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Article Review 1

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“Gulf Oil Spill Remnants From Hurricane Isaac Wash Up Years After Disaster”

The last decade has been especially hard on Louisiana with regards to environmental disasters. Multiple hurricanes combined with a serious oil spill left the Louisiana Gulf Coast in ruins. In Jay Reeves' article in The Huffington Post, he states that large amounts of oil were washed up onto Grand Isle and Elmers Island after the most recent hurricane, Isaac. Upon testing the oil conglomerations, an LSU chemist found that the chemical makeup of the oil matched that of the 10 million gallons of oil that spilled into the gulf over two two years ago (Reeves, n. pag.). The article goes on to describe the nature of the oil found, saying that the tar balls were “pristine,” meaning that the oil patches that they came from are stagnant and near the surface. The article also quotes a BP representative, who says, “If there's something good about this storm, it made it visible where we can clean it up” (Reeves, n. pag.). Reeves also explains that scientists involved in the ongoing cleanup after the oil spill expected oil to wash up as it did, and that crews were prepared ahead of time to deal with the results.

As we have learned in our class, nature is always altered by human activities. While people cannot control the weather, the oil spill was something that could have been prevented. Hurricane Isaac was inevitable, and much of the devastation that came with it could not have been avoided. However, the oil that washed up during and after the storm was completely avoidable. The oil that washed up has, as it did in the original 2010 spill, affected the livelihood of the people in that area, who rely heavily on fishing in the Gulf of Mexico waters to make a

living. The article can also be applied to the idea of risk perception. The people of Louisiana knowingly live on the coast, despite the eminent threat of hurricanes and tropical storms for a couple months out of every year. That being said, hurricanes are not the main issue discussed in the article. The problem, as Reeves describes, was the spilled oil that stuck around for three years and was now washed onto shore. This was a risk that the people of the Gulf Coast had not thought of or were aware of.

Article:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/06/gulf-oil-spill-hurricane-isaac_n_1861657.html