

# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy

[April 16, 2020](#)

## Deep Water Horizon: Ten Years Later—And Then Some

As we noted in last week's TUWW, next week will mark the ten-year anniversary of the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. While nothing will undo what was done or replace the lives lost, the disaster did lead to significant funding to support long needed studies of the Gulf and its ecosystem. Much of that has been done as part of the [Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative](#). Now, ten years later, have we learned anything? The answer to that is absolutely yes. For example, [new research out of the University of South Florida](#) that sampled a variety of fish from across the Gulf found evidence of oil pollution in all of them. That is more than 2,500 fish representing 91 species. One might expect that in slow movers like crabs, oysters and the like, but the study found the highest concentrations in yellowfin tuna, tile fish and red drum. We also learned that you don't find what you can't look for and that systemic study of the Gulf without the studies like this GOMRI-backed one we would not know about the levels of pollution in Gulf fish. Trust us, there is additional important research out there or underway. So, what happens when the GOMRI money goes away? The fact is, without new funding, Gulf science will suffer and with it so will informed decision making about the management of the Gulf's shared but stressed resources. Here's to hoping that the next generation of Gulf science does not require another disaster and the loss of eleven more lives.

## Frankly My Dear, We Don't Give a Dam

Like love, living upstream [means never having to say you're sorry](#), at least not to those poor saps who live downstream from you. That may be overstating it a bit, but when one looks at the record it sure appears to be case. The lesson seems to be look out for number one, whether it's Florida v Georgia fighting over the Apalachicola River; Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico v everybody upriver over Mississippi River nutrient pollution; or Egypt v Ethiopia over the new dam Ethiopia is building on the Nile. Not convinced? Consider the grievances of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia against China over the [impacts of China's dams on the Mekong River](#). It seems that shared waters are not shared equally during a drought despite China's officially solicitous policy toward its neighbors. The lesson here? In water as in life, [it ain't too hard to get along with somebody else's troubles](#).

## Speaking of Florida and Georgia, the Saga Continues

It is not quite [Jarndyce v Jarndyce](#) (for temporal context we invite you to enjoy the full [Bleak House](#) experience), but the dispute that just goes on and on continues to go on and on. We are talking of course

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and stewardship of water.

### Coming up:

[Climate Adaptation Data Week](#); Now - April 17

[Weather and Social Data to Inform Participatory Planning Initiatives Webinar](#); April 17

[Coastal Resilience in Alaska](#); April 21

[Earth Day Online](#); April 22

[Summer Sea Turtle Sustainability Grant Application Deadline](#); April 25

[Drinking Water Webinar: Harmful Algal Blooms \(HABs\) and Algal Toxins](#); April 28

[American Water Works Association Webinar: Innovation Roadmap for Utilities](#); April 29

[Public Comment Deadline for certain CA Groundwater Sustainability Plans](#); May 4

[Drinking Water Webinar: Drinking Water Microbes 101](#); May 19

### Water jobs:

[Climate Engineering Fellow](#); UCLA School of Law; Los Angeles, CA

[Delaware River Watershed Fellow](#); The Nature Conservancy; Wilmington, DE

[Idaho Director](#); Western Watersheds Project

[Rachel Carson Environmental Organizing Fellowship for Students](#)

[Various Positions & Locations](#); Earthjustice

[Executive Director](#); Washington Water Trust; Seattle, WA

[Clean Rivers Program Supervisor](#); Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; Seguin, TX

[Staff Attorney/Legal Organizer, Climate & Energy Program; Fall 2020 Environmental Communications Internship; or Legal Internships](#); Center for International Environmental Law; Washington, D.C.

[Attorney Advisory \(General\)](#); US Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor; Reston, VA

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about Florida v Georgia, which is Florida's effort to limit Georgia's use of the Apalachicola River. Despite strong headwinds, Florida perseveres and has just filed its [latest brief](#) explaining why the Supreme Court of the United States should side with it instead of dismissing the case as the SCOTUS-appointed Special Master has recommended. More to come, you can be sure.

### **Take a Bow, Water Workers**

Not all heroes wear capes. In times like these you learn who you really depend on. Grocers, health care workers, trash haulers, delivery folks and others have gotten well deserved shout outs (though we can't help but notice the inverse relationship between how much we rely on them and how much we pay them). We would like to add to that list the good people who deliver potable water to you and make your wastewater disappear. It is not so much that COVID-19 might contaminate your water – it can't—but that we take for granted the people who run all the pipes, pumps and sanitation equipment. When that happens, nobody should take their water service for granted. That is why [Atlanta and other places are taking extra steps to protect and back up those workers](#). It really shouldn't take a crisis to make us realize that, but that's humankind for you. Because no matter how much we may say we [love that dirty water](#), we really don't.