Received(Date): Mon, 06 Oct 2008 14:11:53 -0400
From: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
To: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
Cc: 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: [Fwd: Re: Texas and Louisiana_TED exemption]

Come on down and let's talk. I don't have any money to promise Pascagoula.
-DB

Michael Barnette wrote:
> I told John Mitchell (and Dale Stevens) -- per my discussion with you
> last week where you stated we would "shake the tree" to obtain funding
> for this exercise, and also pursue additional funding if needed for
> future PRET exercises -- that we would somehow get money to cover this
> TX/LA survey work. As I mentioned to you during this discussion, it
> is expected to run ~$5,000. If I mis-interpreted your statement, we
> still have time to call off the trip.
> However, Dale has a FL exercise the week of the 20th in St.
> Augustine/Mayport (where he will also look for potential issues that
> Sinkey identified) that he can't push back. Doing this any later and
> the LA exemption would be expired (effective until 11:59 on October
> 26), so we were stuck with few options. I felt it would be better to
> work through the holiday (as I am on my TED inspection trip) to get
> the data in case we got an extension request, versus being
> empty-handed. Please let me know if you disagree with my judgment call.
> Mike
>
>
> David Bernhart wrote:
>> Hi Mike,
>>
>> Did you tell Dale Stevens we'd take care of paying for their
>> travel/overtime costs? Our discussion was that we would work with
>> Pascagoula and F/PR to try to help them get funds, b/c we didn't have
>> any to give. Do we need to get with John Mitchell to straighten out?
>>
>> -DB
>>
>> Michael Barnette wrote:
>>> fyi
>>>
>>> -------- Original Message --------
>>> Subject: Re: Texas and Louisiana_TED exemption
>>> Date: Mon, 06 Oct 2008 10:00:30 -0500
>>> From: Robert D Stevens <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>
>>> To: John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>
>>> CC: Taylor, Wendy <Charles.W.Taylor@noaa.gov>, Michael Barnette
>>> <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
>>> References: <48E68018.2080905@noaa.gov>
>>> <48E685A6.5020205@noaa.gov> <48EA2184.8070407@noaa.gov>
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> I just got off the phone with Mike, He said go ahead with the trip
>>> and plan on the 13-th as a day to travel.
>>> He stated that they really needed the information and he would take
>>> care of the money. We are going to
>>> travel to Galveston on Monday, If we get there early enough we will

>>> go out of there Monday afternoon
>>> and/or first thing Tuesday morning. We will then travel to Sabine
>>> and go out of there Tuesday afternoon
>>> and/or Wednesday morning. Wednesday afternoon we will move to
>>> somewhere in western Louisiana for
>>> a look on Thursday and return to Pascagoula on Friday. As for the
>>> cost Mike and I discussed this several
>>> weeks ago and I came up with $850.00 per day for myself and one
>>> other person. I think that was figuring a
>>> 10 hour day and we would likely have longer days with the traveling
>>> that would be involved. Mike figured
>>> a cost of 1-k per day for a survey trip when he wrote the exemption
>>> so we should be covered on the money. John Mitchell wrote:
>>>> Dale -
>>>>
>>>> Suggest you put a schedule together with costs (travel and comp
>>>> time/OT) for yourself whoever you can get to go with you and
>>>> forward this to Mike B.
>>>>
>>>> - JM
>>>>
>>>> Robert D Stevens wrote:
>>>>> I did speak to him on Monday concerning this while listing
>>>>> upcoming activities for Wendy. I have Florida the week of the
>>>>> 20-th but could probably still do it. The 13-th is a holiday and
>>>>> would need this day for travel to make it happen.
>>>>> Travel on Monday, Run out of Freeport Tuesday, Travel to Galveston
>>>>> on Tuesday night, Run out of Galveston on Wednesday,
>>>>> move to Sabine on Wed. night and WOW, this isn't going too happen
>>>>> in a five day week. NEW PLAN, we could check Galveston on Tues.
>>>>> and get a pretty good feel for what would be East and West of
>>>>> there. Move to Sabine on Wednesday and check there, Move
>>>>> down to Chauvin on Thursday and check there in the P.M., then to
>>>>> Grand Isle and check there Friday returning home on Friday
>>>>> night.This would make for a fast pace trip but we could make it
>>>>> happen. Just let me know, I am up for it and would like to do it.
>>>>> ds
>>>>>
>>>>> John Mitchell wrote:
>>>>>> Dale -
>>>>>>
>>>>>> I spoke with Mike Barnette today and he would like to know if you
>>>>>> could arrange a storm debris survey of TX (Galveston/Freeport
>>>>>> area) and Western Louisiana areas for the week of October 13.
>>>>>> I'm guessing you may have already talked to him about this.
>>>>>>
>>>>>> Apparently the upper Texas coast will be getting a TEDs exemption
>>>>>> and LA already has one (?), but will probably be wnating to
>>>>>> extend it.
>>>>>>
>>>>>> Thanks - JM
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>>>

Received(Date): Mon, 06 Oct 2008 13:03:50 -0400
From: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
To: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
Cc: 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: [Fwd: Re: Texas and Louisiana_TED exemption]

Hi Mike,

Did you tell Dale Stevens we'd take care of paying for their travel/overtime costs? Our discussion was that we would work with Pascagoula and F/PR to try to help them get funds, b/c we didn't have any to give. Do we need to get with John Mitchell to straighten out?

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> To: John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>
> CC: Taylor, Wendy <Charles.W.Taylor@noaa.gov>, Michael Barnette
> <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
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>

Received(Date): Tue, 24 Aug 2010 11:48:54 -0400
From: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Louisiana Report
To: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>,Bob Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>
Cameron LA 8-2010-Final.doc
John.Mitchell.vcf
Attachment

FYI

Michael C. Barnette

Begin forwarded message:

> From: John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>
> Date: August 24, 2010 11:40:17 AM EDT
> To: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
> Subject: Louisiana Report
>

> See attached
>
>

FYI

Michael C. Barnette

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>
> **Date:** August 24, 2010 11:40:17 AM EDT
> **To:** Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
> **Subject: Louisiana Report**
>
> See attached

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Mississippi Laboratories
P.O. Drawer 1207
Pascagoula, MS 39568-1207

August 16, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/SEC42 John Mitchell

FROM: F/SEC42 - Dale Stevens/Jack Forrester

SUBJECT: Trip report

On August 11, 2010 Jack Forrester and Dale Stevens departed Pascagoula MS enroute to Cameron, LA, the Western-most shrimping port in Louisiana. The purpose of this trip was to conduct a series of courtesy dockside TED inspections along the Western Louisiana coastline to try and determine the level of TED compliance within the shrimp fishery in this region. These inspections showed TED compliance to be poor at best.

At the port of Cameron, TED inspections were conducted aboard nine (9) vessels. Of the nine vessels, two were found with the escape holes sewn completely closed. Two vessels were found to have no TEDs installed at all. Of these two vessels it was obvious that one of them had recently been trawling due to the presence of dead fish and other debris which was visible in the net. Two of the vessels were equipped with single flaps and escape openings that would stretch to less than 32-inches, Federal regulations require a minimum of 71-inches when stretched. These vessels had forward cuts that stretched to less than 20-inches where Federal Regulations require a minimum of 26-inches. One vessel was equipped with large pipe TEDs installed at 68-degree angles and escape openings of 65-inches. Another vessel was found with double cover flaps sewn together down the middle. Of the nine vessels, only one was found to be compliant with the TED regulations. Recommendations were made to the captains and boat owners on how to better equip their TEDs to achieve maximum shrimp retention. Most of them stated that it didn't matter because they kept their TEDs sewed closed when they were trawling. A large number of the TEDs we inspected supported this claim. It should be noted that most of these vessels were small in size (35 to 65 feet in length) making one think they would be trawling in inshore waters, however everyone we questioned stated that they worked in the offshore waters between Cameron and Sabine.

The next port, Delcambre LA, consisted of mostly skimmer trawl vessels; however two vessels were observed to have conventional otter trawl gear onboard. Of these two vessels one was equipped with TEDs and the other vessel had no TEDs installed in the nets. No one was onboard either vessel, so no contact was made with these captains.

The next port was Intracoastal City, LA where approximately seventeen vessels were observed. Most of the vessels in this port were using fixed angle TEDs (45-degree angles) with double cover flaps. The overlapped portion of the flaps on all of these TEDs measured from 24-inches to 32-inches, significantly exceeding the fifteen inch maximum stretched measurement allowed in the Federal Regulations. Several TEDs were observed with the flaps completely overlapped from side to side. Most of these TEDs had leading edge cuts which measured 46 to 48 inches; well below the minimum required cut of 56-inches. Four vessels were equipped with standard TEDs from Tony's net shop in New Orleans. These TEDs were all equipped with the single flap. On these TEDs, the leading edge cut was only 46-inches; this is 25 inches less than the 71 inch leading edge cut

requirement. The flaps on these TEDs would only stretch to 48-inches, well below the 71-inch stretched measurement as required by Federal TED regulations. One vessel was observed with grid angles at 65-degrees and several vessels had illegal single flap openings measuring 52 to 60-inches (71-inch minimum required). Of the seventeen vessels inspected, only two were found to be fully compliant.

The next port was Morgan City LA where four vessels were observed with fixed angle TEDs. There was no one on board these vessels so we were not able to conduct a thorough evaluation.

We traveled from Houma down to Dulac LA. where very few vessels were observed with trawl gear onboard. This did not come as a surprise and was expected due to the oil spill and vessels being employed by BP's Vessels of Opportunity program (VOO).

We then traveled down through Cut Off, Golden Meadow, and Port Fourchon ending in Grand Isle. We saw more of the same with regard to vessels without trawl gear as all appeared to be working with BP's VOO program. Two vessels with TEDs were inspected in Port Fourchon and found to have forward cuts of 9 inches and 6 inches respectively (minimum requirement is 26-inches). One of these TEDs had a leading edge cut of 64-inches (minimum requirement is 71-inches). One TED was installed at an angle of 70-degrees (55 degree maximum requirement). The angles on all other TEDs looked good. Both vessels had two, 6-3/4-inch X 8-3/4-inch floats installed on the front surface of the TED at a point where a turtle would exit the device. Federal TED regulations require that floats which are installed inside the TED extension must be placed behind the front surface of the grid. The float placement observed on the TEDs of these two vessels would have likely blocked the escape route of a turtle trying to exit through the TED.

Of the vessels observed a total of 29 were boarded and measurements taken on the TEDs.
Of the 29 vessels three were found to be in full compliance with the TED regulations. Five were found to have problems with their gear that may or may not result in the death of a turtle depending on the size of the turtle encountered. Twenty one of these vessels were equipped with TEDs, which in our opinion, would result in the capture and possible death of a sea turtle.

During this trip we also made an attempt to count the number of Skimmer and Butterfly trawl equipped vessels which we observed. This count was taken for the purpose of estimating the number of TEDs which may be needed in the event that TEDs are required to be installed in these gear types. A total of 500 vessels were counted with skimmer and butterfly gear during our tour of Western Louisiana. This number far exceeds the number of otter trawl vessels we saw, by an estimated order of 3:1. Note; this number reflects only skimmer and butterfly vessels which were in our field of view during the trip, and is only a sample. The true number is likely significantly higher as there are many small bayous and towns in which we did not travel too. Additionally, a large number of these vessels are likely employed by BP's VOO program. This number should be regarded as an indication that a larger number of TEDs will be required in the skimmer and butterfly shrimp fishery of Louisiana if and when a TED rule is implemented in these fisheries.

We returned to Pascagoula MS. on August 13, 2010.

John Mitchell

Branch Leader

Harvesting Systems Branch
NOAA Fisheries

202 Delmas Ave.
Pascagoula, MS 39568
USA

228-762-4591 (Work)
228-769-8699 (Fax)

john.mitchell@noaa.gov (Internet)

Formatted Name
John Mitchell

Name

Family:	Mitchell
First:	John
Middle:	
Prefix:	
Suffix:	

Organization
Harvesting Systems Branch
NOAA Fisheries

Address

P.O. Address:	
Extended Address:	
Street:	202 Delmas Ave.
Locality:	Pascagoula
Region:	MS
Postal Code:	39568
Country:	USA

Electronic Mail Address (Internet)
john.mitchell@noaa.gov

Title
Branch Leader

Telephone Number (Work)
228-762-4591

Telephone Number (Fax)
228-769-8699

Version
2.1

Received(Date): Sat, 14 Aug 2010 11:13:40 -0500
From: Carole Allen <carole@seaturtles.org>
Subject: NEED FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
To: Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov
Cc: "Hale, Jennifer" <JHale@fox8tv.net>

Dr. Crabtree:

As I mentioned on the telephone conference Thursday, the need for immediate law enforcement of the Turtle Excluder Device regulations in Louisiana waters is critical. When Louisiana Governor Jindal vetoed House Bill 1334 on June 30 that would have allowed law enforcement to check for TEDs in state waters, he stepped back 20 years! Louisiana fishermen went through the same process of public comment at that time. After approval by Congress, then Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher directed that TEDs be used by all states, not just those who chose to follow federal law.

If NMFS allows Louisiana shrimpers to continue to reject a federal law requiring the use of TEDs, other states are encouraged to follow. An additional issue is that more Kemp's ridleys have died in the Gulf since April 20 than any other species. The NOAA site shows 714 found of which 409 were dead (current as of August 11, 2010). Other NOAA news releases indicate very few Kemp's ridleys died from ingestion of oil but many from being caught in shrimp trawls without working TEDs. Immediate consideration should be given to preventing any more unnecessary deaths.

As Louisiana opens its shrimping season, I hope you have already taken the appropriate action that does not need the Governor's approval.

Sincerely,

Carole H. Allen, Gulf Office Director
Sea Turtle Restoration Project (www.seaturtles.org)
And HEART (Help Endangered Animals-Ridley Turtles) www. ridleyturtles.org
P. O. B ox 681231
Houston, Texas 77268-1231
Phone and FAX 281-444-6204

Received(Date): Mon, 02 Aug 2010 16:02:13 -0400
From: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: NEWS RELEASE: Mississippi Sound Closed to all Commercial andRecreational Fishing; Bays and Rivers Remain Open
To: Dale Diaz <Dale.Diaz@dmr.ms.gov>
Cc: Mike Brainard <Mike.Brainard@dmr.ms.gov>,Traci Floyd <Traci.Floyd@dmr.ms.gov>, Corky Perret <Corky.Perret@dmr.ms.gov>,"Roy.Crabtree" <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>

Good afternoon Dale,

I saw that MS waters were reopened for shrimping last Friday. Hopefully we won't see the same kinds of sea turtle strandings we had earlier this year. Thanks for being proactive with all these measures, including maintaining the 30 minute tow times for skimmer trawls. Have you had better luck getting observers out on skimmer trawls with the NFWF funded observers? Also, how many skimmer boats do you think have received the TEDs?

Thanks,
David

Dale Diaz wrote:

> David,
>
> All of the MS Sound is now closed to all Commercial and Recreational Fishing (this includes catch and release and Live bait).
>
> Also, thanks for informing us about the funds from NFWF. We just received notification that we have been approved. The projects that are included in this funding are: 1). a voluntary program to provide TEDs to skimmer trawl fishermen that agree to use them 2). Mail outs to most of our commercial and recreational fishermen about, what to do and who to call, if they have an interaction with a turtle 3) . An observer program on board shrimp vessels.
>
> Let me know if you have any questions,
>
> Dale Diaz
>
> Director, Office of Marine Fisheries
>
> Mississippi Dept. of Marine Resources
>
> 1141 Bayview Avenue
>
> Biloxi, Mississippi 39530
>
> (228)523-4064

From: Shelly Becker
Sent: Thursday, July 01, 2010 5:17 PM
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Mississippi Sound Closed to all Commercial and Recreational Fishing; Bays and Rivers Remain Open

July 1, 2010 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Mississippi Sound Closed to all Commercial and Recreational Fishing; Bays and Rivers Remain Open

BILOXI, Miss. – The executive directors of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, in an abundance of caution, are closing an additional portion of Mississippi's territorial marine waters, **effective immediately** to all commercial and recreational fishing, including all species of finfish, crabs, shrimp and oysters.

The closed area includes all Mississippi marine territorial waters starting at a point on the shoreline at the Mississippi/Louisiana State line; running easterly, following the southern boundary of Mississippi territorial waters, to the intersection with the Mississippi/Alabama State line; running due north, along the Mississippi/Alabama state boundary, to the CSX railroad; running southwesterly, along the CSX railroad, to a point due north of the Bayou Casotte Ship Channel; running due south to 30° 21' north latitude; running due west, following the 30° 21' north latitude line, to a point of intersection with the mainland shoreline on the east side of Bellefontaine Point; westerly and northerly, following the meandering of the shoreline, to the tip of Marsh Point; running due north, to a point on the mainland shoreline; running westerly and northerly, following the meanderings of the shoreline, to the eastern abutment of the CSX railroad bridge; running southeasterly, following the CSX railroad bridge across Biloxi Bay, to a point on the mainland shoreline at the western abutment of the CSX railroad bridge at Biloxi Bay; running westerly following the meanderings of the shoreline to eastern abutment of the CSX Railroad Bridge over St. Louis Bay; thence running westerly along the CSX railroad bridge to the western abutment of the CSX Railroad Bridge over St. Louis Bay; running southwesterly following the meanderings of the shoreline to the mouth of Bayou Caddy; running due West to the mouth of Bayou Caddy; running southwesterly following the meanderings of

the shoreline to the Mississippi-Louisiana state boundary.

Any individuals retaining any marine species from this closed area will be required to immediately return them to the waters. There is no catch and release fishing allowed in the closed area.

This precautionary closure is a result of oil sightings in this general area and the potential impacts on Mississippi's coastal marine resources. The continuous monitoring of this situation is to ensure public safety and protection of Mississippi's coastal resources.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

Attached: Map

— END—

Received(Date): Thu, 02 Sep 2010 14:19:00 -0400
From: "Gary.Reisner" <Gary.Reisner@noaa.gov>
Subject: [Fwd: TED's in the Gulf]
To: "'John.Oliver@noaa.gov'" <John.Oliver@noaa.gov>, Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov,Lindsay Fullenkamp <Lindsay.Fullenkamp@noaa.gov>
Cc: Eric.Schwaab@noaa.gov
TED's in the Gulf

Please see note about OMB's desire to reduce marketing and put money in for TEDs and e-logbooks.

I have preliminarily said to DOC Budget that we don't have time to change the grant and get it awarded this fiscal year. Regarding OMBs tradition objection to "marketign" I've indicated that the DWH cause fishery disaster is different than others and consumer demand is a significant componet of the disaster losses; therefore marking was a direct and appropriate use of the funds to access the causes and mitigate th eimpacts of the disaster.

Regarding the the TEDs -- It seems that NFWF is buying TEDs for fishermen and we don't need multiple efforts. And, we have previously provided assistance to fishermen for TEDs whne rules have changed.

Regarding the e-log book, I would indicate that that is part of our $10M expanded stock assessment effort.

A call with OMB is being set up for sometime tomorrow afternoon. Roy can we talk about your particpation in the call?

Gary

Received(Date): Thu, 02 Sep 2010 13:57:35 -0400
From: "Barrett, Anne" <ABarrett@doc.gov>
Subject: TED's in the Gulf
To: "Werner, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Werner@noaa.gov>,"Reisner, Gary" <Gary.Reisner@noaa.gov>
Cc: "Fullenkamp, Lindsay" <Lindsay.Fullenkamp@noaa.gov>,"Socolof, David" <DSocolof@doc.gov>, "Sarri, Kristen" <KSarri@doc.gov>,"Wylie, Maureen" <Maureen.Wylie@noaa.gov>,"Oliver, John" <John.Oliver@noaa.gov>, "Shapiro, Neil" <NShapiro@doc.gov>

Jenn and Gary –

Per a couple of previous conversations and message with / for you, we need to set up a phone call with Stu and Randy tomorrow to discuss using the funding slated for "marketing" within the $15M in supplemental funding designated for fisheries assistance in the Gulf for TED's. The call needs to happen between 12:00 and 3:30 tomorrow. What time works for you?

At tomorrow's call, Stu and Randy want to understand:

1. What we think of providing funding for TED's and/or electronic logbooks in the Gulf?
2. At this point in time, Randy and Stu do not think that funding for marketing needs to come out of government funds, and that through the chain of custody and stewardship certification, we can influence marketing. I know that NMFS believes that marketing is important, so there may need to be a discussion about that.
3. Where are we in the process of awarding the grant?

Please call me when you get this. I need to understand what time works for you tomorrow and we also need to set up a call with OB this afternoon so that there are not any surprises on the phone call tomorrow and we all have the same understanding. I have cc'd Kris Sari and will call her to bring her in to the loop on this.

Thanks!

~Anne

Received(Date): Thu, 02 Sep 2010 15:31:02 -0400
From: Linda Atwell <Linda.Atwell@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: [Fwd: [Fwd: TED's in the Gulf]]
To: "Gary.Reisner" <Gary.Reisner@noaa.gov>
Cc: Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov, John.Oliver@noaa.gov

Hi Gary,
Roy has a meeting from 2-3pm tomorrow. Anytime between 12-2pm works or after 3pm.
Regards,
Linda

Gary.Reisner wrote:

> Roy -- The timing for the conference call is at noon or between 2 and 3:30.
> Linda--Roy asked you pick a time on his schedule for this meeting with OMB, DOC and NOAA on the Gulf Supplemental.
>
> Can you give me the best time for him tomorrow?
> Thanks
> Gary

> Subject:
> [Fwd: TED's in the Gulf]
> From:
> "Gary.Reisner" <Gary.Reisner@noaa.gov>
> Date:
> Thu, 02 Sep 2010 14:19:00 -0400
> To:
> "'John.Oliver@noaa.gov'" <John.Oliver@noaa.gov>, roy.crabtree@noaa.gov, Lindsay Fullenkamp <Lindsay.Fullenkamp@noaa.gov>
> To:
> "'John.Oliver@noaa.gov'" <John.Oliver@noaa.gov>, roy.crabtree@noaa.gov, Lindsay Fullenkamp <Lindsay.Fullenkamp@noaa.gov>
> CC:
> eric.schwaab@noaa.gov
>
> Please see note about OMB's desire to reduce marketing and put money in for TEDs and e-logbooks.
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To:
"Werner, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Werner@noaa.gov>, "Reisner, Gary" <Gary.Reisner@noaa.gov>
CC:
"Fullenkamp, Lindsay" <Lindsay.Fullenkamp@noaa.gov>, "Socolof, David" <DSocolof@doc.gov>, "Sarri, Kristen" <KSarri@doc.gov>, "Wylie, Maureen" <Maureen.Wylie@noaa.gov>, "Oliver, John" <John.Oliver@noaa.gov>, "Shapiro, Neil" <NShapiro@doc.gov>

Jenn and Gary –

Per a couple of previous conversations and message with / for you, we need to set up a phone call with Stu and Randy tomorrow to discuss using the funding slated for "marketing" within the $15M in supplemental funding designated for fisheries assistance in the Gulf for TED's. The call needs to happen between 12:00 and 3:30 tomorrow. What time works for you?

At tomorrow's call, Stu and Randy want to understand:

1. What we think of providing funding for TED's and/or electronic logbooks in the Gulf?
2. At this point in time, Randy and Stu do not think that funding for marketing needs to come out of government funds, and that through the chain of custody and

stewardship certification, we can influence marketing. I know that NMFS believes that marketing is important, so there may need to be a discussion about that.

3. Where are we in the process of awarding the grant?

Please call me when you get this. I need to understand what time works for you tomorrow and we also need to set up a call with OB this afternoon so that there are not any surprises on the phone call tomorrow and we all have the same understanding. I have cc'd Kris Sari and will call her to bring her in to the loop on this.

Thanks!

~Anne

--
Linda Atwell
Administrative Assistant
to the Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Region
T: 727/824-5301
F: 727-824-5320
Email: Linda.Atwell@noaa.gov

Received(Date): Thu, 12 Aug 2010 18:16:11 -0500
From: Carole Allen <carole@seaturtles.org>
Subject: Re: Louisiana shrimping
To: Laurel Bryant <Laurel.Bryant@noaa.gov>, Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov

Laurel: Thanks for your work on the call and your message. The Louisiana situation needs immediate and forceful attention from NOAA/NMFS. Their governor vetoed a bill recently requesting TED enforcement in La. state waters. Enforcement for many years is questionable. With the stress of the oil spill resulting in several hundred dead Kemp's ridleys, Louisiana should not be allowed to make their own rules.

Mississippi also needs a review. Using tow times instead of TEDs was rejected by NMFS years ago. Many dead sea turtles wound up on their shores killed by shrimpers not by oil.

The BP oil spill with its tragic effects on sea turtles is the time to get tough and make the law work. It has shined the spotlight on states not enforcing or even implementing the law.

Can you help with this?

Carole H. Allen, Gulf Office Director
Sea Turtle Restoration Project (www.seaturtles.org)
And HEART (Help Endangered Animals-Ridley Turtles) www. ridleyturtles.org
P. O. B ox 681231
Houston, Texas 77268-1231
Phone and FAX 281-444-6204

On 8/12/10 4:04 PM, "Laurel Bryant" <Laurel.Bryant@noaa.gov> wrote:

> Carol - I believe you asked this question of Dr. Crabtree on the
> stakeholder call. Do you need me to do more here or are we good? Just
> let me know. Glad you could make the call.
> Laurel
>
>
> Carole Allen wrote:
>> Since commercial fishing has been opened in Louisiana waters, will
>> NMFS be enforcing the Turtle Excluder Device regulations? I
>> understand that the Governor of Louisiana chooses NOT to allow
>> enforcement by state law enforcement. Will NMFS enforce the law?
>>
>>
>> Carole H. Allen, Gulf Office Director
>> Sea Turtle Restoration Project (www.seaturtles.org)
>> And HEART (Help Endangered Animals-Ridley Turtles) www. ridleyturtles.org
>> P. O. B ox 681231
>> Houston, Texas 77268-1231
>> Phone and FAX 281-444-6204
>>

Received(Date): Thu, 29 Jul 2010 16:02:26 -0400
From: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Subject: [Fwd: Free TEDs available to AL Skimmer Trawl Fishermen]
To: Roy Crabtree <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>

FYI. NFWF is going directly to Alabama about the free TEDs issue, after Mike helped set up the discussion.
-DB

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: Free TEDs available to AL Skimmer Trawl Fishermen
Date: Thu, 29 Jul 2010 15:59:59 -0400
From: Michelle Pico <Pico@NFWF.org>
To: John.Mareska@dcnr.alabama.gov <John.Mareska@dcnr.alabama.gov>, vernon.minton@dcnr.alabama.gov <vernon.minton@dcnr.alabama.gov>
CC: John.Mitchell@noaa.gov <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>

Hello John,

The NOAA gear team suggested that I reach out to you regarding funding the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has available to bolster impacted wildlife populations in response to the oil spill. We have earmarked funding to provide free TEDs for the skimmer trawl fishery and have already delivered enough TEDs to MS to account for 100% of their fleet as well as some additional capacity dollars for implementation. While MS was prioritized in an effort to forestall further fishing closures due to high bycatch mortality since the spill, we would like to provide an opportunity for the entire fishery to make this voluntary transition now before any regulation changes may be established in the future.

I would like to set up a time with you to discuss the potential interest of a free TEDs program with your fishermen and implementation logistics. In addition to these funds that have already been set aside for TEDS, the Foundation will also have additional funding available later this fall. We would be very interested in learning about any priorities projects that you might have in the state for addressing management and recovery of finfish and shellfish stocks.

Please let me know if you have any time tomorrow or next week to discuss these opportunities.

Best wishes,

Michelle

Michelle Pico

Director, Marine Programs

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

262-567-0601

Received(Date): Thu, 02 Sep 2010 15:38:29 -0400
From: Gary Reisner <Gary.Reisner@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: [Fwd: [Fwd: TED's in the Gulf]]
To: "'Linda.Atwell@noaa.gov'" <Linda.Atwell@noaa.gov>,"'gary.reisner@noaa.gov'" <Gary.Reisner@noaa.gov>
Cc: "'Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov'" <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>,"'john.oliver@noaa.gov'" <John.Oliver@noaa.gov>

Let's go with noon. I'll confirm with NCAA and DOC.

From: Linda Atwell [mailto:Linda.Atwell@noaa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 02, 2010 03:31 PM
To: Gary.Reisner <Gary.Reisner@noaa.gov>
Cc: Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>; John.Oliver@noaa.gov <John.Oliver@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: [Fwd: [Fwd: TED's in the Gulf]]

Hi Gary,
Roy has a meeting from 2-3pm tomorrow. Anytime between 12-2pm works or after 3pm.
Regards,
Linda

Gary.Reisner wrote:

> Roy -- The timing for the conference call is at noon or between 2 and 3:30.
> Linda--Roy asked you pick a time on his schedule for this meeting with OMB, DOC and NOAA on the Gulf Supplemental.
>
> Can you give me the best time for him tomorrow?
> Thanks
> Gary

> Subject:
> [Fwd: TED's in the Gulf]
> From:
> "Gary.Reisner" <Gary.Reisner@noaa.gov>
> Date:
> Thu, 02 Sep 2010 14:19:00 -0400
> To:
> "'John.Oliver@noaa.gov'" <John.Oliver@noaa.gov>, roy.crabtree@noaa.gov, Lindsay Fullenkamp <Lindsay.Fullenkamp@noaa.gov>
> To:
> "'John.Oliver@noaa.gov'" <John.Oliver@noaa.gov>, roy.crabtree@noaa.gov, Lindsay Fullenkamp <Lindsay.Fullenkamp@noaa.gov>
> CC:
> eric.schwaab@noaa.gov
>
> Please see note about OMB's desire to reduce marketing and put money in for TEDs and e-logbooks.

I have preliminarily said to DOC Budget that we don't have time to change the grant and get it awarded this fiscal year. Regarding OMBs tradition objection to "marketign" I've indicated that the DWH cause fishery disaster is different than others and consumer demand is a significant componet of the disaster losses; therefore marking was a direct and appropriate use of the funds to access the causes and mitigate th eimpacts of the disaster.

Regarding the the TEDs -- It seems that NFWF is buying TEDs for fishermen and we don't need multiple efforts. And, we have previously provided assistance to fishermen for TEDs whne rules have changed.

Regarding the e-log book, I would indicate that that is part of our $10M expanded stock assessment effort.

A call with OMB is being set up for sometime tomorrow afternoon. Roy can we talk about your particpation in the call?

Gary

Subject:
TED's in the Gulf
From:
"Barrett, Anne" <ABarrett@doc.gov>
Date:
Thu, 02 Sep 2010 13:57:35 -0400
To:
"Werner, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Werner@noaa.gov>, "Reisner, Gary" <Gary.Reisner@noaa.gov>
To:
"Werner, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Werner@noaa.gov>, "Reisner, Gary" <Gary.Reisner@noaa.gov>
CC:
"Fullenkamp, Lindsay" <Lindsay.Fullenkamp@noaa.gov>, "Socolof, David" <DSocolof@doc.gov>, "Sarri, Kristen" <KSarri@doc.gov>, "Wylie, Maureen" <Maureen.Wylie@noaa.gov>, "Oliver, John" <John.Oliver@noaa.gov>, "Shapiro, Neil" <NShapiro@doc.gov>

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~Anne

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Linda Atwell
Administrative Assistant
to the Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Region
T: 727/824-5301
F: 727-824-5320
Email: Linda.Atwell@noaa.gov

Received(Date): Wed, 28 Jul 2010 10:15:26 -0400 (EDT)
From: Southern Shrimp Alliance <rachel@shrimpalliance.com>
Subject: News Release: DMR Offers Mississippi Shrimpers Free TED Gear
To: Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov

The Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) is a non-profit alliance of members of the U.S. shrimp industry in eight states committed to preventing the continued deterioration of America's shrimp industry and to ensuring the industry's future viability. SSA serves as the national voice for the shrimp fishermen and processors in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas.

