

Sunday, May 9, 2010

Breton National Wildlife Refuge Over-flights Prohibited

Beach-nesting Birds of the Gulf

Status

- Oil confirmed on the shoreline of North Island where roughly two-thirds of west side of the island scattered with thick, emulsified oil. Search and rescue for oiled birds continues weather conditions permitting. Beyond that no new shoreline impacts reported on refuges.
- The Service announced late Saturday that over-flights across national wildlife refuges below 500 feet are prohibited to prevent wildlife disturbance and adverse impacts to nesting birds. Impacts from planes and helicopters flying too low include possible nest abandonment and loss of eggs to predators such as sea gulls.
- Significant focus to be placed on Mississippi coast's barrier islands over the next 48 hours out of Mobile Command Center. Mobile sector reported Saturday no evidence of oiled shoreline or sheen on water near coastline.
- Field teams reported few sighting of oiled birds.
- Breton National Wildlife Refuge remains closed to public entry.
- The Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team (SCAT) continues conducting overflights and shoreline surveys on the Chandeleur Islands.
- 20 wildlife teams have been deployed out of the Houma (LA.) Command Center for wildlife recovery and related activities.
- [Twenty four national wildlife refuges](#) could potentially be impacted.
- Weather conditions expected to worsen today with high winds and seas that could limit some response activities.

The Response

- 177 Service personnel are involved in the oil spill response.
- Current efforts to mitigate impacts to refuges and wildlife in Louisiana continue as well as significant ongoing work to prepare for potential impacts on Mississippi, Alabama and the west coast of Florida.
- Daily flights are ongoing to assess the location of oil, status of boom, and impacts on wildlife and habitat.
- Wildlife surveys and aerial flights continue over Breton NWR.

The Spill by the numbers

- Total Vessels (including tugs and skimmers): 335
- Boom deployed: More than 1 million feet
- Oil and Water Mix - Recovered: Approximately 3.4 million gallons
- Dispersant Used :308,885 gallons
- Dispersant available: 515,199 gallons
- Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV): 4

- Overall Personnel Responding: 9,867
 - In addition to the overall personnel responding, more than 2,500 volunteers have been trained to assist in the response effort.
- 13 staging areas are in place and ready to protect sensitive shorelines. These areas include:

Cocodrie, La

Biloxi, Miss

Pensacola, Fla.

Venice, La.

Pascagoula, Miss.

Grand Isle, La.

Pass Christian, Miss.

Panama City, Fla.

Dauphin Island, Ala.

Shell Beach, La.

Slidell, La.

Theodore, Ala.

Orange Beach, Ala.