

**Anticipated impacts of an oil spill
following Mid- or South Atlantic
offshore drilling on NC fisheries.**



AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

**J. Fodrie (IMS)
March 29, 2019**



“Commercial fishermen, [REDACTED], noted that commercial fishing has an economic impact of \$700 million in North Carolina, [which] would be severely affected in the event of a spill.”

<https://www.nccoast.org/2018/03/a-resounding-no-to-offshore-oil-drilling/>

Impact of the *Deepwater Horizon* well blowout on the economics of US Gulf fisheries

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“The present value of total revenues that would be lost in the **commercial fishing sector** over the next 7 years, due to the DH well blowout, is estimated to be in the range of **US\$0.5-2.7 billion**”

“The present value of losses in the **recreational fishing sector** [is] estimated to be in total revenues” **US\$1.4-2.4 billion**

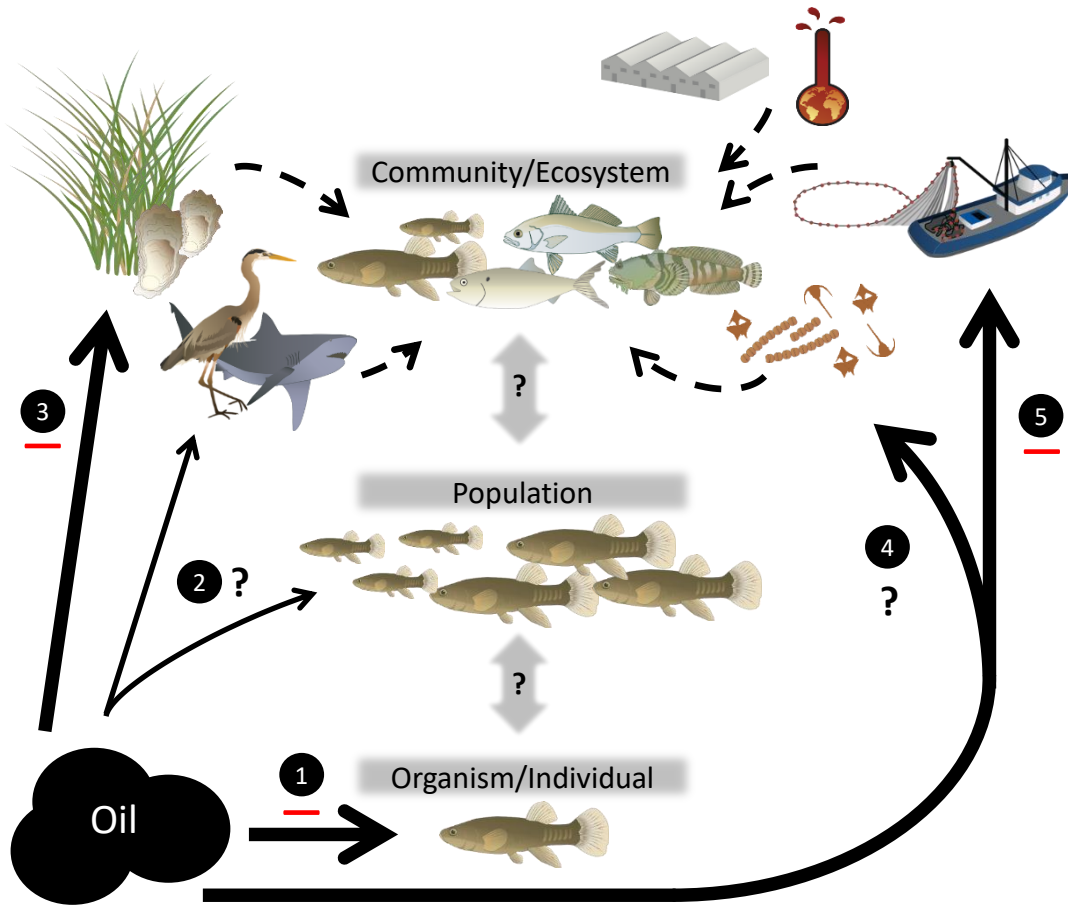
“For the three **mariculture** states, Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana, the total loss in revenue is estimated to be **US\$94–157 million**”

Deepwater Horizon Spill (2010, 4.4 mb, 84d)



- Emulsified oil droplets could mechanically damage the feeding and breathing apparatus of relatively fragile taxa.
- Toxic PAHs can result in genetic damage, physical deformities and altered developmental timing for fishes.
- Impacts may be induced at very low (~1 ppb PAHs) levels of exposure when persistent over days to weeks.
- Chronic (sub-lethal) impacts.

Integrating studies across multiple hierarchies to understand basin-scale impacts



1. Genomic expression, physiological and developmental penalties
2. Potential mortality, especially during larval and juvenile stages
3. Habitat loss, degradation or alteration
4. Changes in primary production and basal resources
5. Fishery closures

- : Established negative effects of oil
- ? : Effects of oil are equivocal
- ↘ : Indicates potential indirect effects of oil (+ other stressors) on fishes

Genomic and physiological footprint of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill on resident marsh fishes

