

3635209148-64942-18909-190-160

From: Clarice E Ransom <cransom@usgs.gov>

Sent: Tue, 17 Aug 2010 15:56:01

To: GS FOIA 0134 <foia0134@usgs.gov>

Subject: Fw: AP survey for Gulf of Mexico -- Clarice/rd and plse respond

Sincerely,

Clarice Nassif Ransom

Public Affairs Specialist

Office of Communications

U.S. Geological Survey

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www.usgs.gov

----- Forwarded by Clarice E Ransom/DO/USGS/DOI on 08/17/2010 03:55 PM

From: Catherine E Puckett/DO/USGS/DOI

To: George R Kish/WRD/USGS/DOI@USGS, Clarice E Ransom/DO/USGS/DOI@USGS

Cc: Arturo E Torres/WRD/USGS/DOI@USGS, Donna N Myers/WRD/USGS/DOI@USGS,
Jonathon C

Scott/WRD/USGS/DOI@USGS, Terry L Schertz/WRD/USGS/DOI@USGS, Yvonne E

Stoker/WRD/USGS/DOI@USGS

Date: 07/22/2010 08:34 PM

Subject: Re: Fw: AP survey for Gulf of Mexico -- Clarice/rd and plse respond

George and all: Seth called me about this request a few days ago. Per the DOI oil spill media mandates, we turn over media inquiries to our USGS "oil spill media liaison (Clarice Ransom), who discusses them with DOI (who, I think works with the Joint INfo Center), and this was done with this inquiry. I will get back in touch with you tomorrow -- or Clarice Ransom -- copied above -- will do so (I'm on travel in DC) about protocol for answering these. I believe Clarice is sending a list of some of our scientists' name to the department which will give them to Seth (but I don't have those details yet) as people good for answering the survey. From our perspective, these surveys, when answered by USGS scientists, as in all our work, should be science-based and are therefore more objective than subjective. What Seth and Cain want is to get a good feel for the "state of the Gulf" the day before the oil spill in a number of different areas --

Seth is a very good science reporter, national for AP, and has a great grasp on science subjects.

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EMAIL: cpuckett@usgs.gov

Re: Fw: AP survey for Gulf of Mexico (Document link: Catherine E Puckett)

George R Kish

to:

Yvonne E Stoker

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Cc:

Donna N Myers, Jonathon C Scott, Terry L Schertz, Catherine E Puckett, Arturo E Torres

Hi Yvonne,

I think Catherine Puckett might have communicated with Seth previously. He interviewed me about phenology over a year ago - but the content was not subjective.

George

George R. Kish  
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U.S. Geological Survey  
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Tampa, Florida 33612

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Email: gkish@usgs.gov

"Always look on the bright side of life."

- - Monty Python from "Life of Brian"

From: Yvonne E Stoker/WRD/USGS/DOI

To: Terry L Schertz/WRD/USGS/DOI@USGS, Donna N Myers/WRD/USGS/DOI@USGS

Cc: Jonathon C Scott/WRD/USGS/DOI@USGS, George R Kish/WRD/USGS/DOI@USGS

Date: 07/22/2010 08:17 AM

Subject: Fw: AP survey for Gulf of Mexico

Here is an unusual request asking a group of scientists for subjective

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information about the effects of the oil spill.

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Yvonne E. Stoker  
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U.S. Geological Survey  
Office of Water Quality  
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Phone: (813) 975-8620 ext. 133 Fax: (813) 975-0839  
email: ystoker@usgs.gov

----- Forwarded by Yvonne E Stoker/WRD/USGS/DOI on 07/22/2010 08:12 AM  
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From: Harte Research Institute <GulfBase@gulfbase.org>

To: ystoker@usgs.gov

Date: 07/21/2010 06:41 PM

Subject: AP survey for Gulf of Mexico

Hello GulfBase Members,

The Harte Research Institute is trying to assist these two Associated Press writers achieve a significant survey of knowledgeable Gulf of Mexico scientist's opinions. Please consider filling out the questionnaire below and returning it to them.

Regards and thanks,  
Wes Tunnell

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We are Seth Borenstein and Cain Burdeau, science and environment writers at The Associated Press.

We will be following for the next year, possibly two or more years, the long-term environmental effects of the oil spill on the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem with stories that are science based and in depth. Our first effort is to write a story that essentially sets a baseline for effects to the Gulf by looking at the ecological health of the ecosystem as of April 19, the day before the spill. We also want to understand how the condition of the Gulf pre-spill will affect recovery or lack thereof from the oil spill. Any thoughts on that would be welcome.

One thing we are trying to do in gauging the health of the Gulf pre-spill is to survey the scientists who work on the Gulf, through [gulfbase.org](http://gulfbase.org), your institution or through other contact lists.

So we'd appreciate it if you could help us by taking a few minutes of your time and fill out this survey. We'd like for you to take a look at

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these categories and rate the health of the Gulf on a 0 to 100 scale with 0 being dead as dead can be, 100 being as pristine can be. And remember this is for the Gulf ecosystem pre-spill, say as of Apr. 19, 2010 or anytime before the spill started. Rate what you feel comfortable rating given your level of expertise, study and knowledge. If you don't feel comfortable rating it, that's OK, leave it empty or put NA. If there are other scientists you think we should send this to, please e-mail us and let us know. We'll send it to that researcher.

Our contact info: Seth Borenstein, office: 202-641-9454; cell [REDACTED]; email sborenstein@ap.org; Cain Burdeau office: 504-523-3931; cell: [REDACTED]; email cburdeau@ap.org

Can you please fill out the survey below and email it to sborenstein@ap.org and cburdeau@ap.org by end of day Monday JULY 26, 2010.

Thanks.

Seth Borenstein and Cain Burdeau

The Associated Press

Here's what we would like you to help us with:

Your name:

Your institution



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Your primary expertise:

The ratings , remember please put this in a 0 to 100 scale with 0 being dead, 100 being pristine. And remember rate the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem for BEFORE THE BP OIL SPILL.

FIRST, how about a grade for the OVERALL HEALTH OF THE GULF pre-spill:

Ten categories (some with some categories):

1. Wetlands/Marshes overall health:

2. Marine Mammals overall health:

2a. Whales :

2b. Dolphins :

2c. Manatees :

3. Fish overall health:

3a. Red snapper :

3b. Menhaden :

3c/ King Mackerel:

4. Birds overall health

4a. Brown pelican :

4b. Clapper rails :

4c. Terns :

5. Crustaceans overall health :

5a. shrimps :

5b. crabs :

5c. oysters :

6. Other Gulf general ecosystem life :

6a. coral :

6b. turtles :

6c. amphibians :

7. Food web overall

8. water column quality.

9. Sea floor

10. Beaches :

10a. Texas beaches :

10b. La. beaches

10c. Miss. beaches

10d. Ala. beaches

10e. Fla. beaches

General comments on the health of the ecosystem before the spill, how it will effect recovery and what you think the recovery might be like, even a similar 1 to 100 grade for a year or two years after the spill:

Thanks,

Seth and Cain

Seth Borenstein  
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