



## **Scientific Uncertainty Abounds Regarding Accounting of BP Oil in Gulf**

*“The oil is not gone and is not going away anytime soon.”*

Washington, DC (August 19, 2010) – The U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy and Environment will [hold a hearing](#) this morning at 11:30am Eastern entitled “The BP Oil Spill: Accounting for the Spilled Oil and Ensuring the Safety of Seafood from the Gulf.”

It is irresponsible to draw conclusions about the BP oil disaster’s full impacts with so many questions still unanswered. That will be a key point from independent scientists who will be testifying.

“The oil is not gone and is not going away anytime soon,” Dr. Ian MacDonald, professor of Oceanography at Florida State University, [will testify before the House Energy and Environment Subcommittee](#).

“The residual oil that has resisted dispersion and evaporation will be very persistent. Judging from past spills in the Gulf, this pollution will remain potentially harmful for decades – I expect it will be detectable in the marine environment for the rest of my life. We need to watch some of the keystone species over the coming years.

“Even though it is unthinkable to imagine a Gulf of Mexico without her oystermen, shrimpers, beachgoers, boaters, and recreational fishermen,” said Dr. MacDonald, “this culture and way of life will not continue unless the Gulf is restored to health and placed on a path toward rejuvenation.”

Dr. MacDonald also called for a permanent endowment to restore, understand and sustain the Gulf in perpetuity.

National Wildlife Federation is working with Dr. MacDonald and other scientists to highlight scientific evidence showing that subsurface, or so-called “dispersed” oil is far from gone.

“Here they go again,” said Dr. Doug Inkley, National Wildlife Federation senior scientist. “Similar to original statements that vastly underestimated the spill size, BP and the government are now rushing to understate the volume and impact of the vast amounts of oil still in the water.

“BP and the government would like you to believe that the oil spill is over,” said Dr. Inkley. “But the research and testimony of these independent scientists make it clear that large quantities of oil remain in environment, and will continue to do so for years, if not decades.”

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[National Wildlife Federation](#) is America's conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

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