



Santa Rosa County Public Information ▪ 4499 Pine Forest Road ▪ Milton, Florida ▪ 32583 ▪ (850) 983-5254

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill #29
June 8, 2010
4:00 p.m.

Contact: Joy Tsubooka
Public Information Officer
(850) 983-5254, (850) 393-8304 Cell
joyt@santarosa.fl.gov

Deepwater Horizon Incident Update #29
(Highlighted sections indicate new information)

Situation Update

- *Navarre Beach and Santa Rosa's entire coastline is open, including the waters for fishing.* Two links to live Web cams on Navarre Beach are available at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill.
- *Beach goers may see June Grass, a feathery-like alga that is common in warm water during summer months. This common occurrence and not related to the oil spill.*
- *Some sheens in Florida are oceanographic "slicks" that are often seen during very calm conditions, and not associated with Deepwater, but are naturally occurring sea-surface slicks which consist of plant and animal oil. Slicks are long, straight or curvy features, meters in width, and are glassy, oily, or scummy in appearance.*
- County staff and reconnaissance teams continue to monitor beach conditions daily.
- Multiple tarballs in surf, high tide and splash zones were reported at Navarre Beach today, June 8, and clean up was requested.
- Scattered tarballs were found and cleaned up on Navarre Beach June 4-7.
- Air reconnaissance, which is a flyover of a region to determine conditions, shows only light sheen near shore, approximately one mile off of Navarre Beach.
- According to the NOAA plume model, the primary oil plume is less than five miles from Pensacola, 110 miles from Gulf County, and 280 miles from St. Petersburg, with non contiguous sheens and scattered tarballs closer. NOAA trajectories continue to indicate tarballs and areas of light sheen may impact the
- Citizens and volunteers helping with response efforts are asked not to engage in direct contact with oil and oil contaminated products such as tar balls, tar patties, tar mats, and oil sheen. Only qualified members should handle oil products and oil contaminated materials. To report tar or oil on the beach, call the Florida State Warning Point Line at 1-877-272-8335 or # DEP from a cell phone.
- There are 224 Qualified Community Responders actively working the cleanup effort in the Florida Panhandle.
- The Agency for Workforce Innovation and Regional Workforce Boards are working in Florida communities to identify and fill jobs related to the Gulf Coast oil spill.
- The Unified Command announced the first deployment of the Qualified Community Responder program that will hire unemployed individuals to work in counties that may be affected by the oil spill. Starting June 8, approximately 400 QCR workers in Florida and Alabama began cleaning affected beaches. QCR workers have received extensive safety training and are ready to help prevent and respond to the impacts of oil on the shoreline and perform activities including: carrying and handling materials and supplies, raking or shoveling debris, operating front end loaders or power washers to clean rocks and beach areas, wiping or washing oil-covered items, and removing trash. These workers will not be dealing with oiled wildlife. For more information about the response effort, visit www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com.
- As part of the Obama Administration's ongoing commitment to transparency surrounding the response to the BP oil spill, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced today that Department is providing online access to schematics, pressure tests, diagnostic results and other data about the malfunctioning blowout preventer. The site will be updated with additional data soon and will be available at www.energy.gov.
- When tar balls or other material are reported, a SCAT team or Recon team, which are made up of DEP, BP, state emergency management workers and FWC, verify the report and a BP clean up team is deployed. County representatives may also be part of this team, and Santa Rosa County has requested to participate.

