

# THE IRREGULAR EFFECTS OF CRUDE OIL

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Image from Flickr

**Answer the following questions in full sentences:**

1. What is this news story about?

**Scientists at Stanford University investigated the effects of crude oil from oil spills on aquatic organisms (in this case, fish).**

2. Describe what the scientists did in this experiment.

**They took a sample of crude oil from an oil spill and added small volumes to fish heart cells in a petri dish.**

3. Describe what the scientists found.

**They found that the crude oil disrupted the electrical impulses from heart cells (by blocking ion channels), which causes an irregular heartbeat.**

4. Write down the meanings of any words **in bold** in the article.

**Reserves** – a supply of a resource that is available for future use

**Minor** – less important or significant

**Ingested** – took something in the body by absorbing or eating

**Irregular** – not in a pattern or arrangement

**Implications** – suggestions that something may be involved