

THE GULF COAST FUND FOR COMMUNITY RENEWAL AND
ECOLOGICAL HEALTH and BRIDGE THE GULF present:

“GULF COAST COMMUNITY CONCERNS and VOICES” CALL SERIES
APRIL 12, 2013
-- Call #1 --

**“Bodies in Crisis: The Continuing Health Impacts of Human Exposure
to BP's Toxic Oil and Dispersant Mix”**

6:00 am CST (12:00 pm London)

“Communities along the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico (states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the panhandle of Florida) have experienced severe human health impacts as a result of being exposed to the BP crude oil and dispersant associated with the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster. Exposure and associated health impacts continue today, three years after the disaster, as a result of ongoing exposure to crude oil in the environment,; as BP crude oil remains prevalent in the environment; and as BP crude oil continues to be washed on shore in the northern Gulf of Mexico, on an ongoing basis.” - Wilma Subra, Chemist

Ada McMahon (Moderator) is a Media Fellow at Bridge The Gulf (www.BridgeTheGulfProject.org), a community journalism project for Gulf Coast communities working towards justice and sustainability.

Dr. Wilma Subra (Panelist) of New Iberia, LA is a MacArthur Prize-winning chemist affiliated with the Subra Company and the Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN). Her many years of sampling, testing and reporting on toxic contamination in communities across the northern Gulf of Mexico coast and elsewhere (many EJ Communities in particular) has earned her international acclaim

Dr. Mike Robichaux (Panelist) is a physician and former state senator whose Raceland, LA doctor's office has provided healthcare to residents of rural bayou communities in south Louisiana for decades. In the wake of the Deepwater Horizon incident, “Dr. Mike” has operated a detox clinic for people who became ill after exposure to BP's oil and dispersant.

Kindra Arnesen (Panelist) is the mother of two and the wife of a commercial fishermen turned clean-up worker by the BP Oil Drilling Disaster. With one of the nearest homes of all to the Deepwater Horizon oil rig and explosion, she has become an outspoken advocate for Gulf Coast families and communities confronting the ongoing impacts of BP's disaster - particularly the sick children in her community and others.

Riki Ott, PhD (Panelist) is a marine toxicologist, author, and former commercial fisher who lives in Cordova, Alaska. Dr. Ott's activist spirit and personal experience of the 1990 Exxon Valdez oil spill led her to the Gulf Coast soon after BP's 2010 oil rig explosion, where she has advocated strongly against the use of chemical dispersant.

Monique Harden (Panelist) is the co-director of Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, a public interest law firm dedicated to upholding our human right to live in a healthy environment. In the aftermaths of Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil drilling disaster, Ms. Harden and co-director Nathalie Walker are spearheading regional and national advocacy to protect the human rights of people harmed by disaster to recover with dignity and justice.

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-- Call #2 --

“Follow the Cash: BP's Trial, Penalties, and Defining 'Restoration' for the 5 Gulf Coast States”

7:30 am CST (1:30 pm London)

Aaron Viles (Moderator) is the Deputy Director of the *Gulf Restoration Network* and was a founding Advisor to the Gulf Coast Fund. A graduate of the University of Washington and Green Corps (the field school for environmental organizing), he served on the environmental transition team of current LA Governor Bobby Jindal. His advocacy work to protect and restore the northern Gulf of Mexico’s vulnerable ecosystems has included congressional testimony and many appearances in local and national media.

Ms. Jackie Antalán (Panelist) is a 4th generation native of Mobile, AL and the Director of Programs and Outreach for *Operation Home Care, Inc.*. Since 2005, Jackie has worked tirelessly to organize Gulf-wide networks and collaborative public policy campaigns that include and empower historically underserved communities. From Katrina recovery to RESTORE Act funding, her focus remains fixed on the equitable distribution of benefits and resources meant for regional disaster recovery.

Roberta Avila (Panelist) of Biloxi MS is the Executive Director of the *Steps Coalition*, an alliance of local non-profits, civic organizations and faith-based groups united in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to promote authentic ‘recovery’ and a more healthy, just and equitable Mississippi Gulf Coast. The coalition’s *People Before Ports* Campaign has notably fought Mississippi’s 2006 diversion of \$600 million in federal recovery funds (intended for affordable housing) to expansion of the Port of Gulfport.

Casi (kc) Callaway (Panelist) is the Executive Director and Baykeeper of *Mobile Baykeeper*, an Alabama environmental advocacy organization that organizes, researches and educates Mobile Bay communities of on issues that affect public health, environment and quality of life. A experienced organizer and lobbyist for environmental legislation at the local, state and federal level, Casi has served on the Gulf of Mexico Program’s Citizen Advisory Committee and, recently, on Alabama’s Coastal Recovery Commission.

