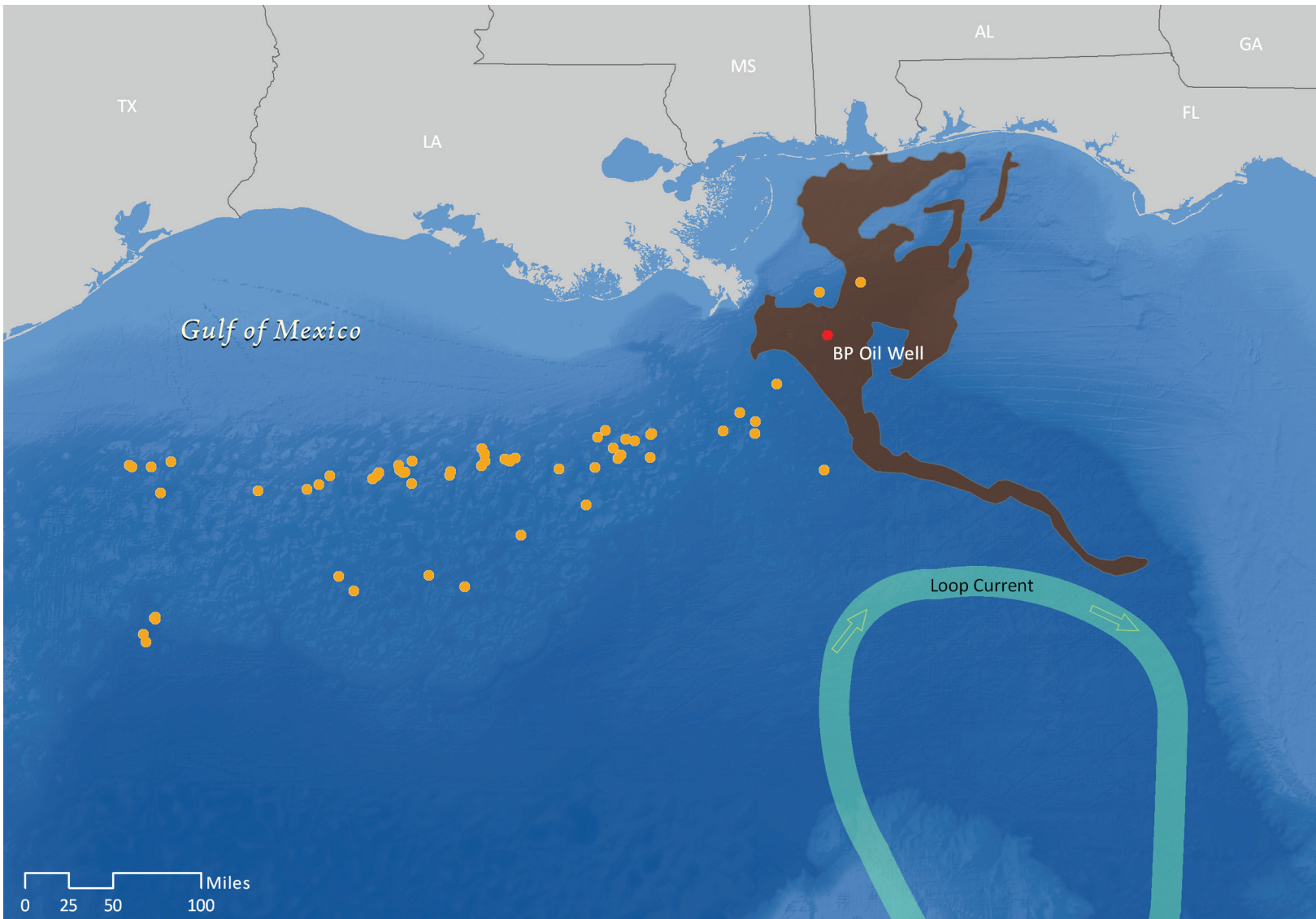


BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill | Select Species at Risk | Deep-Sea Communities



Known deep-sea communities in the Gulf of Mexico include extensive groups of tube worms, bivalves and hard and soft corals. Deep-sea corals provide habitat and feeding and nursery grounds for a range of species. Deep sea reefs dominated by the coral *Lophelia pertusa* have been documented along the continental slopes of the Gulf. One of the most extensive cold-water coral communities in the Gulf is approximately 25 miles north of the BP well site. Oil can smother and kill coral directly and is detrimental to coral reproduction.

● Known High Density Deep-Water Benthic Communities

■ Observed Oil Slick Extent On June 3rd, 2010

Sources: US Dept. of Interior, Minerals Management Service (benthic data); SkyTruth (oil slick extent); Collecte Localisation Satellites (loop current's main trajectory)

www.PewEnvironment.org/GulfOilSpill

