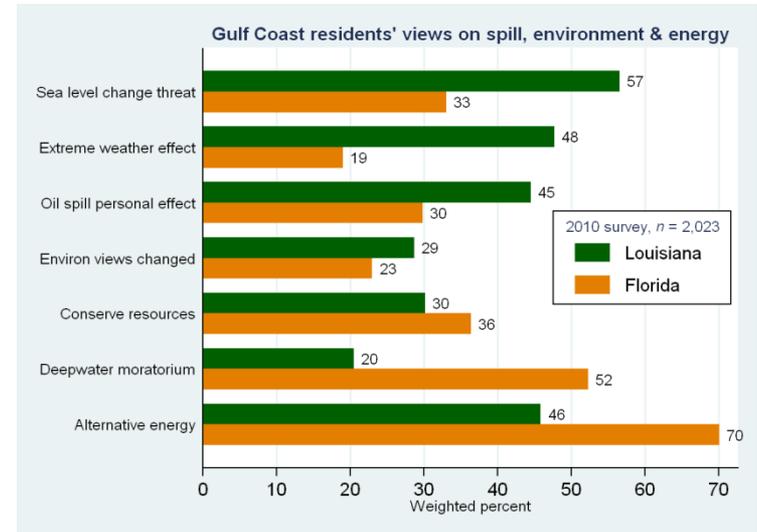
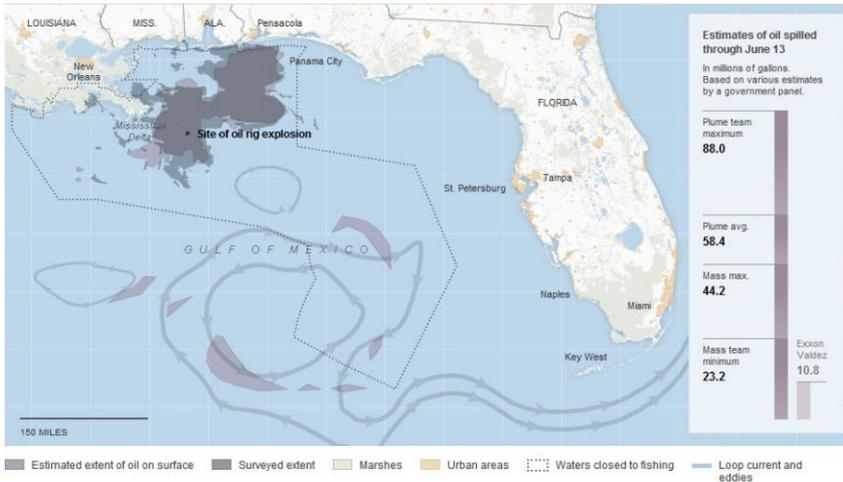


