



NOAA Web Update May 17, 2010

DEEPWATER HORIZON Incident

Situation: Monday 17 May — Rear Admiral Landry helped share the news about the successful riser insertion over the weekend that BP is saying is producing oil from the riser. Landry also said it was going to be a good week for continuing to fight the oil spill at sea. The weather is good for controlled burns, dispersants at the surface and subsea, and the Mississippi River is high and pushing the oil back out into the Gulf.

A meeting is planned with federal wildlife experts who will discuss the latest numbers of wildlife that may have been affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and the potential for broader ecosystem impacts, as well as the ongoing response efforts to protect the Gulf of Mexico's national wildlife refuges, national parks, and species.

NOAA activities:

- NOAA spill specialists continue to advise the U.S. Coast Guard on cleanup options, as well as advising all affected federal, state, and local partners on sensitive marine resources at risk in this area of the Gulf of Mexico.
- NOAA is predicting the oil spill's trajectory and the path of the layers of oil floating on the surface. NOAA experts are conducting aerial surveys to update trajectory maps and visually track the movement of the spill.
- NOAA's National Weather Service is providing regular weather forecasts to a joint federal command center in Louisiana to facilitate operations planning and response efforts.
- For current information on fishery closures, please visit the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center website at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/deepwater_horizon_oil_spill.htm.
- NOAA is conducting a natural resource damage assessment and the focus currently is to assemble existing data on resources and their habitats and collect baseline (or pre-spill impact) data. Data on oiled resources and habitats are also being collected.

Response to date:

- Total response vessels: 559
- Containment boom deployed: over 1.2 million feet
- Containment boom available: nearly 200,000 feet
- Sorbent boom deployed: over 385,000 feet

- Sorbent boom available: over 870,000 feet
- Boom deployed: over 1.5 million feet (regular plus sorbent and fire boom)
- Boom available: over 1 million feet (regular plus sorbent and boom)
- Oily water recovered: more than 6 million gallons
- Dispersant used: over 517,000 gallon
- Dispersant available: more than 250,000 gallons
- Overall personnel responding: more than 17,000