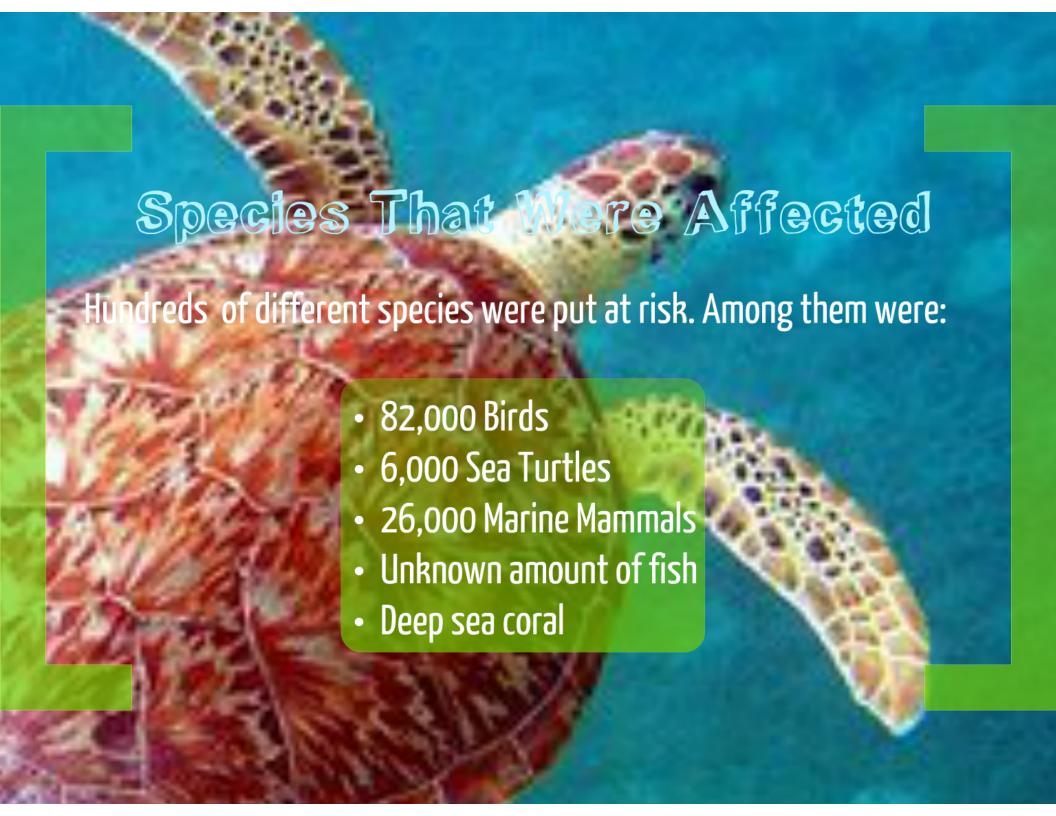


What Happened

In 2010, the BP Deepwater Horizon rig blew up in the Gulf of Mexico. It spilled more than 200 million gallons of oil into the ocean. This disaster caused many changes for the organisms living in the gulf and the nearby areas of land.







Birds suffered impaired wings due to the matting of the oil on their feathers.

Matted feathers interfere with the bird's natural ability to waterproof their wings.

Sea Turtles:

Sea turtles suffered from ingestion of oil, organ damage, and irritation of the skin.

Deep Sea Corals:

Deep sea corals experienced reductions in photosynthesis, growth, and reproduction processes.



Long Term Impacts **Unbalanced Food Chain** It was breeding season when the oil spill hit so many eggs and larva were destroyed by the toxins. These age classes were completely wiped out, decreasing the amount of food for consumers. **Decreased Population** Since the younger generation had been wiped out, they could not grow up and breed to make their population larger. Scientist have no idea what the population numbers will look like in the future, but in 1989, the Exxon Oil spill wiped out the herring population 4 years after it occurred. It has still not recovered. Fishing Decline Fish and other types of seafood are no longer used because of the oil toxins found in the systems of the organisms.