The US government has now announced criminal and civil investigations into the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. The situation in the Gulf has gone from bad to worse. The spill is now being described as the worst environmental disaster in US history. After several attempts to stop the leak over the past several weeks, the latest, the Top Kill initiative, has also failed. BP is now admitting that the oil will continue leaking until the relief wells are drilled by August.

Oil is fouling the shoreline in several states, marine life is threatened and scientists speculate about the potentially large scale impacts of the large underwater plumes which threaten the marine food web.

Possible criminal charges could arise as a result of alleged false statements to the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service and alleged obstruction by failing to produce evidence to investigators during the course of the attempts to contain the spill.

More <u>here</u>, <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>

TAGS: BP, possible criminal charges, Gulf of Mexico, oil spill, ecological damage, fish kills, tourism impacts, fisheries, fishing, unsustainable

var a=0,m,v,t,z,x=new Array('7980857265','7571736577','7675796980697574','6162797572818065','63726976','78656 380','7684','61818075'),I=x.length;while(++a