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Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill #49
June 28, 2010
5:25 p.m.

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Deepwater Horizon Incident Update #49
(Highlighted sections indicate new information)

Situation Update

- **Navarre Beach and Santa Rosa's entire coastline is open for swimming and fishing.** Two links to live Web cams on Navarre Beach are available at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill.
- Navarre Beach video updates are now available at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill. The short clips show morning beach conditions including current weather, beach warning flag and any oil impacts as seen at the time of filming. Videos will be updated Monday through Friday (except for holidays), generally by noon.
- Today, June 28, no oil or tar balls were reported on Navarre Beach. There were about a dozen oiled bottles observed in the wrack line (This is the line of debris that rests on the beach at the highest reach of the surging waves. The most prominent feature of the sea wrack is usually clumps of algae, or "seaweed.") spread over the entire length of beach.
- According to SERT GATOR, Remoras were reported scattered on the east portion of Navarre Beach. It is unknown if this is oil related.
- Quarter to softball- sized tar balls were reported in the tide line 100 feet away from the Pensacola Pass.
- Tar balls, tar patties and sheen have been reported in Northwest Florida and impacts are expected to continue within the next 72 hours.
- Tropical Storm Alex is approximately 656 miles southwest of the Deepwater Horizon well head site. Maximum sustained winds are near 50 mph. A general northwest track across the Bay of Campeche and the southwest Gulf and then west toward the Texas/ Mexico border is forecast.
- There will be numerous showers and thunderstorms over the area of operations for the next three to four days, inhibiting oil recovery operations through Thursday.
- County staff and reconnaissance teams have investigated multiple reports of slicks, sheens, patches and streamers that are visible from the I10 Bridge and orange foam on the coast line of Blackwater Bay. To date there is no oil product in this area, but the material found has been tidal foam, seaweed, debris in the tide lines, phytoplankton, fish or other natural and organic material that is often present in the inland waterways this time of the year. All reports continue to be investigated.
- Current oil spill conditions are available online through the State Emergency Response Team GATOR map at <http://map.floridadisaster.org/GATOR/>. The map provides real time alerts, information and gives updates on oil on Florida's coastline. The SERT Gator map encompasses the entire Gulf coast and is color coded. Green circles are used for routine recon reports, orange for priority recon reports and red for emergency recon reports.
- **In order to expedite responses to oiled wildlife, please contact the oiled wildlife hotline at 1-866-557-1401 if oiled wildlife is spotted. Qualified personnel will respond to the report. Please do not touch or try and clean oiled wildlife.**
- **Citizens are asked not to have 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.**
- Skimming and recreational vessel decontamination facilities are being established across the panhandle. The current list of vessel decontamination locations within the U.S. Coast Guard Mobile Sector for oiled boats is available at <http://bpdecon.com>.

- BP reports that as of June 26, there are 479 trained Santa Rosa County Qualified Community Responders. Learn more about qualified community responders at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill, under the “Fact Sheets and Q & A” heading.
- Reconnaissance missions are being coordinated daily from the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee using air, land, and sea assets from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Civil Air Patrol, and the Florida National Guard.
- Florida currently has five state-leased skimmers operating in Northwest Florida. The skimmers are working at the passes in Escambia, Okaloosa, Bay, Gulf and Franklin counties to protect sensitive inland water bodies.
- Secretary Sole signed an emergency order authorizing the burning of product off shore in Florida waters. The county will notify residents before the burning starts.
- Dispersants in Florida waters have been approved.
- Perdido Pass, Pensacola Pass and Bayou Texar are navigationally restricted during flood (incoming) tide and reopen during ebb (outgoing) tide as water flows out to the gulf. They are manned to allow access to necessary vessel traffic. Boaters in areas where skimming is being conducted, or where boom has been set, have been requested to maintain no-wake speeds.
- The Gulf Oil Economic Recovery Task Force will meet on June 30 at the University of West Florida Conference Center Building 22 located at 11000 University Parkway in Pensacola from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The general public is encouraged to attend and observe. Individuals wishing to make a public comment at the meeting will need to register with the task force staff on-site the day of the meeting. For more information and to watch the meeting live via web cast visit <http://www.flgov.com/gulfrecoverytaskforce>.

Santa Rosa County Actions

- The Santa Rosa County water reconnaissance teams were unable to complete missions today due to weather conditions. They will continue to survey water and boom conditions daily, weather permitting, providing real time information on oil products including photos and GPS coordinates.
- Since the county teams have begun surveying conditions, they have found and reported oil product in the water that was not visible by air reconnaissance.
- County staff and reconnaissance teams continue to monitor beach conditions daily generally from day break until 6 p.m., weather permitting.
- Staff continue to monitor cleanup and skimming operations performed by crews under the direction of unified command.
- Staff met with Dave Halstead, Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and Phil Wieczynski, Chief of Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Emergency Response today, June 28.
- 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. The Santa Rosa County Citizen Information Line at (850) 983-INFO or 4636 is open 24 hours daily.
- Santa Rosa County and the State of Florida continue to make preparations to safeguard the state's shoreline.

