



The Shrimp e-Advocate

BREAKING NEWS

APRIL 2010

The Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) is a non-profit alliance of members of the U.S. shrimp industry in eight states committed to preventing the continued deterioration of America's shrimp industry and to ensuring the industry's future viability. SSA serves as the national voice for the shrimp fishermen and processors in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas.

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[SSA Website](#)

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BREAKING NEWS

-----Original Message-----

From: Eric Schwaab <Eric.Schwaab@noaa.gov>

Date: Fri, 30 Apr 2010 08:38:37

To: undisclosed-recipients: ;<Invalid address>

Subject: Oil Spill Update

We are all watching the unfolding oil spill incident occurring in the Gulf of Mexico and are deeply concerned over the anticipated impacts this spill can have on marine life and the economies which rely on them.

I want to give you a brief summary of NOAA's and Fisheries' full engagement in the response process and provide you with a link to a web page NOAA has established through its Office of Response and Restoration where you can be kept informed of daily events.

As you know, on April 20th there was an explosion that resulted in a fire on the Deepwater Horizon, a mobile offshore drilling unit in the Gulf of Mexico ~50 miles offshore Louisiana. The rig burned for hours and then sank. Eleven out of 126 people remain unaccounted for. It was recently discovered that there are multiple leaks at a depth of 5,000 feet.

So far, attempts to use remotely operated vehicles to close valves and stop the leaks have been unsuccessful. Construction has begun on a collection dome that will be deployed to the sea floor to collect and funnel oil as it escapes, a method never tried at

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this depth before. The first rig to be used for drilling a relief or cut-off well has arrived and more are planned. A relief well would take several months to complete.

NOAA has fully mobilized all of its offices. Our experts are involved in predicting where the oil is going and how the weather and sea will affect the oil and cleanup efforts. NOAA experts are also advising the Coast Guard on cleanup options, as well as monitoring and assessing damage to fish, shellfish, marine mammals, sea turtles, as well as critical and essential fish habitat.

NOAA is posting daily updates at www.noaa.gov. Click on the "NOAA Assists Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Efforts" link which will take you to the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration page at <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/deepwaterhorizon>. I would encourage you to bookmark this page as a key resource of information.

If you have additional questions, please contact Laurel Bryant at laurel.bryant@noaa.gov.

Thank you for your interest and concern at this critical time.

Eric C. Schwaab

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries