



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MDEQ JULY 14 UPDATE ON OIL MATERIAL IN MISSISSIPPI

BILOXI, Miss. – Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) staff through aerial surveillance with the Mississippi National Guard, MDEQ response staff, and Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Teams (SCAT) have observed the following Wednesday (as of 8:30 p.m.) and sent to Unified Command for review and appropriate response:

Flight information:

- No significant amounts of oil or sheen observed.

More Information from MDEQ staff:

- Sporadic tar balls along the beaches in Jackson County. Cleanup crews were present on the beach.
- In Harrison County, sporadic tar balls with less than one percent coverage along the beaches. Cleanup crews were present on the beach.
- Sporadic tar balls with less than one percent coverage along the beach in Hancock County. Clean-up crews present on the beach.
- A 15 to 20 foot patch of tar patties approximately six to eight inches in diameter in Biloxi near St. Charles Avenue. (N30 39.275, W88 92.974)
- Sporadic tar balls with less than one percent coverage and patchy tar balls with up to 20 percent coverage in the Upper-Inner Tidal Zone located between N30 18.4984, W89 14.204 and N30 20.216, W89 10.156. Cleanup crews were present in the area.
- SCAT team performed beach assessment at Pascagoula Beach with reported sporadic tar balls with less than one percent coverage. Small amounts of pooled oil were noted on the riprap south of Chevron. (N30 19.207, W88 29.680).
- SCAT team performed beach assessment along the shoreline west of Bayou Caddy to the east end of Beach Boulevard. While performing the assessment west of Bayou Caddy, the team observed staining and coating of marsh grass and mousse patties ranging from one to five cm with 20 percent coverage. The following were observed east of Bayou Caddy to train bridge over St. Louis Bay:
 - The team noted 5 to 20 meter bands containing less than one percent to one percent coverage of tar balls. The bands spanned from the Lower Inner-Tidal Zone to the Upper Inner-Tidal Zone with sections of findings in the Super-Tidal Zone.
 - Marsh areas were found with staining, coating, and debris. Total oil coverage in the marsh areas averaged 20 percent to 25 percent. Deposited mousse patties were also observed ranging from one to five cm. The marsh areas were protected by boom.
 - Riprap was observed with less than one percent coverage of deposited oil.

- Marsh areas inland of storm water culverts, north of Beach Boulevard, were found to be stained and coated heavily.

More information and links about MDEQ's and DMR's roles in oil spill response are available at www.deq.state.ms.us/oilspill and www.dmr.state.ms.us/DMR/oil-spill.htm. Water sampling information available at: <http://opcgis.deq.state.ms.us/oilspillmap> and air monitoring data at: <http://gulfcoast.airnowtech.org>.

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