

**Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources**

July 5, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 5, 2010 MDEQ UPDATE ON OIL MATERIAL IN MISSISSIPPI

BILOXI, Miss. – Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) staff through aerial surveillance with the Mississippi National Guard (flights were grounded due to weather Monday), MDEQ response staff, and Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Teams (SCAT) have observed the following Monday (as of 6:00 p.m.) and sent to Unified Command for review and appropriate response:

- Approximately 20 tar balls and 12 pieces of oiled debris on beach in Hancock County.
- Mousse oil on Cat Island along a line of assessment (N 30 13.817 W 88 06.264 to N 30 13.832 W 88 06.809) that was not fresh and has been reported by previous SCAT teams. Sections of vegetation oiled up to 70 percent. Patches of tar balls and weathered oil are skimmed and corralled by Vessels of Opportunity and BP contractors. Skimming is used to remove streams of emulsified oil, tar balls, and tar patties. Tar balls and mousse patties on land are removed with shovels and rakes.

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.

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