

## NOAA Web Update June 6, 2010

### DEEPWATER HORIZON Incident



**Situation: Sunday 06 June —**

#### **Response**

BP continues to capture some oil and burn some gas at the surface using its containment dome technique, which is being executed under the federal government's direction. After cutting off a portion of the riser, BP placed a containment device over it in order to capture oil at its source.

OR&R's modeling team continues to generate daily trajectories for the nearshore and offshore surface oil. Overflights are also conducted on a daily basis (weather permitting) to provide field verification of model trajectories. Yesterday's forecast of winds from the south and southwest currently remains the same although winds may diminish tomorrow, creating improved response conditions.

NOAA will be leading training on shoreline assessment technique later this week in order to fill the need created by increasing oil coming ashore.

Survey crews conducted three cycles of flights to locate impacted birds and other wildlife. These pilots fly over impacted areas and report oiled pelicans and any other wildlife back to response command centers to guide the response actions of rescue and rehabilitation teams.

#### **Closures**

No change today, the June 5 closure is still in effect. On Saturday, NOAA added 565 square miles to the fishing closed area; the change takes effect at 6 p.m. Eastern. The change is at the northeast edge of the closed area, and encompasses the projected movement of oil toward Panama City Beach, Florida. [See current map](#) (PDF, 787K). The total federal fishery closure now measures 78,603 square miles, or about 33% of the federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico. Closing fishing in these areas is a precautionary measure to ensure that seafood from the Gulf will remain safe for consumers. Any changes to the closure are announced daily at 12 p.m. Eastern at [sero.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov) and take effect at 6 p.m. Eastern the same day.

#### **Sea Turtles and Marine Mammals (effective June 5, 2010)**

A total of 289 sea turtles have been verified from April 30 to June 5 within the designated spill area. (The designated spill area for sea turtles and marine mammals is from the Texas/Louisiana border to Apalachicola, Florida.) Between Friday, June 4 and Saturday, June 5, seven turtle strandings were verified, including one live, heavily-oiled sea turtle in Alabama, one dead in Alabama, three dead in Mississippi and two dead in Louisiana. In addition, two of the heavily-oiled Kemp's Ridley sea turtles recovered last week in the ongoing offshore search and rescue operation died at the Audubon Aquarium in New Orleans, leaving 22 from these rescue missions in rehab at the aquarium. The on-water turtle search and rescue operation by NOAA, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and other partners working under the Unified Command captured 25 turtles, one brought in dead. On water

surveys are continuing this week. A total of 31 stranded or captured turtles have had external oil. These include the 25 captured turtles, four live stranded sea turtles (two caught in skimming operations) and two dead stranded turtles. All others have not had visible evidence of external oil.

Of the 289 turtles verified from April 30 to June 5, a total of 242 turtles stranded dead, 22 stranded alive. Three of those subsequently died. Three live stranded turtles have been released, including two that were found in Mississippi and released after rehabilitation in Ten Thousand Islands, Florida. There are 38 turtles in rehabilitation. Turtle strandings during this time period have been higher in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama than in previous years for this same time period. This may be due in part to increased detection and reporting, but this does not fully account for the increase.

From April 30 to June 5, 31 dead dolphins have stranded within the designated spill area and two live dolphins have stranded. One died on the beach and another that stranded in Florida was euthanized. So far, one of the 33 stranded dolphins had evidence of external oil. Because it was found on an oiled beach, we are unable at this time to determine whether the animal was covered in oil prior to its death or after its death. The other 32 dolphins have had no visible evidence of external oil. Since April 30, the stranding rate for dolphins in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama has been higher than the historic numbers for the same time period in previous years. In part, this may be due to increased detection and reporting and the lingering effects of an earlier observed spike in strandings for the winter of 2010. A stranding is defined as a dead or debilitated animal that washes ashore or is found in the water.

### **Assessment**

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) is conducting a [Natural Resource Damage Assessment](#) (PDF, 89 K). The focus currently is to assemble existing data on resources and their habitats and collect baseline (pre-spill impact) data. Data on oiled resources and habitats are also being collected.