



U.S. Arctic Program
Oceans North: Protecting Life in the Arctic
Wildlife Statistics from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Number of birds collected dead as of January 25, 2011: 6,124

Number of sea turtles collected dead as of January 25, 2011: 608

Source: "Deepwater Horizon Response Consolidated Fish and Wildlife Collection Report – January 25, 2011," U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (1/25/11 was the last date collection data was made publicly available.)
<http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/collectionreports.html>

Annual average number of whales and dolphins stranded offshore in the Gulf of Mexico from 2002-2009: 73.6

Reported number of whales and dolphins stranded (98% dead when stranded) offshore in the Gulf of Mexico from May 1, 2010 to April 10, 2011: 305

Source: "2010-2011 Cetacean Unusual Mortality Event in Northern Gulf of Mexico," NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources. http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/mmume/cetacean_gulfofmexico2010.htm

Given new research estimating that carcass recovery represents roughly 2% to 6.2% of actual cetacean deaths, potential number of whale and dolphin mortalities during that period in the Gulf of Mexico: 4,820 to 14,945

Calculation based on 98% of 305 strandings, or 298.9 carcasses.
Source: Williams, Rob et al. "Underestimating the damage: interpreting cetacean carcass recoveries in the context of the Deepwater Horizon/BP incident," 30 March 2011, Conservation Letters, 1–6.