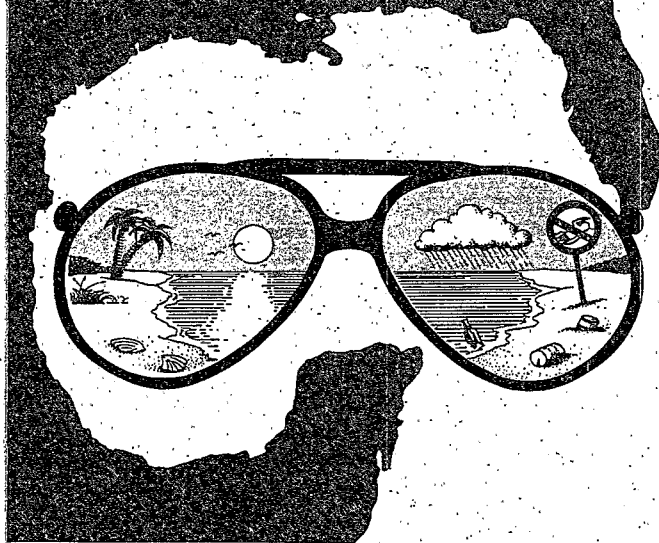
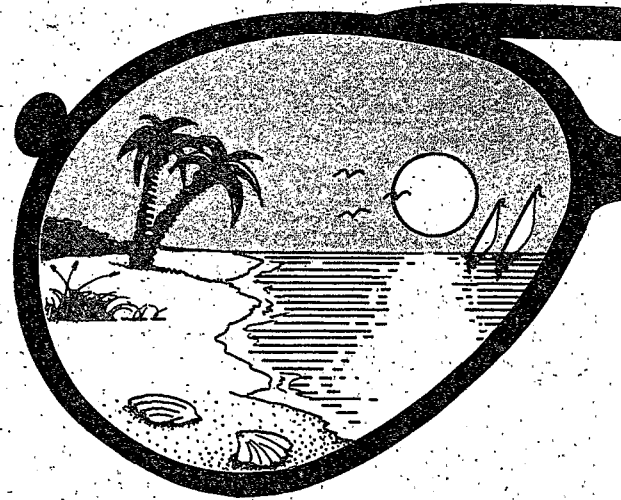


# Gulf at a Glance



## Reflections on the Gulf of Mexico

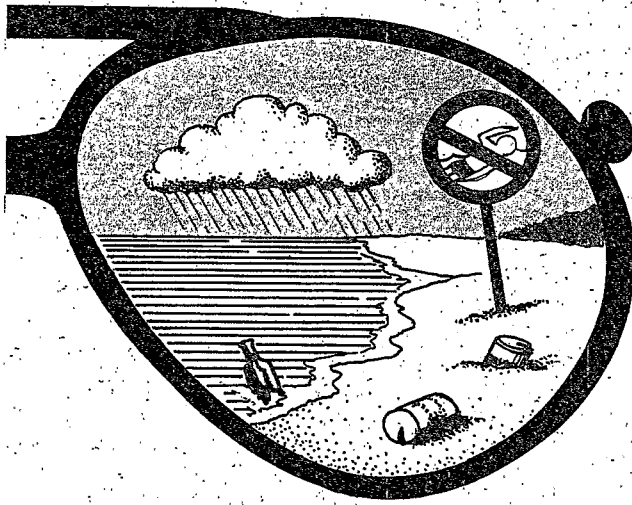
*At a glance, the beaches and waters of the Gulf of Mexico provide an exciting playground for tourists and residents. The Gulf also provides a living for shrimpers, fishermen, oil and gas workers, coastal farmers, and developers. The region flourishes with activity, productivity, and pleasure.*



**On the surface, the Gulf looks peaceful and serene, offering gifts from America's shining sea . . .**

- ✓ Tastes of fresh oysters, shrimp, and fish
- ✓ Sounds of birds calling over vast pristine beaches
- ✓ Smells of lush green vegetation in the sunlight
- ✓ Visions of boats atop glistening waves
- ✓ Feelings of warm sand and cool waters
- ✓ Thoughts of beautiful waters refreshing the spirit

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**... but on closer examination, the Gulf loses some of its sparkle**

- ✓ Sewage and runoff threaten oyster, shrimp, and fish productivity
- ✓ Marine debris litters beaches, killing wildlife and posing threats to humans
- ✓ Loss of habitat depletes populations of birds, fish, and other animals
- ✓ Shoreline erosion destroys beaches, wetlands, and structures at an alarming rate
- ✓ Concentrations of toxic chemicals and pesticides hide amidst beautiful waters

## Help to Preserve America's Sea, the Gulf of Mexico



We've taken so much from the Gulf; don't you think it's time that we gave something back? The price for enjoying the resources of the Gulf is a commitment to protect, honor, and cherish it. We can bequeath America's Sea to our young only if we fully embrace this commitment.

