



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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MDEQ JULY 28 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 Wednesday (as of 7:30 p.m.) and sent to Unified Command for review and appropriate response:

Flight information:

- Possible seaweed mixed with light sheen between Ship and Horn Island (N30°13.46/W88°49.76) observed. Determined on the water to be seaweed and fish sheen.

Other Information from MDEQ staff:

- Harrison County:
 - Tar balls observed in the intertidal zone from 0.5 to 1 cm range with occasional tar balls in the 2 to 5 cm range. About 95 percent of the area had less than one percent coverage, with the remaining five percent having five percent or less coverage. N30°23.591/W88°55.593; N30°23.573/W88°55.840
 - No oil related material observed from Gulfport Harbor to Ken Combs pier.
 - A 200 yard stretch of tar balls observed on the east side of Ken Combs pier in Gulfport. The coverage was between five to ten percent, ranging from 1 to 5 cm with an average size of 2 to 3 cm.
 - Approximately 125 tar balls observed in the 1.5 mile stretch just west of the Gulfport Harbor. Tar balls ranged in size from 1 to 5 cm with an average size of 2 to 3 cm.
 - No oil-related material was observed around the Long Beach Harbor or 1.5 miles east of it.
 - Trace tar balls, from Paradise Avenue in Biloxi to Courthouse Road in Gulfport, averaged 2 cm in diameter with a frequency of one to two per each 10 feet.
 - Sporadic tar balls observed in the intertidal zone between Treasure Bay Casino and Veterans' Avenue with an average size of 1 to 2 cm.
 - Sporadic tar balls observed in the intertidal zone, ranging in size from 2 to 5 cm, from the Pass Christian Yacht Club to Long Beach Harbor. About 90 percent of the area had less than one percent coverage, with the remaining ten percent having five percent or less coverage.
 - No oil-related material found on a three-quarter mile stretch of beachfront west of the Pass Christian harbor.

- Jackson County:
 - Greenwood Island, off Bayou Cassotte Boulevard in Pascagoula, tar balls with a coverage between five to ten percent with an average size of 8 to 10 cm.
 - Tar balls on the western end of Belle Fontaine Point in Ocean Springs. Coverage was less than five percent with an average size of 1 to 3 cm.
 - Tar balls on the eastern end of Belle Fontaine Point in Ocean Springs. Coverage was between 10 to 20 percent, ranging in size from 1 to 5 cm.
 - Sporadic tar balls with a one percent coverage along most of Graveline Beach in Gautier. Near the east end of the beach there was a 75 foot stretch of patchy tar balls with 15 to 20 percent coverage.
- Hancock County:
 - Sporadic tar balls along all the beaches in Hancock County.
 - SCAT team in Hancock County reported the following:
 - Five to eight meter wide bands of surface mousse residue on the vegetation and mousse splatter with a continuous less than 1 percent coverage, with zoned areas up to 50 percent coverage, in the upper intertidal zone from N30°11.003/W89°27.140 to N30°13.424/W89°25.874.
 - Five to twenty meter wide bands of coating of surface mousse residue on the vegetation and mousse splatter with a continuous one percent coverage, with zoned areas up to 50 percent coverage, predominately in the upper intertidal zone from N30°13.424/W89°25.874 to N30°14.014/W89°25.275.

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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