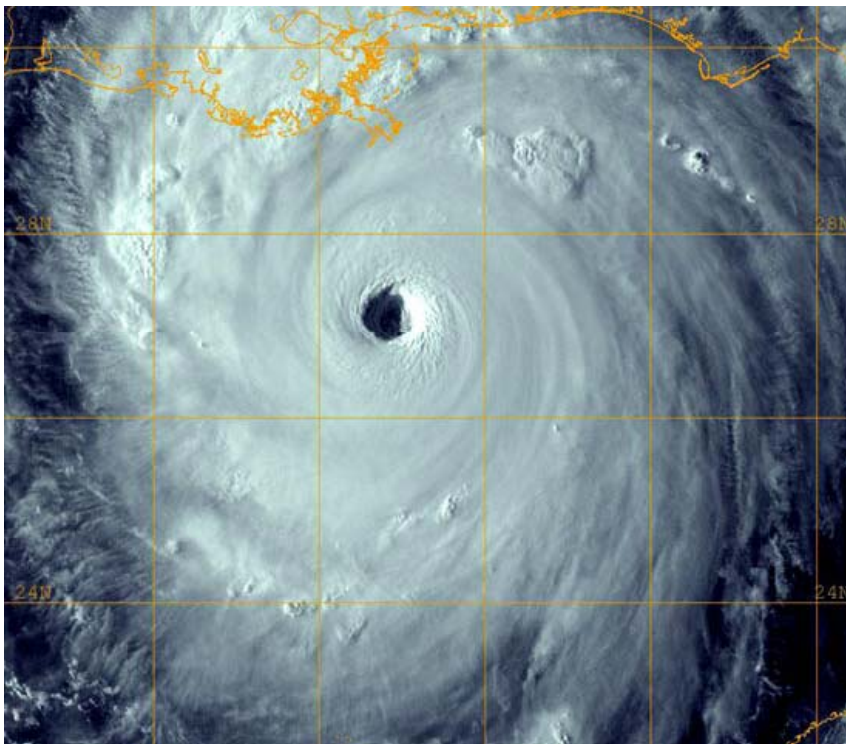


# Offshore Drilling and Hurricanes

## A Fact of Florida Life



## The truth about what happened

- From [The Guardian \(UK\)](#):
  - The oil pollution in the wake of Hurricane Katrina could be among the worst recorded in North America, officials trying to coordinate the clean-up say. The US coastguard, which is responsible for the marine environment, said yesterday more than 6.5 million gallons of crude oil had been spilt in at least seven major incidents. The previous worst spill in US waters was the 11m gallons in Alaskan waters from the Exxon Valdez in 1989.
- "This is a major event," said Lieutenant Commander Glynn Smith of the coastguard in New Orleans. "Things are going well, but three-quarters of the oil from the spills has not yet been recovered"

# Florida's "Inconvenient Truth"

1. Florida by geography is in path of hurricanes;
2. "Out of sight(?)" drill rigs require vulnerable, coastal pipelines, storage tanks, refineries;
3. Damage from petroleum spills during Katrina and Rita is catastrophic and irrefutable;
4. Oil spill "clean-up" is a mis-leading concept;
5. Seafood "nurseries" in marsh grasses and mangroves are particularly vulnerable.

# ANERR: Billion\$ Seafood “Cradle”



# Some Katrina/Rita Damage Metrics

- Per Minerals Management Service:
  - 113 platforms totally destroyed
  - 457 pipelines damaged
  - 101 major pipelines 10'' in diameter
  - 741,000 gal. spilled from 124 reported sources
- NOTE: A 10'' pipeline segment that's 5 miles long between shutoff valves can hold more than 100,000 gallons of oil. If it breaks, that oil is going into the water.

# National Security and Gulf Ranges

- Unique training opportunities, both in airspace and on/subsurface waters;
- Instrumented ranges for required test and evaluation of new weapon systems;
- Economic impact of military installations and populations (USAF Tyndall and Eglin; USN Panama City and Pensacola);
- Base Re-alignment and Consolidation (BRAC) decisions potentially affected.

# Key Issues

- Offshore drilling “safe, clean, out of sight”?
  - But Australian West Atlas rig blow-out on-going
- Katrina and Rita damage was insignificant?
  - But MMES and USCG report differently
- Rigs in Gulf would not interfere with Military?
  - But key Service missions could not be performed
- Would inevitable spill damage tourism economy?
  - Pinellas County spill an historic example

# Modern Drilling Safe and Clean?

- West Atlas Rig
- Blow-out: 08/21/09
- On-fire:
- Finally out: 11/03/09
- Oil slick: 50,000 sq km



## The Bottom Line

Can Floridians afford to  
“Bet the Farm”?

