

# Dead Fish Washing Up Everywhere Due to BP Oil Spill and Dispersants

By [Washington's Blog](#)

Theme: [Environment](#)

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Dead fish are washing up everywhere.

For example, numerous dead fish washed ashore in Massachusetts a couple of days ago:

Dead fish had washed up in New Jersey [yesterday](#).

Hundreds of thousands of dead fish washed up today in New Jersey, and even the birds wouldn't eat them:

(The second report in this video compilation - referring to a ripped fishing net - is actually from [Virginia](#), some [210 miles](#) from the scene of the first report in New Jersey. The size of the Virginia fish incident was much smaller than the one in New Jersey.)

And they have washed up in [Mississippi](#) as well.

And see this:

And this:

Scientists attribute the dead fish to low oxygen levels in the Gulf of Mexico.

Indeed, scientists have been warning about this for months. For example, on May 16th, the New York Times [wrote](#):

Scientists are finding enormous oil plumes in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico, including one as large as 10 miles long, 3 miles wide and 300 feet thick in spots. The discovery is fresh evidence that the leak from the broken undersea well could be substantially worse than estimates that the government and BP have given.

"There's a shocking amount of oil in the deep water, relative to what you see in the surface water," said Samantha Joye, a researcher at the University of Georgia who is involved in one of the first scientific missions to gather details about what is happening in the gulf. "There's a tremendous amount of oil in multiple layers, three or four or five layers deep in the water column."

The plumes are depleting the oxygen dissolved in the gulf, worrying scientists, who fear that the oxygen level could eventually fall so low as to kill off much of the sea life near the plumes.

As I [pointed out](#) in June, the high methane content in the BP crude also depletes oxygen:

As CBS [notes](#):

The oil emanating from the seafloor contains about 40 percent methane, compared with about 5 percent found in typical oil deposits, said John Kessler, a Texas A&M University oceanographer who is studying the impact of methane from the spill.

As Kessler also [points out](#):

This is the most vigorous methane eruption in modern human history.

A U.S. scientist [says](#) that methane levels in the Gulf are “astonishingly high”, that 1 million times the normal level of methane gas has been found in some regions near the oil spill, high enough to create “dead zones” devoid of life. Methane depletes oxygen, and the scientist noted:

At some locations, we saw depletions of up to 30 percent of oxygen based on its natural concentration in the waters.

Another scientist [writes](#):

Researchers studying the [plumes] have found concentrations of methane up to 10,000 times greater than normal and oxygen levels depleted by 40 percent below normal.

And see [this](#), [this](#) and [this](#).

This unprecedented release of methane into the ocean could kill all life within large swaths of the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition, millions of gallons of Corexit have been sprayed in the Gulf. Corexit contains oil, [propylene glycol](#) and a host of other chemicals. Propylene glycol depletes oxygen from water. See [this](#) and [this](#).

Of course, separate and apart from its oxygen-depleting properties, Corexit is itself [toxic](#) to fish. Given that even seagulls won't touch the fish that are washing up today, the fish should be tested for Corexit poisoning.

Note: If you are confused as to how the oil spill could affect the East Coast, please see [this](#).

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