



The Shrimp e-Advocate

BREAKING NEWS

MAY 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.

Quick Links

[SSA Website](#)

Board of Directors

North Carolina:

Nancy Edens
keywestnative57@yahoo.com

PD Mason
cmason5@ec.rr.com

South Carolina:

Clay Cable
claycable@aol.com

Wayne Magwood
tressymellichamp@att.net

Georgia:

Elaine Knight

kseafood@bellsouth.net

BREAKING NEWS

NEWS FROM THE LA DEPT. OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

2010-124

In Precautionary Move, L.D.W.F. and D.H.H. Announce Closures Due to Oil Spill

The Louisiana departments of Health and Hospitals, and Wildlife and Fisheries, announced today they will be closing select fishing areas and oyster harvesting beds as a precautionary response to the oil spill in the Gulf.

Fishing Closures

LDWF Secretary Robert Barham announced the closure of both recreational and commercial fishing in Zone 1, excluding the coastal boundaries of Lake Borgne, Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurapas. This closure will take place at 6 p.m. this evening. The Deepwater Horizon drilling rig accident has resulted in a significant release of oil into the offshore waters of southeast Louisiana. Oil has the potential to impact fish and other aquatic life in portions of Louisiana's coastal waters.

"I signed this emergency closure today as a proactive effort to prevent any oil-tainted fish, shrimp or crab from being caught and thus consumed," said LDWF Secretary Robert Barham. "Now is the time to act as we see what the impacts may be to Louisiana's fragile ecosystems."

Oyster Harvesting Closures

DHH is closing molluscan shellfish harvesting areas 2 through 7 today as a precaution. Areas 2 through 7 are east of the Mississippi River in the coastal parishes of Plaquemines and St. Bernard.

DHH Secretary Alan Levine and State Health Officer Dr. Jimmy Guidry signed the closure order, which will take effect at *sunset today*, Friday, April 30, 2010.

Since the explosion at the BP global exploration site and resulting leak, officials from DHH's Office of Public Health Molluscan Shellfish Program have been closely monitoring the situation and continuing daily tests of the 8-million acre Louisiana shoreline.

As officials continue to monitor the remaining unaffected oyster beds west of the Mississippi River, DHH is working closely with LDWF, the state's oyster harvesters and the Louisiana Oyster Task Force to ensure the safety of oysters taken from areas currently not affected by the spill. All oysters taken prior to

Mike Dubberly
daddysboy1775@aol.com

Mississippi:

Steve Bosarge
stevebosarge@hotmail.com

Tommy Schultz
Revahopkins@bellsouth.net

Florida:

Chris Gala
triccq@aol.com

Sal Versaggi
sal@versaggi-shrimp.com

Alabama:

Rosa Zirlott

BrentRosa@aol.com

Mickey Johnson
jbuiltnc@aol.com

Louisiana:

Cathy Blanchard
madamecheverette@myviscom.com

James Blanchard
cherib1961@gmail.com

Texas:

Wilma Anderson
texasshrimp@clearwire.net

Craig Wallis
Wallis.shrimp@yahoo.com

Executive Director

John Williams
John@shrimpalliance.com

closure of the affected beds are safe to eat.

"We have an extensive and well-tested program of monitoring the safety of oysters harvested in Louisiana," Sec. Levine said. "We have been monitoring the oysters in the affected areas before the closures and will use those tests as a baseline to ensure long-term safety of the oysters when this incident ends."

Dr. Guidry said the department's team continues to conduct regular monitoring of the unaffected areas.

"Oysters that are still coming out of the many unaffected beds across the Louisiana coast are being watched closely," Dr. Guidry said. "All of the beds that remain open are safe."

Officials with both agencies are working closely with the Governor's Office for Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness as the situation unfolds. Updates on any further closures or changes in the status of areas closed will be posted at emergency.louisiana.gov.

To learn more about DHH, visit www.dhh.louisiana.gov. To learn more about LDWF, visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov.

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L.D.W.F. ISSUES UPDATE ON THE COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM

As a result of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has extended the application deadline for the Commercial Fisherman's Grant and Loan Program to May 31, 2010. LDWF will hold additional outreach workshops across the state in an effort to assist all commercial fishermen with the applications, in what we know may be difficult times.

Click here for an application
<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/pdfs/disasterrecovery/gustavike/grant%20and%20loan%20application.pdf>

Editors: For more information contact Ashley Wethey at 225.765.5113 or awethey@wlf.la.gov