



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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News Release

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Sept. 2, 2010

NOAA Re-opens Federal Waters off Mississippi to Commercial and Recreational Fishing

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) announces that effective **Sept. 2, 2010 at 5 p.m.** the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will re-open federal waters adjacent to Mississippi waters to commercial and recreational fishing previously closed in response to the BP/Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The re-opened area was originally closed because oil was present in the area; however, no oil has been documented in the area since July 12, and only scattered light sheens since July 29. Trajectory models show the area is at a low risk for future exposure to oil. NOAA collected shrimp and finfish samples from this area, including commercially and recreationally important species, such as red snapper. Sensory testing showed no detectable oil or dispersant odors or flavors in the samples, and the results of chemical analysis were well below levels of concern.

NOAA continues to work closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the states to ensure seafood safety. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, NOAA and the FDA are working together to sample seafood from inside and outside the opened area, as well as dockside- and market-based sampling.

Permit holders are reminded to maintain their federal vessel permits by submitting timely reporting requirements and renewal applications, even if the vessel is not currently engaged in fishing activities.

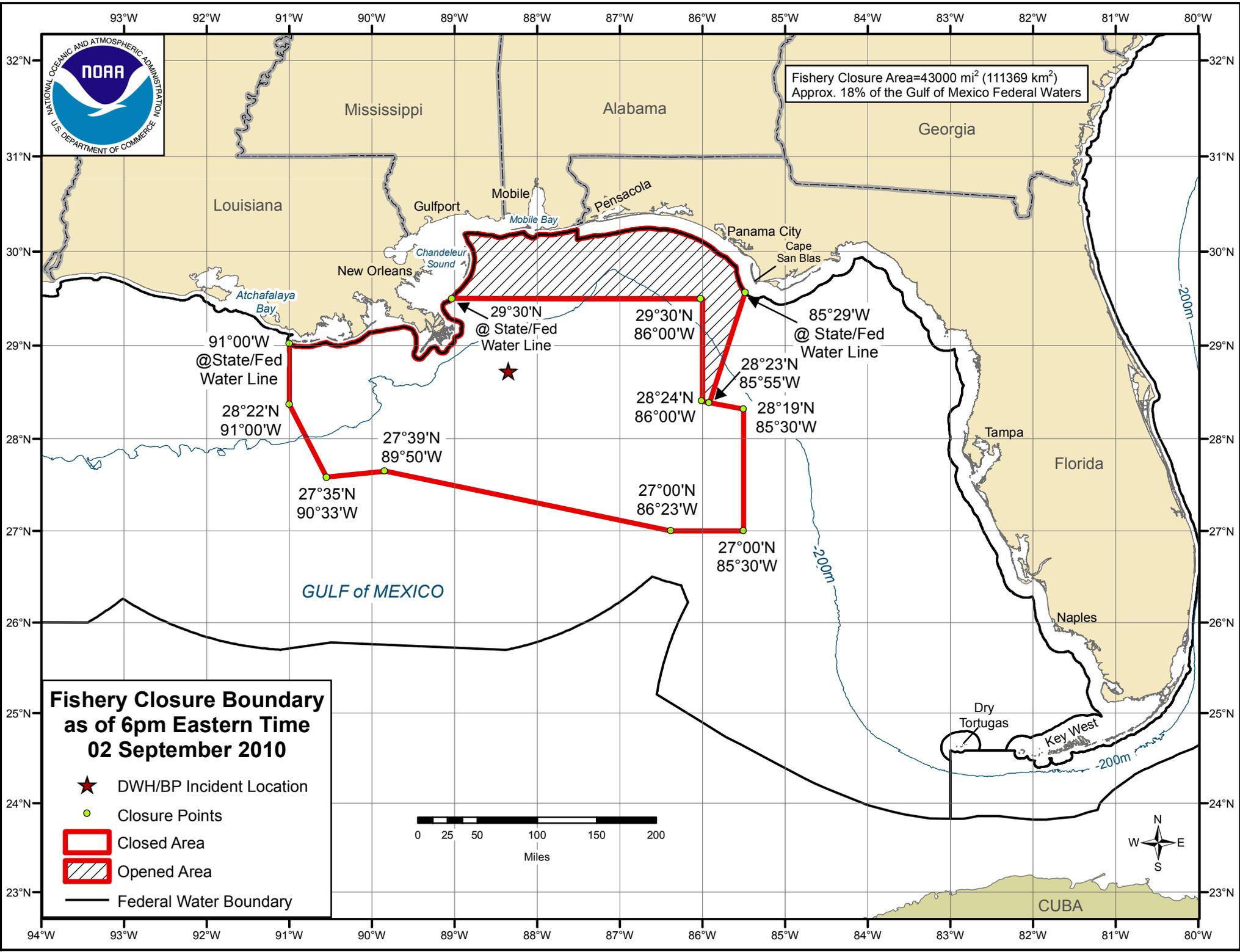
The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

ATTACHED: Map

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Fishery Closure Area=43000 mi² (111369 km²)
Approx. 18% of the Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters



Fishery Closure Boundary as of 6pm Eastern Time 02 September 2010

- ★ DWH/BP Incident Location
- Closure Points
- ▭ Closed Area
- ▨ Opened Area
- Federal Water Boundary



GULF of MEXICO

