

# Oceanic Environmental Sensitivity in Gulf Shores, Alabama



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## Objective

This research aims to outline the environmental sensitivity to oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico. The region of interest is Gulf Shores, Alabama, a major tourist destination in the southeast United States. The motto of this pleasure island, known for its fishing and laid back lifestyle, is “Gulf Shores- A Water Way of Life.”

Gulf Shores fell victim to the BP Oil Spill Crisis in 2010 and has been recovering since the accident. In this research, I will examine the sensitivity of shoreline habitats, human use resources, and biological resources to oil spills occurring in the Gulf of Mexico.

## Data Source

The National Oceanic Service Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has published Environmental Sensitivity Index Data for Alabama.

## Execution

ArcGIS 10 will be used to analyze the data. The geodatabase includes such things as birds, terrestrial mammals, marine mammals, invertebrates, habitats, and fish.