

National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling

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Commission Releases Three Staff Working Papers

The National Oil Spill Commission today is making public three staff working papers. These papers, like previously released documents, address issues and discussions taken up by the Commission for its Final Report. The research reflected within these Commission staff working papers informed the Commission's deliberations, and the findings and recommendation in the Commission's Final Report that was presented to the President on January 11, 2011, but the staff papers themselves do not express the views of the Commission. The three staff working papers, included below as attachments, are:

"Offshore Drilling in the Arctic: Background and Issues for the Future Consideration of Oil and Gas Activities"

This paper addresses, in its own words, "a brief historical background of Arctic oil and gas development, a discussion of the economic importance of oil in Alaska, challenges of Arctic oil spill response, Arctic subsistence resource issues, an overview of important ecological resources in the Arctic, and data gaps relevant to future oil and gas decision-making. The paper concludes with a summary of staff findings relevant to the future of offshore oil and gas development in the Arctic."

"Offshore Drilling in the Arctic"

"Rebuilding an Appetite for Gulf Seafood after Deepwater Horizon"

The paper "describe[s] the evolution of the seafood safety debate...discuss[es] ongoing federal and state efforts to diffuse the controversy, and...offer[s] suggestions for avoiding such a crisis of public confidence in the future." The paper "suggests that governments can help to rebuild public trust—now and in the future—by promoting greater transparency, citizen involvement, and more robust and independent seafood testing programs."

"Rebuilding an Appetite for Gulf Seafood"

“Natural Resource Damage Assessment: Evolution, Current Practice, and Preliminary Findings Related to the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill”

“This background paper describes the history and purpose of the NRDA, reviews the main steps in the NRDA process, and reports on the status of current damage assessment efforts in the Gulf.” It considers “the adequacy of existing legal, regulatory, and policy” mechanisms.

“Natural Resource Damage Assessment”

The staff working papers are also available at www.oilspillcommission.gov.