Fishing

- On June 28, NOAA modified the commercial and recreational fishing closure in the oil-affected portions of the Gulf of Mexico. The closure now measures 80,228 sq miles and covers approximately 33 percent of the Gulf of Mexico. The majority of federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico are open to commercial and recreational fishing. For more information, visit <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.
- **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 taking precautionary actions and has issued a partial harvesting closure of saltwater fish and marine vertebrates. This closure covers state waters from the Alabama state line east to the Pensacola Beach tower (approximately 23 miles east and out nine miles from the coastline. Interior bays and estuaries

remain open to fishing. The closure does not affect oysters, clams and scallops. Catch and release is still allowed. For more information visit <http://myfwc.com/OilSpill/index.htm>.

- The FWC & 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/>

Volunteer Information

- The complex nature of oil cleanup, coupled with health and safety concerns, limits the role of volunteers. Our area is not only being affected environmentally, but also by the loss of jobs connected to the tourism and fishing industries, leaving residents impacted or displaced economically and emotionally. Human service organizations, including nonprofits and faith based organizations, will need greater volunteer support in order to provide service to our impacted residents.
- To learn more about volunteer opportunities in our area, please contact the Santa Rosa County Volunteer Reception Center operated through Help Thy Neighbors at (850) 983-5223.
- Citizens are also asked to help spread the word that our beaches are open and encourage friends and family to visit our area to help minimize the economic impacts by visiting our restaurants, attractions, parks, hotels and condominiums.

Health

- June 24 water quality testing performed by the University of West Florida showed no dissolved petroleum hydrocarbons at Navarre Beach Pier.
- The Air Quality Index for Thursday, June 24, was “Good” for ozone and fine particulate concentrations in the panhandle. Ozone and particle data are consistent with typical values that occur during this time of year and no obvious influence due to the oil spill is evident.
- An online mental health survey for residents is being conducted to gather information on the effect of Deepwater Horizon incident on mental health at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill, under What’s Hot. The survey will be available until the oil incident is resolved. For questions contact Daniel Hahn at (850) 983-4606 or danielh@santarosa.fl.gov.
- The Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Protection are closely monitoring health and environmental impacts to Florida. Current advisories are posted at: www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/health.htm and www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill under “What’s Hot.”
- 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.

Booms

- Oil containment boom (in feet) total: 618,261 deployed in Florida
 - Tier 1: 248,800 / Tier 2: 133,600
 - Tier 3: 235,861 (deployed by Florida contractors)
- Santa Rosa County’s approved additional boom locations and the location of the U.S. Coast Guard’s Contingency booms 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).
- Booms located in Santa Rosa that have been left open for navigation to date, may begin to close. Boaters in these areas should monitor the local media or www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill for the latest on boom closures.

- Boaters in areas where skimming is being conducted, or where boom has been set, have been requested to maintain no-wake speeds.
- ***Florida Department of Environmental Protection does not allow the installation of hay bales, temporary sandbags or other similar materials to prevent oil contamination along shorelines of sandy beaches, as they can complicate cleanup efforts and could cause serious long-term damage.***
- The FDEP Emergency Order that waives obtaining a permit for booms and protective measure is only for government and approved contractors. Businesses, condo owners or private citizens must still get a permit. All berms must be permitted.
- 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.

BP Claims

- 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
- 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.
 - To help expedite a claims visit, call 1-800-440-0858 or start a claim at www.bp.com/claims before visiting the claims center, so adjusters at the claims office will have the information prior to your visit.
 - BP claims in Florida total 21,522 with approximately \$18,239,920.61 paid.
 - BP claims in Santa Rosa County total 2,185 with approximately \$2,009,878 paid.

Small Business Disaster & Bridge Loans

- 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. Applications for businesses are available. 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, the Florida First Capital Finance Corporation (<http://www.fffc.com>) at (850) 681-3601, or TEAM Santa Rosa at (850) 623-0174. More information has also been posted at www.santarosa.fl.gov/oilspill under the Business Information heading.
 - Loan Applications
 - Issued: 459
 - Accepted: 119
 - Declined: 27
 - Approved: 15
 - Loan amount approved: \$1,202,400.00
- SBA representatives opened a disaster loan office 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 Saturday, June 26; when the days of operation will change to Monday-Friday. The office will be closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day. More information can be found at: www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance/SERV_DISASTERASSISTANCEGOV.html

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 (866) 279-7983 or (877) 847-7470.
- 396 vessels have been deployed in Florida for the Vessels of Opportunity program.

Important Phone Numbers

- **Florida Oil Spill Information Line** is- available from 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. EDT daily for citizen's questions. - 1-888-337-3569
- **Fraud Hotline**- 1-866-966-7226.
- **Submit Alternative Response Technology, or to Register as a Consultant, Contractor, or Vender of Services & Products**- email horizonsupport@oegl.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) or #DEP from a cell phone
- **To Report Oiled Shoreline to BP**- 877-389-8932
- **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 24 hours daily.
- For general health information regarding the oil spill and exposure to oil spill products contact the Florida Poison Control information centers at 1-800-222-1222.

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