# What we learned from a Gulf Coast oil spill survey

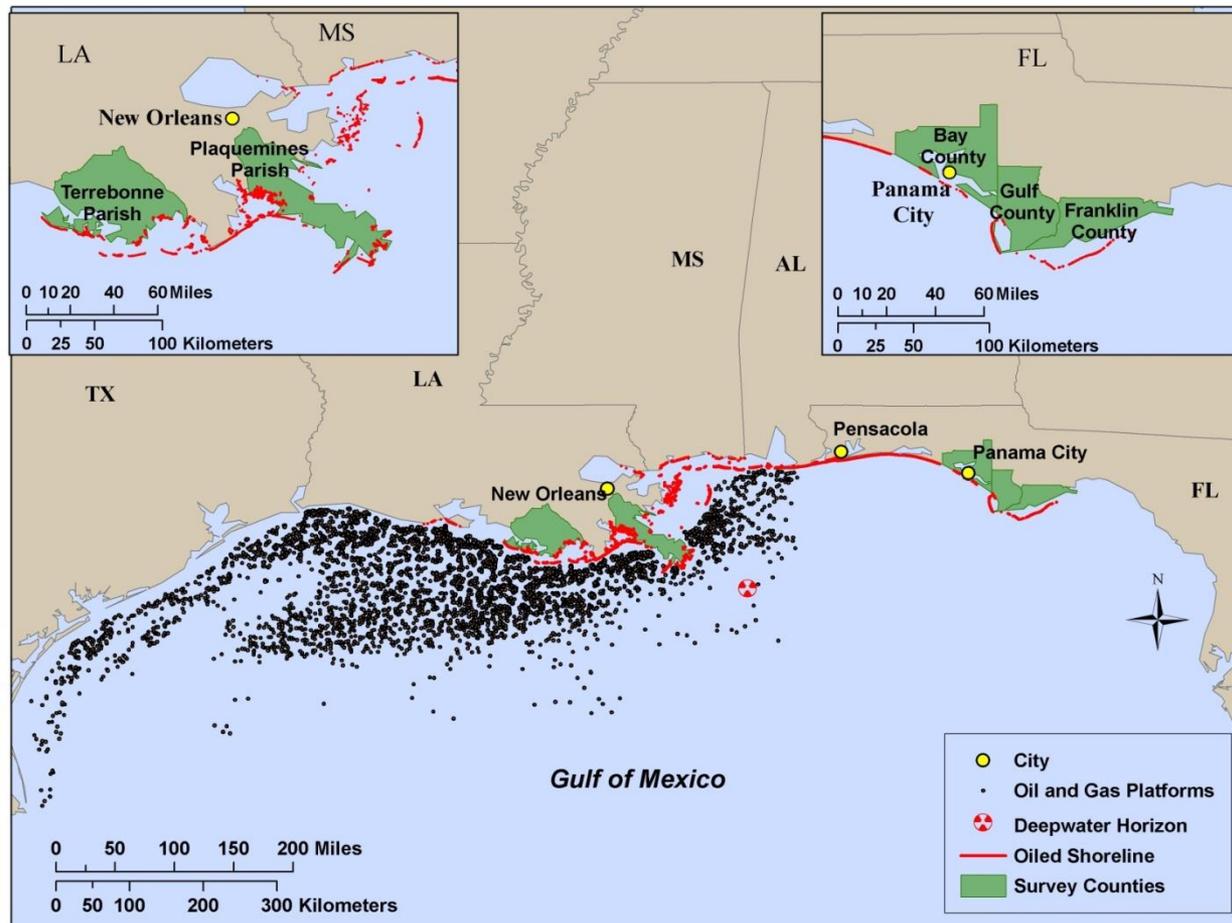


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In late summer 2010, with the spill in progress, Carsey Institute researchers conducted telephone interviews with 2,000 residents in Gulf Coast Louisiana and Florida.

We asked how they viewed the short- and long-term impacts of the spill, and also more general environmental issues.



## **CERA 2010 survey questions related to the Gulf Coast environment**

*Spill* — Would you say that the BP Horizon oil spill has had major effects (36%), minor effects (31%), or no effects (32%) on you and your family's economic well-being?

*Weather* — Have unusual or extreme weather-related events had major effects (31%), minor effects (31%), or no effect (36%) on your family or community over the past 5 years?

*Conserve* — For the future of your community, do you think it is more important to use natural resources to create jobs (33%), to conserve natural resources for future generations (34%), or are both equally important (17%)?