News Release: DMR Offers Mississippi Shrimpers Free TED Gear **JULY 28, 2010**

Quick Links
SSA Website

Board of Directors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Florida:

Sal Versaggi
sal@versaggi-shrimp.com

Chris Gala
Tricocg@bellsouth.net

Georgia:

Elaine Knight
kseafood@bellsouth.net

Mike Dubberly
DaddysBoy1775@aol.com

Alabama:

Mickey Johnson

10-96-LDJ

July 27, 2010

DMR Offers Mississippi Shrimp Fishermen Free TED Gear for Their Skimmer Trawls

BILOXI, Miss. - Due to reports

jbuiltinc@aol.com

Rosa Zirlott
BrentRosa@aol.com

Mississippi:

Steve Bosarge
stevebosarge@hotmail.com

Tommy Schultz
revahopkins@bellsouth.net

Louisiana:

James Blanchard
cherib1961@gmail.com

Cathy Blanchard
Cathy_blanchard@us.aflac.com

Texas:

Wilma Anderson
texasshrimp@clearwire.net

Craig Wallis
wallis.shrimp@yahoo.com

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Nancy Edens
keywestnative57@yahoo.com

PD Mason
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Wayne Magwood
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Clay Cable
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Executive Director:

John Williams
john@shrimpalliance.com

Director of Field Operations:

Richard Vendetti
vendetti@shrimpalliance.com

Executive Assistant:

Rachel Williams
rachel@shrimpalliance.com

Office Clerk:

Meghan Yopp
Meghan@shrimpalliance.com

Received(Date): Tue, 03 Aug 2010 09:58:33 -0500
From: Traci Floyd <Traci.Floyd@dmr.ms.gov>
Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Mississippi Sound Closed to all Commercial andRecreational Fishing; Bays and Rivers Remain Open
To: David.Bernhart@noaa.gov
Cc: Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov, Mike Brainard <Mike.Brainard@dmr.ms.gov>,Dale Diaz <Dale.Diaz@dmr.ms.gov>, Corky Perret <Corky.Perret@dmr.ms.gov>

Hi David,

Dale is out of the office this week. DMR has distributed all of the 124 TEDs (to 62 Mississippi vessels) we've received to date. We anticipate another TED shipment from the supplier this morning, and there is a waiting list of shrimpers wanting them. There have been reports of about a dozen shrimp boats trying their luck over the weekend in Mississippi's reopened waters, however, none can be found working to put observers aboard. Overflights and Marine Patrol confirm no boats shrimping currently. As is typical for this time of year, there's not much shrimp action due to hot, calm waters and associated low dissolved oxygen levels in some areas. Also, we are between our brown and white shrimp seasons. We have confirmed shrimpers who will host observers once they start shrimping again.

I will forward press releases on our NFWF work to date.

Thanks,

Traci

Traci M. Floyd

Shrimp & Crab Bureau Director

Mississippi Dept. of Marine Resources

1141 Bayview Ave

Biloxi, MS 39530

(228) 374-5000

From: David Bernhart [mailto:David.Bernhart@noaa.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2010 3:02 PM
To: Dale Diaz

Cc: Mike Brainard; Traci Floyd; Corky Perret; Roy.Crabtree
Subject: Re: FW: NEWS RELEASE: Mississippi Sound Closed to all Commercial and Recreational Fishing; Bays and Rivers Remain Open

Good afternoon Dale,

I saw that MS waters were reopened for shrimping last Friday. Hopefully we won't see the same kinds of sea turtle strandings we had earlier this year. Thanks for being proactive with all these measures, including maintaining the 30 minute tow times for skimmer trawls. Have you hadbetter luck getting observers out on skimmer trawls with the NFWF funded observers? Also, how many skimmer boats do you think have received the TEDs?

Thanks,
David

Dale Diaz wrote:

David,

All of the MS Sound is now closed to all Commercial and Recreational Fishing (this includes catch and release and Live bait).

Also, thanks for informing us about the funds from NFWF. We just received notification that we have been approved. The projects that are included in this funding are: 1). a voluntary program to provide TEDs to skimmer trawl fishermen that agree to use them 2). Mail outs to most of our commercial and recreational fishermen about, what to do and who to call, if they have an interaction with a turtle 3) . An observer program on board shrimp vessels.

Let me know if you have any questions,

Dale Diaz

Director, Office of Marine Fisheries

Mississippi Dept. of Marine Resources

1141 Bayview Avenue

Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

(228)523-4064

From: Shelly Becker
Sent: Thursday, July 01, 2010 5:17 PM

Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Mississippi Sound Closed to all Commercial and Recreational Fishing; Bays and Rivers Remain Open

July 1, 2010 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Mississippi Sound Closed to all Commercial and Recreational Fishing; Bays and Rivers Remain Open

BILOXI, Miss. – Theexecutive directors of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, in an abundance of caution, are closing an additional portion of Mississippi's territorial marinewaters, **effective immediately** to all commercial and recreational fishing, including all species of finfish, crabs, shrimp and oysters.

The closed area includes all Mississippi marine territorial waters starting at a point on the shoreline at the Mississippi/Louisiana State line; running easterly, following the southern boundary of Mississippi territorial waters, to the intersection with the Mississippi/Alabama State line; running due north, along the Mississippi/Alabama state boundary, to the CSX railroad; running southwesterly, along the CSX railroad, to a point due north of the Bayou Casotte Ship Channel; running due south to 30° 21' north latitude; running due west, following the 30° 21' north latitude line, to a point of intersection with the mainland shoreline on the east side of Bellefontaine Point; westerly and northerly, following the meandering of the shoreline, to the tip of Marsh Point; running due north, to a point on the mainland shoreline; running westerly and northerly, following the meanderings of the shoreline, to theeastern abutment of the CSX railroad bridge; running southeasterly, following the CSX railroad bridge across Biloxi Bay, to a point on the mainland shoreline at the western abutment of the CSX railroad bridge at Biloxi Bay; running westerly following the meanderings of the shoreline to eastern abutment of the CSX Railroad Bridge over St. Louis Bay; thence running westerly along the CSX railroad bridge to the western abutment of the CSX Railroad Bridge over St.Louis Bay; running southwesterly following the meanderings of the shoreline to the mouth of Bayou Caddy; running due West to the mouth of Bayou Caddy; running southwesterly following the meanderings of the shoreline to the Mississippi-Louisiana state boundary.

Any individuals retaining any marine species from this closed area will be required to immediately return them to the waters. There is no catch and release fishing allowed in the closed area.

This precautionary closure is a result of oil sightings in this general area and the potential

impacts on Mississippi's coastal marine resources. The continuous monitoring of this situation is to ensure public safety and protection of Mississippi'scoastal resources.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

Attached: Map

— END—

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Traci

Traci M. Floyd

Shrimp & Crab Bureau Director

Mississippi Dept. of Marine Resources

1141 Bayview Ave

Biloxi, MS 39530

(228) 374-5000

From: David Bernhart [mailto:David.Bernhart@noaa.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2010 3:02 PM
To: Dale Diaz
Cc: Mike Brainard; Traci Floyd; Corky Perret; Roy.Crabtree
Subject: Re: FW: NEWS RELEASE: Mississippi Sound Closed to all Commercial and Recreational Fishing; Bays and Rivers Remain Open

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Mississippi Dept. of Marine Resources

1141 Bayview Avenue

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(228)523-4064

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Sent: Thursday, July 01, 2010 5:17 PM
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—END—

Received(Date): Tue, 03 Aug 2010 10:03:14 -0500
From: Traci Floyd <Traci.Floyd@dmr.ms.gov>
Subject: FW: News Release: DMR Using NFWF/BP Grant to Protect Sea Turtles inMississippi Sound
To: David.Bernhart@noaa.gov
Cc: Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov
10-98-LDJ.pdf

From: Lisa Jones
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2010 2:27 PM
Subject: News Release: DMR Using NFWF/BP Grant to Protect Sea Turtles in Mississippi Sound

10-98-LDJ

August 2, 2010 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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"Since the Deepwater Horizon spill, the Mississippi Sound has seen an unusually high number of sea turtle sightings and strandings," said DMR Fisheries Director Dale Diaz. "We are grateful for the opportunity this grant provides to protect this at-risk and endangered population that has moved into our waters."

The DMR is taking many management actions through the Recovered Oil Fund for Wildlife to protect sea turtles in the Mississippi Sound, including the following:

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Anyone who encounters a stranded or injured sea turtle or who snares a turtle with fishing gear should call the **Institute for Marine Mammal Studies at 888-SOS-DOLPHIN (888-767-3657)** or the **NOAA Fisheries Service Stranding HOTLINE at 978-281-9351.**

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

PHOTO CREDITS: Photos courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

PHOTO CUTLINE (10-98-LDJ Photo A): Dale Stevens of NOAA Fisheries shows commercial shrimpskimmer trawl fishermen how to prepare a turtle excluder device (TED) for installation at a training workshop sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources on Friday, July 30, 2010.

PHOTO CUTLINE (10-98-LDJ Photo B): Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Fisheries Scientist Rick Burris, left, gives turtle excluder device (TED) equipment to Mississippi commercial shrimp fishermen Robert A. and Robert J. Ross to install on their skimmer trawl gear. With money received from a Recovered Oil Fund for Wildlife grant, funded by BP and administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the DMR is offering free TED gear to commercial shrimp skimmertrawl fishermen who volunteer to use TEDs in lieu of tow time restrictions.

— END—

Lisa Damiano Jones

Public Relations Representative

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

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Mobile: 228-297-9870

Fax: 228-374-5457

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

News Release

Contact: Lisa Damiano Jones
Phone: 228-523-4138

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Mobile: 228-297-9870

Fax: 228-374-5457

Received(Date): Tue, 03 Aug 2010 16:09:04 -0400
From: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: Additional food for thought and facts for trawling proposal
To: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Cc: Roy Crabtree <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>,Heather Blough <Heather.Blough@noaa.gov>, Buck Sutter <Buck.Sutter@noaa.gov>,Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>
Michael_Barnette.vcf

Hi David-
I talked to Marty B. and he said the current closed areas (from heavy oiling - the red areas on their maps) would likely stay that way for a while, and he added, "probably a good while." They have not initiated sampling or anything like that to get the ball rolling for a request to lift the closure.
More troubling though, was that Michelle Pico approached LA DWF regarding complimentary TEDs for LA skimmer trawls, and during the conference call (he mentioned Randy and some others were on it), LA DWF opted to decline the NFWF offer. So, that definitely makes our job that tougher, especially if we pursue a TED requirement and the NFWF funding has evaporated at that point....
Mike

David Bernhart wrote:
> I don't know, but we'll ask. We'll get to work on a draft letter, too.
> Thanks,
> David
>
> Roy Crabtree wrote:
>> Do you know if they have plans to open the area to shrimping in the
>> near term? Go ahead and draft a letter but we need to have some
>> discussions with LDFW before we send anything.
>>
>> David Bernhart wrote:
>>> Hi Roy,
>>>
>>> As you know, there's a lot of issues swirling around the Louisiana
>>> emergency berm and its impact on turtles. Here's an e-mail from Dena
>>> Dickerson, who's the COE's scientist managing the turtle relocation
>>> aspects of the project. We've known that the berm project has
>>> unusually high catch rates of turtles. The summary below puts in
>>> perspective just how unprecedentedly high they are, compared to all
>>> previous trawling projects.
>>>
>>> LDWF's website shows that the area east and north of the Chandeleurs
>>> remains closed to shrimping. The berm project's borrow site is at
>>> the north end of the Chandeleurs. If this area reopens to shrimping,
>>> it's likely that sea turtle takes would occur at this extremely high
>>> rate. If they're using skimmer trawls without TEDs or the
>>> compliance/condition of TEDs in otter trawlers is not good, there
>>> could be really significant mortality. Gov. Jindal recently vetoed
>>> the state bill to allow enforcement of TED regs by LDWF, USCG is
>>> tied up in oil spill, and NMFS LE doesn't have a real patrol
>>> capability anymore, so it's unlikely we could control that area with
>>> enforcement.
>>>
>>> I would like to draft a letter to LDWF for your signature relaying
>>> this information from the berm-trawling along with our concerns

>>> about impacts to loggerhead turtles from reopening the area to
>>> shrimping. We would ask the LDWF to keep that last area closed to
>>> shrimping until the berm-related trawling shows a decrease to more
>>> normal levels in the density of turtles in the area. Do you support
>>> our preparing such a letter?
>>>
>>> This is somewhat similar to the issue raised by the petitioners when
>>> they asked to keep Texas waters closed. I think this case is notably
>>> different, though, in that we have specific information confirming
>>> unheard of numbers of turtles in the area and that they may be more
>>> vulnerable than usual to trawl-related mortality.
>>>
>>> Thanks,
>>> David
>>>
>>>
>>> Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS wrote:
>>>> All,
>>>> Below are a few facts that might help as we all move forward with
>>>> the trawling proposal and answering questions regarding
>>>> justification for the proposal. Attached are also 2 documents that
>>>> provide supporting data.
>>>> Dena
>>>>
>>>> - Construction of the Louisiana coastal barrier berm project has
>>>> not been halted. The only change that has occurred is that the
>>>> hopper dredges working on the east side of the river delta have
>>>> been relocated to dredge material from the river instead of from
>>>> the Hewes Point borrow site. As a result this redirection of the
>>>> hopper dredges (possibly temporary), trawling operations associated
>>>> with the hopper dredging activities have been discontinued
>>>> (possibly temporary). If hopper dredging resumes in areas outside
>>>> the river such as Hewes Point or St Bernard's Shoal, then
>>>> associated trawling operations would also resume.
>>>>
>>>> - Historical trawling data for dredging projects since 1995 are
>>>> provided in the attached document which was presented to the 2007
>>>> World Dredging Congress. The trawling data documented during the
>>>> 9-23 Jul 2010 effort far exceeds trawling results for any other
>>>> dredging project since 1995. The only project of similar results
>>>> was seen in Cape Canaveral Florida in 1981 during an unusual cold
>>>> stunning event.
>>>>
>>>> - Between 1995-2006 (11 years): 70 trawling relocation projects (44
>>>> Gulf, 26 Atlantic); 1239 turtles relocated (844 turtles Gulf; 395
>>>> turtles Atlantic); CPUE ranged from 0.01 to 0.08 turtles per tow
>>>> throughout seven geographic subregions for the Gulf and Atlantic;
>>>> monthly CPUE ranged from 2.7 to 13.3 turtles relocated per trawling
>>>> project (Gulf projects) and 2.0 to 99.0 turtles relocated per
>>>> trawling project (Atlantic projects).
>>>>
>>>> - From 9-23 Jul 2010 (15 days) Louisiana barrier berm project only:
>>>> a total of 194 sea turtles (185 loggerheads, 8 Kemp's ridley, 1
>>>> green turtle) were captured using 2 trawlers over 584 tows
>>>> (30-minutes per tow) for a CPUE of 0.33 turtles per tow, 12.9
>>>> turtles per day, and 194 turtles per trawling project. These
>>>> trawling results far exceed any other relocation trawling project
>>>> conducted between 1995-2006 for any other dredging project

>>>> throughout the northern Gulf of Mexico or the US Atlantic coast.
>>>>
>>>> - State of Louisiana is preparing to open fishing/trawling
>>>> activities in areas east of the MS River Delta. The State of
>>>> Louisiana currently does not enforce the use of TEDs on trawl
>>>> vessels. If trawling is allowed without TEDs enforcement in or near
>>>> the area of Hewes Point, large numbers of sea turtles will be
>>>> killed by the trawl fishing.
>>>>
>>>> - The previous trawling operation at Hewes Point documented an
>>>> unusual occurrence of high numbers of large size-class sea turtles.
>>>> It has been speculated that this may have been as a result of the
>>>> turtles being pushed away from the oiled areas and in closer to
>>>> shore and into clearer waters. It would be critical to document the
>>>> long-term behavior of these animals related to various factors
>>>> associated with the overall oil spill (oil spill areas, berm
>>>> construction, dredging activities, action of being relocated,
>>>> recovered oil spill areas).
>>>>
>>>> - If the turtles have been concentrated into areas closer to shore
>>>> away from the oiled areas, then they will become extremely
>>>> vulnerable to fishing activities once these activities resume.
>>>> Efforts to protect these turtles are extremely important.
>>>> Additional assessments of these turtles are needed as well as
>>>> enforcement of TEDs regulations is critical to protect these
>>>> increased numbers of turtles in the fishing zones.
>>>>
>>>> - Whether the berm construction continues or not, assessments are
>>>> needed as to whether the turtles utilize the oil-impacted areas
>>>> similarly to previously tracked turtles from those areas.
>>>>
>>>> - Dive duration data from telemetry turtles are essential for
>>>> interpretation and modeling of aerial survey data collected
>>>> throughout the oil spill.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> ---
>>>>
>>>> *From:* Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS
>>>> *Sent:* Mon 8/2/2010 8:08 PM
>>>> *To:* eruder@indecon.com; simeon.hahn@noaa.gov;
>>>> sheila.o'brien@noaa.gov
>>>> *Cc:* Eric Hawk (eric.hawk@noaa.gov); David Bernhart
>>>> (david.bernhart@noaa.gov); Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS
>>>> *Subject:* Partnering with Lousiana Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries
>>>>
>>>> All,
>>>> I just talked with Mandy Tumlin with the Louisiana Dept Wildlife
>>>> and Fisheries. Re:
>>>> 1) her impression of the numbers and sizes of turtles we recently
>>>> captured at Hewes Point with respect to their historical data;
>>>> 2) is anyone from the state pursuing assessment of berm impacts on
>>>> ESA species or essential fish habitat as stated in the dredging
>>>> permit provision;
>>>> 3) does her department have any mechanism for capturing turtles for
>>>> tagging studies (e.g. trawling);
>>>> 4) what sizes/numbers of stranded turtles have they found;
>>>> 5) what is happening to the rehabbed turtles they have taken to

