



Cover image: Pictured are hydrocarbon droplets floating on a water sample collected during damage assessment of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. Sarah C. Bagby et al. examined the degradation rates of hydrocarbons on the ocean floor over the 4 years following the disaster and found that the rates varied with chemical complexity and droplet size and often slowed significantly after deposition on the sea floor. The results may inform future spill response efforts by helping to predict the long-term fate of oil contamination on the seafloor. See the article by Bagby et al. on pages E9–E18. Image courtesy of David L. Valentine.

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