

**AMERICANS, GULF RESIDENTS AND THE OIL SPILL**

June 16-20, 2010

- President Obama gets only mixed reviews on his handling of the oil spill (43% approve, 47% disapprove), but his efforts are still rated far better than those of the oil company BP, which receives a mere 13% approval.
- The President’s speech last week failed to convince Americans that he has a plan to deal with the spill – 59% think he does not, including 56% of those who watched his speech.
- There is more criticism of BP in the poll: most blame risk-taking by BP for the spill, and the public is mixed as to whether the company will compensate those affected. More trust the federal government than BP to conduct the cleanup.
- Additional interviews were conducted among Gulf residents in the coastal counties of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. The poll finds economic pain and anger as a result of the spill in those areas, but also optimism that the local economy and environment will someday recover.
- Americans call for a new energy policy in the wake of the spill – but are mixed on whether President Obama has a clear plan for it going forward.

**PRESIDENT ‘S RESPONSE TOO SLOW AND NO CLEAR PLAN**

43% of Americans approve of the way President Obama is handling the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. But Americans express even more dissatisfaction with BP: nearly eight in 10 disapprove of the job BP is doing on the spill.

	<b>Handling of Gulf Oil Spill</b>	
	<u>Pres. Obama</u>	<u>BP</u>
Approve	43%	13%
Disapprove	47	79

59% of Americans do not think President Obama has a clear plan for dealing with the oil spill; just a third says he does. Those who watched the President’s Oval Office speech last Tuesday are similarly unconvinced.

**Does Pres. Obama Have a Clear Plan for Dealing with Gulf Oil Spill?**

	All	Speech Watchers
Yes	32%	35%
No	59	56

Most Americans are critical of the pace at which President Obama responded to the oil spill in the Gulf – 61% say he has been too slow.

**Pres. Obama’s Response to the Oil Spill**

Too quick	2%
Too slow	61
About right	32

Republicans and independents think President Obama has been too slow to respond. Among Democrats, 48% say the timing of his response has been about right, but 46% think it was too slow.

Still, 75% say President Obama does care about the needs and problems of those affected by the oil spill, including 43% who say he cares a lot.

**How Much Does Pres. Obama Care About People Affected by Gulf Oil Spill?**

A lot	43%
Some	32
Not much	14
Not at all	8

The oil spill appears to have had little impact on the President's overall job performance rating. 47% approve of the overall job he is doing, the same as last month.

**President Obama's Overall Job Rating**

	Now	5/2010	4/2010	3/2010	2/2010
Approve	47%	47%	51%	44%	46%
Disapprove	43	43	39	41	45

Most Americans express at least some confidence in the President's ability to handle a crisis generally, but just 31% have a lot of confidence. These marks are somewhat better than those George W. Bush received in the weeks following Hurricane Katrina, but fall short of the especially high marks President Bush received following the 9/11 attacks.

**Confidence in ... Ability to Handle a Crisis**

	Pres. Obama		George W. Bush	
	Now	5/2010	Post-Katrina	Post-9/11
A lot	31%	29	32%	66%
Some	29	19	19	24
Not much	19	19	25	7
Not at all	20	20	23	2

A solid majority of Americans continues to view President Obama as a strong leader, though that percentage has fallen since earlier this year.

**Does Pres. Obama Have Strong Qualities of Leadership?**

	Now	1/2010
Yes	62%	70%
No	35	28

**CLEANING UP THE SPILL: MORE TRUST GOVERNMENT THAN BP**

The oil company BP receives criticism from the public in this poll. By two to one, more Americans trust the federal government than BP to clean up the oil.

**Trust More to Handle Gulf Cleanup?**

	All	Gulf coast region
BP	27%	27%
Federal government	56	48
Both equally	5	4
Neither	9	16

The President announced BP would contribute billions into a fund to help residents affected by the spill, and while one in two Americans are at least somewhat confident that BP will compensate those affected, an equal number are not very or not at all confident. Residents of the Gulf coast region (Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana) are more confident than Americans overall that those affected will be compensated.

**Confident BP Will Compensate People Affected by Oil Spill?**

	All	Gulf coast region
Very confident	10%	17%
Somewhat confident	40	43
Not very/at all confident	49	38

Americans do think the President has at least some – though not a lot – of control over whether BP pays damages.