>>>> Audubon;
>>>> 6) are they going to be allowing fishing/trawling to resume in/near
>>>> the areas we were trawling at Hewes Point;
>>>> 7) is her department aware that trawling in/near the Hewes Point
>>>> area without enforcement of TEDs will result in large numbers of
>>>> turtle mortalities; and
>>>> 8) what are possible opportunities that we could partner interests
>>>> for more optimal assessments avenues.
>>>> 1) They seldom get turtles of the larger size classes reported in
>>>> the capture data they maintain or in their strandings data. They
>>>> usually get the smaller juveniles of loggerheads and Kemp's.
>>>> 2 & 3) She does not think they currently have authorization to do
>>>> any trawl capture of turtles for studies. Therefore, they would not
>>>> be able to adequately pursue evaluations of ESA species (e.g. sea
>>>> turtles) as specified by the provisions set in the emergency permit
>>>> for the berm construction. She was also unaware of any provisions
>>>> in the berm permit that addressed potential impacts to essential
>>>> fish habitat or ESA species. This was news to her.
>>>> 4) they typically get small juveniles of loggerheads and Kemp's
>>>> 5) Audubon has over 140 oil spill related turtles being held that
>>>> were recovered via the LA Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries rescue
>>>> operations. LA Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries is VERY INTERESTED in
>>>> putting telemetry packages on however many of those turtles that
>>>> would support tags when released. They would very much like to
>>>> partner with the NRDA efforts, if possible, to tag these turtles.
>>>> She is going to get me a breakdown of the sizes of turtles they are
>>>> holding. Many are going to be too small for the GPS tags but she
>>>> said that some would be able to take a GPS tag.
>>>> 6 &7) Mandy is checking to find out more of the details abotu when
>>>> and where the fishing is to resume. It is likely that areas near
>>>> Hewes Point will be included. Our trawling data will be used to
>>>> help guide their efforts. They would welcome any additional data we
>>>> may obtain.
>>>> 7) Currently, there is no enforcement of the TEDS regulation in
>>>> Louisiana waters. She would welcome any additional funding (maybe
>>>> through the restoration side) to help with this.
>>>> 8) Yes, her department would be willing to partner with efforts to
>>>> capture turtles, utilize already captured turtles, and assess the
>>>> overall impacts of the oil spill on sea turtles.
>>>> Her contact info is:
>>>> Mandy Tumlin (sea turtle person for LA Dept Wildlife & Fisheries)
>>>> mtumlin@wlf.la.gov <mailto:mtumlin@wlf.la.gov>
>>>> office: 985-787-2163
>>>> cell: 337-962-7092
>>>> Myron Fischer (Director for LA Dept Wildlife & Fisheries Research
>>>> Laboratory)
>>>> Grand Isle, LA
>>>> Office 985-787-2163
>>>> Cell 985-258-6006
>>>> mfischer@wlf.la.gov <mailto:mfischer@wlf.la.gov>
>>>> This is a potential source of oiled/rehabbed turtles for some
>>>> telemetry tags. Possibly for at least the 5 Kiwi and maybe the 4
>>>> SPOT tags.
>>>> Dena
>>
>

Michael Barnette

Fishery Biologist

National Marine Fisheries Service
Protected Resources Division

263 13th Avenue South
Southeast Regional Office
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

(727) 551-5794 (Work)
(727) 824-5309 (Fax)

michael.barnette@noaa.gov (Internet)

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Michael Barnette

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Suffix:	

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Telephone Number (Work)
(727) 551-5794

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(727) 824-5309

Version
2.1

Received(Date): Tue, 03 Aug 2010 13:56:49 -0400
From: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: Additional food for thought and facts for trawling proposal
To: Roy Crabtree <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>
Cc: Heather Blough <Heather.Blough@noaa.gov>,Buck Sutter <Buck.Sutter@noaa.gov>,Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>,Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>

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- Construction of the Louisiana coastal barrier berm project has not been halted. The only change that has occurred is that the hopper dredges working on the east side of the river delta have been relocated to dredge material from the river instead of from the Hewes Point borrow site. As a result this redirection of the hopper dredges (possibly temporary), trawling operations associated with the hopper dredging activities have been discontinued (possibly temporary). If hopper dredging resumes in areas outside the river such as Hewes Point or St Bernard's Shoal, then associated trawling operations would also resume.

- Historical trawling data for dredging projects since 1995 are provided in the attached document which was presented to the 2007 World Dredging Congress. The trawling data documented during the 9-23 Jul 2010 effort far exceeds trawling results for any other dredging project since 1995. The only project of similar results was seen in Cape Canaveral Florida in 1981 during an unusual cold stunning event.

- Between 1995-2006 (11 years): 70 trawling relocation projects (44 Gulf, 26 Atlantic); 1239 turtles relocated (844 turtles Gulf; 395 turtles Atlantic); CPUE ranged from 0.01 to 0.08 turtles per tow throughout seven geographic subregions for the Gulf and Atlantic; monthly CPUE ranged from 2.7 to 13.3 turtles relocated per trawling project (Gulf projects) and 2.0 to 99.0 turtles relocated per trawling project (Atlantic projects).

- From 9-23 Jul 2010 (15 days) Louisiana barrier berm project only: a total of 194 sea turtles (185 loggerheads, 8 Kemp's ridley, 1 green turtle) were captured using 2 trawlers over 584 tows (30-minutes per tow) for a CPUE of 0.33 turtles per tow, 12.9 turtles per day, and 194 turtles per trawling project. These trawling results far exceed any other relocation trawling project conducted between 1995-2006 for any other dredging project throughout the northern Gulf of Mexico or the US Atlantic coast.

- State of Louisiana is preparing to open fishing/trawling activities in areas east of the MS River Delta. The State of Louisiana currently does not enforce the use of TEDs on trawl vessels. If trawling is allowed without TEDs enforcement in or near the area of Hewes Point, large numbers of sea turtles will be killed by the trawl fishing.

- The previous trawling operation at Hewes Point documented an unusual occurrence of high numbers of large size-class sea turtles. It has been speculated that this may have been as a result of the turtles being pushed away from the oiled areas and in closer to shore and into clearer waters. It would be critical to document the long-term behavior of these animals related to various factors associated with the overall oil spill (oil spill areas, berm construction, dredging activities, action of being relocated, recovered oil spill areas).

- If the turtles have been concentrated into areas closer to shore away from the oiled areas, then they will become extremely vulnerable to fishing activities once these activities resume. Efforts to protect these turtles are extremely important. Additional assessments of these turtles are needed as well as enforcement of TEDs regulations is critical to protect these increased numbers of turtles in the fishing zones.

- Whether the berm construction continues or not, assessments are needed as to whether the turtles utilize the oil-impacted areas similarly to previously tracked turtles from those areas.

- Dive duration data from telemetry turtles are essential for interpretation and modeling of aerial survey data collected throughout the oil spill.

From: Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS
Sent: Mon 8/2/2010 8:08 PM
To: eruder@indecon.com; simeon.hahn@noaa.gov; sheila.o'brien@noaa.gov
Cc: Eric Hawk (eric.hawk@noaa.gov); David Bernhart (david.bernhart@noaa.gov); Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS
Subject: Partnering with Lousiana Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries

All,

I just talked with Mandy Tumlin with the Louisiana Dept Wildlife and Fisheries. Re:
1) her impression of the numbers and sizes of turtles we recently captured at Hewes Point with respect to their historical data;
2) is anyone from the state pursuing assessment of berm impacts on ESA species or essential fish habitat as stated in the dredging permit provision;
3) does her department have any mechanism for capturing turtles for tagging studies (e.g. trawling);
4) what sizes/numbers of stranded turtles have they found;

5) what is happening to the rehabbed turtles they have taken to Audubon;
6) are they going to be allowing fishing/trawling to resume in/near the areas we were trawling at Hewes Point;
7) is her department aware that trawling in/near the Hewes Point area without enforcement of TEDs will result in large numbers of turtle mortalities; and
8) what are possible opportunities that we could partner interests for more optimal assessments avenues.

1) They seldom get turtles of the larger size classes reported in the capture data they maintain or in their strandings data. They usually get the smaller juveniles of loggerheads and Kemp's.
2 & 3) She does not think they currently have authorization to do any trawl capture of turtles for studies. Therefore, they would not be able to adequately pursue evaluations of ESA species (e.g. sea turtles) as specified by the provisions set in the emergency permit for the berm construction. She was also unaware of any provisions in the berm permit that addressed potential impacts to essential fish habitat or ESA species. This was news to her.
4) they typically get small juveniles of loggerheads and Kemp's
5) Audubon has over 140 oil spill related turtles being held that were recovered via the LA Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries rescue operations. LA Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries is VERY INTERESTED in putting telemetry packages on however many of those turtles that would support tags when released. They would very much like to partner with the NRDA efforts, if possible, to tag these turtles. She is going to get me a breakdown of the sizes of turtles they are holding. Many are going to be too small for the GPS tags but she said that some would be able to take a GPS tag.
6 &7) Mandy is checking to find out more of the details abotu when and where the fishing is to resume. It is likely that areas near Hewes Point will be included. Our trawling data will be used to help guide their efforts. They would welcome any additional data we may obtain.
7) Currently, there is no enforcement of the TEDS regulation in Louisiana waters. She would welcome any additional funding (maybe through the restoration side) to help with this.
8) Yes, her department would be willing to partner with efforts to capture turtles, utilize already captured turtles, and assess the overall impacts of the oil spill on sea turtles.

Her contact info is:
Mandy Tumlin (sea turtle person for LA Dept Wildlife & Fisheries)
mtumlin@wlf.la.gov
office: 985-787-2163
cell: 337-962-7092

Myron Fischer (Director for LA Dept Wildlife & Fisheries Research Laboratory)
Grand Isle, LA
Office 985-787-2163
Cell 985-258-6006
mfischer@wlf.la.gov

This is a potential source of oiled/rehabbed turtles for some telemetry tags. Possibly for at least the 5 Kiwi and maybe the 4 SPOT tags.

Dena

Received(Date): Tue, 19 Oct 2010 07:57:29 -0400
From: Jerry Slaff <Jerry.Slaff@noaa.gov>
Subject: NOAA DAILY CLIPS: Tuesday, October 19, 2010
To: NOAA.Dailyclips@noaa.gov
daily clips_19-oct-2010.docx

NOAA DAILY CLIPS: Tuesday, October 19, 2010

ASSOCIATED PRESS: AP Enterprise: Scientists lower Gulf health grade

NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE: Federal leaders of Gulf of Mexico oil spill response report only a few lingering trouble spots

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EXTREME TECH: Climate Change Confuses Most Americans, Study Says

MAINE PUBLIC BROADCASTING: NOAA Takes Steps to Reform Fishing Enforcement

ASBURY PARK (N.J.) PRESS: U.S. looking for new fisheries law enforcement chief

GLOUCESTER DAILY TIMES: Ousted top cop lands new $155k NOAA job

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WORLD FISHING & AQUACULTURE: NOAA seeks comments on proposed reduced harvest of gag

VENTURA COUNTY (Calif.) STAR: Ventura students chat with distant scientists

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NOAA Communications & External Affairs
Washington DC
phone 202.482.6098

NOAA DAILY CLIPS

Produced by NOAA Office of Communications, Washington

Thursday, June 16, 2011

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VENTURA COUNTY (Calif.) STAR: Ventura students chat with distant scientists

ASSOCIATED PRESS
October 18, 2010, 1:47PM ET

AP Enterprise: Scientists lower Gulf health grade

By SETH BORENSTEIN and CAIN BURDEAU

ST. PETE BEACH, FLA.

Six months after the rig explosion that led to the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history, damage to the Gulf of Mexico can be measured more in increments than extinctions, say scientists polled by The Associated Press.

In an informal survey, 35 researchers who study the Gulf lowered their rating of its ecological health by several points, compared to their assessment before the BP well gushed millions of gallons of oil. But the drop in grade wasn't dramatic. On a scale of 0 to 100, the overall average grade for the oiled Gulf was 65 -- down from 71 before the spill.

This reflects scientists' views that the spilled 172 million gallons of oil further eroded what was already a beleaguered body of water -- tainted for years by farm runoff from the Mississippi River, overfishing, and oil from smaller spills and natural seepage.

EDITOR'S NOTE -- It will take time to see the full effects of the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history. In the second of an Associated Press occasional series, scientists grade the ecological health of the Gulf of Mexico.

The spill wasn't the near-death blow initially feared. Nor is it the glancing strike that some relieved experts and officials said it was in midsummer.

"It is like a concussion," said Larry McKinney, who heads the Gulf of Mexico research center at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. "We got hit hard and we certainly are seeing some symptoms of it."

Will the symptoms stick around or just become yesterday's headaches? That's the question that couldn't be answered at a conference earlier this month of 150 scientists at a hotel on a Florida beach untainted by the spill. The St. Pete Beach gathering was organized by the White House science office to coordinate future research.

"There's the sense that it's not as bad as we had originally feared; it's not that worst case scenario," said Steve Lohrenz, a biological oceanographer at the University of Southern Mississippi. "There's still a lot of wariness of what that long-term impact is going to be."

Steve Murawski, the chief fisheries scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, compared scientists research to a TV crime drama: "It's the end of the story that counts, not all the steps along the way."

We're only at the 30-minute break in an hour-long drama, Murawski said.

And there's a plot twist. Research findings already released have led scientists and the government to shift their focus from the sea's surface to deeper waters and the ocean bottom.

A month-long cruise by Georgia researchers on the ship Oceanus reported oil on the sea floor that they suspect is BP's but haven't proven yet. Government officials still question whether there is oil on the sea floor, but the Georgia scientists say the samples smelled like an auto repair shop. They took 78 cores of sediment and only five had live worms in them. Usually they would all have life, said University of Georgia scientist Samantha Joye. She called it a "graveyard for the macrofauna."

"The fact that there isn't living fauna is a signal that something happened to these sites and these sediments," Joye said in a phone interview Friday. "The horrible thing is they've been inundated with this oily material... There's dead animals on the bottom and it stinks to high heaven of oil."

University of South Florida's Ernst Peebles said the oil on the floor "is undermining the ecosystem from the bottom up."

David Hollander, also at South Florida, found some of the first plumes of the oil beneath the surface, something that government officials first disputed but now concede is real. Keeping the oil off the surface minimized damage to wetlands, beaches and some wildlife, so in some ways, "we dodged the bullet," he said.

There are several reasons a sizable amount of oil didn't make it to the surface where it could do more visual harm. For one thing, BP used 1.8 million gallons of chemical dispersants to break up the oil. But scientists give more credit to the high pressure and high temperature of the gusher that spewed the oil in droplets so tiny, they didn't float to the surface.

"We still don't know the long-term effect," Hollander said.

Scientists worry the oil deep below will get into plankton and the food web, maybe not killing species directly but causing genetic mutations, stress or weakening some species, with effects that will only be seen years later.

"I think populations are going to be affected for years to come," said Diane Blake, a Tulane University biochemist. "This is going to cause selective (evolutionary) pressure that's going to change the Gulf in ways we don't even know yet."

It was a long-term assault from the well. From April 20, when the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded, killing 11 people, to July 15 when the well was initially plugged, oil bled at a prodigious rate that BP and government officials had a hard time understanding. Initially, officials said only 42,000 gallons a day was flowing, but government scientists eventually said it was as much as 2.6 million gallons a day.

One of the species mentioned most often during two days of scientific sessions in Florida doesn't even live in the Gulf. It's herring. After 1989's much smaller Exxon Valdez spill, it took

awhile for the effects on Alaska's herring to be noticed, but the once prolific species crashed to extremely low levels. While other species in Prince William Sound recovered, the herring population has yet to bounce back. And Gulf researchers are wondering if that sort of thing will happen again.

If one species in the Gulf is likely to wind up like the herring, it's probably the bluefin tuna. And answers about its fate may be sitting in a lab in Poland.

Thanks to a 30-year agreement that dates to Cold War politics, that distant lab is analyzing samples of Gulf water collected in the spill area for the U.S. government. The tests are to find out what the oil did to the larvae. The bluefin was already in trouble before the spill, its spawning stock down 90 percent in the last 30 years.