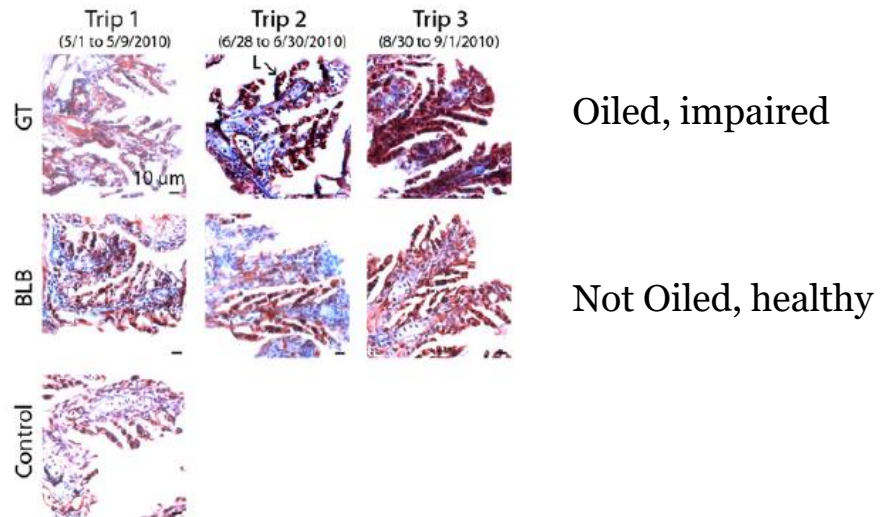
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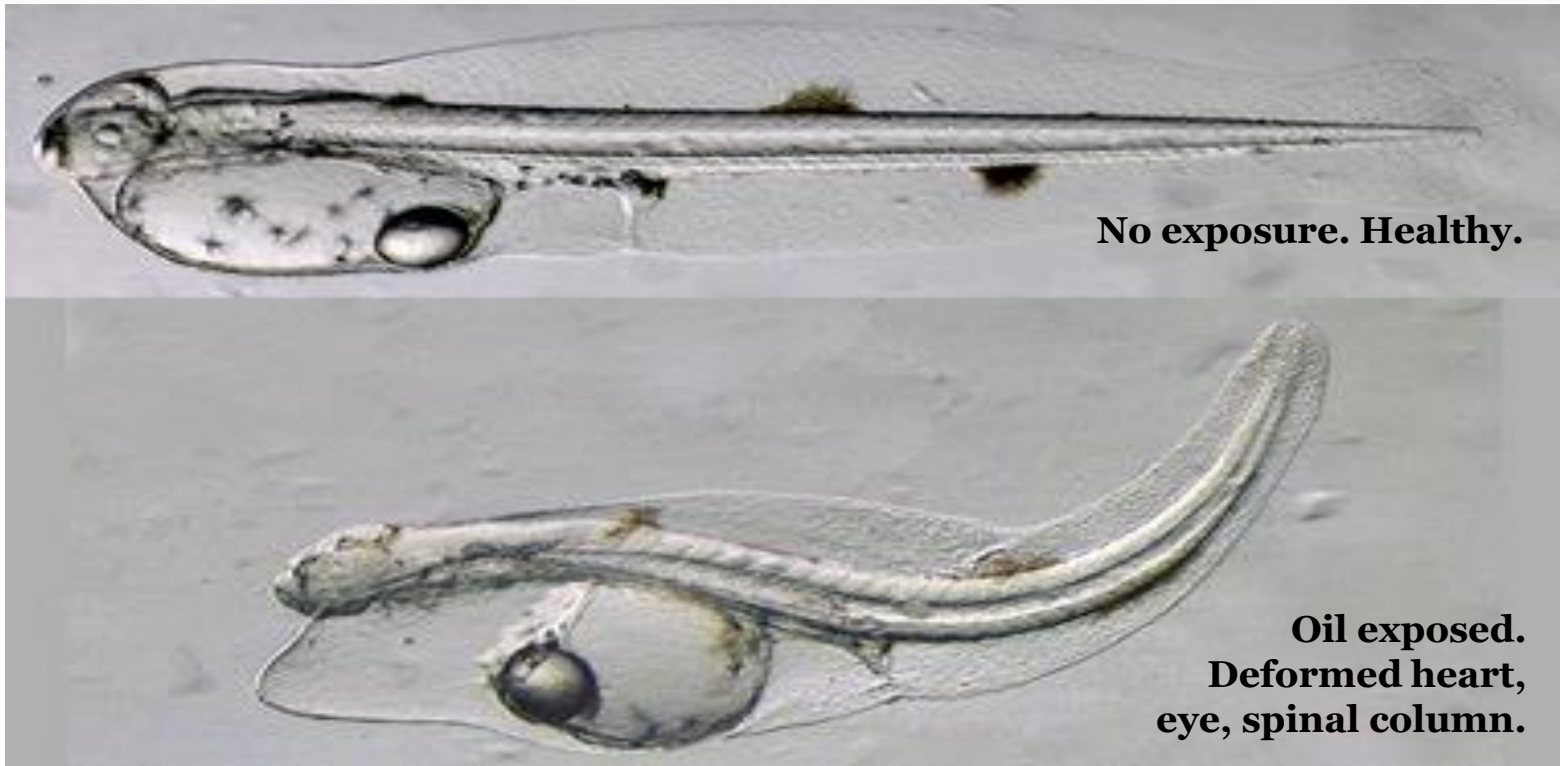
Gill tissues



Deepwater Horizon crude oil impacts the developing hearts of large predatory pelagic fish

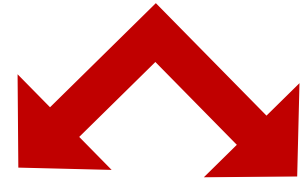
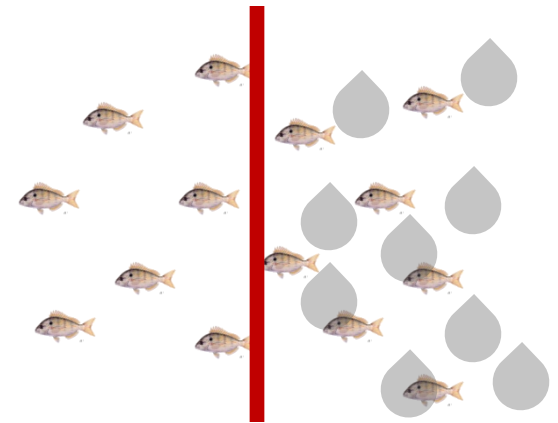
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Are these effects apparent at population levels?