**How Much Can Obama Control BP Making Payments?**

A lot of control	28%
Some control	39
Not much/not at all	29

And eight in 10 say BP could be doing more to clean up the oil. A majority thinks the Obama administration could be doing more as well.

**Could... Be Doing More to Clean Up Oil Spill?**

	<u>Obama Admin.</u>	<u>BP</u>
Yes, could be doing more	67%	81%
No, doing all it can	28	15

In fact, Americans see little impact so far as a result of BP's efforts. 43% think BP's efforts have made no impact, while another 17% say they have made things worse. About one in three think BP has made things better.

**BP's Efforts to Clean Oil Spill Are Making Things....**

Better	30%
No impact	43
Worse	17

Few expect the leak to be plugged soon. Two thirds think it will take at least several months.

**How Long Will It Take to Stop Oil Leak?**

Few weeks or a month	18%
Several months	48
A year or longer	16
Never	7

Four in ten Americans think it is taking so long to stop the leak because it is simply too hard to do, while nearly as many says it is because no one knows how.

**Why Taking So Long to Plug the Leak?**

It's hard to do	40%
No one knows how	37
Both	8
Other reasons	12

The public places more blame for the oil spill on risk-taking by BP in the Gulf than on inadequate enforcement of existing government regulations or weak regulations.

**How Much Blame for Oil Spill?**

	Great deal	Good amount	Some/Not at all
Risk-taking by BP	60%	21	17
Inadequate enforcement of regulations	41%	27	27
Weak federal regulations	29%	22	45

The poll finds oil companies generally are viewed with distrust; three in four say that they have not much or no trust in oil companies to act in the best interests of the public.

**THE GULF’S COASTAL RESIDENTS: HARD HIT, ANGRY -- BUT OPTIMISTIC**

CBS News and the New York Times conducted additional interviews with residents of the coastal counties surrounding the Gulf in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. The poll finds hardship in the short run among those residents, but optimism in the long term about the eventual recovery of the economy and the environment there.

Anger runs high about the spill. A majority of Gulf coast residents – and most Americans overall -- are angry about it, and an additional four in ten are bothered by it.

**Feelings about the Oil Spill:**

	All	Gulf coast region
Angry	56%	55%
Bothered, not angry	41	42
Not bothered	3	2

The spill is perceived as having already impacted the area. Nearly four in five Gulf residents say the spill has hurt their area at least some, including half who say it has hurt their communities a lot.

**How is Spill Affecting Your Community?**

(Among Gulf Coast residents)

Hurting a lot	54%
Hurting it some	27
Helping	8
No effect	8

A third of coastal residents report a direct impact to themselves or their families. Another 32% see an indirect impact.

**Have You Been Personally Affected by the Spill?**

(Among Gulf Coast residents)

Yes, directly	33%
Yes, but indirectly	32
No, no effect	34

Four in ten Gulf residents report at least some financial hardship arising from the spill. Still, most say they have not been financially affected.

### How Much Financial Hardship Has Spill Caused?

(Among Gulf Coast residents)

A lot	16%
Some	24
Not much/none	59

31% of those affected by the spill along the Gulf Coast say they have either lost their job or had a loss of income. Another 28% mention the impact on fishing and seafood as the main way they've been affected.

### What's the Main Way You've Been Affected?

(Among Gulf Coast residents affected by the oil spill)

Loss of income or job	31%
Impact on fishing/seafood	28
Local economic impact	6

Despite the current hardships, 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

And most Gulf residents think the local environment will eventually recover – but 26% think it won't.

### 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

People who live in Gulf counties hold similar views to the public overall when it comes to President Obama's handling of the oil spill; 64% think the President's response to the spill was too slow (as do 61% of the public overall). And like Americans overall, few Gulf residents approve of how BP is handling the spill.

### Americans and Gulf Coast Residents

	All	<u>Gulf Coast region</u>
Approve of Obama's handling of oil spill	43%	42%
Approve of BP's handling of oil spill	13%	21%
Obama's response too slow	61%	64%
Obama doesn't have clear plan for oil spill	59%	64%
Cares a lot about needs of people affected by spill	43%	38%
Cares a lot about people like you	37%	38%

75% of those in the region think BP could be doing more to stop the leak, while just 23% think it is doing all it can.

