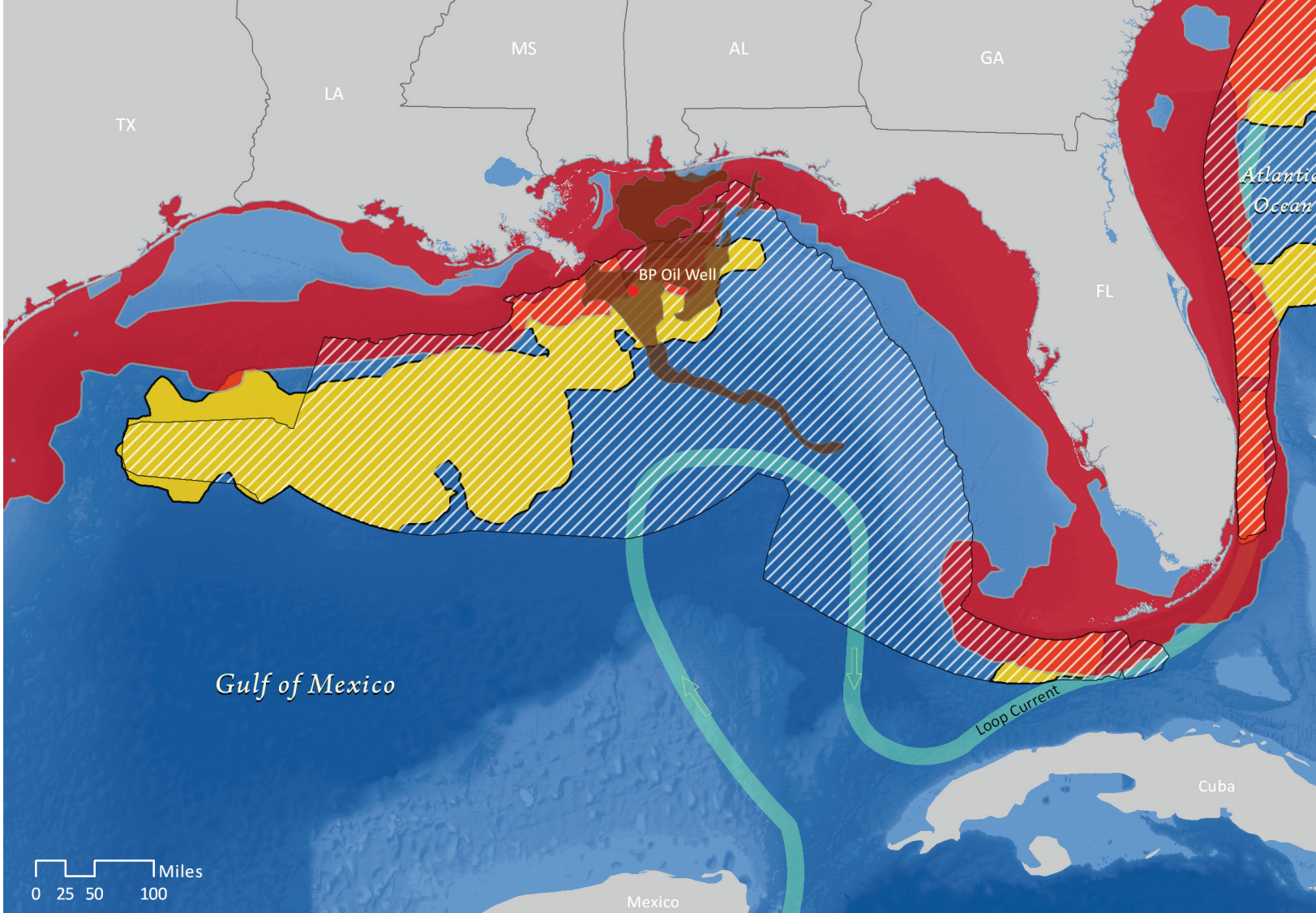


# BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill | Select Species at Risk | Sharks



Sharks are a valuable part of marine ecosystems, where they serve as top predators that help maintain balance. More than a dozen species—including the endangered scalloped hammerhead, which has severely declined over the past several decades—are present in the Gulf of Mexico. Oil spills degrade sharks' habitat and injure them through direct contact or when they consume contaminated prey. Sharks are generally unable to adapt to rapidly changing conditions; therefore, recovery from an oil spill can take decades.

- Longfin Mako Shark
- Bigeye Thresher Shark
- Observed Oil Slick Extent On June 3rd, 2010
- All Three Species
- Scalloped Hammerhead Shark

Sources: NOAA/NMFS/Highly Migratory Species Division (Shark distributions); SkyTruth (oil slick extent); Collecte Localisation Satellites (loop current's main trajectory)

[www.PewEnvironment.org/GulfOilSpill](http://www.PewEnvironment.org/GulfOilSpill)