- Juvenile abundances are integrated products of early egg fertilization, larval survival, and settlement success.
- Juveniles aggregate in specialized nursery habitats, making sampling tractable.
- **Effects of oil pollution on early life stages should be detectable in time series data as shifts in the abundance of juvenile fishes.**
- CI, BACI, GLR approaches in literature



Pre-spill, or control site

Post-spill, or impact site



v.



Species-by-species catch rates high in 2010 in seagrass nurseries

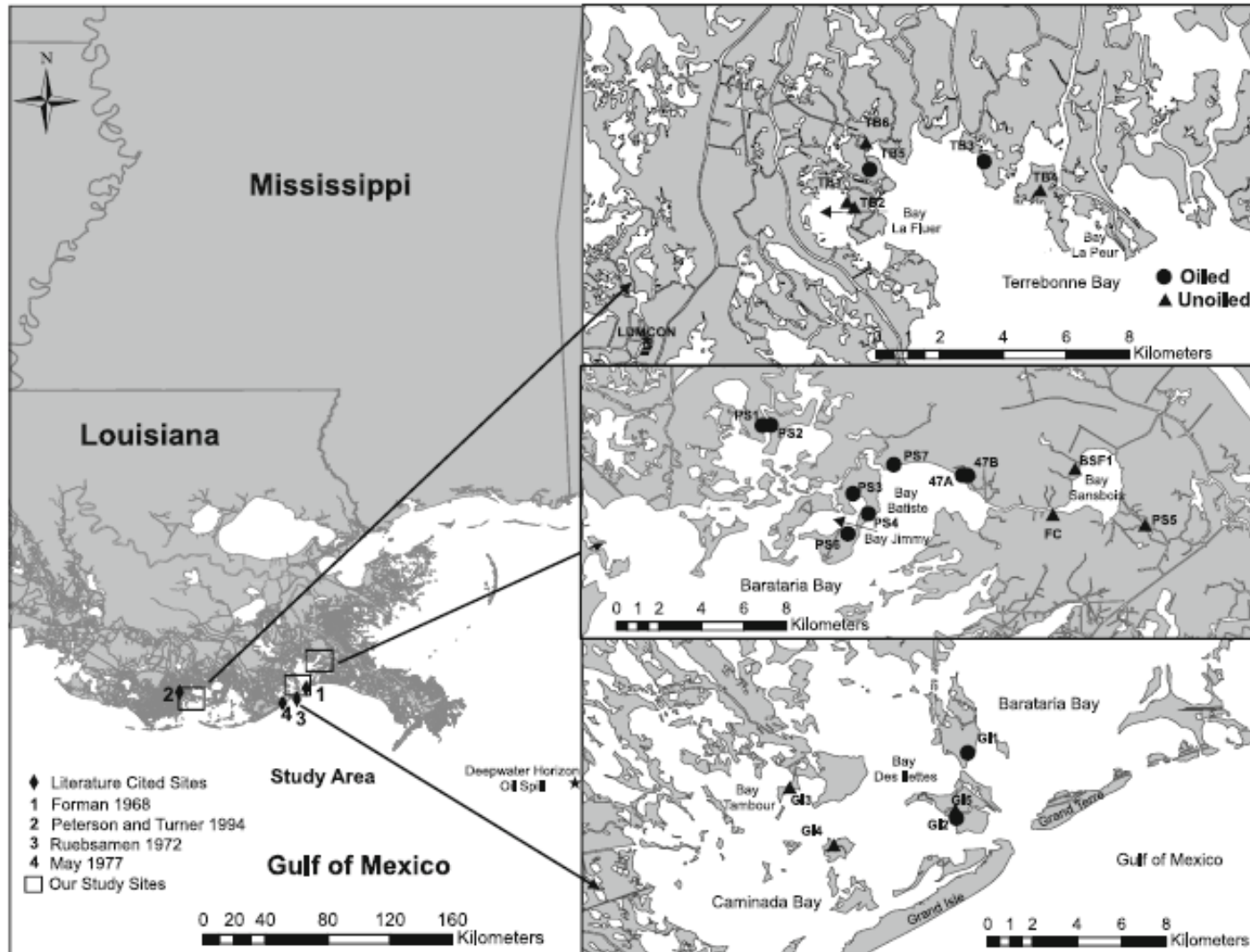


Scientific name	2006-09 CPUE	2010 CPUE	<i>P</i> (df = 851)	Trend
<i>Lagodon rhomboides</i>	644.9	1379.3	<0.001	↑
<i>Eucinostomus</i> spp.	119.9	60.2	0.086	NC
<i>Bairdiella chrysoura</i>	123.1	163.8	0.117	NC
<i>Orthopristis chrysoptera</i>	80.3	118.7	0.007	↑
