CHARLIE CRIST
Governor

SECRETARY MICHAEL W. SOLE
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

DAVID HALSTEAD
State Coordinating Officer

MEDIA ADVISORY: TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2010
CONTACT: PUBLIC INFORMATION (ESF 14): (850) 921-0217

FLORIDA DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE JUNE 15, 2010

TALLAHASSEE – Under the leadership of Governor Charlie Crist, the State Emergency Response Team and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are actively coordinating and responding to the Deepwater Horizon incident.

The following is a summary of state and BP response actions to date, as well as tips for residents and visitors to take precautions both pre and post-landfall.

Landfall Reports and Predictions:

- On June 14, dime to five inch-sized tar balls and tar patties were found in widely scattered areas of Northwest Florida.
- Perdido Pass and Pensacola Pass will be closed with the tide to prevent oil from entering inland waters. Boom will be deployed across each Pass at flood tide (water coming in) and removed at ebb tide (water going out).
    - Boaters in areas where skimming is being conducted, or where boom has been set, have been requested to maintain no-wake speeds.
    - Based on oil activity recently, the United States Coast Guard's Captain of the Port for Sector Mobile authorized the official closure of Perdido Pass and Pensacola Pass. These waterways will be manned to allow access to necessary vessel traffic. Perdido Pass and Pensacola Pass will be open for vessel traffic during low tide. See NOAA tide predictions.
    - Boat traffic needing access in or out of boom locations, should call 1-850-736-2261.
    - A flashing light has been attached to all boom to increase visibility to boaters.
- According to NOAA projections, additional impacts are expected throughout northwest Florida within the next 72 hours due to onshore winds.
- The majority of impacts to Florida's shoreline will likely be highly weathered, in the form of tar balls, oil sheen, tar mats or mousse – a pudding-like oil/water mixture that could be brown, rust or orange in color.
- Observations by NOAA continue to indicate no significant amounts of oil moving toward the Loop Current. The Loop Current Ring, a circular current which was formerly part of the Loop Current and contains a small portion of oil slick in the form of light sheens, has detached again from the main Loop Current.
    - There have been no reports of Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill-related oil products reaching the shore beyond the northwest Florida region. There is no

indication that the rest of the state will have impacts from weathered oil products within the next 72 hours.

- Learn more at the NOAA website. If oil is sighted on Florida's coastline report it to the State Warning Point at 1-877-2-SAVE-FL (1-877-272-8335) or by dialing #DEP from most cell phones.

On Site Actions:

- Current projections estimate Deepwater Horizon's discharge at 12,600 to 40,000 barrels per day. Learn more.
- BP has placed a Lower Marine Riser Package (LMRP) Cap Containment System in an attempt to contain the leak and capture a substantial amount of the leaking oil. On June 14, 15,420 barrels of oil were captured from the LMRP Cap Containment System. BP is continuing efforts to drill two relief wells.

State Actions:

- The State Emergency Operations Center is activated at Level 1.
- On June 13, the FWC issued an executive order to temporarily close a portion of coastal state waters offshore of Escambia County to the harvest of saltwater fish, crabs and shrimp.
    - The closure includes state waters from the beaches out nine nautical miles into the Gulf from the Alabama line east to the Pensacola Beach water tower. Interior bays and estuaries remain open to fishing.
    - This area covers approximately 23 miles of Florida's coastline in Escambia County, where oil spill is now present.
    - Recreational catch-and-release fishing is still allowed as long as saltwater fish are not harvested or possessed in the closed area. Oysters, clams and mussels are not included in the closure, because they are not expected to be affected by oil in the area. Learn more.
- On June 10, DEP issued an Amended Emergency Final Order to accelerate preparedness and restoration in the counties under the Governor's state-of-emergency Executive Orders.
- On June 10, Deepwater Horizon Unified Command announced the activation of the Florida Peninsula Command Post in Miami. Learn more.
- On June 9, FWC announced that its commissioners will hold an informal meeting in Pensacola Beach on June 15, to hear from people with fish and wildlife concerns related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Learn more.
- Governor Crist has issued three Executive Orders since April 30, 2010 declaring a state of emergency in 26 coastal counties that may see impacts.
- DEP conducted water and sediment sampling to use as a baseline and is monitoring air quality data. Statewide air quality monitoring is conducted in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Learn more at http://www.airnow.gov/ or http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/.
    - Air quality reports for June 14 revealed that air quality was considered good for ozone and moderate for fine particulate matter in northwest Florida. "Good" means the air quality is satisfactory and air pollution poses little or no risk. "Moderate" means air quality is acceptable for most people.