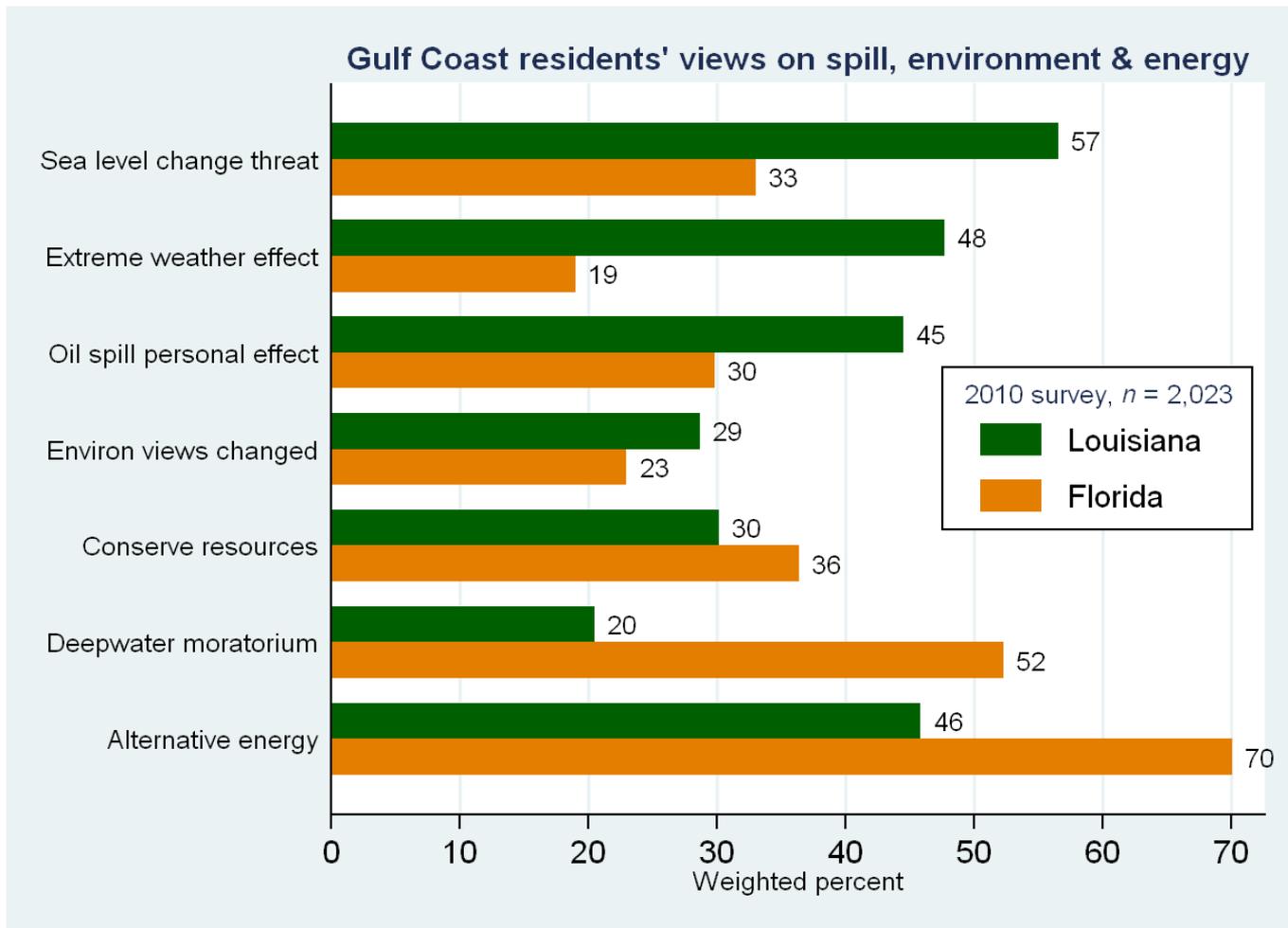
*Changed* — Have your views about other environmental issues such as global warming or protecting wildlife changed as a result of the oil spill? (25% yes, 72% no)

*Searise* — Does rise in sea level due to global warming or climate change pose a serious threat to you or your community in the future? (43% yes, 48% no)

*Moratorium* — Do you favor (39%) or oppose (51%) a moratorium that would halt deepwater drilling, until new safety requirements are met?

