

Latest News for May 24

On a flight to Biloxi Marsh, flight crews observed two small islands with nesting colonies of pelicans, gulls, and terns. Requested boom to be placed around these two islands. Crews observed a heavy floating oil spread in the water from Dennis Pass north along the Chandeleur Islands.

Black oil, mousse, mousse streamers, tar balls and sheen continue to come into the Mississippi Delta area and areas west. The total amount of oiled shoreline reported to date by SCAT Teams is 69.86 miles.

Calls and sightings of oiled and dead aquatic animals are increasing, both from our aerial observers and the public. The Oiled Wildlife hotline received a total of 67 calls - 45 from Alabama, 3 from Florida, 8 from Louisiana, 10 from Mississippi, and 1 from Texas.

Cleanup crews removed three pounds of tar balls on Bon Secour NWR. No additional tar balls reported today.

Service coordinated with U.S. Coast Guard and Texas General Land Office to investigate tar patty reports in Texas.

Surveying will continue to evaluate other areas on Bon Secour NWR where berms can be constructed to protect wetlands, dunes, and other habitats.

Coordination is underway for a Wildlife Release Plan to establish procedures for determining when wildlife are ready for release, how they will be transported and where/when they will be released.

A Service group is coordinating with partners to develop and implement a National Resource Damage Assessment Program Bird Background Mortality Study to assess long-term impacts.

By the Numbers

Total response vessels: 1200

Containment boom deployed: more than 1.75 million feet

Containment boom available: more than 380,000 feet

Sorbent boom deployed: more than 990,000 feet

Sorbent boom available: more than 1.07 million feet

Total boom deployed: more than 2.74 million feet

Total boom available: more than 1.45 million feet

Oily water recovered: more than 10.83 million gallons

Surface dispersant used: approximately 700,000 gallons

Subsea dispersant used: approximately 115,000

Total dispersant used: approximately 815,000

Dispersant available: more than 300,000 gallons

Overall personnel responding: more than 22,000