



NOAA Web Update May 20, 2010

DEEPWATER HORIZON Incident

As the nation's leading scientific resource for oil spills, NOAA has been on the scene of the BP oil spill from the start, providing coordinated scientific weather and biological response services to federal, state, and local organizations.

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 oceanographers continue to release updated trajectory maps showing the predicted trajectory of the oil slick.

Situation: Thursday 20 May — A press teleconference call was held with NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco to discuss the BP oil spill's trajectory in relation to the Loop Current and preparations for NOAA research flight investigating the Loop Current. Questions included Loop Current trajectory, Loop Current eddies, flow rate from the leaking well, and dispersants. Audio will be posted tomorrow.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a directive requiring BP to identify and use a less toxic and more effective dispersant from the list of EPA authorized dispersants.

There continues to be significant interest in flow rates at the source of the spill site.

BP is preparing for the top kill (shooting mud down the well to halt the spill) operation expected next week. Riser insertion pipe continues to produce oil to the surface.

Response to date, as of May 19:

- Total response vessels: more than 1040
- Containment boom deployed: more than 1.43 million feet
- Containment boom available: more than 370,000 feet
- Sorbent boom deployed: more than 560,000 feet
- Sorbent boom available: more than 1.28 million feet
- Total boom deployed: nearly 2 million feet (regular plus sorbent boom)
- Total boom available: more than 1.65 million feet (regular plus sorbent boom)
- Oily water recovered: more than 8.37 million gallons
- Surface dispersant used: approximately 600,000 gallons
- Subsea dispersant used: approximately 55,000
- Total dispersant used: approximately 655,000
- Dispersant available: more than 340,000 gallons
- Overall personnel responding: more than 24,700