

CNN- “Lou Dobbs Tonight” Special Report “Living Dangerously” June 8, 2005 6:45 pm Eastern. Transcripts

Story regarding Oceans & Human Health & Red Tide....

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0506/08/ldt.01.html> (SCROLL DOWN TO THE END;
FINAL STORY)

Just ahead, living dangerously -- our special report on the failing health of our beaches and oceans and the crisis that poses for our public health. Stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

DOBBS: Massive population growth along our coastal areas is putting enormous pressure on our oceans -- oceans that are now more polluted than ever. The New England coast in particular, plagued by one of the worst outbreaks of red sea algae in more than three decades. Officials have closed shellfish beds from Maine to Cap Cod indefinitely. Bill Tucker has the story.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

BILL TUCKER, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Coastal living, nature puts no value on wide stretches of sand and beaches. We do. More than half of the population of the United States now lives along the coast. And we are building more and more houses on sand.

ROB EVANS, SHORELINE SPECIALIST: The (INAUDIBLE) Center predicted that over the next 60 years, one house out of every four within 500 feet of the ocean is probably going to be lost. So, at some point we have to deal with the fact that, you know, we are not going to be able to stop the march of those beaches.

TUCKER: While the oceans threaten our homes, we are threatening the oceans by what we put in the air with our emissions, the fertilizers we put in the ground and the septic systems we put in the ground.

ANN MULLIGAN, GROUND WATER HYDROLOGIST: Runoff is going to occur when it rains. So it's sort of a quick, short burst of runoff. Conversely, ground water is long-term, slow discharge, and it occurs all over the place.

TUCKER: The worst coastal conditions are off the northeast and in the Gulf of Mexico. Some of the damage we're inflicting comes from surprising sources. Oil spills get the headlines, but more oil runs off

into the ocean every year from our cars, leaking onto the streaks, than from tanker spills.

CHRISTOPHER REDDY, ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMIST: It's very easy to see an oil spill and see a dead bird who has oil on its feathers. It's much, much harder to figure out whether or not some contaminant load has changed the ecosystem so subtly that it may affect the next couple generations, but we can't see it right now.

TUCKER (on camera): The science behind our oceans is complex, but what it does comes down to are a couple of very basic facts -- food and money in the form of commerce and recreation.

(voice-over): We spend \$44 billion in recreation at the beach. \$3 trillion are committed to new coastal development on just the East Coast. There's also the question of our health. There's a recent outbreak of toxic algae bloom, or red tide as it's called in New England's waters reminds us. Globally it's estimated that marine contamination costs \$13 billion a year.

DENNIS MCGILLICUDDY, OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH: A healthy ocean, in my view, is fundamental to the survival of our species.

TUCKER: Bill Tucker, CNN, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

DOBBS: Last year, 1,000 -- 1,000 of America's beaches, 29 percent of all of them, were closed for at least one day because of unsafe water. My guest says the oceans are crawling with microorganisms, bacteria and viruses. People who swim, bathe or eat ocean fish are potentially vulnerable.

Here now is Daniel Baden. He is director of the Center for Marine Science at the University of North Carolina. Good to have you with us.

DANIEL BADEN, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA: Good evening.

DOBBS: Red tide, it is worsening. It was once seasonal, it is now all but ubiquitous. What's going on?

BADEN: Well, it appears that there are a number of factors that are entering into this. First of all, there is an actual increase in the number of incidents, and we think this is partly because of global change, and also partly because we are better at recognizing these hazardous environmental events when they occur.

DOBBS: Now, our oceans, polluted as they are, people are not eating certain fish simply because they are contaminated by mercury. How dangerous is the situation? How much of a threat is there to the public health? Can you tell us?

BADEN: Sure. Well, of course, in the case of each different kind of contaminant, and there are natural and man-made contaminants, also anthropogenic thing that get in the environment that never -- have no business being there. In fact, as our analytical technology continues to develop, we are able to detect smaller and smaller amounts in food sources.

And of course, that, for regulatory people, presents a difficult problem, because all of a sudden it's minimal contamination becomes an issue because you can't measure it.

DOBBS: The potential for human disease, the threat to public health, is rising. What can we do?

BADEN: Well, this is a very interesting question, because the federal government has begun to actually address this problem. There are two oceans and human health programs, one that is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Science Foundation together, and they fund four centers, one in Woods Hole, one in Washington State, one in Hawaii and one in Miami, Florida, at the University of Miami.

DOBBS: Daniel Baden, we thank you for being with us here.

BADEN: Thank you.

DOBBS: Appreciate it. Come back soon.

Still ahead, the results of our poll tonight. What do you think of Howard Dean? Is he being outrageous, or simply crazy like a fox? We'll take a look at what's ahead here tomorrow. Stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

DOBBS: Earlier in the broadcast we carried a quote about Howard Dean that the Associated Press incorrectly associated to House Speaker Dennis Hastert. The quote, in point of fact, originated from Hastert's spokesman, Ron Bonjean.

For the record, Bonjean said, "last week's scandal was Deep Throat, this week's scandal was Dean's throat, and apparently likes the taste of his own foot." Again, the quote from Ron Bonjean, the House Speaker's spokesman, not Dennis Hastert. But it's still a pretty good quote.

The results of our poll tonight, 12 percent say Howard Dean is brash. 26 percent say he's bold. 15 percent say he's outrageous. 47 percent of you say he's effective.

Thanks for being with us here tonight. Please join us tomorrow, severe drought out in the west, a governor who says the wild fire season will be historic, but there aren't enough National Guard troops now to fight those fires because they're in Iraq. He'll be our guest among others.

"ANDERSON COOPER 360" is about to begin. In fact, it is going to begin right now -- Anderson.

END

TO ORDER A VIDEO OF THIS TRANSCRIPT, PLEASE CALL 800-CNN-NEWS OR USE OUR
SECURE ONLINE ORDER FORM LOCATED AT www.fdch.com