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”

Human POPULATION in the region grew 150% from 1960 to 2008

CLIMATE CHANGE increases ocean temperatures and sea levels, causes ocean acidification.

MARINE DEBRIS pollutes the ocean and kills animals

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

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