



The Shrimp e-Advocate

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.

Gulf Coast Response

JUNE 29, 2010

Quick Links [SSA Website](#)

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Gulf Coast Response - Update

OPEN HOUSE

The Unified Area Command has set up a series of open house events for citizens to learn more about the response to the Gulf oil spill. Booths will be arranged in each venue so that people can walk around and ask questions of each government/agency representative. Information for each Open House for this week is below. There is also a discussion on 'Expanding the Environmental Conversation' with EPA Administration (please see the attached document for more details).

June 29 (TODAY)

New Iberia, 6:00-8:00 pm

Caneview Elementary School

4110 Loreauville Road

New Iberia, LA 70563

July 1 (Thursday)

Houma Civic Center, 6:00-8:00 pm

Houma Terrebonne Civic Center

346 Civic Center Boulevard

Houma, Louisiana 70360

July 1 (Thursday)

6:00-8:00 pm

Biloxi Community Center

591 Howard Ave

Biloxi, MS 39530

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July 2 (Friday) - Special Conversation with EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson (details attached)

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 1:00-1:45pm

900 Convention Center Blvd

New Orleans, LA 70130-1799

MIGRATORY BIRD HABITAT INITIATIVE PROJECT SUMMARY

Under a new Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative, USDA will work with farmers, ranchers and other landowners to manage portions of their land to enhance habitat for migrating birds. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will improve habitat conditions and food sources for migratory birds likely to be impacted by the conditions in the Gulf of Mexico. This initiative will be delivered through two components: one component will be available on private agricultural lands and the second on Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easement lands. NRCS will be working in cooperation with private landowners and other partners to establish habitat and food sources as well as improve the overall habitat management on participating lands.

Scope

The initiative will be available in selected counties and parishes in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas.

Information on the program can be located at

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/nrcs_migratory_birds.html

For NRCS State contacts go to

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/statecontacts06_04_10.pdf

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WHAT TO EXPECT IN SOUTH FLORIDA

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The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has prepared a document outlining potential effects the Gulf oil spill may have on South Florida. The fact sheet mentions that "There have been no confirmed observations of oil from the Deepwater Horizon near South Florida. Monitoring presently consists of daily overflights by trained observers to check for oil near the Loop Current, and vessels searching for tar balls approaching the Florida Keys. As of June 22, oil from the Deepwater Horizon/BP spill has remained mainly in the north-central Gulf of Mexico, and has impacted shorelines in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle. It is unlikely that large, cohesive oil slicks will reach

Florida waters. Instead, on the water surface, expect to see floating tar balls and/or scattered patches of weathered oil, perhaps mixed with *Sargassum* (algae) or other floating material." (please refer to attached document for more details)

ONGOING ADMINISTRATION-WIDE RESPONSE

Continuous updates from the White

House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/issues/Deepwater-BP-Oil-Spill>

- **Secretary Napolitano and Carol Browner Visit to New Orleans to Inspect the Response**
 - Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change Policy Carol Browner traveled to New Orleans to receive updates from National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen and senior federal officials leading the frontline response to the BP oil spill.
 - In their meetings, Secretary Napolitano and Ms. Browner discussed ongoing efforts to prevent oil from reaching the shoreline along the Gulf Coast and to mitigate its impact where it does. They were also joined by Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate for a portion of the briefings to discuss preparations in the event a hurricane or tropical storm should strike the Gulf Coast.
- **Admiral Allen, Secretary Napolitano & Carol Browner Provide Daily Operational Update**
 - Secretary Napolitano and Carol Browner joined Admiral Allen to provide a briefing to inform the American public and answer questions on the progress of the administration-wide response to the BP oil spill. Secretary Napolitano and Ms. Browner reiterated that the federal government's aggressive response efforts and oversight of BP will continue until BP stops its leaking well, the damage is cleaned up, and Gulf Coast communities are made whole, and stressed that the federal government is working closely with state and local authorities to ensure that they have the resources they need to meet the evolving threat from this oil spill.
- **BP Continues to Optimize Oil Recovery Rates from its Leaking Well**
 - Under the direction of the federal government, BP continues to capture some oil and burn gas at the surface using its containment dome technique-collecting oil aboard the *Discoverer Enterprise*, which is linked by a fixed riser pipe to the wellhead, and flaring off additional oil and gas on the *Q4000*, which is connected to the choke line. BP has finished installing the first free standing riser, which has greater survivability than a fixed riser and will be connected to a third vessel, the *Helix Producer*-a redundancy measure also taken under the direction of the federal government.

