

OIL SPILL IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

Americans Favor Off-Shore Drilling Despite Spill Debacle

Two-thirds of respondents believe the cap on damages for oil spills should be raised.

[NEW YORK – Jun. 1, 2010] – The recent oil spill in a British Petroleum (BP) rig located in the Gulf of Mexico has not deterred a majority of Americans from the idea of drilling for oil and gas off their coastline, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,012 American adults, 57 per cent of respondents generally support off-shore drilling for oil and gas.

Additionally, 55 per cent of Americans would agree with increasing the current amount of off-shore drilling. Conversely, 35 per cent reject this notion.

A large majority of respondents (66%) think off-shore drilling is necessary to cut the country's reliance on foreign oil and gas. While almost half of Americans (48%) think the Apr. 20 oil spill is an isolated incident, 41 per cent disagree with this notion.

Sharing the Blame

Most people in the United States agree that various actors share the blame for the recent collapse of an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. The vast majority (84%) assign at least some blame to Transocean, the

KEY FINDINGS

- **57% support drilling for oil and gas in the coastal areas around the United States; 33% are opposed**
- **55% support increased drilling; 35% are opposed**
- **65% would raise the cap on damages under the Oil Pollution Act**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From May 20 to May 22, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,012 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States.

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company that operates and partly owns the rig. BP is next on the blame line with 83 per cent, followed by Cameron International Corp—provider of blowout-prevention equipment— with 76 per cent; Halliburton—which was involved in casing the oil well—with 75 per cent; and finally the federal government for failing to provide sound regulation with 67 per cent.

The Oil Pollution Act

The Oil Pollution Act was passed by Congress in 1990—following the Exxon Valdez oil spill—to mitigate and prevent civil liability for future oil spills off the U.S. coast. The act establishes that “holders of leases or permits for offshore facilities, except deepwater ports, are liable for up to \$75 million per spill, plus removal costs.”

About two thirds of respondents (65%) would support a bill in Congress raising the \$75 million cap currently imposed on payments by companies responsible for oil spills.

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Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico					
Overall, do you support or oppose drilling for oil and gas in the coastal areas around the United States?					
	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Strongly support	27%	25%	25%	30%	26%
Moderately support	30%	33%	30%	31%	25%
Moderately oppose	16%	13%	17%	14%	20%
Strongly oppose	17%	18%	17%	14%	23%
Not sure	10%	12%	11%	11%	7%
Support – Net	57%	58%	56%	61%	51%
Oppose – Net	33%	30%	33%	28%	42%

Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico					
And, overall, do you support or oppose allowing increased drilling for oil and gas in the coastal areas around the United States?					
	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Strongly support	22%	22%	24%	23%	20%
Moderately support	32%	33%	32%	33%	29%
Moderately oppose	16%	12%	18%	15%	17%
Strongly oppose	20%	21%	16%	16%	28%
Not sure	10%	12%	10%	13%	5%
Support – Net	55%	55%	56%	56%	50%
Oppose – Net	35%	33%	34%	31%	45%

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Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico

As you may know, an oil platform collapsed in the Gulf of Mexico on Apr. 20 and has been leaking oil since. From what you have seen, read or heard about this, how much blame do you think each one of the following deserves for the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico?

	Total U.S.				
	The federal government (establishes regulations for offshore drilling)	BP Plc (majority owner of the oil field)	Transocean Ltd. (owner and operator of the oil rig)	Cameron International Corp. (provider of blowout-prevention equipment)	Halliburton Energy Services Inc. (was involved in casing the oil well)
Most of the blame	14%	47%	35%	25%	25%
Some of the blame	53%	36%	49%	51%	50%
None of the blame	15%	4%	3%	7%	6%
Not sure	17%	13%	14%	17%	19%

Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? -
"The oil platform collapse in the Gulf of Mexico is an isolated incident"

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Strongly agree	16%	14%	13%	19%	16%
Moderately agree	32%	31%	39%	31%	29%
Moderately disagree	21%	21%	21%	20%	23%
Strongly disagree	19%	21%	17%	18%	23%
Not sure	11%	13%	10%	12%	8%
Agree – Net	48%	45%	51%	50%	45%
Disagree – Net	41%	42%	38%	38%	46%

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Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? -
“Offshore drilling is necessary to curb America’s reliance on foreign oil.”

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Strongly agree	35%	36%	32%	39%	33%
Moderately agree	30%	30%	34%	29%	29%
Moderately disagree	13%	13%	14%	13%	13%
Strongly disagree	10%	10%	8%	8%	16%
Not sure	11%	11%	12%	10%	10%
Agree – Net	66%	66%	66%	68%	61%
Disagree – Net	23%	23%	22%	21%	29%

Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico

The Oil Pollution Act was passed by Congress in 1990 to mitigate and prevent civil liability for future oil spills off the U.S. coast. The act establishes that “holders of leases or permits for offshore facilities, except deepwater ports, are liable for up to \$75 million per spill, plus removal costs.” Do you support or oppose Congress raising the \$75 million cap on damages under the Oil Pollution Act?

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Strongly support	36%	37%	41%	34%	34%
Moderately support	29%	24%	24%	31%	33%
Moderately oppose	11%	8%	13%	12%	10%
Strongly oppose	7%	10%	5%	6%	6%
Not sure	18%	21%	17%	17%	16%
Support – Net	65%	61%	65%	65%	67%
Oppose – Net	18%	18%	18%	18%	16%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.

<http://bit.ly/4zxf1S>

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at

<http://bit.ly/3z0u1l>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

Copies of this poll are available on our website:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

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