



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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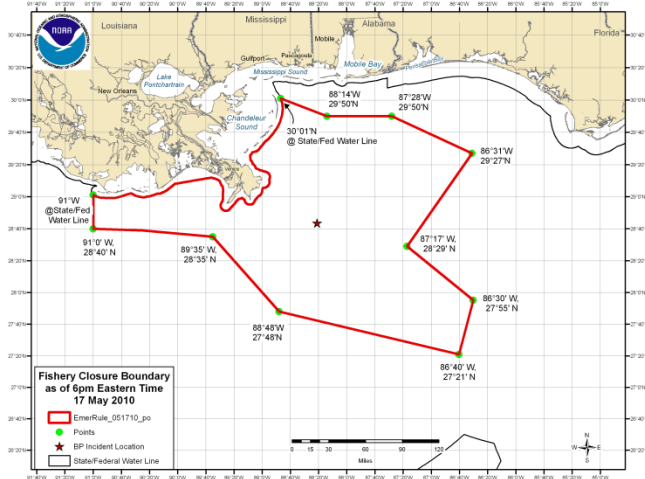
BP Oil Spill: NOAA Modifies Commercial and Recreational Fishing Closure in the Oil-Affected Portions of the Gulf of Mexico

Updated Closure

Current revisions to the closure, described below, will be effective on **May 17, 2010 at 6 p.m. eastern time** (5 p.m. central time). All commercial and recreational fishing including catch and release is prohibited in the closed area; however, transit through the area is allowed.

91°0' W; thence northerly to the point where 91° W. long. intersects with the 3 nautical mile Louisiana state boundary; thence along the seaward limit of Louisiana's waters. The closure measures 24,241 sq mi (62,784 sq km), which is approximately 10 percent of the Gulf of Mexico exclusive economic zone. The majority of federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico are open to commercial and recreational fishing.

Modeling and mapping the actual and projected spill area is not an exact science. NOAA Fisheries Service strongly advises fishermen not to fish in areas where oil or oil sheens (very thin layers of floating oil) are present, even if those areas are not currently closed to fishing.



Links for more information:

Southeast Regional Office's Web page:
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

NOAA's Fisheries Service
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/deepwater_horizon_oil_spill.htm

NOAA's National Ocean Service
<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>

Deepwater Horizon Response
<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com>

Map Link:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/deepwater_horizon/DWH_FisheryClosure051710.pdf

Fishermen who wish to contact BP about a claim should call 1-800-440-0858.

This revised closed area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following coordinates: From the point where 30°01' N. lat. intersects with the 3 nautical mile Louisiana state boundary; proceeding southeasterly to the point 29°50' N. lat. and 88°14' W. long.; thence, easterly to the point 29°50' N. lat. and 87°28' W. long.; thence, southeasterly to the point 29°27' N. lat. and 86°31' W. long.; thence southwesterly to the point 28°29' N. lat. and 87°17' W. long.; thence, southeasterly to the point 27°55' N. lat. and 86°30' W. long.; thence, southwesterly to the point 27°21' N. lat. and 86°40' W. long.; thence, northwesterly to the point 27°48' N. lat. and 88°48' W. long.; thence northwesterly to 28°35' N and 89°35' W; thence westerly 28°40' N and