

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Status

- Oil clean-up is being conducted at Breton National Wildlife Refuge. It remains closed to public entry and low-level over-flights and landings continue to be prohibited to protect nesting birds. Navy boom was installed at North Breton Island.
- 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. (what about oil at Bon Secour?)
- 31 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, not including internal Refuge assets deployed: 31 boats, 3 helicopters, several barges.
- Senior FWS and federal agency leadership provided updates to a group of environmental partners in Mobile, Ala.
- Oiled wildlife are being observed at South Pass, Southeast Pass and Pass-a-Loutre. Teams could not capture these lightly to moderately oiled birds, but will continue to monitor and capture if possible for future rehabilitation.
- 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.
- Bon Secour NWR plans to reinforce a berm at Ivan Cut on the Perdue Unit to provide additional protection against oil contamination on sensitive refuge areas.
- 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.
- The Coast Guard Marine Safety Laboratory in New London, Conn. analyzed a sampling of tar balls discovered on Florida Keys shoreline Tuesday and determined that none of the collected samples were from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Loggerhead sea turtles are beginning to nest on refuge beaches. The first nest of the season was discovered today at St. Vincent NWR. Air and surface reconnaissance, wildlife rescue missions, and bird surveys to continue.