## **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: U.S. ENERGY POLICY NEEDS CHANGES**

In response to the spill, the federal government placed a moratorium on all offshore oil drilling for six months. Two in three Americans think that was a good idea, because new safety regulations for offshore drilling are needed. Just 30% thought it was a bad idea because of the loss of income and jobs that could cause.

Nine in 10 Americans – including a majority of Republicans, Democrats, and independents alike – think U.S. energy policy either needs fundamental changes or to be completely rebuilt. Just 6% think only minor changes are needed.

### **U.S. Energy Policy Needs...**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Minor changes	6%	9%	5%	5%
Fundamental changes	58	59	62	55
To be rebuilt	31	25	31	36

In particular, nearly all Americans think the U.S. is too dependent on other countries for its supply of oil, and nearly nine in 10 are at least somewhat concerned about that, including a majority of 56% who are very concerned.

Nevertheless, just over half of Americans (51%) would oppose an increased tax on gasoline, with the proceeds going toward exploration of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power. 45% would support such a tax.

Although he talked about ending America's dependence on fossil fuels in his speech last week, Americans are divided as to whether President Obama has a clear plan for developing new sources of energy. 41% think he has a clear plan, while another 45% think he does not.

### **Does President Obama Have a Clear Plan for Developing New Sources of Energy?**

	Now	Reps	Dems	Ind
Yes	41%	20%	60%	38%
No	45	69	26	46
Don't know	14	11	14	16

Still, Americans are optimistic that the U.S. will develop an alternative to oil as a major source of energy within the next 25 years. Most (59%) think it is at least somewhat likely, including a quarter (24%) that thinks it is very likely.

### **Will the U.S. Develop Alternative Energy Within 25 Years?**

Very likely	24%
Somewhat likely	35
Not too/at all likely	26

## **OFFSHORE DRILLING AND THE OIL INDUSTRY**

Similar to last month, 42% of Americans favor increasing offshore oil drilling, while more – 49% - think the costs and risks are too great. Americans divide along partisan lines on this issue.

### **Increased Offshore Oil Drilling?**

	Now	6/2010	5/2010	8/2008
Favor	42%	40%	45%	62%
Risks too great	49	51	46	28

Unlike Americans overall, those in the Gulf coast region - who may have felt the effects of the oil spill more directly but whose economies may also be more dependent upon offshore drilling – favor increased offshore drilling (54%). Just a third of Gulf coast residents think the costs and risks are too great.

**Increased Offshore Oil Drilling?**

	All	Gulf coast region
Favor	42%	54%
Risks too great	49	36

And in the wake of the spill there is wide support for increasing regulations on oil companies. When asked to choose between more regulations to protect the environment or fewer regulations to produce more oil, three in four think the government should do more to regulate the offshore drilling practices of oil companies. A majority of Republicans, Democrats, and independents agree, as do most residents of the Gulf coast.

**Should the Government Have...?**

	Now	Reps	Dems	Inds
More regulations on oil companies	76%	61%	87%	76%
Fewer regulations on oil companies	18	30	10	18

**THE DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY, THE ECONOMY, AND CONGRESS**

As it has been for many months, the economy and jobs is still volunteered as the country’s most important problem (40%), though the oil spill in the Gulf is now cited second (13%).

77% see the economy as at least somewhat bad, including three in 10 who would describe it as very bad. 22% think it is at least somewhat good. That is little changed since last month. 28% think the economy is improving, while 24% think it is getting worse and about half think it is staying the same.

**Direction of the Economy**

	Now	5/2010	4/2010	2/2010
Getting better	28%	30%	41%	24%
Getting worse	24	28	15	29
Staying the same	48	42	43	45

45% of Americans approve of the President’s handling of the economy, while 48% disapprove. These ratings are similar to last month.

**Pres. Obama’s Handling of the Economy**

	Now	5/2010
Approve	45%	43%
Disapprove	48	48

With the nation’s unemployment rate at 9.7%, only a third of Americans say President Obama has a clear plan for creating jobs in the U.S., down from 39% earlier this year.

**Does Pres. Obama Have a Clear Plan for Creating Jobs?**

	Now	2/2010
Yes	34%	39%
No	54	56

A third of all Americans think the country is headed in the right direction, while six in 10 think it is off on the wrong track – a ratio that has held relatively steady since the beginning of the year. Democrats remain positive, while Republicans and independents think things are off on the wrong track.