- **Progress Continues in Drilling Relief Wells; Ranging Process Continues**

- The *Development Driller III* continues to drill the first relief well to a depth of approximately 16,545 feet. The *Development Driller II* has drilled the second relief well—a redundancy measure taken at the direction of the administration—to a depth of more than 12,000 feet below the Gulf surface.
- BP continues the "ranging" process—which involves periodically withdrawing the drill pipe and sending an electrical signal down to determine how close they are getting to the wellbore.

- **NOAA-Supported Scientists Predict Increase in Area Containing Depleted Oxygen Levels**

- While it is unclear what impact, if any, will be linked to the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, a team of NOAA-supported scientists from the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, Louisiana State University, and the University of Michigan, predict that the northern Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone, an underwater area with little or no oxygen known commonly as the "dead zone," could be larger than the recent average by 500-1,800 square miles.
- This forecast is based on Mississippi River nutrient flows compiled annually by the U.S. Geological Survey. Dead zones off the coast of Louisiana and Texas are caused by nutrient runoff, principally from agricultural activity, which stimulates an overgrowth of algae that sinks, decomposes, and consumes most of the life-giving oxygen supply in the water. The federal government continues to engage the best scientific minds available to monitor the impacts of the BP oil spill on all aspects of the environment, including oxygen levels in the water column.

- **NOAA Expands Fishing Restriction in the Gulf; More than 66 Percent Remains Open**

- As part of continued efforts to ensure the safety of seafood from the Gulf of Mexico and protect consumers, NOAA has expanded the closed fishing area in the Gulf of Mexico to include portions of the oil slick moving beyond the area's current northern boundary, off the Florida panhandle's federal-state waterline. This boundary was moved eastward to Cape San Blas. The closed area now represents 80,228 square miles—approximately 33.2 percent of federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico. This closure does not apply to any state waters. This leaves more than 66 percent of Gulf federal waters available for fishing. Details can be found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

- **Approved SBA Economic Injury Assistance Loans Top \$8 Million**

- SBA has approved 121 economic injury assistance loans to date, totaling more than \$8 million for small businesses in the Gulf Coast impacted by the BP oil spill. Additionally, the agency has granted deferments on 493 existing SBA disaster loans in the region, totaling more than \$2.25 million per month in payments.

For information on assistance loans for affected businesses, visit the SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance, call (800) 659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired), or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

- **Administration Continues to Oversee BP's Claims Process**

- The administration will continue to hold the responsible parties accountable for repairing the damage, and repaying Americans who've suffered a financial loss as a result of the BP oil spill. To date, 82,351 claims have been opened, from which more than \$128.4 million have been disbursed. No claims have been denied to date. There are 933 claims adjusters on the ground. To file a claim, visit www.bp.com/claims or call BP's helpline at 1-800-440-0858. Those who have already pursued the BP claims process and are not satisfied with BP's resolution can call the Coast Guard at (800) 280-7118. Additional information about the BP claims process and all available avenues of assistance can be found at www.disasterassistance.gov.

