

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

**June 30, 2010  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BEACH ADVISORY AREA EXTENDED WEDNESDAY**

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR), and the Mississippi State Department of Health extended the existing beach advisory in Harrison County to the west from Market Street in Pass Christian on the west to Azalea Avenue in Biloxi on the east. This area had significant amounts tar mats and tar patties on the beach. MDEQ and the Beach Monitoring Task Force recommend that people avoid contact with oil-related materials such as tar balls and tar mats and stay out of the water if these materials are visible. This area includes Mississippi beach monitoring sites 7, 7A, 8, 9, 10, 10A, 11, 11A, 12, 12A, 13, and a portion of 12B.

The Jackson County advisory issued Monday remains in effect and includes the area from Main Street in the Belle Fountain area west to Seashore Avenue. This encompasses existing beach monitoring sites 17 and 15A.

Information and maps of these beach monitoring locations are available at: <http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/msbeach/index.cgi>. MDEQ and the Beach Monitoring Task Force will continue to advise the public when oil-related materials are found. The nature of this oil spill is such that patches of these type materials could show up in other areas in the near future.

These beaches are not closed and beach goers may continue to use these beaches, but the agencies advise people to use common sense and take appropriate precautions including:

- Avoid direct skin contact with the oil.
- If you get oil on your skin, wash it off with soap and water.
- Wash your hands before eating to avoid accidentally swallowing oil.
- If you get oil on clothing, wash it in the usual way.
- Prolonged exposure to the oil may cause some to have a skin rash.
- There is no need to use harsh detergents, solvents or other chemicals to wash oil from your skin or clothing, and their use is discouraged.

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.ms.gov](http://www.dmr.ms.gov). The website for the Mississippi State Department of Health is: <http://www.msdh.state.ms.us>.

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