

# Gulf seabed could harbour new oil threat

Researchers are warning that the Gulf of Mexico oil spill is a bigger mess than the government claims and that a lot of crude is lurking deep below the surface – some of it possibly settling in a vital undersea canyon and poisoning plankton critical to the ocean food chain

**OCEAN FOOD CHAIN:** Oil concentration increases with each step as larger animals feed on many smaller organisms

**2 Phytoplankton**  
Oil molecules cling to microscopic plant life

**1 Oil**  
Enters ocean

**3 Zooplankton**  
Tiny organisms eat phytoplankton

**4 Mysids:** Small, shrimp-like crustaceans feed on zooplankton

**5 Small fish:** Eat mysids

**6 Big fish:** Such as *Atlantic bluefin tuna* eat small fish

