

# BP is Burning Endangered Sea Turtles Alive

By [Global Research](#)

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Theme: [Environment](#), [Oil and Energy](#)

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News has just emerged from the Gulf Coast that BP is burning endangered sea turtles alive.[1]

A boat captain who has been leading efforts to rescue the endangered turtles says BP has blocked his crews from entering the areas where the animals are trapped, effectively shutting down the rescue operation.

BP is using “controlled burns” to contain the oil spill. Shrimp boats create a corral of oil by dragging together fire-resistant booms and then lighting the enclosed “burn box” on fire. If turtles are not removed from the area before the fire is lit, they are literally burned alive.

The sea turtle most affected by the Gulf of Mexico oil spill is the Kemp’s Ridley [2] which is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Parties responsible for killing the endangered turtles are liable for criminal penalties that include prison and civil fines of up to \$25,000 per violation.

As a result, BP perversely has a financial incentive to allow the endangered turtles to burn rather than allow rescue crews to cull them from the burn boxes before the containment fires are lit.

“They ran us out of there and then they shut us down, they would not let us get back in there,” said turtle rescuer Mike Ellis in an interview with conservation biologist Catherine Craig that was posted on YouTube.com. [3]

Tell BP: Stop burning endangered sea turtles alive.

## Notes

1 [BP ‘burning sea turtles alive’, Raw Story, June 20, 2010](#)

2 [Sea Turtles Among Oil Spill Victims, NPR, June 10, 2010](#)

3 [Venice, Louisiana, Boat Captain/ by Catherine Craig, YouTube, June 13, 2010.](#)

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