



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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MDEQ JULY 29 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 Thursday (as of 5:30 p.m.) and sent to Unified Command for review and appropriate response:

Flight information:

- Area of dark material below the surface of the water, south of Horn Island from the midpoint of the island to the west tip (N30°13.92/W88°42.09; N30°14.21/W88°43.31). Possibly organic and samples were taken.
- Two mile area of metallic sheen with seaweed two NM SSE of Petit Bois Island (N30°09.51/W88°24.44 extending NW to N30°11.89/W88°26.64).
- Ten yard diameter of silver sheen NW of Horn Island (N30°13.20/W88°47.31)
- Sheen 20 feet in diameter, 200 yards off the shore of Biloxi beach (N30°23.43/W88°56.79). “Henderson Point” skimmer reported that the sheen was unrecoverable.
- Two areas of silver sheen, each approximately 20 yards in diameter, south of Cat Island (N30°12.66/W89°06.25 and N30°12.66/W89°06.79).
- Silver metallic sheen approximately 25 yards in diameter south of Cat Island (N30°11.22/W89°08.88).

Other Information from MDEQ staff:

- Harrison County:
 - Sporadic tar balls from Henderson Point in Pass Christian through Long Beach with an average size of 1 to 4 cm and a few in the 7 to 10 cm range.
 - No oiled material found between Gulfport Harbor and Ken Combs Pier.
 - Observed approximately a 5.5 mile stretch of beach from Gulfport Harbor (N30°21.868/W89° 05.157) to Southern Circle (N30°23.142/W89° 00.647):
 - Approximately 50 tar patties ranging from 1 to 5 cm, on the east side of Ken Combs Pier, for 100 yards (N30°22.637/W89°02.163).
 - From there, no oiled debris observed to N30°22.712/W89°02.475
 - Then approximately 300 tar patties eastward to N29°08.400/W89°10.350
 - No oiled debris from that point to Cowan Road in Gulfport (N30°22.879/W89°01.624).
 - Approximately 175 tar balls ranging from 1 to 5 cm from Cowan Road to Southern Circle (N30°23.142/W89° 00.647).

- Jackson County:
 - Pascagoula beach clean and cleaning crews were in the area.
 - Greenwood Island, off Bayou Cassotte Boulevard in Pascagoula, is clean of tar balls. Crews onsite cleaning tar stained debris.
 - Tar balls found on the south side of Singing River Island ranging in size from 1 to 5 cm with less than one percent coverage. Larger patties ranging in size from 5 to 30 cm were found in the tidal area in an area of dead marsh grass (N30°19.728/W88°34.385).
- Hancock County:
 - Sporadic tar balls along all the beaches in Hancock County. Approximately 1,000 pounds of oily waste removed from the beach last night with cleanup resuming tonight.

More information 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: <http://opcgis.deq.state.ms.us/oilspillmap>, air monitoring data: <http://gulfcoast.airnowtech.org>, and beach monitoring information: <http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/msbeach/index.cgi>.

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