The spill, 50 miles off the Louisiana coast, happened in the precise place at just the right time to threaten the bluefin larvae bobbing on the surface. The Gulf of Mexico is the only known spawning area for western Atlantic bluefin.

"Was it catastrophic for the bluefin? Probably not," said NOAA's John Lamkin, who expects data back from Poland near the end of the year. But he added: "Any larvae that came into contact with the oil doesn't have a chance."

Scientists participating in the AP survey were not optimistic about the bluefin. They ranked the health of the tuna before the spill at a fragile 55. That's now down to about 45.

The Associated Press initial survey in July asked Gulf scientists to give the region and several categories baseline grades for ecosystem health before the spill. The scale was 0 to 100, with 0 being dead and 100 being pristine. Seventy-five responded and the overall grade averaged 71, a respectable C.

This month, the AP asked scientists to grade the Gulf's health now; 35 scientists responded. The overall average dropped less than 10 percent, to 65, a struggling D. Scientists were asked about detailed categories and calculated the most noticeable harm to bluefin tuna, oysters, sea turtles, crabs, the sea floor and marshes.

The region's wetlands, an already weakened massive natural incubator for shrimp, crabs, oysters and fish, slipped from 65 pre-spill to 60 now.

But the oil has not pushed Louisiana's fragile marshlands to the edge of collapse.

Robert Moreau, the director of Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station at Southeastern Louisiana University, said, "Obviously, the news so far has been pretty good.

"At first, you look at the TV, you see all this oil pouring out, you think the worst," he said.

There is no comprehensive calculation for how much marshland was oiled, but estimates range from less than a square mile to just a handful of square miles. Regardless, in the big picture that's hardly alarming: Louisiana loses roughly 25 square miles of marsh each year due to a host of environmental and manmade causes. The state is the site of one of the most ferocious rates of land loss in the world.

About 390 miles of Louisiana shoreline was oiled, according to federal surveys and BP.

About 167 miles around Lake Pontchartrain basin was oiled, an important area because it buffers New Orleans. But John Lopez, the science director for the Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, said most of the affected shore saw "light or moderate oiling."

"The marshland folks I work with don't see it as something that is a major catastrophe," said Loyola University marsh biologist David White, who has studied the quiet stands of marsh for 30 years.

The oiling was minimal, but "the jury is still out," White said, on the long-term ecological effects because the massive oil spill may be rewiring the invisible and hard-to-detect inner workings of nature.

"The longer-term unknown is the impact on the food chain," he said.

Surprisingly, there are some wildlife winners from the oil spill. That's because there was a commercial fishing ban for months in parts of the northern Gulf, offering respite to some overfished species. More than 90 percent of the Gulf's federal waters are now open to fishing.

"Red snapper are unbelievable right now," said Mike Carron, head of the Northern Gulf Institute in Mississippi. "Now you could put a rock on the end of string and they'll bite it."

That's the good news for one fish. As for the future? USF's Hollander shook his head as he left the science conference: "We'll never have a full accounting of the biological impacts."

Burdeau reported from New Orleans.

Online:

U.S. government's oil spill page: http://www.restorethegulf.gov/

BP's Gulf of Mexico response page: http://tinyurl.com/2cpfazu

NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE

Federal leaders of Gulf of Mexico oil spill response report only a few lingering trouble spots
Published: Monday, October 18, 2010, 10:45 PM
Chris Kirkham

Nearing the six-month mark after the Deepwater Horizon explosion, the federal government's top responders to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill are reporting on-the-water findings that couldn't have been imagined at the height of the crisis four months ago: very little recoverable oil still in the water or on the bottom, barely even trace amounts of dispersant chemicals and no samples of contaminated seafood in open water or in the marshes.
View full sizeMichael DeMocker, The Times-Picayune archive
These oil-stained wetlands in Bay Jimmy were photographed Oct. 4.
The assessment from the federal on-scene coordinator, Coast Guard Rear Adm. Paul Zukunft, and science adviser Steve Lehmann comes as the number of responders to the oil spill in the Gulf still remains at nearly 13,500 -- a sharp decrease from the maximum of 48,000 this summer, but a number that still outpaces the 11,000 peak responders for the Exxon Valdez spill in 1989.
In an interview with The Times-Picayune Monday, Zukunft and Lehmann did not downplay areas along the Louisiana coast that are still major hotspots for cleanup operations. Bay Jimmy in Barataria Bay, west of Port Sulphur, still has crew of more than 600 responders cleaning up areas of marsh that were heavily impacted over the past few months, as tidal movements continue to bring residual oil in contact with the marsh.
Areas near the mouth of the river such as Pass a Loutre and South Pass are also seeing continual impacts.
But the federal response officials pointed out that aside from a few areas of lingering oil, responders are not finding significant or even measurable amounts of oil or dispersants in the water column or in sediments on the water bottom.

At the opening of white shrimp season in mid-August, Zukunft said he sent a fleet of eight shrimp trawlers outfitted with absorbent boom dragging the water bottom to collect oil and tar balls.
"We trawled for over 10 days trying to catch tar balls, and in all those trawls that we made we caught one tar ball," Zukunft said. Responders have also placed nearly 500 "sentinel snares" -- essentially crab traps loaded with boom suspended from the surface to the bottom.
"We've got literally tens of thousands of data points in that nearshore environment, and in that one area where did find oil it was in close proximity to where we had oiled marsh," Zukunft said.
The findings tend to defy popular assumptions that the oil may have sunk to the bottom, and also run counter to anecdotal reports from fishers who say they have seen oil in nets or on the bottom of bays and marshes.
Samantha Joye, a professor of marine sciences at the University of Georgia, also reported findings last month from her research vessel in the Gulf that indicated a layer of oil at the bottom of the sea near the Deepwater Horizon wellhead.
Lehmann, who is a scientific support coordinator with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said that Joye's findings were preliminary and that the government and other researchers are testing in similar areas.

"We have, to date, not found anything that is: one, unexpected; two, particularly alarming; and three, that is recoverable," Lehmann said.

As for the idea that vast quantities of the oil are sinking instead of evaporating or being consumed by microorganisms, Lehmann said Monday that the characteristics of the light crude oil from the Macondo well would not allow it to sink in large quantities in salt water.

"Even when it gets very old, even when a lot of it evaporates, it doesn't get to a point where it wants to sink," Lehmann said. "It's very light, in fact I don't know that we know of a crude oil that sinks in salt water. There are refined oils that do that, but with crude oils I can't think of one.

"So the concept of a big slick of oil sinking to the bottom is kind of an anathema. We have not found anything that we would consider actionable at 5,000 feet or five feet."

Aside from heavily impacted areas such as Bay Jimmy, Zukunft said most of the concentrations of oil and dispersants found in the water are incredibly low, on the level of half a part per billion.

"Keep in mind that if we're finding a half a part per billion at the highest, we wouldn't be able to recover in the water column itself at parts per 10," Lehmann said. "It's like trying to get cream out of your coffee, we just don't do it. There's a limitation to what we can do in terms of mitigating the oil in the environment."

For dispersant chemicals, which are water soluble and tend to break down quickly, Lehmann also said the findings have been encouraging. "We're not seeing anything that's alarming, that's going over any of the benchmark standards that we've got."

Along beaches in Alabama, Mississippi and Florida, machines known as "sand sharks" are combing through miles of sand beaches where layers of oiled sand may be deposited below the surface, separating the clean sand from tar-like layers.

Both officials differentiated, however, between what can be done with the immediate clean-up response and what will eventually be done for the long-term natural resource damage assessment process. That interagency process literally assigns damage costs to various habitats and plant and animal life impacted by the spill, tallying up the costs that will be paid by BP to state and federal resource agencies.

It's in that process where officials will attempt to address the biggest unknowns: the extent of damage to bluefin tuna, which has spawning grounds offshore in the area of the wellhead, and other species whose spawn may have been impacted by oil or dispersants.

"What this doesn't address is at the very lowest end of the food chain, what long-term effect might it have as it works its way through the food chain over a period of several years," Zukunft said. "Right now we're not seeing any indications of any of the commonly known species at risk because of this spill, but that will have to continue under the (NRDA) process."

DISCOVERY NEWS

Ocean Researchers Left on the Docks
By Tim Wall | Mon Oct 18, 2010 10:25 AM ET

Ocean scientists need one important piece of equipment most of all: a boat.

But a shortage of vessels is leaving many researchers high and dry. During the Deepwater Horizon spill, for example, there weren't enough properly equipped boats to allow scientists to monitor and learn from the disaster.

Last week the Ronald H. Brown, the flagship vessel of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, left port to study the effects of gulf oil spill for the first time.

That's about six months after oil first seeped into the Gulf of Mexico.

"When something like the spill happens and you have to wait for a ship to become available, it's a real shame," Tracy Villareal, a marine scientist at the University of Texas at Austin, explained.

"It would have been fascinating to document the spill as it happened, but almost no one could get out there," Villareal said in the journal Nature.

The U.S. research fleet has dropped from about 5,000 days at sea to 4,000 in the past decade.

The University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System, a group of 61 research institutes, oversees the fleet but depends on the federal government for most of its funding. Years of budget cuts have left them struggling to get by.

Adding to the problem, the aging vessels in the fleet are becoming more expensive to operate. Using them for less time is also less cost-effective.

Marine research has been sucked into a financial whirlpool. Scientists feel that they can no longer do the research that needs to be done. Instead they can only do the research they can afford.

NRDC SWITCHBOARD (blog)

Gina Solomon's Blog

Six Months, Five Shrimp, and One Nasty Mess: Health & Seafood Safety Concerns from BP Spill Still Linger in Gulf Today

Posted October 17, 2010 in Health and the Environment

This weekend NRDC was privileged to speak on a panel for the Gulf Coast Fund with four Gulf Coast leaders who are looking forward after the BP oil disaster. Their main message to the audience was: it may not be in the news anymore, but it's not over.

Tracy Kuhns, a shrimper from Barataria Bay, Louisiana talked about the thick layer of oil on the bottom of the bay – a layer that keeps getting churned up by waves and tides and recontaminating the shrimping grounds.

Byron Encalade of the Louisiana Oysterman's Association talked about the economic and psychological impacts of the spill on his family and other oystermen, and forecast that it would be years before the oyster fisheries recover.

Derrick Evans of Turkey Creek, Mississippi gave clear examples of the long history of economic and environmental disparities in the Gulf Coast, and how these disparities made this region more vulnerable to serious health, economic, and psychological damage from the oil disaster. He argued persuasively that these underlying problems need to be acknowledged and addressed if the recovery effort is to succeed.

All of the speakers told of ongoing respiratory problems, worker health concerns, and serious reservations about the safety of the seafood.

We're six months out from the well blowout. But the communities are just starting to recover, and the need for resources continues to grow.

It's ironic. The Alabama Chamber of Commerce just celebrated their "Annual National Shrimp Festival", so the uninformed observer might think everything's back to normal. Just last week, the Federal government reopened 2,927 square miles of the Gulf to fishing and shrimping, just South of the Mississippi Delta. The Feds confirmed that the area was safe for shrimping by performing a "sniff test" for oil odors on five shrimp samples. They confirmed the sniff test with three composite samples of shrimp sent for chemical testing from an approximately 1,000 square mile area. No information was provided to the public on the size or location of the shrimping grounds or why so few chemical analyses were performed. This does not seem sufficient to assess the safety of the seafood coming out of the Gulf right now.

NRDC and dozens of Gulf Coast groups continue to raise concerns, request documents, and ask for explanations from the Federal government, but most of the information is still not available, and the reopenings continue. It's worrisome, especially since we keep hearing from local fishermen that areas that were reopened are sometimes showing signs of visible oil. Once the areas are reopened, there doesn't seem to be a protocol for returning to re-sample those areas to make sure they haven't been recontaminated.

It's frustrating that there's still such a mess out there. But at this point, there are three main things that need to happen:

1) Adequately assure seafood safety. This means making FDA fix their flawed assessment of the risks of Gulf seafood (see my previous post for more details on this). And it means forcing NOAA and the states to release their sampling plans, sample for the full range of contaminants, take an adequate number of samples, and do follow-up sampling in reopened areas to make sure they stay safe.

2) Check health of cleanup workers & Gulf residents. Move more quickly to launch the necessary research studies of both workers and community residents to check for ongoing health effects from the oil spill, including both physical and psychological effects, and provide healthcare where needed.

3) Release sufficient recovery funds to the Gulf coast communities, and ensure community representation in recovery efforts, so they are whole again and can move forward to rebuild their lives.

The Gulf is deeply wounded, as are the coastal residents. The media frenzy is over, but the problem lingers on. The government must live up to its responsibility to protect the health of all of us who love Gulf seafood, the workers who are cleaning up this mess, and the residents of the coast.

NRDC SWITCHBOARD (blog)
David Pettit's Blog

Unhappy Anniversary
Posted October 18, 2010

The well is dead but its damage lives on in the Gulf of Mexico. Are we at risk for another catastrophic blowout?

There is still oil on the beaches, in the wetlands and on the ocean floor. No one knows how much. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has formally announced the beginning of the natural resource damages assessment, the formal process in which the federal and state natural resources trustees decide what damage the oil spill caused to the environment, and what projects should be funded (by BP) to restore the damage. This is likely to be a multi-billion dollar effort that will take years to complete.

The Department of the Interior recently issued powerful new rules to govern new offshore oil and gas drilling in the Gulf. This was a very positive step, but two important questions remain unanswered. First, what will the criteria be for the new spill and containment plans required by the new rules? Second, how will the safety and environmental review functions within the Bureau of Ocean Energy, Management and Regulation (BOEMRE) be insulated from the leasing function so as to eliminate the inherent conflict of interest that affected decisionmaking at BOEMRE's predecessor agency, the Minerals Management Service.

Stepping up a level, Congress has failed to enact any new legislation to address either the BP oil spill or the nation's need to move away from fossil fuels, towards a clean energy future.

Six months have passed – and years of effort remain.

SUITE 101.COM (blog)

U.S. Certifies Mexico's Use of TEDs, Ending Shrimp Import Ban

Oct 18, 2010 Bob Bowers

On Friday, October 15, The U.S. Department of State certified Mexico's turtle excluder device (TED) program, permitting the importation of wild shrimp.
Wild-harvested shrimp and shrimp products from Mexico had been prohibited since April 20, 2010, under Section 609 of United States Public Law 101-162, legislation designed to protect certain species of sea turtles. Friday's certification is based on findings that Mexico's use of turtle excluder devices is now comparable in effectiveness to the U.S. program, and coincides with the reopening of Mexico's six-month commercial shrimp harvesting season.

The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

Fourteen countries in the Americas and the Caribbean belong to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), which promotes the protection and conservation of six species of sea turtles:

The Green turtle
Hawksbill turtle
Kemp's ridley turtle
Leatherback turtle
Loggerhead turtle
Olive ridley turtle
All six of these species are listed as endangered or threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, though protection of sea turtles requires the cooperative effort of all countries where the turtles are found. The 14 countries bound to the IAC have agreed to strict measures to protect sea turtles, including the use of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) on all shrimp trawl vessels.

Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs)

Turtle excluder devices, first developed in the 1970s, have been required for all U.S. shrimp trawlers since 1987, and, since 1989, for trawlers in countries that export wild-caught shrimp to the United States. Shrimp trawlers use fine-mesh nets that, without TEDs, can trap larger marine life, as well as the targeted shrimp. Sea turtles are air-breathing animals, and once they are trapped underwater they drown.

A TED consists of a grid of bars that is incorporated into the net structure, together with a small opening above or below the grid. This combination prevents any bycatch sized 10 centimeters or more from being swept back into the net, and also allows them to escape through the net opening. TEDs are not foolproof, however, since the escape openings can be closed off to prevent the loss of shrimp that can occur through those openings. Concerns about the use of TEDs in Mexico prompted the U.S. action last spring.

The U.S. Prohibition on Importation of Wild-Harvested Shrimp

In March, 2010, the U.S. government announced a prohibition on the importation of wild-caught shrimp from Mexico, although, fortunately for the Mexican fishing industry, implementation of the restriction was delayed until April 20, after the close of the commercial season. The de-certification was based on reports from U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) inspectors that shrimp vessels had been observed fishing with closed TEDs.

The prohibition affected wild-harvested shrimp only. Farmed shrimp were excluded from the import ban, although shrimp trawlers account for most of the exports to the U.S., estimated at more than 250 million dollars in 2009. Fortunately for Mexico, the ban was imposed just after the six-month commercial season ended, and has now been lifted as the season resumes.

