

Deepwater Horizon/BP Oil Spill

“...BP calculated that the worst-case spill from the well would be 162,000 barrels a day—nearly three times the flow rate that actually occurred. In a separate spill-response plan for the whole Gulf, the company claimed that it could recover nearly 500,000 barrels a day using standard technology, so that even a worst-case spill would do minimal harm to the Gulf's fisheries and wildlife—including walruses, sea otters, and sea lions.

There are no walruses, sea otters, or sea lions in the Gulf. BP's plan also listed as an emergency responder a marine biologist who had been dead for years, and it gave the Web address of an entertainment site in Japan as an emergency source of spill-response equipment. The widely reported gaffes had appeared in other oil companies' spill-response plans as well. They **had simply been cut and pasted from older plans** prepared for the Arctic.”

Bourne, J. K. (2010, October). Is Another Deepwater Disaster Inevitable? *National Geographic*. Retrieved from <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/print/2010/10/gulf-oil-spill/bourne-text>

“We acknowledge that oil spill response plans often share procedures for dealing with oil spills. There is some concern that in the past this may have led to **a culture of copying-and-pasting rather than the production of site-specific plans** which recognise the drilling environment and the risk of high-consequence, low-probability events. We recommend the Government re-examine oil spill response plans to ensure that this is not the case.”

UK Parliament, Energy and Climate Change Committee. (6 January 2011). UK *Deepwater Drilling - Implications of the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill*. Retrieved from <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmenergy/450/45008.htm>