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James M. Hyman* (mhyman@tulane.edu), Department of Mathematics, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118. *The role of mathematics and modeling in cleaning up the BP oil spill.*

I will present examples of the role that the mathematical sciences are playing in understanding the impact of the oil spill and how mathematicians are helping in mitigating the damage. The mathematical analysis of the impact of the spill on the food web in the wetlands can help guide in the recovery efforts. During the spill, mathematical analysis gave the first reliable estimates of the flow rate from the plume and predicted the dispersal patterns for the oil. Mathematicians aren't physically cleaning up the oil spill, but they are helping those who are to do it better. (Received September 22, 2010)