



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



July 27, 2010 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MDEQ JULY 27 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:

- One half mile area of seaweed with sheen, three-quarter mile off Horn Island
 - N30°12.64/W88°43.38
- Seaweed with sheen, 4 miles SSW of Petit Bois Island
 - N30°07.40/W88°33.90
 - N30°08.68/W88°33.15

Other Information from MDEQ staff:

- Harrison County--approximately 500 tar patties, 1 to 12 cm size range with average size of 3 to 5cm, found on a two mile stretch of beach between the Long Beach Harbor and South Seashore Avenue.
 - N30°20.672/W89°08.701
 - N30°20.107/W89°10.458
- Approximately 125 tar patties, 1 to 5 cm size range with average size of 2 to 3 cm, found on a 2.5 mile stretch of beach between the Long Beach Harbor and Gulfport Harbor.
 - N30°20.672/W89°08.701
 - N30°21.670/W89°06.062
- No oil observed at Pass Christian harbor to the Bay Bridge.
- Jackson County--
 - Mars Lake beaches are clean.
 - Sporadic tar balls with less than five percent coverage found on the west end of Bellefontaine Point in Ocean Springs. Average diameter of 1 to 3 cm.
 - Sporadic tar patties ranging in size from 1 to 6 cm with approximately one to four percent coverage found between Fifth Street and the boat launch on Pascagoula Beach.
 - Weathered tar balls/patties ranging in size from 3 cm to 32 cm were found on Greenwood Island off Bayou Cassotte Boulevard in Pascagoula. Coverage was patchy, ranging from 11 to 50 percent in an area approximately 100 yards long.
 - N30°20.653/ W88°42.006

- Hancock County--
 - A 4 meter band of sporadic tar balls/patties were observed, east of Buccaneer State Park, on the Waveland beach. Tar balls/patties were in the upper to supratidal zone, one to five percent coverage. Less than one percent coverage in the dunes at places.
 - N30°14.404/W89°25.487
 - N30°15.114/W89°25.254
- SCAT personnel in Hancock County reported the following:
 - No oil was observed from the Mississippi Stateline to N30°10.600/W89°27.667.
 - A 5 meter wide band of surface mousse residue on the vegetation at less than one percent coverage was observed in the upper intertidal zone from N30°10.600/W89°27.667 to N30°10.736/W89°27.469.
 - A 10 meter wide band of surface mousse residue on the vegetation and mousse splatter at two percent coverage, with zoned areas of 25 percent coverage, was observed in the upper intertidal zone from N30°10.882/W89°27.390 to N30°11.003/W89°27.140.
- SCAT on the barrier islands--aerial and walking observations of the barrier islands found trace amounts of tar balls in the tidally-influenced areas on all islands. Fresh re-oiling was observed on Horn Island and was classified as 'light' with less than one percent coverage. Also, patches of tar balls/patties which had previously washed ashore were observed in the subsurface of the upper intertidal zone and on the surface in the supratidal zone.

Mississippi Skimmer Activities

- Leased skimmers worked the shoreline in Harrison and Hancock County. The "Henderson Point" skimmer worked around Horn Island in the Mississippi Sound.

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://gulfoast.airnowtech.org>.

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