

Friday, May 21, 2010

The Status

- Oil clean-up and boom maintenance and replacement is being conducted at Breton National Wildlife Refuge. Breton NWR remains closed to public entry and low-level over-flights and landings continue to be prohibited to protect nesting birds.
- Delta NWR near Venice, La., and Bon Secour NWR along the Alabama coast have requested and received boom to keep oil out of those refuges. No oil observed at Delta NWR yet, and no new oil at Bon Secour NWR since a recent batch of tarballs.
- [32 national wildlife refuges](#) could potentially be impacted.

The Response

- More than 260 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel are assigned to the response. Equipment deployed: not including internal Refuge assets 31 boats, 5 helicopters, and several barges. Primary mission is to search for oil-impacted wildlife, capture or collect and transport to rehabilitation facilities.
- Current efforts to mitigate impacts to refuges and wildlife in Louisiana continue, as well as significant ongoing work to prepare for potential impacts across the coasts Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and the west coast of Florida.
- Berm construction at Bon Secour NWR, Ala. continues – Operators and dozers worked to increase size and width of berm first constructed two weeks ago to protect the eight-mile wide Little Lagoon estuary from Gulf waters with hurricane season approaching.
- Texas refuges are monitoring shorelines at Texas Point, McFaddin, San Bernard and Matagorda Island National Wildlife Refuges for presence of oil. Coordination continues with the Coast Guard and state fish and wildlife agencies to identify resources and prioritize protection strategies.
- Loggerhead sea turtles are beginning to nest on refuge beaches. Air and surface reconnaissance, wildlife rescue missions, and bird surveys to continue.