-- Call #3 --

**“First Nation (Indigenous) Communities of the Gulf Coast:
Confronting BP's Acceleration of Cultural Displacement/Genocide”**

9:00 am CST (3:00 pm London)

Indigenous people and communities of the Gulf Coast were the first ones here, living sustainably and resiliently for centuries, yet today they are typically the most vulnerable, impacted and forgotten of us all - be it during, after or in between our region’s increasingly frequent natural and man-made disasters. For some, the BP Deepwater Drilling Disaster has been a last or next to last ‘straw’ as they seek with dignity and faith to simply protect their Villages,

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Sacred Sites, Fishing Grounds, Cultural Traditions, Homes and earthly possessions. The combined impacts of Saltwater Intrusion, Toxic Contamination, and Cultural/Political Isolation seem greater, to me, than what any other people or place has to face constantly in this region or country. - Derrick Christopher Evans, Gulf Coast Fund

Derrick Christopher Evans (Moderator) is the director of Turkey Creek Community Initiatives, a managing advisor to the Gulf Coast Fund for Community Renewal and Ecological Health, and a co-founder of Bridge The Gulf Project. Since 2001 he has worked to help protect and revitalize his coastal Mississippi community and sister communities throughout the region. Prior to that he taught civil rights history at Boston College and social studies in the Boston Public Schools.

Shirell Parfait-Dardar (Panelist) is Chief of the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw, a tribal group that may be forced to relocate due to their lands disappearing and, more recently, to their lying in the heart of BP-oiled water and land.

Chief Albert P. Naquin (Panelist) is Chief of the *Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw*, a tribal group that may be forced to relocate due to their lands disappearing and, more recently, to their lying in the heart of BP-oiled water and land. Chief Albert worked as a oil field safety inspector in the Gulf of Mexico for the Mineral Management Service (MMS) of the US Department of Interior during his 24 year career as a federal employee.

Mrs. Clarice Friloux of Grand Bois is a member of the United Houma Nation and an outspoken advocate against the siting of BP's hazardous waste in her community.

Chuckie Verdin (Panelist) is Chief of the *Pointe-au-chien Tribe*, a small American Indian fishing community of 68 families in Pointe-Aux-Chenes, Louisiana. A community with damage ignored from Hurricane Andrew (over 20 years ago), the Pointe-au-chien tribe is one of very few Gulf Coast communities to have a 100% return of its people from Hurricane Katrina. In the wake of BP, Chief Chuckie and Council Member Dardar have been very active in Gulf-wide advocacy for a Regional Citizens Advisory Council, and for equitable and effective RESTORE Act implementation.

Theresa Dardar (Panelist) is a Council Member of the *Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe*.

Brenda Dardar-Robichaux (Panelist) is the former Principal Chief of the United Houma Nation and a current Managing Advisor of the Gulf Coast Fund. Born in the bayou community of Golden Meadow, she was the first in her family to be allowed to attend public school.

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-- CALL #4 --

“Commercial Fishing Families: Economic Justice, Fishery Health and an Uncertain Future”

10:30 am CST (4:30 pm London)

“Most fishermen who are members of the Association of Family Fishermen are small boat, inland commercial fishermen, and they do not earn large profits. BP failed to pay interim payments to full-time commercial fisherman as required by law, and families became desperate and took the extremely low offer of \$25,000 just to survive. It has now been three years since the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, and the \$25,000 paid to these families doesn't even cover one year of loss. These families are not eligible to make another claim and they continue to suffer from this fisheries and economic disaster. BP needs to make these fishing families ‘whole’ and give them their lives back.” - Michael Roberts, Fisherman

Ada McMahon (Moderator) is a Media Fellow at Bridge The Gulf (www.BridgeTheGulfProject.org), a community journalism project for Gulf Coast communities working towards justice and sustainability.

Clint Guidry (Panelist) is a lifelong resident of Lafitte, Louisiana, a third-generation commercial fisherman, and a veteran of the Vietnam War. Mr. Guidry is currently the President and CEO of the Louisiana Shrimp Association, Chairman of the GO FISH Coalition, and Vice-Chairman of the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force.

Colette Pichon Battle, Esq. is the Director of the Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy, a regional advocacy organization in Slidell, LA. In the aftermath of the BP Oil Drilling Disaster, she provided free legal support to many clients seeking just and timely compensation from the BP Gulf Coast Claims Facility, including many fishermen.

Tracy Kuhns (Panelist) is a resident of Barataria, LA and has been the co-owner of a family-owned and operated commercial fishing vessel for 20 years. The feisty grandmother of 15 grandkids, she is also the President of the gulf-wide GO FISH Coalition of commercial fishing organizations and their partners; the Executive Director of Louisiana Bayoukeeper; and a Board Member of the Association of Family Fishermen.

Thao Vu (Panelist) of Biloxi, Mississippi is a Case Manager at Mercy Housing and Human Development and a Managing Advisor of the Gulf Coast Fund. As a community member, service provider, and advocate – Thao co-founded the Mississippi Coalition for Vietnamese-American Fisherfolk and Families.

Kathy Birrin (Panelist), from Hernando Beach Florida, is the wife of a commercial fisherman and co-owner of a family owned and operated dock that buys seafood from other fishermen to process and sell.

Paul Nelson (Panelist) is a fourth generation commercial fishermen from Coden, Alabama. He is President of South Bay Communities Alliance and an Interim Board Member of the Alabama Fisheries Cooperative.

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