The U.S. Government's Re-certification of Mexico's Shrimp Fishing Practices

On Friday, October 15, 2010, the U.S. Department of State released a notification that Mexico was again certified under Public Law 101-162, based on a determination that the use of TEDs was now comparable to practices in the U.S. Since last April's ban, Mexico has implemented an action plan to improve the shrimp trawl fisheries' protection of sea turtles through improved TED use.

This action lifts the prior ban, and once again permits the importation of Mexican wild-harvested shrimp into the United States. In addition to the commercial fisheries exports, tourists also are permitted to bring wild-caught shrimp back into the U.S.

DEEP SEA NEWS

So much monitoring in the Gulf, but no samples in sight
BY DR BIK, ON OCTOBER 18TH, 2010
Ironically, I keep getting this "Subsurface Montior" e-newsletter from NOAA that gives me updates about the progress of the sampling plan in the Gulf. This week's newsletter is telling me all about the 83488402 samples that are being collected every week….

The subsurface monitoring program has collected hundreds of sediment cores.Each core provides a continuous, undisturbed sample of the seafloor (sediment) and the water immediately above it. This allows scientists to study not only the sediment and water, but the interface where they meet.

Well yes, we could study it if you gave us some samples.

Academic scientists, both onshore and at sea, are vital to the success of subsurface monitoring activities. The subsurface monitoring program is archiving and preserving cores for the independent use of academic scientists, in addition to sending cores to laboratories for analysis.

Thanks for the plug. But seriously, we need to actually receive those samples if you really want us to be successful.

Core sampling is labor- and time-intensive, making sample collection and processing a major undertaking. By sharing cores with the broader scientific community, the subsurface monitoring program is maximizing the use of these scientifically important samples.

Duh! That's why I'm not just renting my own boat and going out there myself! And about that sample 'sharing' you mention…

So dear NOAA (and BP), if you are collecting all these samples for us scientists who have funding to work in the Gulf, then why are you not responding to any of the 1,000 e-mails we've sent you asking for samples? Clearly they are in your freezers and you keep collecting more! We have been pestering you for about a month and have only gotten silence. We see you in person at meetings and you wholeheartedly promise to help us—I'm begging, pleading for some mud. These post-spill cores are crucial if we want to truly understand the impacts of this horrendous spill.

THE ENERGY COLLECTIVE

Americans Trust Scientists Over Climate Deniers

October 18, 2010 by A Siegel
This guest post from Patriot Daily News Clearinghouse examines the disconnect between the Republican Party leadership and how Americans have confidence in scientists. This highlights the importance of educating the public about climate science — and how the Obama Administration has failed in this educational responsibility.

For years, climate deniers have lied and misinformed to confuse the public on climate change and denigrate scientists. Last year, it was no surprise when climate denier was picked as the GOP candidate litmus test for 2010. The GOP were filled with cocky confidence that their disinformation campaigns and lies convinced enough people that scientists were involved in a global climate change conspiracy, something that GOP teabaggers want to flip into Congressional investigations should they prevail in the midterms. However, findings from a study can assist achieving comprehensive climate change legislation as well as debunking intended probes: Generally, Americans do not buy climate denier arguments, scientists are trusted more than any other source for information about global warming, and the public wants to be educated about climate change.

Americans lack climate change knowledge.

For awhile I have advocated that President Obama address the public to explain climate change, how impacts are happening now and what is projected for our future because polling over the years indicated that deniers were succeeding in confusing the public. Foreign leaders even called us climate change illiterate.

A study (pdf file) released this past week finds that Most Americans Lack Basic Knowledge of Climate Issues: 63% of Americans "believe that global warming is happening," and 50% understand it is caused by human activities, but many do not understand why:

According to the survey, 57 percent of respondents know that the greenhouse effect refers to heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere; 45 percent understand that carbon dioxide traps heat from the planet's surface; and only 25 percent are aware of coral bleaching or ocean acidification. And the majority of respondents had significant misconceptions about climate science, including the incorrect belief that the hole in the ozone layer, toxic waste, aerosol spray, and acid rain cause global warming.

Such false beliefs can leave some wondering why, for example, cap and trade is necessary to address global warming when we can just ban aerosol spray cans. The upshot is that "many Americans lack some of the knowledge needed for informed decision-making in a democratic society."

The study graded our knowledge of climate change, causes, impacts, and potential solutions:

In this assessment, only 8 percent of Americans have knowledge equivalent to an A or B, 40 percent would receive a C or D, and 52 percent would get an F.

However, some questions were difficult, and involved issues that Americans really don't need to understand or know in order to assess whether climate change is happening and what might be good solutions. So, the study also did a grading curve:

Americans don't buy climate denier BS.

The good news is that despite years of well-publicized lies and disinformation by the climate deniers, most Americans do not buy their BS:

A third of Americans (33%) also incorrectly believe that since the Earth's climate has changed naturally in the past, humans are not the cause of global warming today.

Relatively few (19%) incorrectly believe that any recent global warming is caused by the sun, that the record snowstorms last winter in the eastern U.S. prove that global warming is not happening (18%), or that the Earth is actually cooling, not warming (15%).

Only 12 percent of Americans say that global warming is happening, but will be more beneficial than harmful.

Americans trust scientists for information about climate change.

Some really excellent news is that Americans know whom to trust to obtain information about climate change. Despite the climate denier conspiracy claims and lies about "climategate" and the 2007 IPCC report, "Americans trust scientists and scientific organizations far more than any other source of information about global warming." An overwhelming majority of Americans (72-78%) stated that their "most trusted sources of information about global warming" are science agencies (like NOAA), scientists (72%), science programs on TV (72%) and science museums (72%). Unfortunately, most Americans have learned about global warming from biased or uninformed sources, such as television (88%) and newspapers (71%). But, 65% rely upon the internet, which is another reason why our eco community is so vital and beneficial.

Americans want to be educated about climate change.

Another key finding is that 75% of Americans want to learn more about climate change. Moreover, 75% want schools to teach climate change to children and 68% "welcome" the idea of a national educational program.

We can educate people based on science and in clear, simple terms, like the 2% solution (or, better yet, the 5 percent solution) that are not scary at all. If the public knew what we know, would they support or oppose real reform to save lives, natural resources, and improve quality of life while reducing sickness and disease?

EXTREME TECH

Climate Change Confuses Most Americans, Study Says
October 17, 2010
By Leslie Horn, PC Magazine

Most Americans don't understand climate change, a Yale study has shown. Of the 63 percent of U.S. adults that believe that global warming is happening, only one in 10 say they are "very well informed" on the issue.

Yale's Americans' Knowledge of Climate Change report takes a look at what people know about global warming and climate change, including its impacts, causes, and possible solutions. Funded by the National Science Foundation, it surveyed a demographic mix of 2,030 American adults.

It "found important gaps in knowledge and common misconceptions about climate change and the earth system. These misconceptions lead some people to doubt that global warming is happening or that human activities are a major contributor, to misunderstand the causes and therefore the solutions, and to be unaware of risks," the report said.

Half of Americans recognize that global warming is a result of human actions. Fifty-seven percent understand that the greenhouse effect describes gasses that trap heat in the atmosphere, and 45 percent know that carbon dioxide traps heat from the surface of the Earth. Just a quarter know about coral bleaching and ocean acidification, the study revealed.

Not many Americans would make the grade if tested on climate change. Just 8 percent know enough to score an A or a B, 40 percent would make a C or D, and 52 percent would fail.

That said, most Americans see that car emissions and the burning of fossil fuels are part of the issue. Seventy-five percent of people surveyed said they would like to know more about it, and 68 percent would like to see climate change education in schools.

MAINE PUBLIC BROADCASTING

NOAA Takes Steps to Reform Fishing Enforcement
10/18/2010 03:05 PM ET
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says it's searching for a new director for the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement, after the former director was reassigned in the wake of heavy criticism from New England fishermen.

The federal agency in charge of policing the oceans is making some changes in the wake of a sharply critical Inspector General's report. The report was applauded by fishermen in the Northeast, who have long complained about heavy-handed and arbitrary enforcement policies by the National Marine Fisheries Services' Office of Law Enforcement.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which oversees NMFS, announced today that it's launched a nationwide search for a new director for the service's law enforcement agency.

Embattled former Director Dale Jones remains with the agency as a fisheries program specialist, according to the announcement by NOAA administrator Jane Lubchenco. Jones was removed as director of the Office of Law Enforcement in April and replaced on an interim basis by career NOAA official Alan Risenhoover.

NOAA has also reassigned NOAA prosecutor Charles Juliand to work on matters related to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Juliand was criticized for recommending what fishermen said were excessive fines for minor infractions. Juliand has denied that, saying any fines he recommended were based on the evidence.

Lubchenco says other reforms are in the works at the law enforcement office, including changes in the way assets from the so-called Asset Forfeiture Fund are spent. The agency says it's also setting up a liaison to work with New England fishermen on compliance issues.

ASBURY PARK (N.J.) PRESS

U.S. looking for new fisheries law enforcement chief

BY KIRK MOORE • STAFF WRITER • OCTOBER 18, 2010

The federal government is looking to hire a new chief for its fisheries law enforcement arm, after NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco revealed that the former head of enforcement, Dale Jones, has been reassigned to monitoring international seafood trade.

The shake-up in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's enforcement program has also reassigned Charles "Chuck" Juliand, a lawyer for the agency's Northeast regional office who pursued its complaints against fishermen accused of violations.

Juliand has been reassigned to NOAA's legal team for natural resource issues, where he will work on matters related to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, Lubchenco said in a statement Monday.

A report by NOAA Inspector General Todd J. Zinser cited complaints from fishermen and their lawyers who say they were treated unfairly when trying to negotiate settlements for civil violation cases. Juliand and union officials who represent NOAA workers dispute those findings, calling them fallout from a political vendetta against the agency.

Zinser's report found loose financial controls and conflicts of interest in how NOAA enforcement handled the money it took in through its asset forfeiture fund, from fines and penalties including the sale of confiscated seafood and fishing vessels.

Lubchenco and her boss, Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, have promised to provide more accountability in the enforcement program.

Last week, Locke also agreed that Northeast fishing catch limits need more flexibility — a major breakthrough for New England fishermen and their allies in Congress, who have hammered NOAA with complaints that fishery recovery plans are putting them out of business.

GLOUCESTER DAILY TIMES

October 18, 2010

Ousted top cop lands new $155k NOAA job

By Richard Gaines
Staff Writer

—

Dale J. Jones Jr., deposed as director of federal fisheries law enforcement in the wake of an inspector general's report alleging high-level misuse of funds and document shredding while agents excessively targeted New England fishermen, has been reassigned as a fisheries program specialist.

Jones' salary will drop from $158,500 to $155,000, according to Scott Smullen, a spokesman at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The announcement Monday by NOAA administrator Jane Lubencho of Jones' demotion also described the reassignment of Charles Juliand, the senior attorney for enforcement and litigation in the Northeast Division, based in Gloucester.

Juliand was identified by Commerce Department Inspector General Todd Zinser as the epicenter of excessive law enforcement prosecution activities undertaken against the fishing industry.

Juliand was reassigned "away from enforcement duties to the Office of General Counsel for Natural Resources, where he will work on matters related to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico," the NOAA announcement indicated.

The removal of Juliand and Jones comes weeks after Andrew Cohen, who was Jones' senior agent in charge of law enforcement in the Northeast, announced his resignation from the agency.

The three made up a trio that has come to symbolize government abuse of private citizens, the fishermen and fishing businesses of the nation — especially those along the East Coast, where the fisheries from Maine to the Carolinas are governed and policed from Gloucester.

Cohen was chastised by a federal judge for launching a public relations campaign against the Gloucester Seafood Display Auction in the summer of 2009 aimed at scaring off fishing boats. NOAA was lectured by U.S. District Judge Douglas Woodlock for attempting to close the business while a case was on appeal in his courtroom.

The IG's multiple reports made Juliand, Cohen's counterpart in the law office for enforcement and litigation, a featured figure representing an ugly attitude of disrespect of the fishing industry. The final report cited multiple statements and accused Juliand of bearing "animus" against fishermen and the industry.

"Such written remarks, actions and predispositions from a federal government attorney empowered with virtually unchecked prosecutional discretion constitute serious lack of

judgment and conduct unbecoming a federal government attorney charged with enforcing the law," the IG's report found.

According to Smullen, Juliand will continue to work out of Gloucester while assigned to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, and his salary remains unchanged at Grade 15, Step 9 — valued at roughly $126,000, according to federal pay scale Web site.

Juliand has mounted a fierce defense of his reputation, backed by his union, the National Weather Service Employees Organization, which asserted that his super aggressive approach to enforcing the Magnuson-Stevens Act was known and approved by his superiors.

"He was doing exactly what they wanted him to do," said Richard Hirn, attorney for the union. "It was Office of General Counsel management who wanted to destroy these people's livelihood."

Juliand issued a statement in the wake of the IG's report, describing himself as a "scapegoat" in a "smear" campaign launched by the Inspector General's office.

The announcement of Jones' new job Monday never identified him as the longtime chief of law enforcement. In that regard, the style mirrored the announcement in April that Jones was no long chief. That release simply said that Alan Risenhoover, a career NOAA bureaucrat, had been appointed acting director.

But Jones was removed after the IG testified under oath on consecutive days to two congressional subcommittees that Jones had authorized a mass document shredding while the IG was actively investigating and had charged overseas travel improperly to the Asset Forfeiture Fund, which was made up of fines paid in response to cases made against the fishing industry.

The IG found that the Northeast office, where Juliand and Cohen were senior officers, had issued fines as much as 500 percent higher than in other parts of the country.

Jones' status was withheld from Congress until Congressmen Barney Frank and John Tierney pressured the disclosure from Lubchenco last summer that he had been put on paid leave.

"It is appropriate that Mr. Jones is officially no longer involved in law enforcement matters," Tierney said in a statement to the Times, "but questions remain about whether adequate actions have been taken against him in response to the mistreatment of our local fishermen under his watch.

"I am still not satisfied, as our community deserves further explanation," Tierney added, "and I will work to ensure that these issues are explored during the next Congressional hearing."

Tierney has confirmed that Rep. Dennis Kucinich, who chairs the House Domestic Policy Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Oversight and Reform, intends to schedule a second hearing into the law enforcement scandal at NOAA.

The first hearing was held in Gloucester last March 2. It was the last public appearance for Jones, who sat beside Lubchenco and IG Zinser in City Hall's Kyrouz Auditorium.

The unraveling of the system beneath Jones, as details fell into the public under congressional, IG and press inquiries, became a cautionary tale of passive and acquiescent management.

The IG's initial report last January noted the agents working for Jones were at times allowed to operate "autonomously" and Cohen, in one interview with the Times, asserted that he encouraged targeting boats or businesses with bad reputations.

Jones was hired in 1999. He came to NOAA from landlocked Hagerstown, Md., and surrounded himself with colleagues he knew from the law enforcement circuit in suburban Maryland.

His new position, according to the job description, requires the "ability to manage, through subordinate supervisors, a complex or large bureau-level office; or manage the administrative functions of a large line component, applying skill in establishing objectives and assessing progress and skill in coordinating activities of several units and making adjustments to meet changing requirements within available resources."

Hirn, the union attorney, has told the Times he was unaware of any disciplining or sanctioning resulting from the scandal, which enters a new post-inspector general phase with the appointment of a special master to review past cases that involve possible miscarriage of justice and recommend rectification.

The master appointed was retired U.S. District Judge Charles B. Swartwood III, who is chairman of the Massachusetts Ethics Commission.

In July, Lubchenco directed NOAA General Counsel Lois Schiffer and her colleagues to report by July 30 "whether personnel actions are appropriate to ensure that those responsible for the problems surrounding the Asset Forfeiture Fund are held accountable."

But last week, her office deflected questions from the Times, citing the Privacy Act and saying "we are unable to comment on personnel decisions."

"The memo did not ask for a written report," NOAA spokeswoman Monica Allen said.

SITKA (Alaska) NEWS

Seaweeds a passion for 'nerdy' Juneau biologist

October 18, 2010
Monday

Mandy Lindeberg always knew what she wanted to be when she grew up.

"I knew it would have something to do with the beach. I love that zone, it's so dynamic," said Lindeberg, a marine biologist with NOAA's Auke Bay Lab in Juneau. "You can't really choose what you're passionate about, and it definitely is a passion for me."

For Lindeberg, a federal fisheries biologist, her passion for the beach includes a fascination with seaweeds. So much so that she and fellow Juneau biologist Sandra Lindstrom authored a new book on the subject, "Field Guide to Seaweeds of Alaska."

