

The Sun Herald

[Previous Story](#)

[Next Story](#)

'An ongoing disaster:' South Mississippi still suffers 4 years after BP spill

4 years after BP spill, Coast sees no end to suffering

By MARY MARGARET HALFORD

mhalford@sunherald.com April 17, 2014 Updated 12 hours ago

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Google Plus](#) [Reddit](#) [E-mail](#) [Print](#)



[View Full Gallery \(12 Photos\)](#)

'An ongoing disaster:' South Mississippi still suffers 4 years after BP spill [View Full Gallery](#)

TIM ISBELL — SUN HERALD | [Buy Photo](#)

- Related Stories:
- [Ex-US Attorney heads oil spill claims audit panel](#)

BILOXI -- Sunday will mark the four-year anniversary of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and people in South Mississippi are still feeling the effects of what's been called the largest man-made environmental disaster in United States history.

A matter of perspective

"We're four years into this disaster, not four years after it," said Terese Collins, a board member for the Gulf Islands Conservancy at a press conference on the shoreline of Biloxi's Back Bay. "This is an ongoing

disaster."

Thao Vu, coordinator of the Mississippi Coalition for Vietnamese-American Fisher Folks and Families, said for many in the Vietnamese community, the Gulf of Mexico was a solid way to make a living before the April 20, 2010, spill that dumped an estimated 200 million gallons of oil into the ocean.

"They are critically dependent on a healthy Gulf," Vu said. "But they're not catching what they used to and this has caused great economic hardship."

Vu was flanked by a crowd of Vietnamese fishermen holding pictures of dead dolphins and signs that said "Hold BP accountable" and "Tell the truth."

Some hard truths

Collins detailed the environmental effects of the spill, including unhealthy fish, birds, dolphins and other animals, which in turn can affect the people fishing for those animals.

"This whole food web is an issue," she said. "We don't really know what those impacts are."

In a report released this week, BP noted the Gulf of Mexico has seen a "robust recovery" in the four years since the spill, but those at the press conference disagreed.

"That is not true," Vu said.

Helen Rose Patterson, a Mississippi organizer for the Gulf Restoration Network, said her main goal in moving forward is public participation.

"We want to see opportunities for people to sit around tables and discuss what the possibilities are," she said. "We want to know how the existing restoration includes the public."

"On the fifth observance of this disaster a year from now, we hope to mark it with tangible evidence that our communities will never have to face a tragedy like this again and the full knowledge that BP has been held accountable."

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Google Plus](#) [Reddit](#) [E-mail](#) [Print](#)

Join The Conversation

The Sun Herald is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

[Commenting FAQs](#) | [Terms of Service](#)

Today's Circulars



JCPENNEY
2 DAYS LEFT



TARGET
2 DAYS LEFT



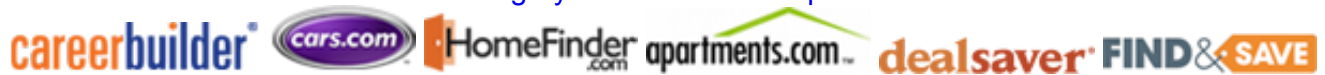
BIG LOTS
EXPIRES THIS SUNDAY



ACADEMY SPORTS +
VALID UNTIL APR 26

[View All Circulars](#)

- [Email Newsletters >](#)
- [Manage newsletter subscriptions](#)
- [Tablets >](#)
- [Apps and services for tablet devices](#)
- [Mobile >](#)
- [Apps and services for your mobile phone](#)
- [Social Media >](#)
- [Get updates via Facebook and Twitter](#)
- [e-Edition >](#)
- [Your daily paper delivered to your computer](#)
- [Home Delivery >](#)
- [Manage your home delivery account](#)
- [Digital Subscriptions >](#)
- [Manage your online subscriptions](#)



© 2014 www.sunherald.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.sunherald.com>