<i>Lutjanus griseus</i>	23.6	43.0	0.003	↑
<i>Stephanolepis hispidus</i>	12.0	70.6	<0.001	↑
<i>Lutjanus synagris</i>	14.8	19.2	0.171	NC
<i>Cynoscion nebulosus</i>	13.4	36.5	<0.001	↑
<i>Syngnathus</i> spp.	11.6	20.1	0.057	NC
<i>Chilomycterus schoepfi</i>	7.4	18.6	<0.001	↑
<i>Leiostomus xanthurus</i>	4.6	2.6	0.533	NC
<i>Opsanus beta</i>	2.7	6.6	<0.001	↑
<i>Arius felis</i>	2.6	10.1	0.021	↑
<i>Nicholsina usta</i>	2.1	6.9	0.003	↑
<i>Sphoeroides</i> spp.	2.3	2.2	0.974	NC
Blenniidae	2.1	5.3	0.002	↑
<i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i>	2.0	1.7	0.773	NC
<i>Paralichthys</i> spp.	2.0	2.9	0.133	NC
<i>Archosargus probatocephalus</i>	1.6	5.9	<0.001	↑
<i>Lactophrys quadricornis</i>	1.5	3.2	0.036	↑

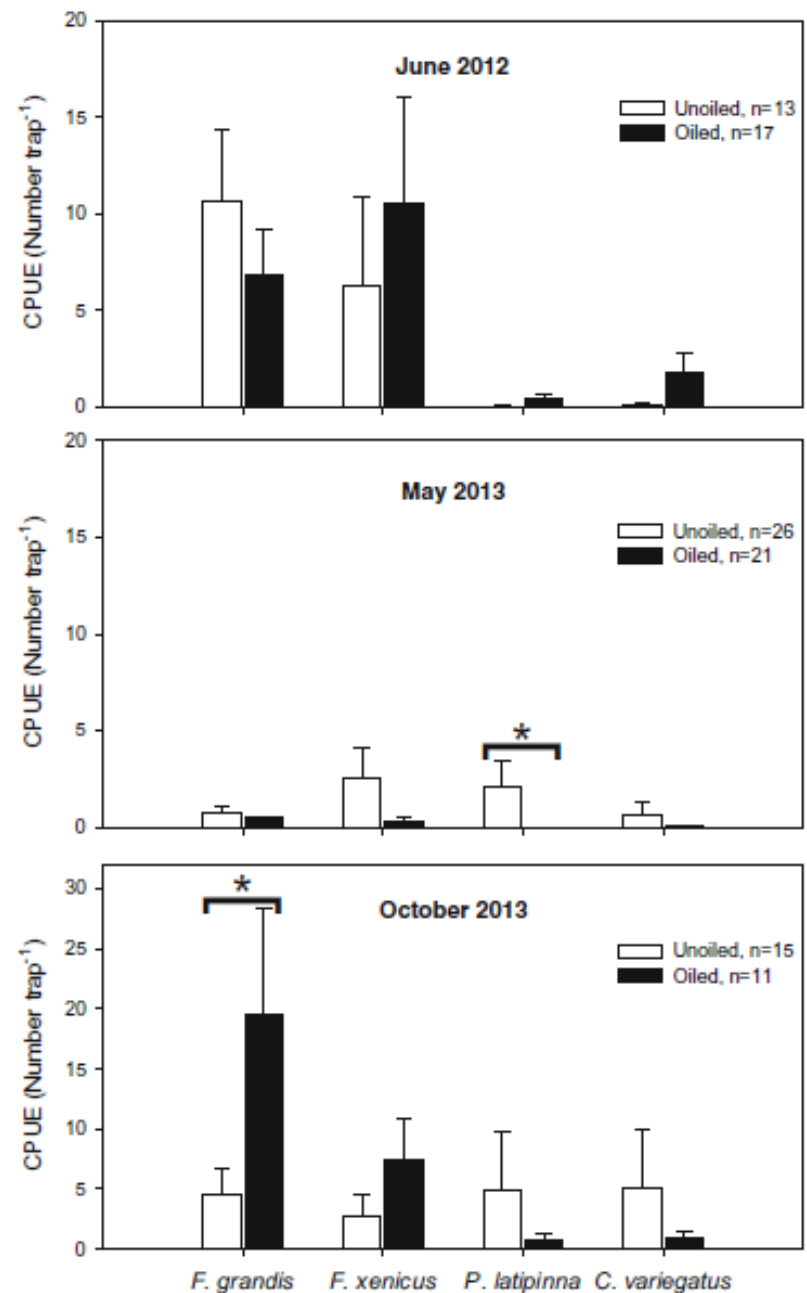
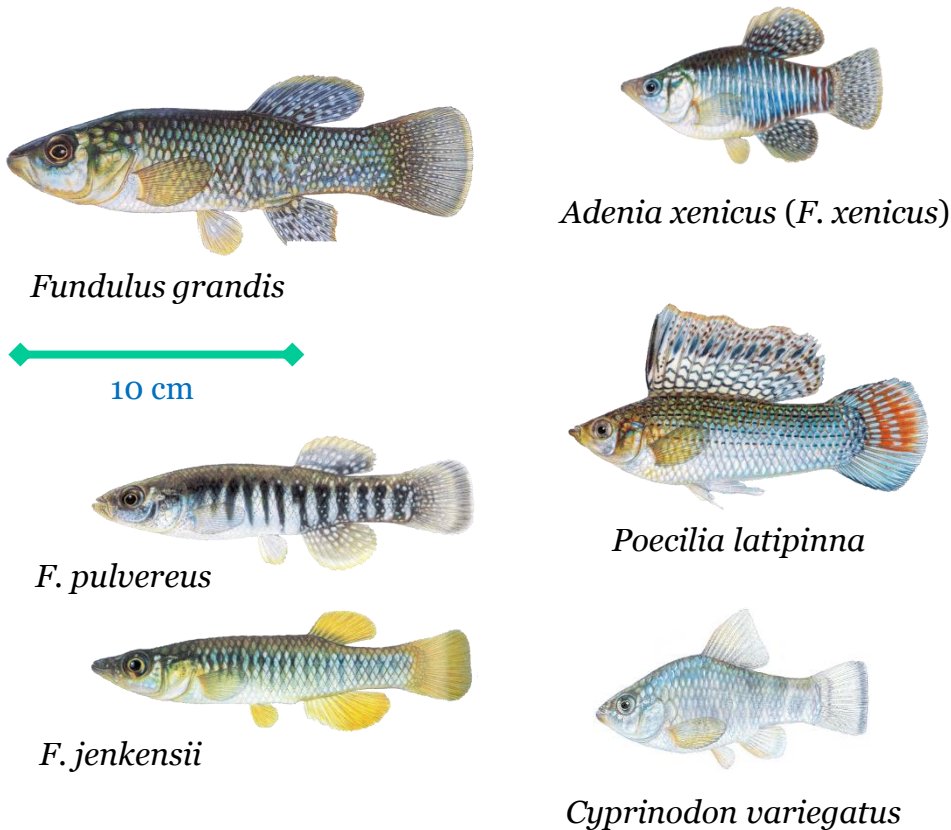
N = 167,740 fishes