To the uninitiated, such a book would likely be rather short. How many different seaweeds could there be in Alaska?

"There are more than 500 seaweed species, and counting," said Lindeberg. "People say to me, 'Wow, I had no idea there were that many.'"

About 100 of those species are described with full-color photos and descriptions in the new field guide just published by the Alaska Sea Grant Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The new book is available at most local bookstores or directly from Alaska Sea Grant at www.alaskaseagrant.org.

The guide is the first of its kind for Alaska seaweeds and it took Lindeberg nearly 15 years to compile it. Lindeberg said she began working on the book because scientists and friends needed it—there just wasn't a decent reference book available.

"That was the big complaint - people would grab a specimen and try to identify it, and the books had drawings that didn't help much," Lindeberg said. "So I wanted to be sure to have photos of what they look like in their natural habitat; that was the big priority for me."

Besides seaweeds, the nearly 200-page, water-resistant guide features sections on seagrasses and marine lichens. Lindeberg said she took about 80 percent of the photos during the course of two decades of fieldwork. Getting decent photos that could be used in a scientific guide proved difficult, she said.

"It's a big challenge to take photos on the beach, because it's usually raining and dark and everything is wet and is kind of a mess," said Lindeberg. "It took years for me to find the beach with the right species I needed, and then to get good weather and good lighting for it. It took a lot of patience."

Lindeberg did have some help. Colleagues at NOAA and the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences also contributed photos.

Sandra Lindstrom, a world-renowned seaweed taxonomist, is the book's co-author.

"I could not have done this without Sandra," said Lindeberg. "She helped with the taxonomic work and reviewed the scientific descriptions and nomenclature."

With so many different seaweed species to choose from, asking Lindeberg to name her favorite is a bit like asking a mother to pick her favorite child.

"I am a nerd so there are a whole bunch of subcategories that are my favorites," said Lindeberg, laughing at the thought. "Some people like the kelps, some people like the red algae. I think the red algae are the most beautiful, and they are the most diverse, so I lean more toward the red algae."

Among the book's most interesting specimens is a newly discovered species of brown seaweed called the golden V kelp, so named for the bright yellow outline along the stalk and edges of the leaf-like structure called the thallus. Lindeberg said her discovery in 2006 of the new kelp species in the central Aleutian Islands might be the pinnacle of her career.

"That was one of those eureka moments," said Lindeberg. "There was no one around to hear me yelling and screaming. But there was no doubt when I first saw it that it was something very unique. Once we got the genetic analysis done, it turned out that it is a new genus and a new species, and it might even be a new family. So, to me, that is very cool. You just don't find that kind of stuff on the planet anymore. I don't know how to top that."

Lindeberg might be able to top it with a future second edition of the book, which likely would feature more of the known species and some of the new species that she and her colleagues believe they have discovered.

"We found what we think are more new species of seaweeds during the survey in which we found the golden V kelp," said Lindeberg. "We don't know for sure yet, but we think we may have 15 new species to describe."

EVERETT (Wash.) HERALD

No sign of whale that beached itself this summer

Scientists were so certain the animal was doomed that a transmitter was never attached to it, leaving its fate a mystery.

By Eric Stevick, Herald Writer
EVERETT — It seemed inevitable.

Scientists were certain a gray whale that beached itself three times last summer off the shores of Everett and Tulalip would die.

It didn't make sense to put a transmitter on a creature that seemed so weak.

Plans were being made for a necropsy.

A whale expert from the East Coast was on standby to fly across the country to study the whale after its death.

He never got the chance.

That's because the 40-ton creature simply disappeared.

Brian Gorman, a spokesman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Seattle, on Friday said whales seldom survive a beaching. The fact that the Everett gray whale survived three beachings is extremely unusual, he said.

"The assumption always was it was going to die," he said. "Typically what happens is they strand, and that is the end of it. It was not anticipated it would even get out to open water."

Without a transmitter, scientists have no way of knowing where the whale is or even if it is alive, he said.

They just know its body didn't wash up on a Puget Sound beach, as almost certainly would have been the case if it had died last summer.

Gray whales typically migrate between Alaska and Baja, Calif., dipping into Puget Sound to feed. Biologists estimate there are about 20,000 off the Pacific Coast.

Several neighbors said they had noticed the stranded whale feeding on sand shrimp along the Everett shoreline for a few weeks in June and July.

Gray whales are baleen whales, collecting shrimp or krill in comblike plates in their mouths.

The whale that created all the commotion last summer stranded twice off the shores of Everett and once off Tulalip.

Biologists and neighbors worked side by side to give it comfort while the tide was out.

They draped a long white sheet over its enormous flank to protect its sensitive skin from the beating sun. They splashed it with buckets of water.

Biologists also applied a petroleum jelly with zinc oxide around its eyes and blow hole to protect the delicate tissue from sunburn.

When it stranded off Tulalip, tribal members came up close in a canoe, drumming, singing and praying for the whale to get well and find its way to deeper water.

When the tide came up, the whale swam away.

The experts never were able to determine the whale's gender because of how it was positioned in the sand, Gorman said.

Chances are no one will ever know for sure what happened to the whale.

In open water, many whales simply sink to the bottom when they die, he said.

WASHINGTON INDEPENDENT (blog)

Putting Short-Term Warming Trends in Context
By ANDREW RESTUCCIA 10/18/10 5:19 PM

In keeping with my pledge to write about climate science more often, I thought I'd share the latest climate data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

According to NOAA, the arm of the federal government that monitors climate:

The first nine months of 2010 tied with the same period in 1998 for the warmest combined land and ocean surface temperature on record. The global average land surface temperature for January-September was the second warmest on record, behind 2007. The global ocean surface temperature for January–September was also the second warmest on record, behind 1998.

But what does this mean exactly and what do these numbers tell us about climate change?

I put this question to NOAA scientist Jay Lawrimore, chief of the climate analysis branch at NOAA. Though he warns that it's difficult to extrapolate based on short-term climate data, Lawrimore says that the numbers play into the long-term warming trend. In fact, he says global temperatures should actually be cooling during the months when La Nina cools ocean temperatures in the Pacific Ocean. Given that temperatures increased despite La Nina, Lawrimore says, "The fact that it was warmer than average speaks to the fact that the overall trend in global temperature is a warming trend."

Here's a transcript of our conversation, edited for clarity:

How should people see these new data, and what do they represent in the larger climate narrative?

I think this represents the role of natural variability and the role of long-term trends in climate. And the fact that these play a key role in temperatures from month to month. Specifically, I'm referring to the presence of La Nina and the cooling influence that La Nina has on global temperatures. That's kind of the natural component that I'm referring to and the fact that we have this long-term trend toward warmer temperatures, but there are things that come into play on a month-to-month and a seasonal basis that can affect global temperatures. While the trend may be positive, it doesn't mean that every month is going to be warmer than the preceding month, or every September is going to be warmer than the previous September or the September before that.

Can you explain exactly what La Nina is in basic terms?

It is a cooling of ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific. These cooler ocean temperatures, they have an influence not only on the global average temperature, but on overall weather patterns. They change the location of convection in the equatorial regions of the Pacific, which then has dampening influences in the way that atmospheric patterns move and weather systems move. And so, with La Nina, in general we have generally wetter conditions in the Pacific Northwest and generally drier conditions in the Southern tier. And also on a global scale with cooler temperatures on the Pacific, there's less heat being put into the atmosphere and it tends to dampen the overall global temperature.

When you say dampened, what do you mean?

Lower than the global temperature would have otherwise been when La Nina wasn't present.

But the data showed that the temperatures were higher?

It was still warmer than average and the fact that it was warmer than average speaks to the fact that the overall trend in global temperature is a warming trend. Colder temperatures are rising and long-term scientists broadly believe this rising temperature to be the result of increased greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. So you have this continual increase in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere that has a warming influence on the global temperature. But, like I said before, each year is not necessarily going to be warmer than the year before because there are other natural variations of the climate that influence the global temperature. So, the long-term trend is up, but some years may be a little cooler than others.

So, this information sort of plays into the long-term trend, but any individual temperature or group of temperatures within a few months is just one part of the longer-term story?

Yes, when you're looking at climate change you really want to be looking at long-term changes. You don't want to be looking at any one in particular month or season or year. That in itself doesn't give you much information as to the change over the long term that is really important in understanding how greenhouse gas concentrations are influencing the climate.

WORLD FISHING & AQUACULTURE

NOAA seeks comments on proposed reduced harvest of gag

19 Oct 2010
NOAA Fisheries Service is seeking public comment on a proposed rule that would decrease the commercial quota of gag, suspend the use of red grouper multi-use individual fishing quota (IFQ) commercial allocation, and temporarily set the gag bag limit to zero.

The proposed temporary rule publishes in the Federal Register on 18 October 2010, with the comment period ending 2 November 2010.

Gag is considered overfished and undergoing overfishing (rate of removal too high). The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires that overfished stocks be rebuilt and that overfishing be halted.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) requested NOAA Fisheries Service implement this temporary rule to address overfishing while they developed a long-term plan through Amendment 32 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

The proposed rule would establish a quota of 100,000 pounds. The 2009 population assessment update for gag indicated the commercial quota should be reduced from 1.49 million pounds to 390,000 pounds.

However, because of some recently discovered issues regarding the way the assessment model estimated dead discards (fish that die after they are released), the Council has asked NOAA Fisheries Service to re-examine the results of the assessment.

Until those results are known, the Council wanted to be conservative in its actions to harvest gag. The Council did not set the quota to zero because the commercial fleet generally harvests fish in deeper waters where the fish are likely to die from barotrauma. Therefore, the Council asked for this minimal 100,000-pound quota to allow such incidentally caught gag to be landed and counted against the quota instead of being discarded.

The rule would also suspend the use of red grouper IFQ multi-use allocation, which is used to harvest gag. Currently, 4% of an IFQ participant's red grouper allocation is converted to multi-use allocation.

If the multi-use allocation is used to harvest gag, these additional gag landings would allow the harvest to exceed the reduced gag quota. Note that this part of the rule would not reduce an IFQ participant's red grouper allocation. The rule would simply not allow 4% of the total allocation to be converted to multi-use allocation.

Comments may be submitted comments by either of the following methods:

Electronic Submissions: Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov. Enter the following docket number into the "Search" box: NOAA-NMFS-2010-0168. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to

http://www.regulations.gov without change. Comments will be posted for public viewing after the comment period has closed. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter, may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.
Mail: Peter Hood, NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 263 13th Avenue South, St Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

VENTURA COUNTY (Calif.) STAR

Ventura students chat with distant scientists

By Anne Kallas

Monday, October 18, 2010

Fourth- and fifth-graders at Montalvo School in Ventura were transported Monday through the wonders of technology 3,000 miles and then another 60 feet under water to the Aquarius ocean laboratory in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is hosting "Aquarius 2010: If Reefs Could Talk," a research and education mission sponsored by AT&T that is offering live Internet broadcasts this month to schools across the nation. On Wednesday the program will visit a Fillmore school.

Montalvo Principal Michele Dean said the program was a perfect fit for her school. "It's critical. This is hands-on learning, giving the students exposure to ocean studies," Dean said.

In fact, one of the scientists in the underwater lab is Rocio Lozano-Knowlton, mother of Montalvo students Diego, 8, and Santiago, 5. Her husband, Jim Knowlton, said the boys miss their mother, although they seem to understand the importance of her work.

"They miss her and get to see her on the Internet," Knowlton said. "They both love the ocean and they know their species."

Montalvo students had a chance to ask the Florida scientists questions. Angelica Garcia, 10, a fifth-grader, asked about the levels of calcium carbonate in the water.

"I learned a lot of new things. I never knew the shells were disappearing," Angelica said.

Classmate Daniel Rodriguez, 10, asked if there were more crustaceans, such as crabs and lobsters, with broken shells.

Steve Gittings, science coordinator for the National Marine Sanctuary program, answered that scientists have noticed "fewer animals on Conch Reef. There are also fewer small animals that live in the cracks of the reefs, which is troubling because they are a food source for other fish."

Montalvo fifth-grade teacher Teresa Ellingson is a volunteer for Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans, a NOAA educational program based in the Monterey Bay area. She said it is important for Ventura students, who live so close to the ocean, to be aware of the issues. "Some of these kids don't even get to the beach and don't understand the beauty of the ocean," Ellingson said. "People don't realize their actions on land affect the water, and we want to change that."

Shauna Bingham, a Marine Sanctuary volunteer and outreach coordinator, said the telecast was just one of many programs offered to schools.

“We have a whole program with the Channel Islands. The Ventura Office of Education is helping with live broadcasts with divers from Anacapa (Island) talking to students in our area,” Bingham said.

The final question of the webcast was posed by Diego Knowlton, who wanted to know what happens to fish poop in the ocean. The answer was that many fish and other marine life excrete what eventually becomes sand, while some species live off the excrement of others.

“We’ll talk more about that later,” mom Lozano-Knowlton said to her son from under the sea.

Bingham said another webcast is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon at San Cayetano School in Fillmore.

Received(Date): Mon, 02 Aug 2010 17:33:47 -0400
From: Grace Wahlbrink <Grace.Wahlbrink@noaa.gov>
Subject: Daily ACTIONS and UPDATES 8.2.2010
To: DWH leadership <DWH.Leadership@noaa.gov>
Proposed_OMAO_Asset_DWH_Response_Schedule_080210.doc
Mammal_Turtle_Data_1_Aug FINAL.xls
MMST_Health_and_Stranding_Update_for_2_August FINAL2.doc
OMAO_Assets_Gantt_Chart_080210.xlsx

PRIORITY
ISSUES
RESPONSE OPERATIONS - NIC/ICC/NRT Please use the following as the content for the afternoon Response Operations Box update:
* Pressure on three ram capping stack approx. 6,989 psi
* Tropical Depression #4 moving W-NW at 15 kts, forecast track does not enter Gulf of Mexico; other tropical wave crossing the coasts of Nicaragua and Honduras, no factor
* At the source: several very small leaks will be monitored during an Injection Test which also shows:
o Communication (i.e. flow) with well
o Best pressures to use for Static Kill
o Pump rate to use for Static Kill

At the NIC:
* Coordinated agency input from DOI and DOE on the Oil Budget document

Outlook:
* SECNAV Ray Mabus on scene this week
SCIENCE Attached is the Science Briefing for August 3rd as well as the OMAO asset documents. Topics include:

* NOAA Sonar Monitoring (3-5)
* Loop Current Dynamics (6-7)
* Protected Species Status (8-10)
* Seafood Safety Sampling (11)
* NOAA Assets
o Planes, Vessels and Charters (12-17)
MARINE MAMMALS and SEA TURTLES
Attached please find the daily summary from the Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Health and Stranding Response Programs operating under the Unified Command. There are three files: a Word document narrative, an Excel spreadsheet that provides a breakdown by species, and a PDF that contains just the daily summary totals.
LMR Marine Mammals and Sea Turtle Health and Stranding
* 852 verified turtles to date within the “designated spill area” (increase of 37 from August 1 report)
o 557 stranded (increase of 2 from August 1 report)
+ 498 of the stranded were found dead (increase of 2 from August 1 report)
o 295 collected during directed turtle sampling efforts (increase of 35 from August 1 report)
+ 290 of the collected were found alive (increase of 35 from August 1 report)
# 36 turtles released alive (increase of 14 from August 1 report)
# 251 live turtles in rehabilitation (net increase of 21 from August 1 report)
o To date, visible evidence of oil has been documented externally on 13 dead stranded sea turtle and 10 live stranded turtles (2 of which were caught in skimming operations).

o To date, visible evidence of oil has been documented externally on 4 dead sea turtles and 278 live sea turtles captured during directed turtle surveys.
* COE/State of Louisiana Hopper Dredge Project and Associated Trawling for Turtles
o 197 unoiled sea turtles captured/entrained in relocation trawlers/hopper dredge (no change from August 1 report due to no activity)
* Total Turtle Nest/Hatchling Numbers
o 134 nests translocated from northern Gulf of Mexico (no change from August 1 report)
+ 129 Loggerhead
+ 4 Kemp's Ridley
+ 1 Green
o 2134 hatchlings released in Florida (increase of 335 from August 1 report)
+ 2042 Loggerhead
+ 92 Kemp's Ridley
+ 0 Green
* 68 dolphins stranded (no change from August 1 report)
LMR (2) * The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has received a $107,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in a partnership effort to protect sea turtle populations at risk from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The DMR is taking many management actions through the Recovered Oil Fund for Wildlife to protect sea turtles in the Mississippi Sound, including the following:
o Conducting observer programs onboard shrimp vessels. DMR staff members will observe operations onboard traditional shrimp trawl vessels and skimmer trawl vessels.
o Offering free turtle excluder device (TED) gear and information on proper installation to commercial skimmer trawl shrimpers who volunteer to use TEDs in lieu of tow time restrictions. So far through this program, the DMR has given out 124 TEDs to 62 boats and is securing additional TEDs to distribute.
o Mailing to all commercial and recreational license holders literature, prepared by the NOAA Fisheries Service, about what to do in case of interaction with sea turtles. New license holders will be given literature when they purchase a license at the DMR office.
o Conducting seminars for commercial and recreational fishermen about how to avoid interaction with turtles and what to do if a turtle encounters their gear.
o In addition to these measures, DMR reduced maximum tow times from 55 minutes to 30 minutes for vessels using skimmer trawls without TEDs.

