



## Launches Bioremediation Project to Mitigate the Gulf Oil Spill

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The oil spill is estimated between 12,000 and 19,000 barrels a day.

Scientists at **EVOLUGATE** collected multiple oil/water samples from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill from different locations, including samples from approximately 20 miles south of the Mississippi River delta's South Pass, and samples closer to the shore line.

These samples contained Gulf seawater and oil, with some samples containing the dispersant that has been used in great quantity to solubilize the oil.

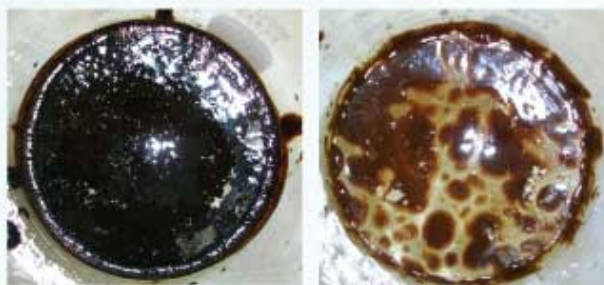
"Seeing pictures of the oil slick online does not do justice to the actual scope of the catastrophe. You really have to be there in person, and see it up close – then you get a feeling for how nasty it really is," says Benjamin Lyons, a scientist at **EVOLUGATE**.

The samples were brought to the laboratories of **EVOLUGATE** in Gainesville, FL.

On the left is Deepwater Horizon oil sample of crude oil (left) and on the right is Deepwater Horizon oil sample of dispersed oil (right).

**EVOLUGATE** is now using these samples as growth medium for selected microbial strains and has begun selecting microbial communities that will be able to more quickly and efficiently biodegrade the oil. They have focused their efforts on samples containing dispersant.

"We are focusing on the biodegradation of dispersed oil samples because the lifetime and environmental impact of these dispersants is unknown. In addition to degrading the oil, our bioremediation communities will also learn to degrade the dispersant as well." says Thomas Lyons, the Chief Science Officer of **EVOLUGATE**.



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