

Government plan to revive 'Dead Zone' in Gulf of Mexico could backfire

November 5 2007



Oxygen-depleted waters in the 'Dead Zone' are incapable of sustaining many types of aquatic life. Credit: Courtesy of Kerry St. Pe

The potential revision to the government's approach for rejuvenating a huge "Dead Zone" in the Gulf of Mexico is potentially dangerous and should be reconsidered, scientists in Michigan are reporting in a study scheduled for the Dec. 1 issue of ACS' *Environmental Science & Technology*.

In the study, Donald Scavia and Kristina A. Donnelly point out that the Gulf of Mexico has one of the largest hypoxic, or oxygen-depleted, areas in the world. Fish and plants in this 6,000 square mile "Dead Zone" have been devastated, leaving the waters incapable of sustaining many types of aquatic life.

