

Saturday, May 29, 2010

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had more than 30 crews conducting reconnaissance, wildlife rescue and recovery, and bird survey missions. Response personnel including Service representatives continue to address issue of significant patch of seaweed and emulsified oil off the Mississippi coast at Horn Island. Continue to place additional focus attention on Louisiana coast west of the Mississippi River. First sea turtle nest at Fort Morgan peninsula spotted as sea turtle nesting season is upon us. Shoreline monitoring, wildlife surveys, and - where needed - clean-up activities are taking place and focused on Breton, Delta, and Bon Secour NWRs. As of today, 325 Service employees are directly engaged in the agency's response to this emerging environmental disaster, and a total of 33 national wildlife refuges could potentially be impacted along the Gulf Coast.

Delta NWR:

More than 7,000 feet of additional boom deployed. No oil impacting the refuge. Wildlife and oil impact surveys are ongoing.

Breton NWR:

Multiple layers of boom for key nesting islands. Additional boom maintenance underway. No new oil is impacting the refuge, which remains closed to public access to protect nesting birds.

Bon Secour NWR:

First sea turtle nest at Fort Morgan Peninsula spotted. Boom has been deployed and temporary sand berms have been constructed to protect refuge habitats. No new tar balls reported today, and preparation continues to add additional protection for dune habitats at the refuge. Coordination continues with multiple agencies.

St Marks NWR & St Vincent NWR:

Plans for staging and deploying boom have been prepared. Coordination with County, State and other Federal agencies continues. NRDAR beach bird surveys have begun on St. Vincent NWR.

Grand Bay NWR:

Boom has been deployed to protect refuge habitats. Continue planning and coordination.

Key West Sector/National Key Deer NWR:

Planning and coordination continues as operations in the Keys and Miami expand.

Houston/Galveston:

Coordination and planning underway to prepare for potential response along Texas coast.