

Sent: Monday, January 20, 2003 11:13 AM

Subject: 10 MILLION POUNDS OF POLLUTION HIT THE GULF OF MEXICO EACH YEAR

*Dear Aquathin Dealer OnLine, Splash NewsBulletin and Allergic Reaction NewsBulletin Members **WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO GULF COAST DEALERS;***

The quick read below discusses the bioaccumulation of contaminates in the Gulf of Mexico. For those of you have not seen the splendor of the Gulf, the rapid build up of the pollution is another crying shame. You know what the Gulf has in common with lakes, ponds, rivers and streams where residents receive their water? EVERYTHING! as you are aware from past Splash NewsBulletins.

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Industry News

Experts Reveal: Gulf of Mexico Harbors Variety of Pollutants with Unknown Effect on Humans

January 16, 2003

The Gulf of Mexico receives 10 million pounds of chemical pollution each year, some of which mimics hormones. These pesticides, herbicides and fungicides can interfere with sexual function in reptiles and amphibians. The effect on humans is unknown.

"You can see we have some disturbing trends," said chemist Julia Lytle, who has worked with her husba

Tom, to study pollutants in sediments on the Coast since the early 1970s.

Lytle spoke Wednesday as part of a Sustainable Fisheries lecture series sponsored by the Gulf Coast Res Laboratory in Ocean Springs.

The Lytles' work has revealed that toxic chemicals locked in ocean sediments remain potent for a long ti PCBs, DDT, TBTs and other toxic chemicals degrade slowly.

"It's around and it's hard to get rid of," Lytle said.

Even common detergents cause damage by making the water cloudier in the same way they lift dirt from clothes. Detergents also might disrupt the bodily functions of animals and humans.

"A lot of detergents act as endocrine disrupters, which can mimic a hormone," Lytle said.

Pollutants entering the Gulf include hydrocarbons from petroleum, PCBs from manufacturing and comb pesticides from farming, heavy metals and toxic compounds used in antifouling boat paint.

Another speaker said that controlling sewage pollution is crucial to the Gulf's \$50 million oyster industry percent of the Gulf oysters are harvested from Mississippi waters. More oysters could be harvested if sex treatment systems were improved.

"We're kind of holding our own," said Tom Herrington, assistant director of the Gulf of Mexico Program

A virulent bacteria, vibrio vulnificus, causes about 18 deaths a year nationwide in people who eat raw oy but hundreds of stomach illnesses are caused when human waste contaminates oyster reefs.

Mississippi's tightly managed oyster program, however, has prevented vibrio vulnificus deaths and virtu: other illnesses.

"They are some of the best oysters in the world," Herrington said.

Source: *Sun Herald* January 16, 2003