- **By the Numbers to Date:**

- The administration has authorized the deployment of 17,500 National Guard troops from Gulf Coast states to respond to this crisis; currently, 1,675 are active.
 - Approximately 38,600 personnel are currently responding to protect the shoreline and wildlife and cleanup vital coastlines.
 - More than 7,200 vessels are currently responding on site, including skimmers, tugs, barges, and recovery vessels to assist in containment and cleanup efforts-in addition to dozens of aircraft, remotely operated vehicles, and multiple mobile offshore drilling units.
 - Approximately 2.75 million feet of containment boom and 4.86 million feet of sorbent boom have been deployed to contain the spill-and approximately 883,000 feet of containment boom and 2.14 million feet of sorbent boom are available.
 - More than 28.2 million gallons of an oil-water mix have been recovered.
 - Approximately 1.58 million gallons of total dispersant have been applied-1.03 million on the surface and 552,000 sub-sea. More than 446,000 gallons are available.
 - 275 controlled burns have been conducted, efficiently removing a total of approximately 10 million gallons of oil from the open water in an effort to protect shoreline and wildlife. Because calculations on the volume of oil burned can take more than 48 hours, the reported total volume may not reflect the most recent controlled burns.
 - 17 staging areas are in place to protect sensitive shorelines.

- Approximately 213 miles of Gulf Coast shoreline is currently oiled—approximately 69 miles in Louisiana, 45 miles in Mississippi, 45 miles in Alabama, and 54 miles in Florida. These numbers reflect a daily snapshot of shoreline currently experiencing impacts from oil so that planning and field operations can more quickly respond to new impacts; they do not include cumulative impacts to date, or shoreline that has already been cleared.
- Approximately 80,228 square miles of Gulf of Mexico federal waters remain closed to fishing in order to balance economic and public health concerns. More than 66 percent remains open. Details can be found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.
- To date, the administration has leveraged assets and skills from numerous foreign countries and international organizations as part of this historic, all-hands-on-deck response, including Canada, Germany, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, the United Nations' International Maritime Organization and the European Union's Monitoring and Information Centre.

RESOURCES

- To contact the Deepwater Horizon Joint Information Center, call 713-323-1670 or 713-323-1671
- To volunteer, or to report oiled shoreline, call (866) 448-5816. Volunteer opportunities can also be found here.
- To submit your vessel as a vessel of opportunity skimming system, or to submit alternative response technology, services, or products, call 281-366-5511.
- To report oiled wildlife, call (866) 557-1401. This hotline is staffed 24/7.
- For information about validated environmental air and water sampling results, visit www.epa.gov/bpspill.
- For more information on NOAA's response, visit http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/faq_catalog.php
- For daily updates about the Fish and Wildlife Service's response and the status of national wildlife refuges, visit <http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/>
- For National Park Service updates about potential park closures, resources at risk, and NPS actions to protect vital park space and wildlife, visit <http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/oil-spill-response.htm>.
- To file a claim, or report spill-related damage, call BP's helpline at (800) 440-0858. A BP fact sheet with additional information is available [here](#). For those who have already pursued the BP claims process and are not satisfied with BP's resolution, can call the Coast Guard at (800) 280-7118. More information about what types of damages are eligible for compensation under the Oil Pollution Act as well as guidance on

procedures to seek that compensation can be found [here](#).



**A Conversation with EPA
Administrator Lisa P. Jackson**

Expanding the Environmental Conversation

A discussion between Administrator Lisa P. Jackson and the Editor in Chief of *Essence Magazine*, Angela Burt Murray about the 5th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the impact of the Oil Spill

***Friday, July 2nd
1PM to 1:45PM CDT***

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
900 Convention Center Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70130-1799

Free to the Public!



NOAA's Oil Spill Response

What to Expect in South Florida from the Deepwater Horizon/BP Oil Spill



Has Oil from the Deepwater Horizon/BP Oil Spill Reached South Florida Yet?

There have been no confirmed observations of oil from the Deepwater Horizon near South Florida. Monitoring presently consists of daily overflights by trained observers to check for oil near the Loop Current, and vessels searching for tar balls approaching the Florida Keys.

If a significant amount of surface oil were to enter the Loop Current and begin to move toward the Florida Straits, responders would be able to see it, predict its movement, notify states and coastal communities, and help guide preparedness, response and cleanup efforts. As of June 22, oil from the Deepwater Horizon/BP spill has remained mainly in the north-central Gulf of Mexico, and has impacted shorelines in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle.



What Would the Oil be Like?

Because South Florida is about 600 miles from the Deepwater Horizon wellhead, any oil reaching South Florida will have traveled hundreds of miles from the wellhead. During its

passage through the dynamic currents of the Gulf, the oil will have weathered and degraded.

