



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
For release: Monday, June 21, 2010
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FEW EXPECT OIL LEAK WILL STOP SOON, BUT MOST ARE OPTIMISTIC THE GULF COAST REGION WILL EVENTUALLY RECOVER

June 16-20, 2010

Fewer than one in five Americans think BP will be able to stop the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico within the next month. 64% think it will take at least several months for the oil to stop flowing.

Views are similarly pessimistic among those living in the Gulf coast region (Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana) – 64% of them say it will take BP several months or longer to stop the flow of oil. One in ten think the flow of oil into the Gulf will never be stopped.

How Long Will BP Take to Stop Oil Leak?

	All	Gulf coast region
Few weeks or a month	18%	17%
Several months	48	42
A year or longer	16	22
Never	7	11

Still, a majority of Gulf residents (and Americans overall) think the Gulf’s local economy, including fishing and tourism, will eventually recover.

Will the Gulf Economy Ever Recover?

	All	Gulf coast region
No, may never recover	17%	22%
Yes, will eventually recover	79	72
Damage not bad now	1	2

There is also optimism that the Gulf will recover from the environmental damage being caused by the oil spill. A majority of Americans overall (66%) and Gulf residents (69%) also think the local environment, including wildlife, will eventually recover.

Will the Gulf Environment Ever Recover?

	All	Gulf coast region
No, may never recover	29%	26%
Yes, will eventually recover	66	69
Damage not bad now	1	1

 This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,259 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone June 16-20, 2010. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

An oversample of residents in coastal counties of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi was conducted for this poll, for a total of 318 interviews. The results were then weighted in proportion to the adult population. The margin of error for the sample of these Gulf Coast residents is six points. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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q52 From what you've seen and heard, how long do you think it will take BP to stop the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico -- a few more weeks, about a month or so, several months, about a year, longer than that or don't you think BP will ever be able to stop the flow of oil into the Gulf?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

	%
Few weeks	4
About a month	14
Several months	48
About a year	10
Longer than a year	6
Won't be able to stop	7
Depends (vol.)	1
DK/NA	10

q63 From what you know, is the environmental damage caused by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico so severe that wildlife, like fish and birds may never recover OR is the damage severe but the wildlife will eventually recover, OR is the damage not all that severe?

May never recover	29
Eventually recover	66
Not that severe	1
DK/NA	4

q64 From what you know, is the economic damage caused by the oil spill so severe that the Gulf coast economy, including businesses like tourism and fishing, may never recover, OR is the economic damage severe but the Gulf coast economy will eventually recover, OR is the damage not all that severe?

May never recover	17
Eventually recover	79
Not that severe	1
DK/NA	3

Total Respondents: 1259
Gulf Coast Residents: 318