		<b>Direction of the Country</b>			
	Now	5/2010	2/2010	1/2010	5/2009
Right direction	32%	32%	33%	36%	45%
Wrong track	60	61	62	55	48

Congressional approval remains very low at 19%. 70% disapprove.

		<b>Congress Job Approval</b>			
	Now	5/2010	1/2010	3/2009	10/2008
Approve	19%	15%	23%	30%	12%
Disapprove	70	77	63	56	74

And just one in 10 Americans think most members of Congress deserve re-election; four in five think it's time to give new people a chance. That has not changed in recent months.

**Do Most Members of Congress Deserve Re-Election?**

	Now	5/2010	4/2010
Yes	9%	9%	10%
No	79	82	78

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 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.



**CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL**  
**Americans, Gulf Residents, and the Oil Spill**  
**June 16-20, 2010**

q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May10c
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	47	15	74	43	47
Disapprove	43	80	16	44	43
DK/NA	10	5	10	13	10

q2 Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	32	9	53	29	32
Wrong track	60	87	37	62	61
DK/NA	8	4	10	9	7

q3 What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

					Apr10a
Economy/Jobs	40	41	44	36	49
Oil Spill in Gulf	13	8	15	16	--
Health Care	5	6	6	4	8
Budget Deficit/Nat'l Debt	5	9	1	5	5
War/Iraq/Afghanistan	3	2	4	2	4
Immigration	3	2	6	1	1
Moral Values/Family Values	2	3	0	0	2
Misc. Foreign Affairs	2	0	0	4	0
Misc. Government Issues	2	2	1	2	1
Politicians/Government	2	1	2	4	1
Other	20	24	19	22	24
DK/NA	3	2	2	4	5

q4 Besides the economy, which of these domestic policy areas do you want the President and Congress to concentrate on most right now -- immigration, energy, education, or reform of the financial industry?

Immigration	24	33	16	25
Energy	14	8	17	14
Education	24	20	27	24
Financial industry	30	27	33	29
Something else/Combination	7	9	7	6
DK/NA	1	3	0	2

q5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

					May10c
Approve	45	15	71	42	43
Disapprove	48	83	21	50	48
DK/NA	7	2	8	8	9

q6 BLANK

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Approve	43	22	63	39
Disapprove	47	66	29	52
DK/NA	10	12	8	9

q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

					May10c
					%
Approve	19	13	26	16	15
Disapprove	70	79	56	76	77
DK/NA	11	8	18	8	8

q9 Do you think most members of Congress have done a good enough job to deserve re-election, or do you think it's time to give new people a chance?

Deserves re-election	9	4	17	6	9
Time for new person	79	88	67	85	82
Depends on candidates (vol.)	6	6	7	5	5
DK/NA	6	2	9	4	4

q10 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

Very good	2	1	3	0	1
Fairly good	20	10	27	19	19
Fairly bad	48	46	46	52	47
Very bad	29	43	22	27	32
DK/NA	1	0	2	2	1

q11 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	28	17	39	24	30
Worse	24	39	12	27	28
Same	48	44	49	49	42
DK/NA	0	0	0	0	0

q12 Do you think Barack Obama has strong qualities of leadership, or not?

					Jan10b
Has	62	30	88	58	70
Does not have	35	68	9	38	28
Don't know/No answer	3	2	3	4	2

q13 Do you think Barack Obama does or does not have a clear plan for creating jobs?

					Feb10a
Does	34	17	53	29	39
Does not	54	78	31	60	56
DK/NA	12	5	16	11	5

q14 Do you think Barack Obama does or does not have a clear plan for developing new sources of energy?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Does	41	20	60	38
Does not	45	69	26	46
Don't know/No answer	14	11	14	16

q15 Do you think Barack Obama does or does not have a clear plan for dealing with the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico?

Does	32	16	46	30
Does not	59	76	41	63
DK/NA	9	8	13	7

q16 How much do you think Barack Obama cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself--a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

					Jan10b %
A lot	37	13	67	26	41
Some	31	35	19	38	28
Not much	16	21	11	18	14
Not at all	15	30	3	16	15
DK/NA	1	1	0	2	2

q17 How much confidence do you have in Barack Obama's ability to handle a crisis -- a lot, some, a little, or none at all?

A lot	31	6	55	25
Some	29	23	30	32
A little	19	25	10	22
None at all	20	45	4	20
Don't know/No answer	1	1	1	1

q18 From what you've seen or heard, do you think Barack Obama's response to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has been too quick, too slow, or has the timing been about right?

