups of sea turtles and tuna may disappear from the area.

In order to prevent this or at least see it coming, Kendall believes continued research is needed. That research would also help us prepare for the tomorrow's next catastrophe in addition to saving marine life from today.

"30 percent of the nation's oil is coming out of the Gulf of Mexico. That's huge. And 80 percent of that is coming from the deep water. So the deep water's critical. And what we demonstrated -- we weren't ready to handle it. And we were actually pretty lucky to get the well capped as is," Dr. Kendall said.



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