- Clean up for tar balls is done manually.
- Any sheen that does not evaporate and reaches the shoreline will require beach sweeping.
- Tar mats are skimmed or vacuumed while off shore and cleanup of this material that might reach the shore would be dependant on size.
- A SCAT team will verify reports from BP that an area has been cleaned. The county will also be involved to insure the clean up was completed satisfactorily.
- Syndromic surveillance, or using health-related data that would warrant further public health response, has been heightened in six coastal counties from Escambia to Gulf, monitoring for potential health effects.
- The tar balls that are found resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill pose no different health risk than tar balls that are commonly found on Florida beaches. The Department of Health and DEP are closely monitoring health and environmental impacts to Florida's beaches and will notice an advisory if conditions become unsafe. For most people, an occasional brief contact with a small amount of tar balls, while not recommended, will do no harm. However, some people are especially sensitive to chemicals, including the hydrocarbons found in crude oil and petroleum products. They may have an allergic reaction or develop rashes even from brief contact with oil. If contact occurs, wash the area with soap and water, baby oil, or a widely used, safe cleaning compound such as the cleaning paste sold at auto parts stores. Avoid using solvents, gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, or similar products on the skin. These products, when applied to skin, present a greater health hazard than the smeared tarball itself.
- There is no planned use of dispersants in Florida waters.
- Potential impacts to Florida's shoreline will be highly weathered, in the form of tar balls, oil sheen, tar mats or mousse – a pudding-like oil/water mixture that could be brown, rust or orange in color. For more information visit www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill, under the Fact Sheet and Q & A heading.
- Skimmers have been deployed near Pensacola with hopes of removing the oil near the shore waters and preventing and minimizing any potential impacts to Florida.
- Oil containment boom (in feet) total in Florida: 301,030
 - Tier 1: 142,350/ Tier 2: 123,500
 - Tier 3: 35,180 (deployed by Florida contractors)
- Unified Area Command has consolidated a report of fish and wildlife collected in the Deepwater Horizon/BP incident impact area. The report is updated each day at noon and is available at <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doctype/2931/55963>.
- There are reports of a scam involving individuals falsely representing themselves as BP employees and offering applicants training and promising job placement for a fee. BP does not charge to train and hire applicants. If you or someone you know has been charged for training, please contact law enforcement.
- On June 7, Governor Charlie Crist activated Florida's Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program, which will provide emergency, short-term loans to established small businesses in the designated counties.
 - Short-term loans of up to \$25,000 will be available to owners of small businesses (less than 100 employees) in counties impacted the recent oil spill. The interest-free loans come in terms of 12 month maturities. To be eligible, a business owner must have been operational for one full year prior to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on April 20, 2010, and demonstrate physical damage or economic injury as a result of the oil spill.
 - Applications for businesses will be available Monday, June 14, 2010. To receive an application or more information on the program, please contact the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development at (850) 487-2568, or the Florida First Capital Finance Corporation (<http://www.fffc.com>) at (850) 681-3601.
- Residents are asked to stay clear of boom on beaches and in open water. Boom has been placed to protect environmentally sensitive and strategic areas and damaging or removing the boom puts those areas at risk. Crossing boom can cause serious damage to vessels.
- Spill responders are asking for the public's help in monitoring boom along the Gulf Coast. Boaters are requested to report sightings of broken, disconnected, or adrift boom; and encouraged to keep their distance from boom especially at night and in conditions of restricted visibility. Report damaged, vandalized, adrift, or stolen boom to 1-866-448-5816.
- Santa Rosa County and the State of Florida continue to make preparations to safeguard the state's shoreline.
- **Fishing**
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration opened 339 square miles of previously closed fishing area off the Florida panhandle – the northern boundary now ends at the Florida federal-state water

line on the east side of Choctawhatchee Bay. The federal closed area does not apply to any state waters. Closing fishing in these areas is a precautionary measure to ensure that seafood from the Gulf will remain safe for consumers.

- The closed area now represents 78,264 square miles, which is approximately 32 percent of Gulf of Mexico federal waters. This leaves approximately 68 percent of Gulf federal waters available for fishing. The closure will be effective today at 6 p.m. EDT. Details can be found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.
- This area was initially closed on June 5 as a precaution because oil was projected to be within the area over the next 48 hours. However, the review of satellite imagery, radar and aerial data indicated that oil had not moved into the area.
- **All Santa Rosa County waters are currently open to fishing.** Oil has not affected most of Florida waters and there are vast amounts open for fishing and other recreational activities and the FWC encourages everyone to fish where the waters are clear and to enjoy freshly harvested seafood products in these areas. Updated information regarding fishing advisories or harvest closures in Florida due to the BP oil spill will be posted online at <http://myfwc.com/OilSpill/index.htm>.
- The FWC is conducting airborne and waterborne surveillance to establish oil presence and extent to guide management actions. It will decide whether to close a specific area to the harvest of fish based on a visual assessment that confirms there is a significant amount of oil on the surface of the water. The FWC advises people to avoid any oil they encounter while boating or fishing.
- Fishermen are reminded that it is recommended to never harvest and eat fish with oily residue, fish that have a petroleum odor or dead fish.
- The recreational harvest season for red snapper in Gulf of Mexico waters off Florida reopened on June 1. The harvest season is scheduled to remain open until July 24 this year. For more information about red snapper management and regulations, go to www.MyFWC.com/Fishing.
- The FWC reminds Floridians and visitors that the state's recreational and commercial fisheries have not been impacted by the oil spill and remain open for public enjoyment and commerce. Florida saltwater fishing regulations remain in effect as usual and are available online at MyFWC.com/Fishing.
- Modeling and mapping the actual and projected spill area is not an exact science. NOAA Fisheries Service strongly advises fishermen not to fish in areas where oil or oil sheens (very thin layers of floating oil) are present, even if those areas are not currently closed to fishing.
- Details can be found at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