Too quick	2	2	2	1
Too slow	61	75	46	67
About right	32	19	48	27
DK/NA	5	4	4	5

q19 How much do you think Barack Obama cares about the needs and problems of people whose lives have been directly affected by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico -- a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

A lot	43	18	63	42
Some	32	42	28	31
Not much	14	22	6	17
Not at all	8	16	2	9
Don't know/No answer	3	2	1	1

q20-23 BLANK

q24 Would you favor allowing increased drilling for oil and natural gas off the U.S. coast, or do you think the costs and risks are too great?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jun10a
	%	%	%	%	%
Favor	42	67	21	43	40
Costs, risks too great	49	25	69	48	51
DK/NA	9	8	10	9	9

q25 Do you think the United States is too dependent on other countries for its supply of oil, or not?

IF YES, ASK: How concerned are you about that -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	56	61	50	57
Somewhat concerned	33	29	38	32
Not too concerned	3	4	3	3
Not at all concerned	1	2	0	1
No, not too dependent	5	2	7	5
DK/NA	2	2	2	2

q26 Right now, which do you think should be a higher priority for the government -- protecting the environment, or developing new sources of energy?

					Apr07b
Environment	29	22	40	25	21
Energy	49	53	40	53	62
Both equal (vol.)	20	21	20	18	14
DK/NA	2	4	0	4	3

q27 Which comes closer to your view: 1. Government should do more to regulate the off shore drilling practices of oil companies in order to protect the environment OR 2. Government should place fewer regulations on the off shore drilling practices of oil companies in order to make it easier for them to increase oil production?

More regulation	76	61	87	76
Fewer regulations	18	30	10	18
DK/NA	6	9	3	6

q28 Which of the following three statements comes closest to expressing your overall view of U.S. energy policy? 1. On the whole, the U.S. energy policy works pretty well and only minor changes are necessary to make it work better. or 2. There are some good things in the U.S. energy policy, but fundamental changes are needed, or 3. The U.S. energy policy has so much wrong with it that it needs to be completely rebuilt.

Minor changes	6	9	5	5
Fundamental changes	58	59	62	55
Rebuild	31	25	31	36
DK/NA	5	7	2	4

q29 BLANK

q30 If an increased tax on gasoline would help pay for the development of renewable sources of energy, such as wind and solar, and help reduce the United States' dependence on foreign oil, would you favor or oppose an increased federal tax on gasoline?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Favor	45	35	56	43
Oppose	51	62	38	54
DK/NA	4	3	6	3

q31 What if the tax increased the cost of gasoline by \$1.00 a gallon, then would you favor or oppose an increased federal tax on gasoline to help pay for the development of renewable sources of energy and help reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil?

Favor	32	23	36	33
Oppose	65	73	61	64
DK/NA	3	4	3	3

q32 What if the tax increased the cost of gasoline by 50 cents a gallon, then would you favor or oppose an increased federal tax on gasoline to help pay for the development of renewable sources of energy and help reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil?

Favor	28	22	41	21
Oppose	70	76	56	76
DK/NA	2	2	3	3

q33 BLANK

q34 How likely do you think it is that within the next 25 years the United States will develop an alternative to oil as our major source of energy -- is it very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not at all likely, or don't you know enough to say?

Very likely	24	17	24	28
Somewhat likely	35	42	32	35
Not too likely	17	15	17	18
Not at likely	9	13	5	10
Don't know enough to say	14	13	21	8
DK/NA	1	0	1	1

q35-38 BLANK

q39 How much do you trust oil companies to act in the best interest of the public? Would you say you have a lot of trust, some trust, not much trust, or no trust at all that oil companies act in the best interest of the public?

A lot	2	4	1	1
Some	24	31	19	24
Not much	36	41	36	34
No trust at all	38	25	42	41
DK/NA	0	0	2	0

q40 BLANK

q41 How much have you heard or read about the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico -- a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jun10a
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	70	72	66	73	67
Some	25	20	29	24	23
Not much	4	6	5	2	8
Nothing	1	2	0	1	1
DK/NA	0	0	0	0	1

q42 Do you approve or disapprove of the way the oil company, BP, is handling the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico?