Fodrie and Heck 2011 (PLoS)

Response of Louisiana marsh fish assemblages to the DHOS



Response of Louisiana marsh fish assemblages to the DHOS



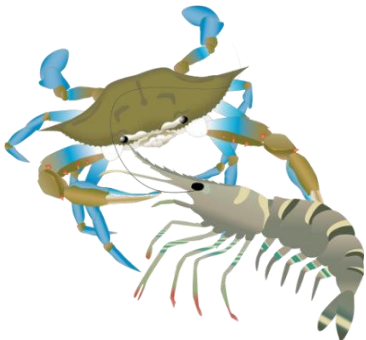
View of impact depends on approach



ORGANISMS: 24 published studies (mostly lab); 13 species; genomic, physiological, developmental, reproductive, or survival costs in ~97% of cases

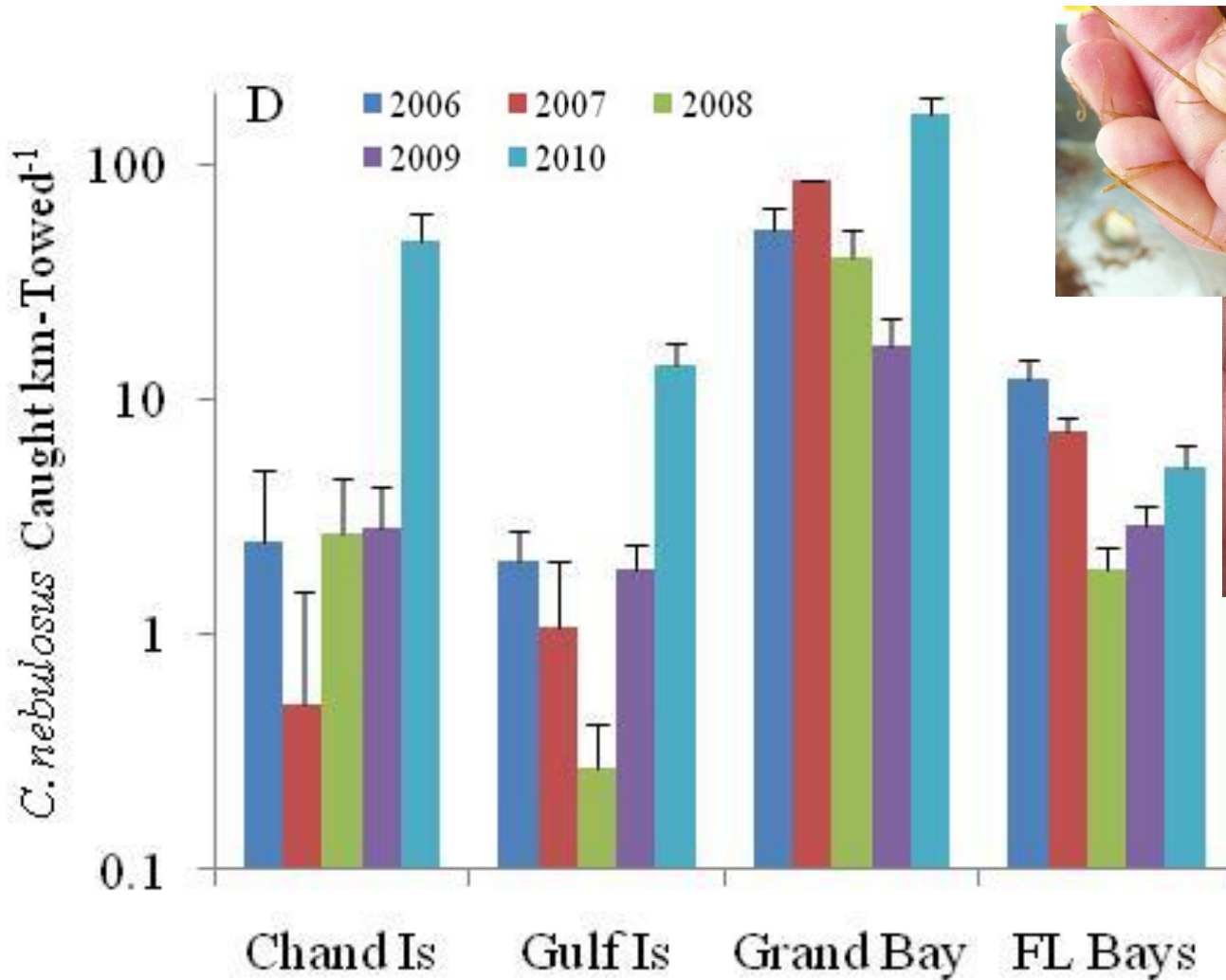


POPULATIONS: 6 published studies (CI, BACI, etc.); >120 species; stable (or increasing) populations in >99% of cases



