

JOURNEY TO PLANET EARTH

DISPATCHES FROM THE GULF 2:

Research • Innovation • Discovery

**Matt Damon Narrates New Episode in the
Award-Winning Series Journey to Planet Earth**

Premieres on PBS Stations in 2018

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/j2planetearth/d2-trailer>

For more information, to obtain digital screeners, or to schedule interviews,
contact Nora Zelevansky at screenscope@screenscope.com or 202-364-0055.

ABOUT THE FILM

On April 20, 2010 the United States experienced the largest offshore oil spill in its history. Deepwater Horizon also sparked the largest coordinated oceanic research effort to understand and mitigate the impacts of petroleum pollution.

Narrated by Matt Damon, “*Dispatches from the Gulf 2*” takes viewers on a roller coaster journey through the Gulf of Mexico – on research vessels navigating rough seas, and inside CSI-type laboratories in Europe and the United States – to demonstrate how science can help remedy even our most disastrous failures. It includes the never-before-documented drama of bottlenose dolphins struggling to survive, and the capture of one of the world’s largest predatory sharks.

Along the way we meet dedicated scientists trying to answer pressing questions:

- Why are so many bottlenose dolphins dying?
- Why haven’t Louisiana’s oysters fully recovered from the oil spill?
- What are the long-term health effects on giant creatures like the six-gill shark?
- Is it possible to forecast where and when oil will go after a deep ocean spill?

ABOUT THE DISPATCHES EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE

The *Dispatches Educational Initiative* is a collection of multimedia resources exploring the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon disaster. A global team of scientists is working together to protect and restore one of our planet’s most valuable natural resources – the Gulf of Mexico. Their ultimate goal is to develop new strategies for coping with the repercussions of future oil spills.

Resources include DVDs of the two feature documentaries (*Dispatches 1 & 2*), short videos, podcasts, educators’ guides, lesson plans, posters, and other classroom materials.

All materials are free of charge to educators, public libraries, science centers, museums, and environmental organizations. There are partnership opportunities for exclusive screenings and lectures featuring scientists from the films. For more information, visit <https://dispatchesfromthegulf.com>.

ABOUT JOURNEY TO PLANET EARTH

Journey to Planet Earth is an award-winning documentary series that dramatizes new ways of looking at the delicate relationship between people and the world they inhabit. It is designed to help viewers understand and cope with the most important environmental issues of the 21st century. Through an interdisciplinary approach, these programs reach beyond the physical sciences and draw connections to politics, economics, sociology, and history. “*Dispatches from the Gulf 2*” is the 15th episode in the series. Additional series information is available at <https://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth>.

ABOUT MATT DAMON

Matt Damon has been honored for his work on both sides of the camera, winning a Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy for “*The Martian*.” He was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role for the same film. Earlier in his career, Damon won an Academy Award for Best Screenplay and received an Oscar nomination for Best Actor, both for his breakthrough feature “*Good Will Hunting*.” Damon is the co-founder of water.org, a non-profit organization that works to bring safe drinking water and sanitation options to the billions of people who lack access.

ABOUT MARILYN & HAL WEINER

Marilyn and Hal Weiner have produced, written, and directed more than 225 documentaries and several public television series, including *Journey to Planet Earth*, *Women at Work*, and *The World of Cooking*. They won Emmy Awards for “*The Earth Summit Pledge*,” “*Streets of Sorrow*,” and “*Dispatches from the Gulf*.” The Weiners have also produced three feature films: “*Family Business*,” “*The Imagemaker*,” and “*K2*.” They are recipients of the National Academy of Television Arts and Science’s Silver Circle Award for “outstanding contributions to the television industry.”

ABOUT THE FUNDERS

The *Dispatches Educational Initiative* is made possible by generous grants from the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI), the Wallace Genetic Foundation, and the Farvue Foundation.

The mission of **GoMRI** is to implement an independent research program that will (1) study the effects of the Deepwater Horizon incident and the potential associated impact of this and similar incidents on the environment and public health and (2) develop improvements for spill mitigation, oil detection and characterization, and advanced remediation technologies. GoMRI’s goal is to improve society’s ability to understand, respond to, and mitigate the impacts of petroleum pollution and related stressors of the marine and coastal ecosystems.

The **Wallace Genetic Foundation** focuses on improving the quality of life for all people through long-term environmental conservation.

The **Farvue Foundation** is dedicated to finding solutions for a more sustainable environment.

USA, 2017, 56 min.

Download the complete **Press Kit** at <http://screenscope.com/press-gulf-dispatches.html>

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