					Jun10a*
					%
Approve	13	18	9	14	21
Disapprove	79	72	86	77	68
DK/NA	8	10	5	9	11

\*"...the way BP, the company that leased the oil rig

q43 Which best describes your feelings about the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico -- are you angry, bothered but not angry, or are you not bothered by this?

Angry	56	48	58	59
Bothered	41	47	40	39
Not bothered	3	4	2	2
Don't know/No answer	0	1	0	0

q44 How much control do you think the Obama Administration has over whether or not BP will pay for damages caused by the oil spill -- a lot, some, not much, or no control at all?

A lot	28	30	30	24
Some	39	39	44	34
Not much	17	13	13	24
No control at all	12	13	10	12
DK/NA	4	5	3	6

q45 How confident are you that BP will fairly compensate those affected by the oil spill in the Gulf -- very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident, or not at all confident?

Very confident	10	13	8	9
Somewhat confident	40	40	44	36
Not very confident	30	29	28	33
Not at all confident	19	17	19	22
DK/NA	1	1	1	0

q46-48 BLANK

q49 How much do you blame weak federal regulations on offshore drilling for the oil spill in the Gulf -- a great deal, a good amount, just some, or not at all?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Great deal	29	32	31	25
Good amount	22	18	25	22
Just some	32	30	31	34
Not at all	13	17	8	16
Don't know/No answer	4	3	5	3

q50 How much do you blame inadequate enforcement of existing regulations for the oil spill in the Gulf -- a great deal, a good amount, just some, or not at all?

Great deal	41	39	43	42
Good amount	27	24	31	25
Just some	19	21	19	18
Not at all	8	9	3	11
Don't know/No answer	5	7	4	4

q51 How much do you blame risks taken by BP and its drilling partners for the oil spill in the Gulf -- a great deal, a good amount, just some, or not at all?

Great deal	60	50	65	61
Good amount	21	23	24	18
Just some	14	18	9	17
Not at all	3	6	2	2
Don't know/No answer	2	3	0	2

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?

Few weeks	4	6	2	4
About a month	14	12	18	12
Several months	48	49	46	50
About a year	10	10	8	12
Longer than a year	6	5	9	5
Won't be able to stop	7	5	8	8
Depends (vol.)	1	1	0	2
DK/NA	10	12	9	7

q53 Do you think it is taking so long to stop oil from leaking into the Gulf of Mexico mainly because no one really knows how to stop the leak, or because it is very difficult to do, or is it because of something else?

IF ELSE: What is the main reason it is taking so long?

No one knows	37	30	42	37
Difficult to do	40	42	37	42
Both 1 & 2 (Vol.)	8	12	6	8
Other	12	13	15	10
DK/NA	3	3	0	3

q54 BLANK

q55 So far, do you think BP's efforts to clean the oil spill in the Gulf have made the situation there better, worse, or have BP's efforts had no effect?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Better	30	39	20	34
Worse	17	11	22	17
No effect	43	40	49	40
DK/NA	10	10	9	9

q56 BLANK

q57 BLANK

q58 Who do you trust more to handle the clean up of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico - BP or the federal government?

BP	27	40	16	29
The federal government	56	41	69	52
Both equal (vol.)	5	4	6	4
Neither (vol.)	9	13	5	11
DK/NA	3	2	4	4

q59 Do you think BP is doing all it can reasonably be expected to do to try to clean up the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, or could it be doing more?

Doing all it can	15	19	9	17
Could be doing more	81	74	89	79
DK/NA	4	7	2	4

q60 Do you think the Obama administration is doing all it can reasonably be expected to do to try to clean up the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, or could it be doing more?

Doing all it can	28	18	35	29
Could be doing more	67	74	62	66
DK/NA	5	8	3	5

q61 When the members of the Obama Administration talk about the oil spill, do you think they are telling the truth, mostly telling the truth but hiding something, or are they mostly lying?

Telling the truth	34	26	47	27
Hiding something	49	48	45	54
Mostly lying	11	16	4	14
Don't know/No answer	6	10	4	5

q62 When BP executives talk about the oil spill, do you think they are telling the truth, mostly telling the truth but hiding something, or are they mostly lying?