5 ORGANISMAL studies (**80% ↓**), 3 POPULATION survey studies (**80% =**): **SAME DICHOTOMY**

Reconciling organismal- and population-level results: 2010 fishery closures



Economic response to disasters

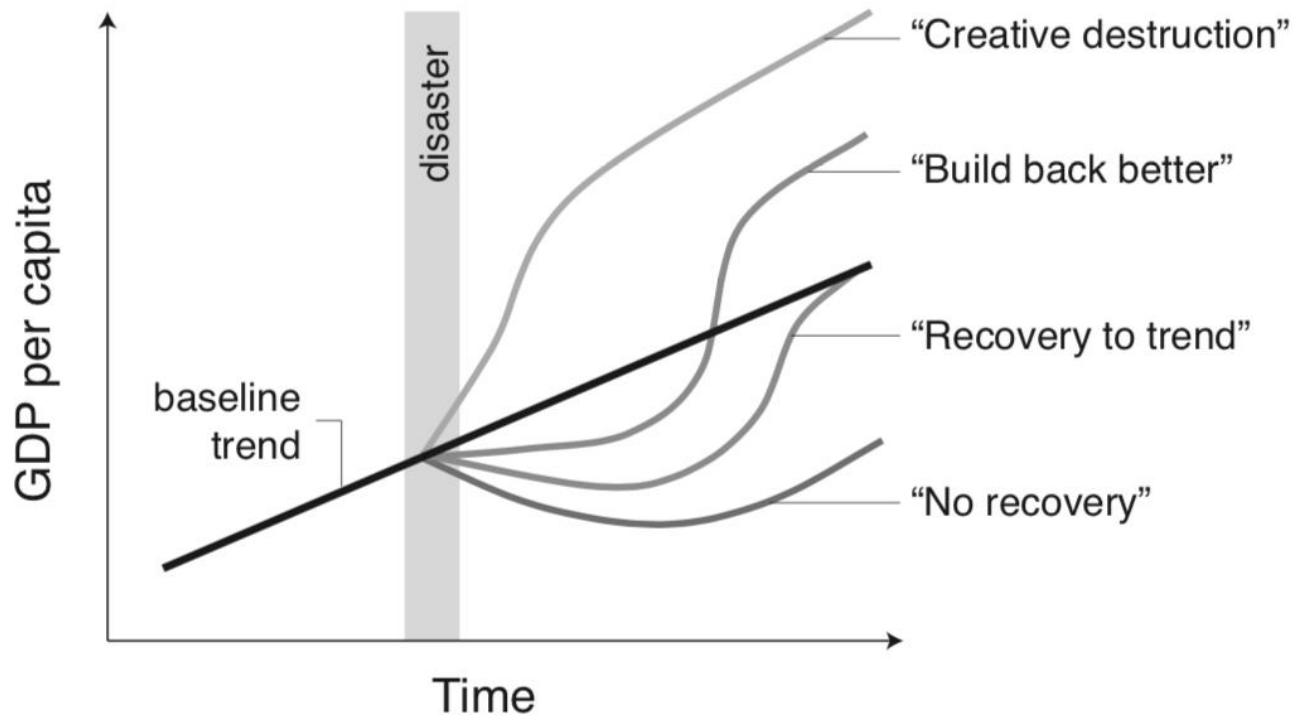
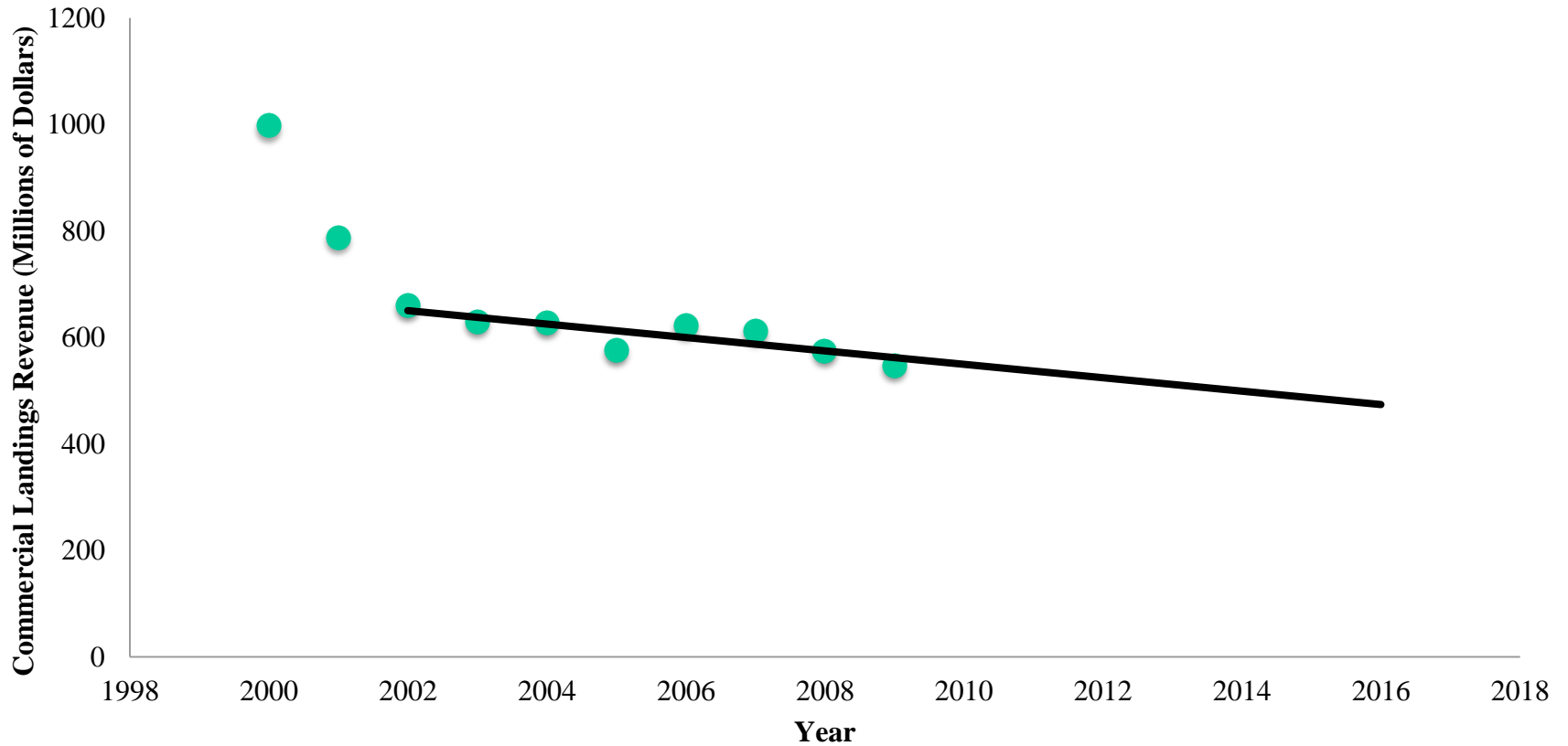
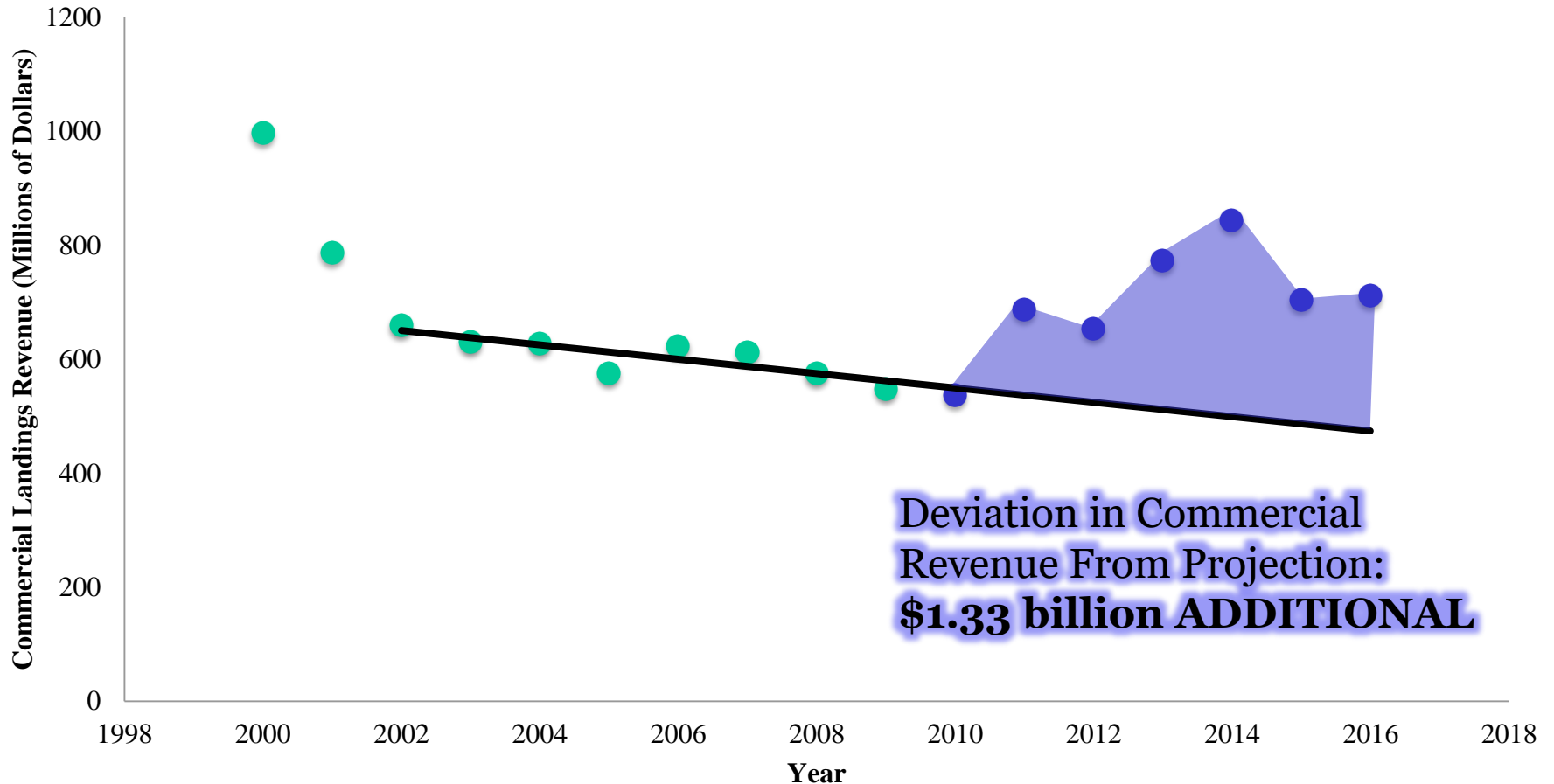


