

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