Join us in preserving the Gulf of Mexico. For more information on how you can become involved, fill out the form below and return it to the following address:

Gulf of Mexico Program  
 Bldg. 1103, Room 202  
 John C. Stennis Space Center  
 Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000

## Gulf of Mexico Program Partners in Action

I am interested in being a Partner in Action and would like more information about the following Gulf of Mexico Program activities:

- Gulf of Mexico Program general information
- Beach clean up
- Boater's Pledge
- Citizen monitoring
- Public education
- Submission of environmental articles or success stories for Gulf of Mexico Program publications

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your participation in this important environmental effort.*



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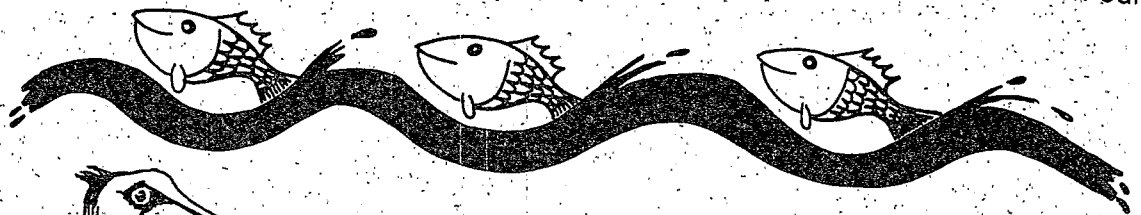
\*U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1994-565-321



# Gulf at a Glance

## Living Aquatic Resources

Gulf plants and animals are living resources that provide our nation with food, economic gain, leisure activities, and other benefits. Their survival depends on our efforts to protect and nurture them.

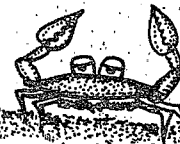


## Coastal Erosion

Retreating beaches endanger structures, the economy, and wildlife habitat. The Gulf shoreline needs to be protected with dunes, vegetation, fences, and walk-overs. Let's volunteer to work with local groups and officials in preservation and barrier construction projects.

## Habitat Degradation

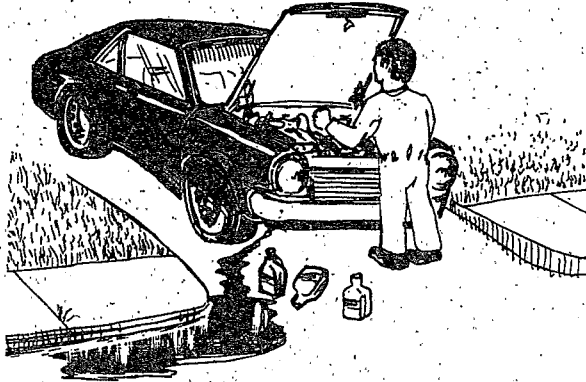
Gulf area plants and animals depend on a complex and ecologically balanced system they call home (habitat). Physical or chemical changes affecting sea grasses, coral reefs, or wetlands can cause degradation or irreversible loss of habitat. This can affect the health of species, and even cause their extinction. Let's be active participants to maintain or enhance habitat.





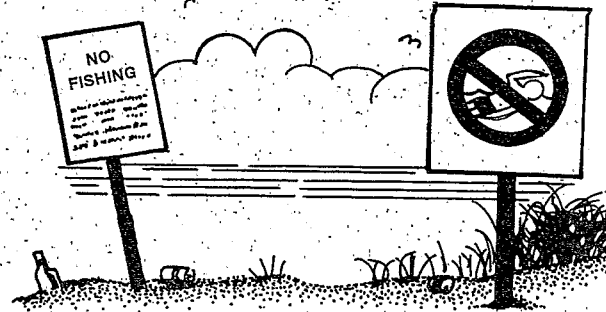
## Nutrient Enrichment

Nutrients from fertilizer, sewage, and detergents that reach Gulf waters can cause rapid algae growth, which depletes oxygen supplies available to fish, sometimes causing fish kills. We can help to prevent oxygen depletion by the proper disposal and reduction of the use of fertilizers and detergents, and by the proper maintenance of septic systems.



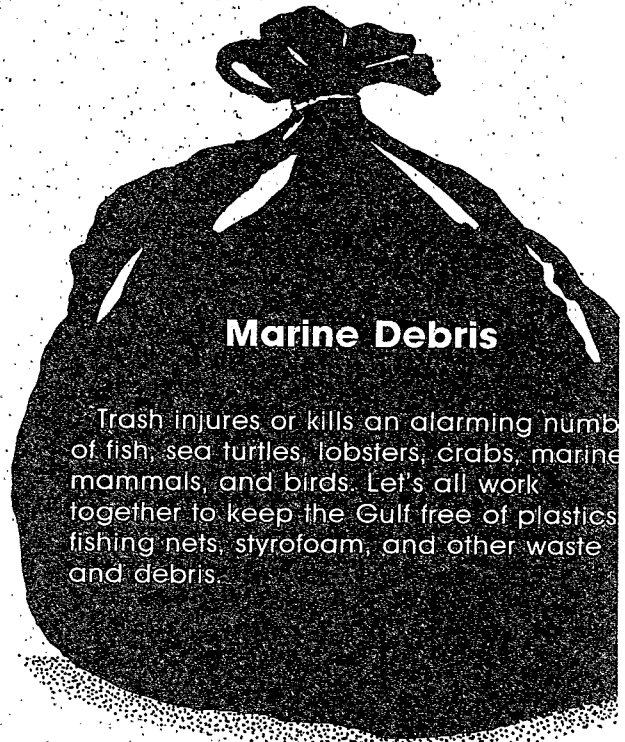
## Toxic Substances and Pesticides

Toxic substances from sewage, pesticides, industrial discharge, and other wastes that wash or flow into the Gulf are ingested by single-cell organisms and humans alike. If all of us properly dispose of toxic substances, we can prevent tragic harm to America's Sea.



## Public Health

Sewage, bacteria, pesticides, and other toxic substances in Gulf waters may contaminate seafood and public beaches. Proper disposal of toxic materials and the prevention of pollution will improve the quality of life through safer seafood and risk-free recreation. We all can play a role in pollution prevention.



## Marine Debris

Trash injures or kills an alarming number of fish, sea turtles, lobsters, crabs, marine mammals, and birds. Let's all work together to keep the Gulf free of plastics, fishing nets, styrofoam, and other waste and debris.