

August 2005 - Hurricanes Katrina and Rita



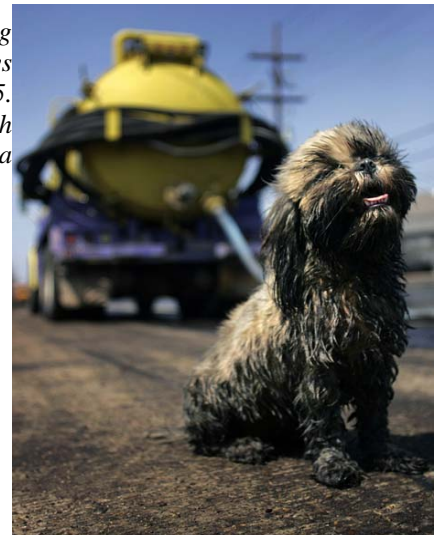
Millions of Gallons

- According to the U.S. Coast Guard, Hurricanes Rita and Katrina combined caused: 6 major, 5 medium and over 5000 minor oil spills.

The Coast Guard approximated **over 9 million gallons** of oil released from the 6 major and 5 medium spills Katrina and Rita. This does not include the oil from the over 5000 minor spills!

- Oil spills “worse than the worst-case scenario” due to Hurricane Katrina alone. -EPA

Abandoned pets: Near New Orleans a small oil-slickened dog was seen wandering in Chalmette, Louisiana, as cleanup crews recovered oil from a ruptured refinery tank on September 6, 2005. Tens of thousands of barrels of oil had spilled and mixed with receding floodwater from Hurricane Katrina

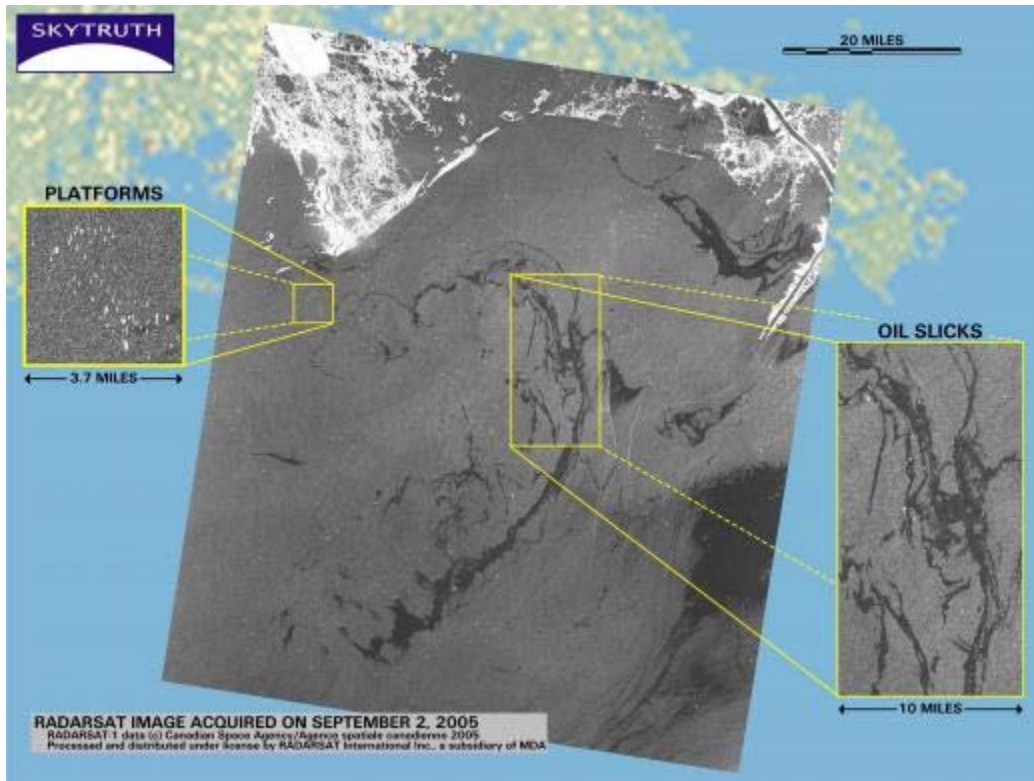


Spills Everywhere

- 113 platforms totally destroyed.
 - 457 pipelines damaged, 101 of those major lines with 10" or larger diameter.
 - Wells, platforms and pipelines were shut down before the storm, to minimize leakage. But pipelines weren't “purged,” so they leaked oil, gas or liquid gas condensate when they were damaged.
 - 575 Katrina-related spills of petroleum or hazardous chemical have been reported.
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Destruction

- Commercial fishing grounds polluted and fishery infrastructure destroyed
- Multi-million dollar habitat restoration projects in the Louisiana coastal zone



Sources:

Natural Resources Defense Council <http://www.nrdc.org/legislation/katrina/0509291a.pdf>

National Geographic http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/09/photogalleries/hurricane_katrina_pets/photo2.html

SkyTruth <http://blog.skytruth.org/2007/12/hurricane-katrina-gulf-of-mexico-oil.html>

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Earth Share http://www.earthshare.org/KATRINA/WSJ_OilThreatenFuture.pdf

NOAA http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/hurricane_katrina/coastal_wetlands.html

U.S. Coast Guard Report to Congress "Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund Hurricane Impact"

http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/npfc/docs/PDFs/osltf_report_hurricanes.pdf

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