



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Contacts: Robbie Wilbur, MDEQ, 601-961-5277  
Lauren Thompson, DMR, 228-219-5226

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MDEQ JULY 25 UPDATE ON OIL MATERIAL IN MISSISSIPPI**

**\*\*CORRECTION—MATERIAL FROM FLIGHTS LATER VIEWED BY BOAT—APPEARS TO BE SEAWEED\*\***

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 6:45 p.m.) and sent to Unified Command for review and appropriate response:

**Flight information:**

- *Update: MDEQ staff surveyed three of these four areas by boat.—what were suspected areas of tar balls were confirmed to be seaweed or possibly some tar balls in the seaweed. Everything in state waters appears to be seaweed. (6:45 P.M.)*
- A 1000 meter area south of Horn Island starting at N30 8.27 W88 36.87, ending at N30 08.31 W88 36.63.
- A 300 meter area southeast of Horn Island at N30 08.46 W88 32.48.
- A stream 100 meters long north of Petit Bois Island -- N30 14.92 W88 29.18.
- A 20 by 100 meter area north of Petit Bois Island -- N30 16.08 W88 31.47.

**Other Information from MDEQ staff:**

- Soft sandy tar balls in trace amounts in the intertidal zone in Long Beach near the intersection of West Avenue and Beach Boulevard at N 30 20 24.1 and W 89 09 40.3
- Hancock County—trace amounts of tar balls in a 30 meter by 1 meter band, four to eight cm in diameter, at N30 16.830' W89 22.226'.
- Hancock County—a mousse patty highly weathered, 12 cm in diameter, at N30 16.746 W89 22.302'.
- Hancock County—a 15 meter by 1 meter band of tar balls, one to four cm in diameter, with sporadic coverage at the intersection of Sears and South Beach Boulevard at N30 16.038' W89 23.126'
- Hancock County—a 15 meter by 1 meter band of tar balls, one to four cm in diameter, with sporadic coverage across from the Silver Slipper RV Park--N30 15.043' W89 25.308'.
- Harrison County--scattered tar balls along the beach in Gulfport, starting at the Island View Casino in Gulfport to the Pass Christian Harbor. Also, starting at the Beau Rivage and ending at Courthouse Road. The heaviest coverage was from around Ruth Avenue and Highway 90 in Gulfport to the Long Beach Harbor.

More information and links about MDEQ's and DMR's roles in oil spill response are available at [www.deq.state.ms.us/oilspill](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/oilspill) and [www.dmr.state.ms.us/DMR/oil-spill.htm](http://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://gulfoast.airnowtech.org>.

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