For example, oil now floating in the north-central Gulf is a mixture of recently-released oil and oil that has been weathered for up to two months when the Gulf leak first began.

If oil were to reach South Florida, the freshest oil will have spent at least 10 days to 14 days on the water surface. It could arrive in Florida in the form of pancakes of brown oil, streamers of pudding-like emulsified oil, or very thin sheen. As oil on the water surface ages, winds and waves tear it into smaller and smaller pieces, and evaporation and dissolution of its lighter constituents makes it denser and more tar-like. Ultimately, floating oil becomes small tar-like balls, called tar balls.

If the oil reaches South Florida, responders in South Florida may see a mixture of forms of oil, however, they are most likely to see tar balls. The oceanographic processes that would transport oil also would broadly distribute it at sea, so it is not possible to predict just where the oil could go or when it could arrive. Depending on the age, these tar balls may be soft and gooey, denser and tar-like, or, if the oil has mixed with sand, easily crumbled.

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Responders also are likely to find tar balls predated this spill, which originate from other oil spills, vessel operations, natural oil seeps, or other causes. These older tar balls are likely to be denser and harder than tar balls from the Deepwater Horizon.

It is unlikely that large, cohesive oil slicks will reach Florida waters. Instead, on the water surface, expect to see floating tar balls and/or scattered patches of weathered oil, perhaps mixed with *Sargassum* (algae) or other floating material. Unless accompanied by sheen, these tar balls and oil patches may be hard to spot from the air. It's likely that shoreline impacts will be scattered and episodic. On shorelines, there might be small splatters of oil and/or bands of soft tar balls. Shoreline oil is most likely to accumulate in areas where marine debris and other floating materials naturally collect.

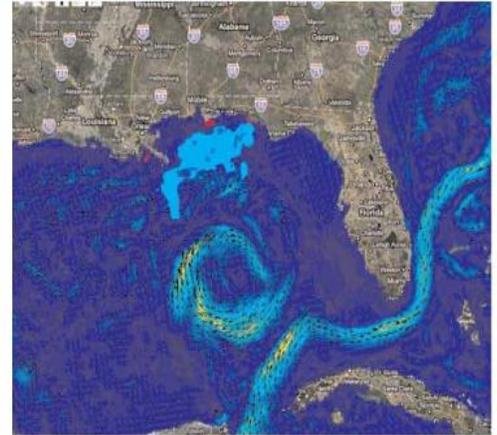


Protection and recovery strategies should be designed for this expected mixture of oil types. Because any oil reaching Florida waters will be widely scattered, detection and on-water recovery are expected to be difficult.

What Could Move the Oil to South Florida?

Ocean currents in the Gulf of Mexico determine where the oil spilled from the Deepwater Horizon wellhead will go, and how quickly the oil will travel. The current that most influences whether the oil could reach South Florida is the Loop Current. This current flows west-to-east through the Gulf, first pushing up into the Gulf from the Caribbean Sea, then looping south and eastward to pass between the Florida Keys and Cuba (eventually merging with the Gulf Stream). It often spins off large eddies.

The Loop Current, along with other Gulf currents, may ultimately carry weathered oil products to South Florida shorelines, but several steps would need to occur.



The Loop Current and an associated, clockwise-spinning eddy to the north as of June 22. The current trajectory for June 22 is also portrayed. Updated trajectories and current information is available at <http://www.geoplatform.gov/gulfresponse>.

First, either the Loop Current would need to move farther north to come into contact with the oil, or the oil would need to move farther south to meet the Loop Current. At present, the main slick and the Loop Current are separated by more than 300 miles. Second, southerly winds would need to blow persistently in order to push the oil north to Florida's shorelines as the oil is swept by the Loop Current through the Florida Straits.

Presently, some oil has entered an eddy, which is about 60 miles from the main slick. This oil will remain within the eddy, circling and weathering in the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Eddies sometimes reattach to the Loop Current. If this happens, the oil within the eddy may enter the Loop Current and be transported eastward.

Learn more about NOAA's response to the BP oil spill at <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/deepwaterhorizon>.

To learn more about NOAA, visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.