

## Statements/Quotes from Co-Authors

### MARINE POLLUTION BULLETIN

#### Sammarco, P.W., et al. Article



#### Distribution and concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons associated with the BP/Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico<sup>☆</sup>

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#### **Paul W. Sammarco, PhD.:**

“The study’s value is in being a report of what the extent of these concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons was, during and directly after the spill; the numbers that were being reported by the government were lower than reported elsewhere. Also, previously unknown was how it had spread as far west as Galveston.

“If it were me, I would have kept the monitoring going regularly and long-term, and kept sampling going until test results fell well below levels that were reasonable for the protection of human health. Our numbers show substantially high concentrations.

“It [Macondo spill] appeared that the oil got into everything: the fauna, flora, seawater, sediment, the shrimp and other forms of commercial seafood. And it was widespread geographically. I remember hearing on TV ‘*the oil is gone*’. Under the pressures of an economic crisis, I can understand how this might occur, but, in my opinion, I think a bit more work could have been done before the fisheries were opened. More intense monitoring should have gone on longer.”

**Wilma A. Subra:**

“Working with Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN) and Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper (LMRK), the BP Deepwater Horizon Disaster was the focus of my work from the date the Deepwater Horizon explosion occurred on April 20, 2010. Beginning in early August 2010, sampling of water, soil/sediment and seafood species began to be conducted as a result of BP announcing that the majority of oil was no longer present in the Gulf of Mexico. From early August of 2010 until today, LEAN and LMRK have continued to document the contaminant concentrations of BP crude oil components in shrimp, oysters, crabs and fin fish species in the Gulf of Mexico and the coastal areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

“LEAN and LMRK provided data from the collection of water, soil/sediment and aquatic biota during the early phases of our sampling efforts for inclusion in the study and resulting article published in the Marine Pollution Bulletin.

“The contribution of samples and data from each of the authors that is contained in the study establishes the environmental situation around those areas tested in the Gulf during the first year post sinking of the Deepwater Horizon rig. This data is critical to evaluating long term environmental impacts of the BP spill and specific areas to focus intense evaluations.”

**Richard A.F. Warby, PhD.:**

“I got involved in this work initially as an opportunity to give our summer students some real-world experience;

“Our paper raises questions about how different parties sample environmental media. Our data showed contaminants where governmental agencies’ did not. I am not saying anyone was right or wrong; but the question to be asked is, “were similar strategies used in sampling design“

“For example, our sediment samples were discriminate—in locations where PAH’s were suspected to have travelled, or where contaminants were visible. If they [monitoring agencies] employed a grid sampling (not discriminate), and collected many samples then their results could paint a different picture than ours..

“Given these discrepancies, it raises a question as to how well vetted fisheries were, etc. before they were reopened for commercial and private fishing. Again, I’m not saying what the agencies did was wrong, I’m just raising a question about the decision based on result differences discussed in this study”.

**Scott A. Porter:**

“... my comment is to ask the EPA and NOAA to please help us to find a way to stop allowing the use of Corexit so that I can hopefully eat the seafood and once again dive/ study the reefs in the northern Gulf. The coral that we can harvest and sell to the aquarium trade can be instrumental to reducing the destructive pressure on the world's natural coral reefs from which 90% of the coral's colonies that survive are sold in the U.S. market.

**NOTE:** Scott A. Porter, listed as co-author of this study, is a scientific diver and marine biology expert who assisted in the collection of samples during and after the BP spill. He and other fellow divers experienced extremely negative health impacts when exposed to the toxic chemically dispersed oil while diving off the coast of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida in the collection of samples for NOAA. See more on their personal stories at:

[http://www.whistleblower.org/storage/documents/Corexit\\_Report\\_Part1\\_041913.pdf](http://www.whistleblower.org/storage/documents/Corexit_Report_Part1_041913.pdf)