



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MDEQ JULY 20 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 Tuesday (as of 7:30 p.m.) and sent to Unified Command for review and appropriate response:

Flight information:

Algae bloom south of Chevron at N30° 17.42' W88° 29.56'.

Other Information from MDEQ staff:

MDEQ staff walked the beaches in Pass Christian at Henderson Point. No tar balls or oiling were observed.

SCAT team reported one mousse patty five cm in diameter at N30°21.610' W88°25.160' (Grand Bay). One three meter by five meter band with 60 percent coverage at N30°19.192' W88°28.761'. A five meter by one meter band with 30 percent coverage at N30°19.213' W88°28.759' (Canal near Chevron).

SCAT team reported rig debris approximately four by three by one foot, located at N 30° 22' 26.6", W 88° 47' 16.16".

SCAT team reported rig debris at N 30°22'24.3", W 88°47'11.6" and N 30° 22' 26.6" W 88° 47' 16.6 ".

SCAT team reported a poorly cleaned oil marsh area, approximately 60 percent coverage, located at N 30° 22' 26.6", W 88° 47' 19.1".

MDEQ personnel reported weathered tar balls along the low tide zone on the southern tip of Singing River Island. Less than one percent coverage was reported in a 150 to 200 yard stretch. The tar balls ranged in size from two cm to 12 cm; starting at N 30° 19.708' W 88° 34.110', ending at N 30° 19.738' W 88° 34.265'

Hancock County (report from July 19) – tar patties along surf line and in waters' edge for approximately 150 yards with one percent coverage. N30°15.909' W89°23.379'. One to five inches in diameter. Sporadic tar patties along the high tide line. Less than one percent coverage. Size one-half to two inches diameter. Start point N30°16.369' W89°22.655' and end point W30°16.617'. W89°22.426'.

Beach Advisories:

The beach advisories in Harrison County, Hancock County, and Jackson County remain in effect.

They are listed at: <http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/msbeach/index.cgi>.

Under an advisory, the beaches are open to use; however, MDEQ and the Beach Monitoring Task Force recommend that people avoid contact with oil-related materials such as tar balls and tar mats and stay out of the water if these materials are visible.

More information and links 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 available at: <http://opcgis.deq.state.ms.us/oilspillmap> and air monitoring data at: <http://gulfcoast.airnowtech.org>.

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