Telling the truth	12	18	9	12
Hiding something	57	59	57	55
Mostly lying	27	19	31	28
Don't know/No answer	4	4	3	5



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?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*  
 \*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
May never recover	29	28	28	31
Eventually recover	66	64	67	65
Not that severe	1	2	1	1
DK/NA	4	6	4	3

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?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
May never recover	17	15	19	16
Eventually recover	79	81	78	79
Not that severe	1	0	0	1
DK/NA	3	4	3	4

q65 As you may know, after the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the federal government temporarily shut down offshore drilling until new safety regulations could be put in place. Some people said that was a good idea because the oil spill demonstrated that new safety regulations were needed. Other people said it was a bad idea due to the loss of jobs and income to people in the area. What do you think? Was the temporary shut down of offshore drilling a good idea or a bad idea?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*  
 \*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Good idea	65	52	76	62
Bad idea	30	42	18	32
DK/NA	5	6	6	6

q66 BLANK

q67 Have you and your family been directly affected by the oil spill, indirectly affected, or hasn't the oil spill affected you and your family?

	Total %	Gulf Coast Region %
Directly	7	33
Indirectly	27	32
No effect	65	34
DK/NA	1	1

q68 What is the MAIN way you have been affected by the oil spill?

	AMONG THOSE DIRECTLY OR	INDIRECTLY	AFFECTED IN Q67
	Total	Gulf Coast Region	
	%	%	
Loss of income	7	14	
Loss of job	4	17	
Less seafood/more expensive	18	12	
Can't fish in Gulf	3	16	
Affected by rising gas prices	17	1	
Effect on environment/wildlife	11	2	
Emotional effects	9	3	
Effect on economy-overall	7	6	
Change vacation plans	4	0	
Recreation/boating/beaches	3	5	
Tourism (general)	1	3	
Property devaluation	1	3	
Oil washing up on shores	0	1	
Business closing	0	1	
The smell	0	4	
Everything	0	0	
Nothing	1	1	
Other	7	6	
DK/NA	7	5	

q70-71 BLANK

q72 Thinking about your own situation, how much financial hardship would you say you have experienced as a result of the oil spill and its aftermath -- a lot, some, not much, or no hardship?

	Gulf Coast Region
A lot	16
Some	24
Not much	18
No hardship	41
DK/NA	1

q73 What kind of impact is the oil spill having on the economy of your community -- is it helping, hurting, or is it having no effect?

IF HELP/HURT, ASK: Is it helping/hurting a lot or only a little?

Help a lot	3
Help a little	5
Hurt a little	27
Hurt a lot	54
No effect	8
DK/NA	3

q74 Were you directly affected by Hurricane Katrina, or not?

Yes	76
No	24
DK/NA	0

q75-76 BLANK

q77 As a result of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, are you less likely to buy gasoline from a BP station, or has the oil spill not affected your decision about which gas station you will use when you buy gasoline?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Less likely	43	33	55	38
No effect	53	62	40	58
More likely (vol)	1	1	1	1
DK/NA	3	4	4	3

q78 As a result of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, have you changed your vacation plans, or haven't you?

IF NO, ASK: Are you seriously considering changing your plans, or aren't you?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Changed plans	7	5	6	8
Considering changing plans	3	3	2	4
Not changing	89	90	91	87
DK/NA	1	2	1	1

q79 Do you or someone in your household work in the oil industry, or not?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes	3	5	2	3
No	97	95	98	96
DK/NA	0	0	0	1

q80 Do you or someone in your household work in the fishing industry, or not?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes	2	2	1	2
No	98	98	99	97
DK/NA	0	0	0	1

q81 Did you watch or listen to President Obama's speech on Tuesday night about the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes	45	38	41	51
No	55	62	59	48
DK/NA	0	0	0	1

q82-83 BLANK

q84 How would you rate the financial situation in your household these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May10c
	%	%	%	%	%
Very good	10	12	11	7	10
Fairly good	56	56	58	55	59
Fairly bad	25	22	23	28	23
Very bad	8	7	8	9	7
DK/NA	1	3	0	1	1

q85-86 BLANK

q87 How concerned are you that in the next 12 months you or someone else in your household might be out of work and looking for a job -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned at all?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May10c
	%	%	%	%	%
Very concerned	32	26	38	30	28
Somewhat concerned	25	24	24	27	26
Not at all concerned	41	49	37	41	45
DK/NA	2	1	1	2	1

	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>
Total Respondents	1259	
Gulf Coast Respondents	318	
Total Republicans	367	302
Total Democrats	404	432
Total Independents	488	525