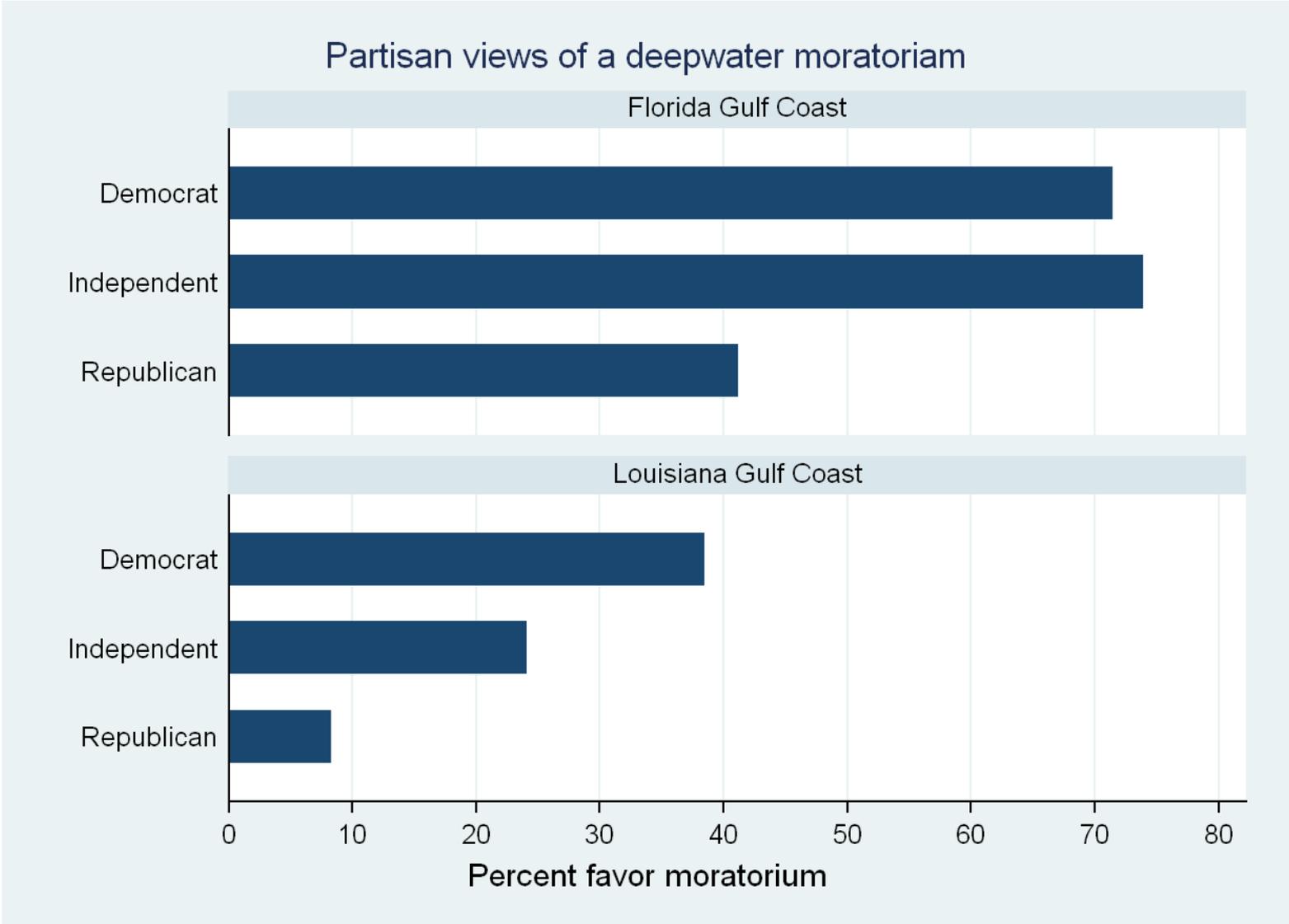
*Alternative* — Which do you think is more important, increased exploration and drilling for oil in the U.S. (36%), or increased use of solar, wind and alternative energy sources (55%)?

**A striking contrast emerged.** Louisiana residents *perceive more serious threats* from the spill, extreme weather and sea level rise. However, Louisiana residents were *less likely to support mitigation*—conservation, deepwater moratorium or alternative energy development.