Actions Taken in Santa Rosa County

- On June 2, the EOC returned to a level 2, or partial activation with essential staff, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. until further notice.
- FDEP gave the state contractor, DRC, approval to begin staging boom for Santa Rosa County's tier three or additional booming plan on June 1.
- An additional booming plan for Santa Rosa County that was drafted by the state's contractor WRS for the county, has been approved by unified command and the plan and booming map are posted at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill, shown as a blue cross on the map (some locations have two crosses to show point to point locations).
- The following booming sites, which are in addition to the U.S. Coast Guard's Area Contingency Plan, would be deployed by Santa Rosa's selected state contractor, DRC, who would be responsible for monitoring, maintaining and disposal of any oil material:
 - Zamarra Canal- Boom placed June 3, left open for navigation and will be closed upon imminent threat
 - Gilmore Bayou- Boom placed June 3, left open for navigation and will be closed upon imminent threat
 - Woodland Bayou- Boom placed June 3, left open for navigation and will be closed upon imminent threat
 - Villa Venyce – Previously boomed
 - Santa Rosa Shores- Boom placed on June 4, left open for navigation and will be closed upon imminent threat.
 - Hoffman Bayou- Boom placed June 3, left open for navigation and will be closed upon imminent threat

- Polynesian Isle- Boom placed on June 4, left open for navigation and will be closed upon imminent threat
- East River- Boom placed on June 4, left open for navigation and will be closed up on imminent threat.
- Two booms in Pensacola Bay
- Unified commands continues to check, verify conditions, and make repairs as needed, to currently placed booms.

Boats

- Vessels are advised to avoid spill areas.
- Vessels that must transit through the affected zone should maintain a safe speed through the oil that appears light, bright and on the surface. Vessels should avoid pockets of heavy black oil to ensure safe navigation.
- If traveling through an oil affected area by boat, take precautions when hoisting the boat anchor. If oil makes contact with skin, wash it off immediately with soap and water. Recommendations can be found on cleaning at www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon under Resources.

BP Claims

- BP announced it will be sending a second advance payment during June to individuals and businesses along the Gulf Coast to compensate for the loss of income or net profit due to the cleanup of the Deepwater Horizon Incident in the Gulf of Mexico.
- A BP Community Outreach Center has been opened in Gulf Breeze at:
 - 1198 Gulf Breeze Pkwy., Ste. 6, Gulf Breeze FL 32561
 - Phone (850) 691-9116
- BP Claims for Deepwater Horizon can be submitted at www.bp.com/claims.
- To serve the residents of Santa Rosa County, BP opened a claims office in Midway on Friday, May 14. The office is located at 5668 Gulf Breeze Parkway Unit B-9 in Gulf Breeze. Hours of operation will be 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week, until further notice.
 - BP recommends anyone with a claim to call 1-800-440-0858 to help expedite the process. By calling the claims number, adjusters at the claims office will have the information prior to your visit.
 - The office is located at: BP Claims Office 5668 Gulf Breeze Pkwy Unit B-9 Gulf Breeze, FL 32563
- BP claims in Florida: 8,252 claims/ Approximately \$ 5,378,781.11 paid
 - Bodily injury: 35 claims/ \$0 paid
 - Wage Loss: 4,454 claims/ \$2,645,300.76 paid
 - Loss of income: 3,728 claims/ \$2,733,480.35 paid

Small Business Disaster Loans Available

- Governor Crist announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration has approved disaster loan funds for businesses along Florida's Gulf coast that have been impacted by the Deepwater Horizon incident.
 - SBA representatives opened a disaster loan office on Tuesday, May 18 at the Navarre Visitor Information Center located at 8543 Navarre Parkway (U.S. Hwy 98) in Navarre. Hours of operations will be 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday- Saturday until further notice.
 - More information can be found at: www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance/SERV_DISASTERASSISTANCEGOV.html
- Loan Applications
 - Issued: 206
 - Accepted: 35
 - Declined: 10
 - Approved: 2
 - Loan amount approved: \$255,000.00

Vessels of Opportunity (boats) program

- BP is looking to contract shrimp boats, oyster boats and other vessels for hire through the Vessel of Opportunities Program to deploy boom in the Gulf of Mexico. For more information 907-301-8878.

- 312 vessels have been deployed in Florida for the Vessels of Opportunity program.
- Submit your vessel as a vessel of opportunity skimming system: (281) 366-5511

Important Phone Numbers

- **Florida Oil Spill Information Line** - 1-888- 337-3569
- **Fraud Hotline**- 1-866-966-7226.
- **Submit Alternative Response Technology Services & Products**- email horizonsupport@oegllc.com or call 1-281-366-5511
- **Report Oiled Wildlife**- 1-866-557-1401
- **Report Oiled Shoreline to State Warning Point**- 1-877-2-SAVE-FL (1-877-272-8335)
- **BP Toll-Free Claims line**- 1800-440-0858
- **BP's Community Information line**- 1-866-448-5816
- **Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner gas price-gauging hotline**: 1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352).

General Safety Information

- www.santarosa.fl.gov
- Citizens can sign up to automatically receive breaking news alerts from Santa Rosa County Emergency Management via e-mail or as a text message on their cell phone at:
www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency/publicwarning.html.
- The Santa Rosa County Citizen Information Line at (850) 983-INFO or 4636 is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

###