10% PROJECT

-Prisilla Nieves

Why does the Gulf of Mexico have a dead zone?

The gulf of Mexico is...
a large extension of water near the western Atlantic Ocean. It's in the
middle of Cuba, Mexico and the US. It's known for it's deficiency of oxygen.

HYPOTHESIS:

I think that the Gulf of Mexico runs low on oxygen due the global warming of that area. I think that every zone it's connected to, has something to do with the yearly loss of oxygen.

Research:

-http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/earth/oceanography/dead-zone.htm

- http://www.epa.gov/gmpo/about/facts.html

- http://www.gulfmex.org/about-the-gulf/gulf-of-mexico-facts/
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- http://www.trails.com/facts_6775_facts-gulf-mexico.html

FUN FACT!

- "The warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico are home to numerous species of shark, most of them harmless to humans. Of the potentially dangerous shark species, there are the bull, oceanic whitetip, tiger, blue and hammerhead sharks."

" -Size
The shape of the Gulf is roughly ovoid and is roughly 995 miles along its longer, east-west axis. It has a surface area of about 600,000 square miles.
  -Depth
The average depth in the Gulf is 5,298 feet. The reported maximum depth is a matter of debate, but ranges as deep as 14,400 feet." - http://www.trails.com/facts_6775_facts-gulf-mexico.html
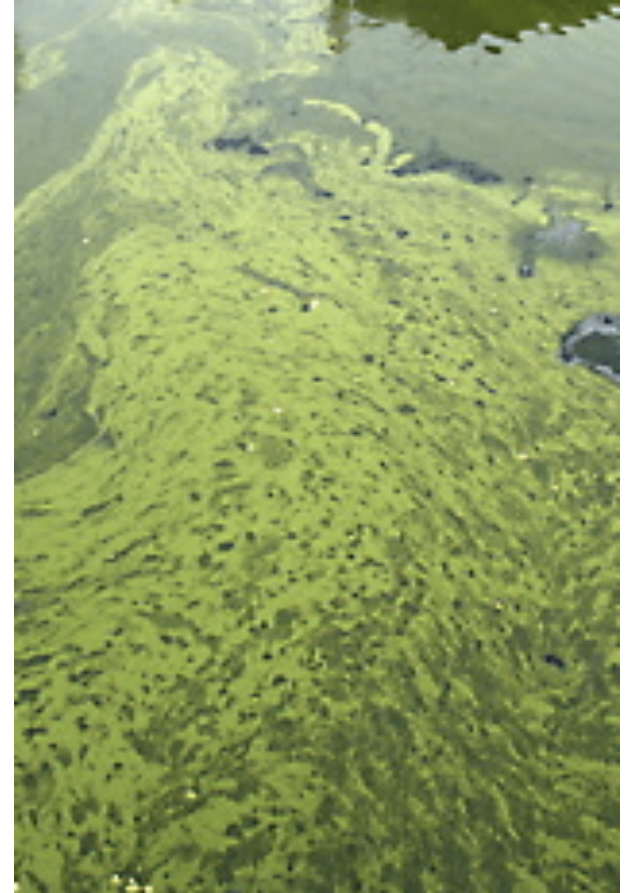
ALGAE

ANALYSIS:

The Dead Zone/ hypoxic zone is caused by the growth of algae. Once the bacteria feeds into algae, it dies. And during that process, sucks up the water's oxygen which leads to the dead zone not having marine animals, except sharks (fun fact).

What does hypoxia mean?

• Deficiency of oxygen reaching the tissues.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this small project and all the researching didn't only explain to me what the gulf of mexico is and why it's a hypoxic area, but the fun fact made me realize that marine animals need oxygen to survive as well. The difference of the sharks who can live in the dead zone and the oxygen that marine animals need is an exciting and new topic that can be a project itself.