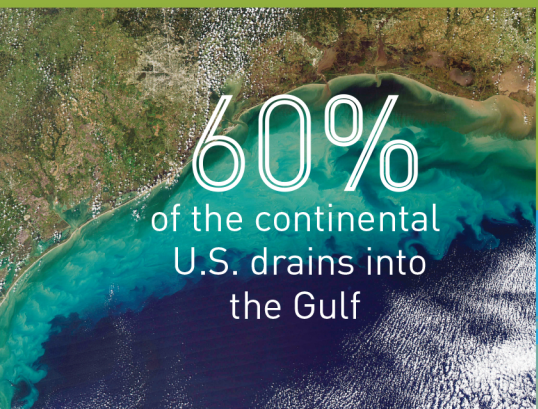


Why is the Gulf of Mexico

STRESSED?



60%
of the continental
U.S. drains into
the Gulf

RUNOFF

from industry and agriculture creates

TOXIC POLLUTION

and record-setting

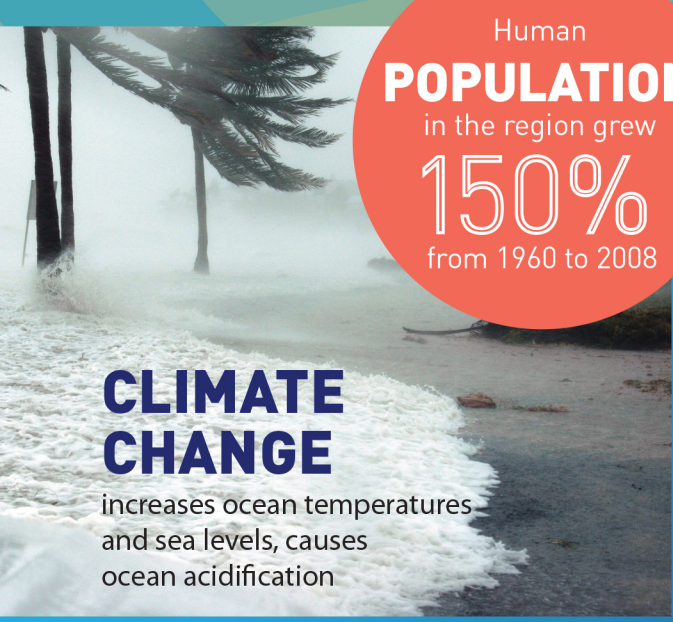
HYPOXIC ZONES

low-oxygen "dead zones"



MARINE DEBRIS

pollutes the ocean
and kills animals



CLIMATE CHANGE

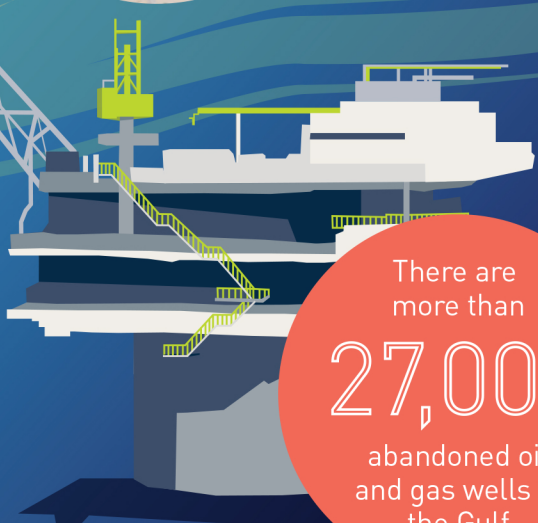
increases ocean temperatures
and sea levels, causes
ocean acidification

Human
POPULATION
in the region grew

150%
from 1960 to 2008

OIL & GAS DRILLING

puts the Gulf at risk of oil
leaks, spills and major
accidents like the 2010 Oil
Spill. There are more than
2,000 active oil drilling
platforms in the Gulf today



There are
more than
27,000
abandoned oil
and gas wells in
the Gulf

WHAT'S OCEAN ACIDIFICATION?

Atmospheric carbon dioxide dissolves
into ocean water and forms carbonic
acid, which harms shellfish and corals
and threatens the ocean food web



OVERFISHING

disrupts the food web and
harms the economic engine
that supports people and jobs

4.7 million lbs
caught/day

ECOGIG

Gulf Ecosystem Research

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