



The map depicts locations of cold-water coral occurrences and USGS long-term coral ecosystem studies for the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) relative to the location of the BP oil wellhead. USGS with collaborators from MMS, UNC-Wilmington and NOAA initiated multi-disciplinary research on cold-water corals in the GOM in 2004. In 2007, research on cold-water corals was continued through the USGS DISCOVRE program. These study sites will be revisited in September 2010 to continue long-term assessment of these sensitive habitats.

For further information: <http://fl.biology.usgs.gov/DISCOVRE/index.html>

Data sources:

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5. NOAA
6. USGS DISCOVRE