



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MDEQ JULY 24 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 Saturday (as of 7:30 p.m.) and sent to Unified Command for review and appropriate response:

Flight information:

- Two areas of sheen and possibly a couple of weathered tar patties or algae a few miles south of the barrier islands.

Other Information from MDEQ staff:

- Surface oil residue on marsh grass and tar balls further inland at N30 15.363 W89 24.940 in Hancock County. Approximately 20 meters by 40 meters at the intersection of Beach Boulevard and Fairmont Drive.
- Thirty percent oil coverage on the riprap at N30 15.125' W89 25.263'. Across from the Silver Slipper RV Park in Hancock County.
- Hancock County--a 20 meters by 20 meters band of tar balls with one percent coverage in the supratidal zone at N30 14.973 W89 25.363.
- Trace amounts of tar balls along entire beach at Silver Slipper at the edge of washline less than two cm in diameter. Center of the stretch at approximately N30 14.634 W89 25.486.
- Staining on riprap and soft sandy tar balls in trace amounts, approximately two inches in diameter, at Pass Christian Harbor. N30 18.762 W89 14.705.
- Trace amount of tar balls found along coastline in Long Beach. Extends from Hardy Street and Highway 90 intersection to Camp Avenue and Highway 90 intersection. Approximately 0.5 miles. Average size between two to three cm.
- Sporadic tar balls on the beach and on the tide in Harrison County including weathered tar balls washing onshore.

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://gulfoast.airnowtech.org>.

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