

## Gulf Oil Spill Talking Points

Source: National Fisheries Institute, [www.aboutseafood.com](http://www.aboutseafood.com)

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- While the Gulf produces healthy, delicious, iconic American seafood, from a volume perspective it only produces a little more than 2 percent of the seafood Americans eat. But that 2 percent is still millions of pounds, hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of families.
- (06.11.10) Nearly 70% of the Gulf is still open to fishing, so while there are tremendous challenges in terms of harvesting the catch that's there the seafood they are bringing out of the Gulf is safe and healthy. Unwarranted fears about Gulf seafood could cause a secondary disaster for that community and that we want to avoid.
- Federal and regional regulators have done literally thousands of tests on water and seafood samples and found the catch that's coming out of the Gulf is safe and healthy. The precautionary closures are working.
- There has been no seafood rejected for sale by regulators because of contamination. None.
- (06.11.10) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has been sampling seafood daily and has done chemical testing on more than 600 individual samples, all of which were clean.
- (06.11.10) In addition to federal testing officials in Louisiana alone have lab-tested more than 7,000 samples, all of which were clean.
- Anecdotally folks in Louisiana are telling us shrimp is being harvested at 25% of its normal volume... oysters at 30 to 40% of their normal volume... and crabs and finfish 60 to 70% of their normal volume.
- It is unlikely that your average consumer will see much of an impact on price or availability of seafood... unless they are asking for Gulf seafood specifically.
- While we focus on the natural resource, we should not underestimate the impact if this disaster on the human resource in the Gulf. Whole communities really feeling the impact of this.
- The Gulf is open for business it's just not churning out the volume it has historically.
- We have seen prices on Gulf specific seafood fluctuate between 10 and 40 percent of their normal. But the rest of seafood has seen fairly standard pricing.
- With Shrimp we have seen some evidence of an up tick in prices not just in the gulf but that's likely related to the fact that this is a seasonally low production time for foreign fish farms but we expect that to even out.