Boom Placement:

- Approximately 305,900 feet of boom has been placed in northwest Florida along the most sensitive areas and 58,750 feet is staged. Additionally, counties in the region are moving forward with supplemental booming plans. As of June 14, 250,010 feet of supplemental boom has been deployed or staged by Florida contractors.
- Placement of boom is based on where the oil is threatening, as well as each region's area contingency plan.

Health Effects:

- The Florida Department of Health, in coordination with DEP and VISITFLORIDA has developed an online mapping resource that contains the most up-to-date health advisory information for Florida's beach waters. Visitors are encouraged to visit www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/health.htm or www.visitflorida.com/florida_travel_advisory/.
- On June 8, Escambia County Health Department, in coordination with Escambia County Emergency Management and local officials posted a health advisory for the area extending from the Florida-Alabama state line to the entrance of the Perdido Unit, Gulf Islands National Seashore. Learn more.
- If residents or visitors see tar or oiled debris on the beach, **DO NOT PICK IT UP**. Report it to the Florida State Warning Point by calling #DEP from a cell phone or 1-877-2-SAVE-FL (1-877-272-8335). For most people, an occasional brief contact with a small amount of oil will do no harm, yet still it is not recommended. Learn more.
- For general health information questions regarding the oil-spill and exposure to oil spill products contact the Florida Poison Information Centers at **1-800-222-1222.**
- DOH has compiled guidelines for managing stress and preventing heat related injuries for those impacted by the oil spill or involved in cleanup activities. Learn more.

Fisheries & Seafood:

- On June 8, NOAA adjusted the boundaries of the previously closed fishing area, opening 339 square miles off of northwest Florida, with the northern boundary now ending at the Florida federal-state water line on the east side of Choctawhatchee Bay. Learn more.
- While state waters off the coast of Escambia County are closed for the harvest of saltwater fish, crabs and shrimp, all other state waters remain open to recreational fishing.
- Fishermen who wish to contact BP about a claim should call 1-800-440-0858.
- To report oiled wildlife, please call 1-866-557-1401 and leave a message. Messages are checked hourly.
- For the safety of the public as well as the safety of animals, rescues should only be conducted by trained responders. Learn more.

Tourism:

- Through www.VISITFLORIDA.com, vacationers are able to view live Twitter feeds and read up-to-the-minute information on the status of any city or region in Florida. Learn more at http://www.visitflorida.com/florida_travel_advisory/.
- The Florida State Parks website, http://www.floridastateparks.org, is updated daily and will list any impacts. Learn more by calling 1-850-245-2157.

Tips for Homeowners:

- While the state appreciates the concern expressed by Floridians and the ingenuity of those seeking alternative measures to help protect the state's shoreline, the following tips are offered to ensure that these measures are helpful and not harmful to Florida's coasts, wildlife and water resources: Tips for homeowners.

Tips for Businesses and Consumers:

- The Attorney General's fraud hotline is open to receive any reports of fraud or price gouging. The hotline is 1-866-966-7226.
- The Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner gas price-gouging hotline is also operational. The toll-free hotline number is 1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352).
- Coastal businesses should make loss of earnings claims for damages incurred as a result of the oil spill. Learn more at http://www.myfloridacfo.com/ or by calling 1-850-413-3089 or toll-free at 1-877-MY-FL-CFO (1-877-693-5236).
- To discuss spill related damage with BP representatives, please call the BP Claims Reporting Line at 1-800-440-0858.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Individuals interested in volunteering can register at www.volunteerfloridadisaster.org.
- Volunteers will not be in direct contact with oil or oil-contaminated materials.
- The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service – Volunteer Florida is encouraging Floridians and visitors to stay current on the latest information on scheduled beach cleanups and other local volunteer opportunities. Learn more.
- Individuals who live along or who are visiting coastal communities are encouraged to enjoy Florida's coastal areas while watching for oiled wildlife and shoreline. Report impacts by calling 1-866-557-1401 and report oiled shoreline in Florida by calling #DEP from a cell phone or 1-877-2-SAVE-FL (1-877-272-8335).

Learn More About Florida's Response:

- DEP launched a Twitter account, www.Twitter.com/FLDEPalert, dedicated to providing updates on Florida's response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.
- DEP in coordination with the state Emergency Operations Center established an email sign-up and a comprehensive website at http://www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com.
- For a list of Unified Command, BP and Florida phone numbers, visit http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/default.htm#numbers.

- The Oil Spill Information Line is available at 1-888-337-3569 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. seven days a week. Additional phone numbers have also been established for persons with disabilities: (800) 955-8771 (TDD) or (800) 955-8770 (voice).

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