MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

News Release

Contacts: Robbie Wilbur, MDEQ, 601-421-5699
Lauren Thompson, DMR, 228-219-5226

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MDEQ AUGUST 1 UPDATE ON OIL MATERIAL IN MISSISSIPPI

BILOXI, Miss. – Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) staff through aerial surveillance with the Mississippi National Guard, MDEQ response staff, and Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Teams (SCAT) have observed the following Sunday (as of 6:30 p.m.):

Flight information:

- Metallic sheen one-half mile by 100 yards wide with wind rows 3 NM south of Long Beach (N30°17.04/W89°09.79 to N30°16.92/W89°90.32).

Other Information from MDEQ staff:

- Harrison County:
  - Sporadic tar balls ranging in size from 1 to 3 cm and approximately 1 to 4 feet apart between Pass Christian Yacht Club and Seal Avenue.
- Jackson County:
  - Sporadic tar balls, less than five percent coverage, on the southwest side of Singing River Island. Some areas of large (12 to 20 cm) tar balls mixed with dead sea grass.
- Hancock County:
  - Sporadic tar balls, less than one percent coverage with an average size of 2 to 3 cm, found on the beaches around the Silver Slipper Casino in Waveland.

- SCAT on the barrier islands:
  - Performed aerial reconnaissance of all barrier islands and walking observations of Petit Bois Island. No new oiling was observed. Walking observations revealed trace amounts of tar balls in the tidally influenced areas. Also, patches of tar balls and patties which had previously washed ashore were observed in the subsurface of the upper intertidal zone and on the surface in the supratidal zone. These patches have already been observed and mapped for clean-up operations. Beach cleaning crews were observed conducting cleaning operations on Cat Island and West Ship Island.
  - Walked along the smaller islands along the north side of Cat Island. Found areas of heavy stained marsh on a couple of the smaller islands and minimal amounts on others. Most of the oil observed was in the storm surge line and was very weathered.

More information about MDEQ's and DMR's roles in oil spill response are available at www.deq.state.ms.us/oilspill and www.dmr.state.ms.us/DMR/oil-spill.htm. Water sampling information:

http://opcgis.deq.state.ms.us/oilspillmap, air monitoring data: http://gulfcoast.airnowtech.org, and beach monitoring information: http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/msbeach/index.cgi.

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