



## » WINING + DINING

# Fish Out of Water?

On menus throughout Georgia you'll see restaurateurs proudly proclaim that they serve Gulf seafood. But just last year millions of barrels of oil gushed into the Gulf of Mexico after the Deepwater Horizon explosion. So perhaps you're a bit leery about eating Gulf seafood and wonder if it's safe? For answers, we checked in with Alton Brown, the Food Network's resident food historian, scientist and host of "Good Eats" and "Iron Chef America."—HSP

### **Is Gulf seafood safe to eat?**

I'm eating it. If I had to eat seafood exclusively from a 100-mile circle off the Gulf coast for the rest of my life, I'd be okay with that—the region has the greatest diversity of seafood! Every test and every study we perform indicates yes, the seafood is safe.

### **Really?**

Oil is a natural product and nature takes care of itself. And tests show we're 20 times under the safety limits on any chemicals used in the cleanup.

### **How has the oil spill impacted seafood populations?**

Although I'm not going to say that the oil spill was a good thing, oddly enough from a seafood perspective it gave populations here an opportunity to re-flourish. There was a moratorium on fishing until safety was proven and during that time populations continued to grow. Numbers now are better than they used to be.

### **Where do you enjoy dining in Georgia?**

We're homebodies who tend to do most of our cooking at home. I shop at Whole Foods, Harry's Farmers Market, along Buford Highway for exotics and at Dekalb Farmers Market for the show. When we do go out my favorite restaurant in Atlanta is Canoe [4199 Paces Ferry Rd. SE, 770-432-2663, [www.canoeatl.com](http://www.canoeatl.com)].