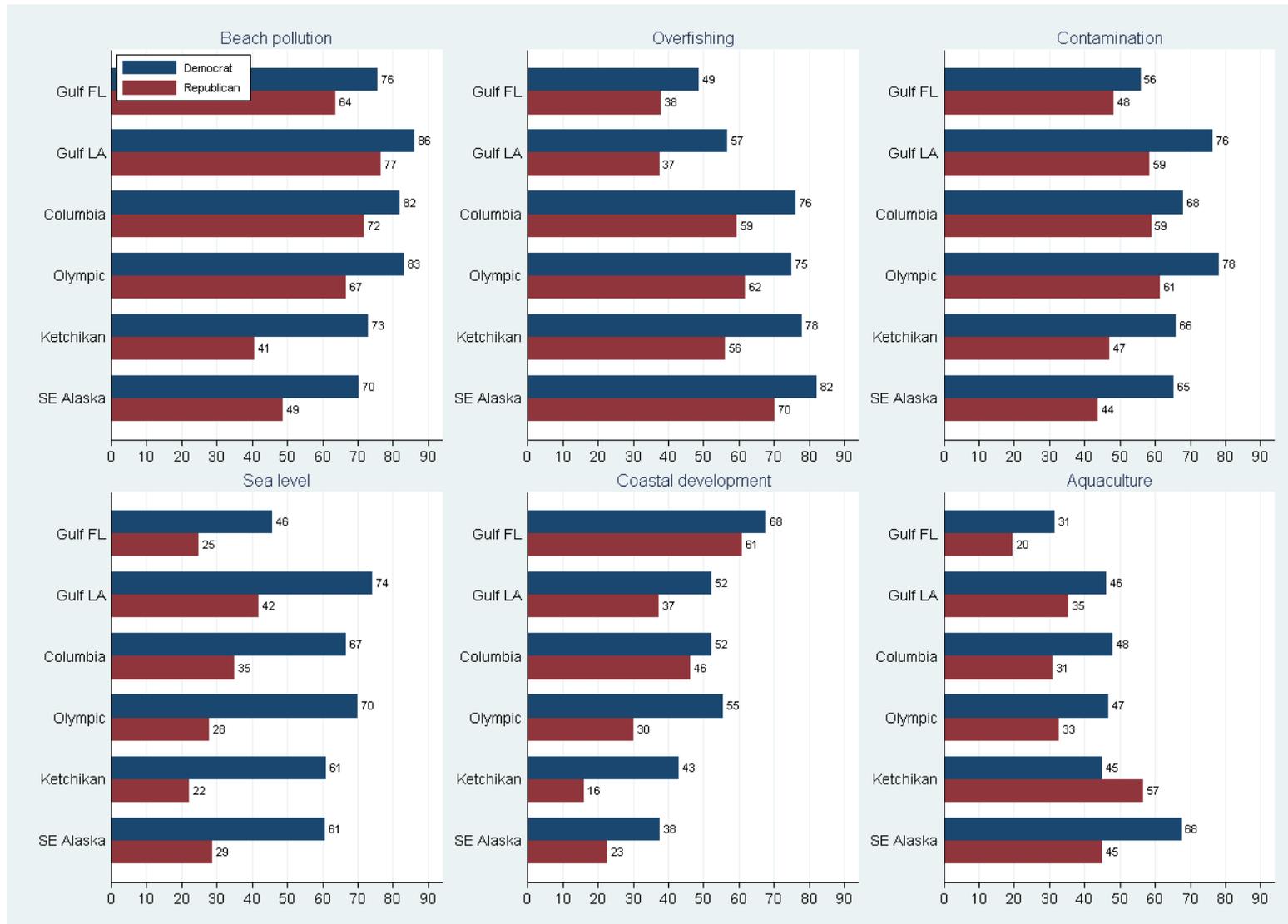
Louisiana – Florida contrasts reflect different economies (*oil or tourism*) tied to coastal geography (*swamps or beaches*)

**Partisan divisions also are striking.** In both states and on every environmental issue, strong partisan differences exist.



# Environmental perceptions across the US show the same two patterns:

1. *regional variation* related to local environment and resources
2. *pervasive partisan divisions* — below, 6 coastal issues in 6 regions



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