Figure 1: Four hypotheses, proposed in the literature, that describe the long-term evolution of GDPpc following a natural disaster.

Total Commercial Revenue in the Gulf of Mexico

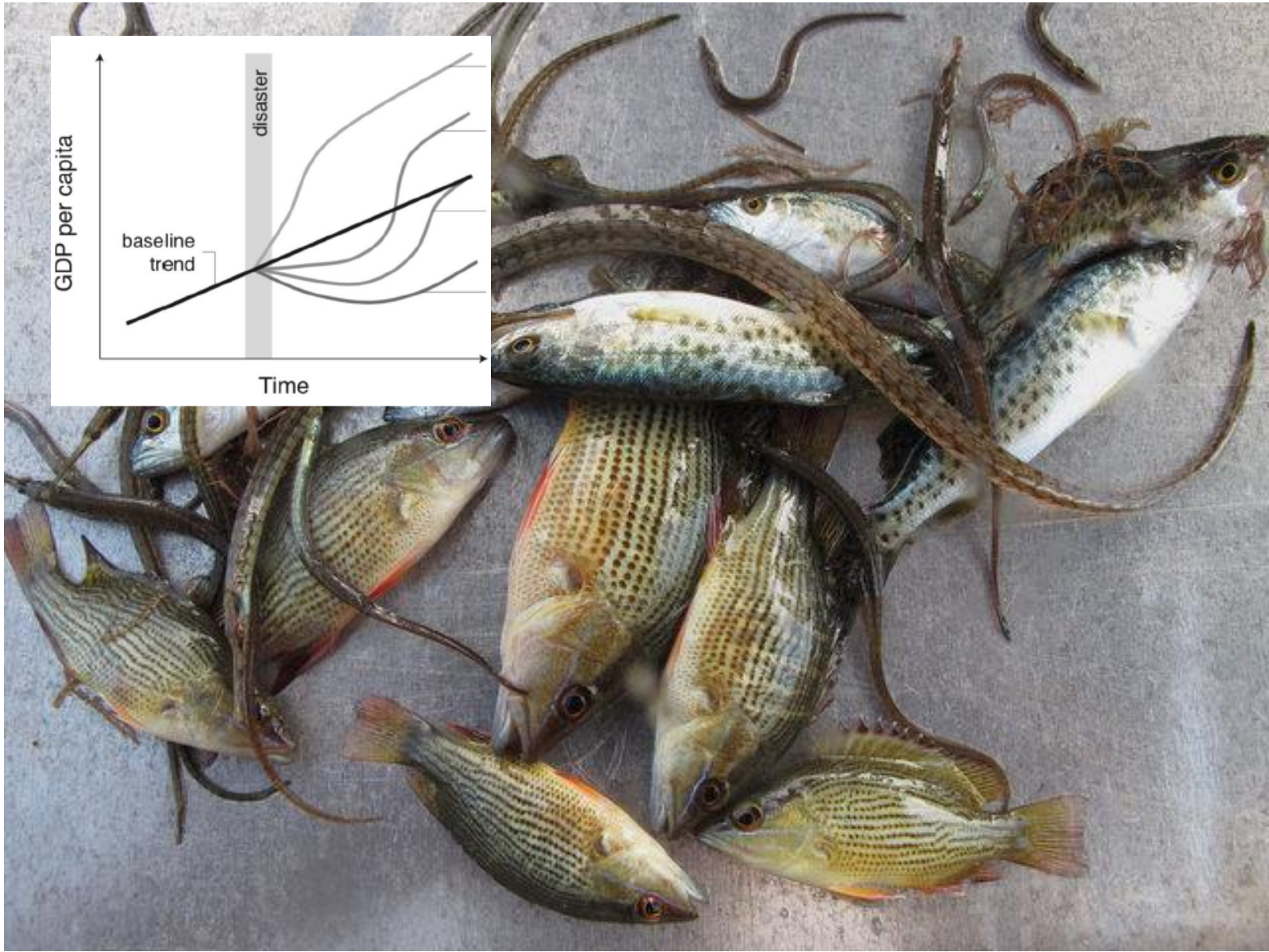


Total Commercial Revenue in the Gulf of Mexico

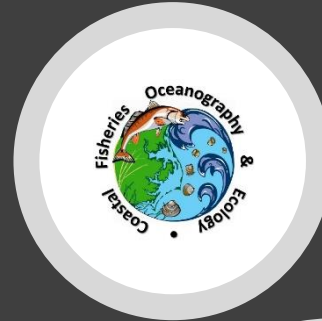


- essentially no effect on **recreational** fisheries
- potential negative effect on **shellfish mariculture** (Mississippi)

If the GOM is representative, data suggest fisheries systems may possess resilience to oil pollution



Acknowledgements



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- Thank you for listening!