Seafood Safety Program
* Samples brought in from the OREGON II were received and will be processed.
LMR (3) * 4 vessels collecting samples for re-opening
o 2 vessels in the western portion of the closed area
o 2 vessels in the eastern portion of the closed area.
* Samples from Alabama have arrived at the Pascagoula lab.

NRDA
ASSETS AND PLATFORMS The following digital files are attached. Information is current as of Date Time Group in subject line.

1. NOAA Platform Powerpoint showing current mapped locations of assets.
2. OMAO Assets Excel Gantt Chart showing projects assigned to each asset.
3. Proposed OMAO Asset DWH Response Schedule Word document identifying impacts to NOAA projects should OMAO assets be tasked
4. DWH Ship Tasking Impacts. - not attached, will be updated this week

5. DWH Aircraft Tasking Impacts. - not attached, will be updated this week
OPERATIONAL
REGIONAL No Update
LEGISLATIVE / INTERGOV'T AFFAIRS No Update
COMMS / PUBLIC AFFAIRS No Update
EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT No Update
DATA INFORMATION See Attached Quad PDF "DWH Activities Report Quad OCIO.pptx"
IA/ INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
* Finalized plans with NMFS (Seafood Safety Program and NMFS Rep to the European Union) for participation in Great American Seafood Cook off and visit to Pascagoula afterwards; in support of international outreach efforts for the Cook off, contacted several consulates in New Orleans to inform them of the event this weekend and encourage their attendance.
* Confirmation received that NESDIS does not need the French offer of satellite assistance; will coordinate formal reply with NESDIS/State/CG
* Continued to review/provide feedback to State Dept on agenda for Mexican meeting scheduled for Wed, Aug 4
LEGAL / GC No Update
POLICY / BUDGET No Update
ECONOMICS / RECOVERY No Update

Data and Information Management

Goals

Develop and promote a consolidated view of existing data and information that is supporting the DWH effort regardless of where it resides

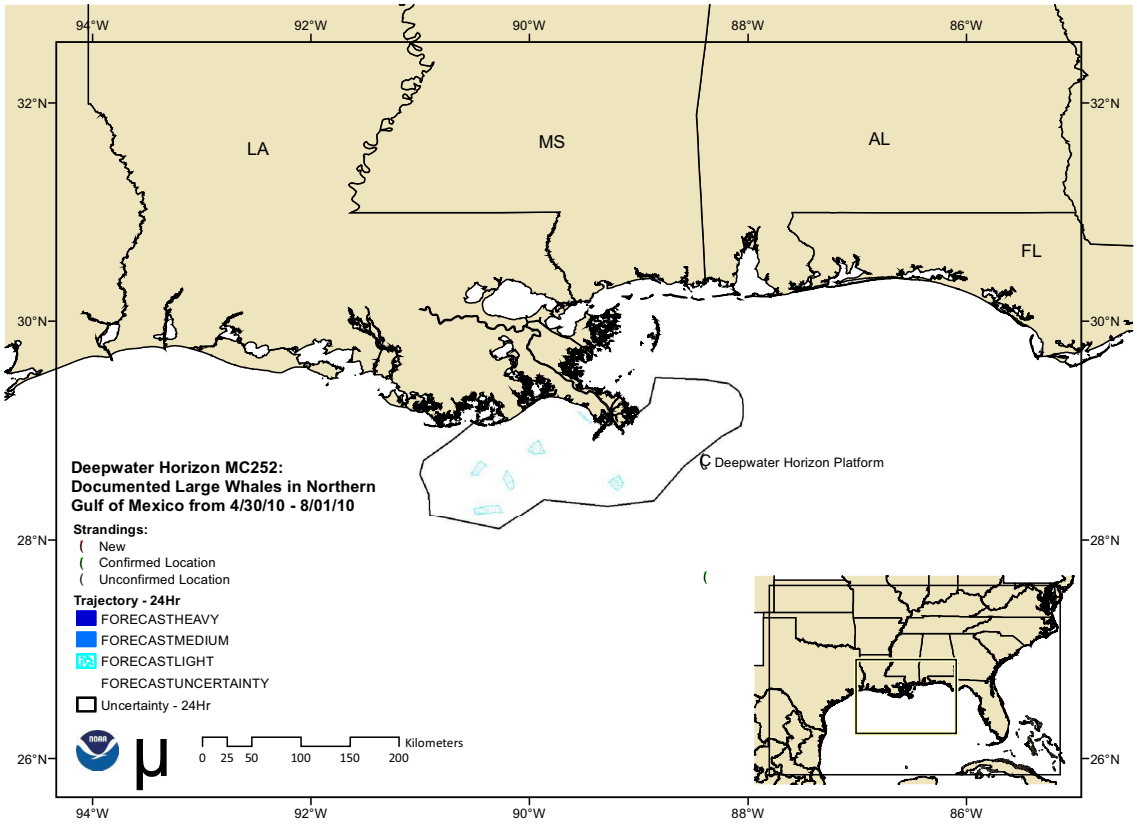
Today's Results

Remainder of ERMA Pollution Removal Funding Authorization (PRFA) was signed on Friday (7/30). Additional hardware can be purchased and more expansive development will begin

Key Activities / Issues / Risks

1. Coordinating with Data.gov to prepare link to NOAA.gov
2. Working with NOAA Data.gov Alternate POC, War Room data liaison, and Science POC to prioritize data to be indexed on Data.gov
   - Create and populate metadata template
   - Develop a process map for each data set
3. DWH Website and Information Index will be published to NOAA.gov Fact Sheets and Publications page
4. Developing records management guidance for DWH website content
5. Coordinating with DOJ to develop a litigation hold data call internal to NOAA
6. Working to bring responder ERMA into NOAA WOC
7. Highlighting new data function on GeoPlatform.gov will be live on Tuesday, August 3

Report Date: August 2, 2010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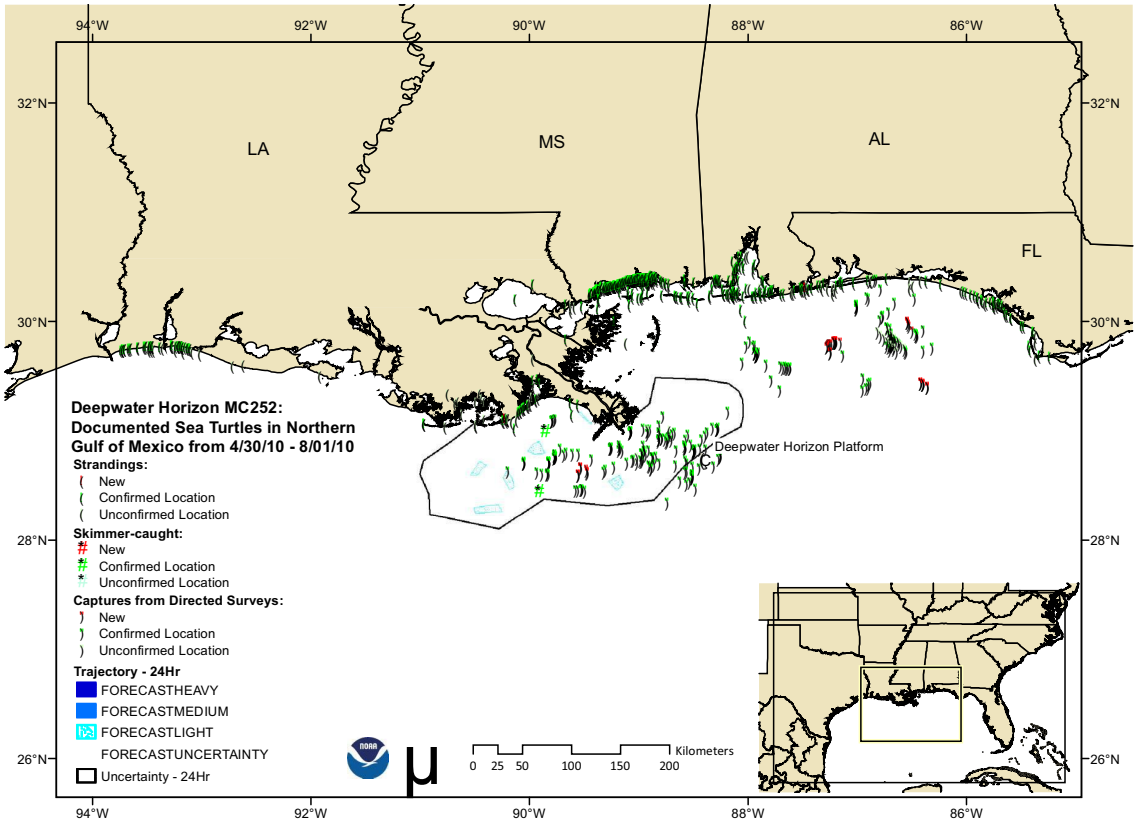
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Oiling Criteria

Defined Categories of Stranded Marine Mammals/Sea Turtles During MC 252 Spill

1) Visibly Oiled
   a. Evidence of external oiling (live or dead animals); or
   b. Evidence of internal oiling on initial exam: Oil in oral cavity, nares or blowhole (live or dead animals); or
   c. Evidence of internal oiling on necropsy: Oil in esophagus, gastrointestinal tract and/or respiratory tract (dead animals).
2) Not Visibly Oiled: Do not meet criteria above. Note not visibly oiled does not imply cause of death nor whether this event impacted the animal.

Procedures for Determining Oiling Status in Marine Mammals or Sea Turtles

1) Upon report of stranded animal, designated members of the Wildlife Branch (trained to appropriate evidence collection and Chain of Custody procedure) will be dispatched to the site for initial evaluation.

2) All animals within the "designated spill area" will be immediately externally evaluated, sampled, and photographed following NOAA's "Marine Mammal Oil Spill Response Guidelines" or the established "Sea Turtle MS 252 Response Guidelines".
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   b. Those animals not within or adjacent to the "designated spill area" should *not* be considered as part of this spill and not be accounted for in the spill documentation (but standard stranding procedures should be followed).

3) All stranded animals will be grossly evaluated by necropsy (cetacea at site of stranding, at the primary care facility, or at a pre-determined necropsy site if logistically feasible, sea turtles at the primary care facility or at a designated remote pathology center).
   a. For certain carcasses, such as turtles with open coelomic cavities or dolphins in advanced state of decomposition and no intact GI tract, it may not be possible to pathologically determine cause of death or pathologies and collect useable tissues. The sampling of these animals will be for the presence of external oil only.

4) Oiling status will be determined based on external and internal gross evaluation. NOTE THAT THE DETERMINATION OF OILING STATUS DOES NOT ESTABLISH SUB-APPARENT OIL EXPOSURE OR THE CAUSE OF DEATH. In fact, some gross pathological changes, such as respiratory damage or significant irritation to ocular tissues or mucous membranes, can be associated with oil exposure. The determination of these types of impacts must come from further evaluation of the samples and other evidence, such as histopathological evaluation of tissues and/or PAH analysis of the biological samples.

NOAA Science
Situational Awareness Briefing

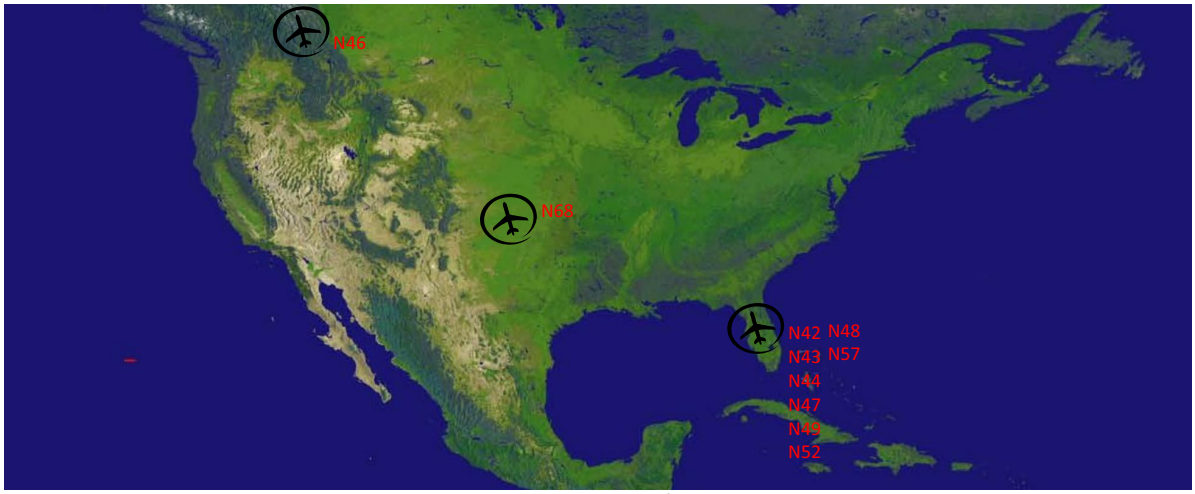
Deepwater Horizon MC252

Aug 3, 2010

** For Internal Use ONLY **

N45
N51
N56

NOAA Aircraft Positions
As of 02 AUG 2010



ID	Type	Status Today
N42	P-3	No flights scheduled, MacDill, AFB
N43	P-3	Phase Maintenance, MacDill AFB
N44	P-3	Maintenance, MacDill AFB
N45	Turbo Cmdr	GRAV-D, Anchorage, AK
N46	Twin Otter	Maintenance, Calgary, AB
N47	Shrike	No flights scheduled, MacDill AFB
N48	Twin Otter	No Flights Scheduled, MacDill AFB
N49	G-IV	Local Test Flight Scheduled, MacDill AFB
N51	Shrike	Harbor Seals, Homer, AK
N52	Citation	In disposal process, MacDill AFB
N56	Twin Otter	Harbor Seal, Anchorage, AK
N57	Twin Otter	No Flights Scheduled, MacDill AFB
N68	King Air	Maintenance, Newton, KS

Proposed NOAA Asset DWH Response Schedule

SHIPS				
Asset	**Start Date**	**End Date**	**Impacted Projects**	**Comments**
Delaware II	June18	tbd	DE-10-05 Benthic Habitat	Alongside Pascagoula, MS
Gunter	July 18	August 4	GU-10-02 Marine Mammals, Leg 3 – lose 14 DAS. Currently this project is scheduled for Atlantic Ocean, but there are discussions of moving this effort to the Gulf instead. If project remains in Atlantic, GU isn't an option	GU would have to resupply fresh water one time during this mission period
Pisces	August 5	September 3	PC-10-04 CoOp Reef Fish Survey loses 23 DAS	This 30 day mission would have to be broken into 2 or 3 legs w/ T&Gs for water
Oregon II	September 3	September 28	Rd-10-02, Shark/Snapper Longline loses all of Leg 4 and most of Leg 3. Estimate losss of ~20 DAS. However, much of the project's survey area is impacted by oil	This 26 day mission would have to break into 2 or 3 legs for water and reprovisioning
Henry Bigelow	tbd	tbd	East coast cetacean turtle abundance survey	Making preparations for DWH response (seafood safety-trawling missions)

Aircraft				
Asset	**Start Date**	**End Date**	**Impacted Projects**	**Comments**
N42RF WP-3D		tbd	Hurricane Season	Gulf Loop Current flights could be rescheduled around any tasking for Hurricanes. Hurricane taskings would delay Gulf Loop Current flights by several days.
N48RF Twin Otter	July 23	August 30	Alaska Marine Mammal Surveys	N48RF to relieve N46RF upon completion of CALNEX project. BWASP project begins in Alaska in early September
N57RF Twin Otter	June 7	September 30	Northeast Right Whale	DWH Marine Mammal flights tasking resumed June 7. Anticipated schedule is approximately 5 flights every 14 days.
N68RF King Air	April	September 30	National Coastal Mapping Priorities	Risk of not meeting GPRA goals for shoreline mapping.

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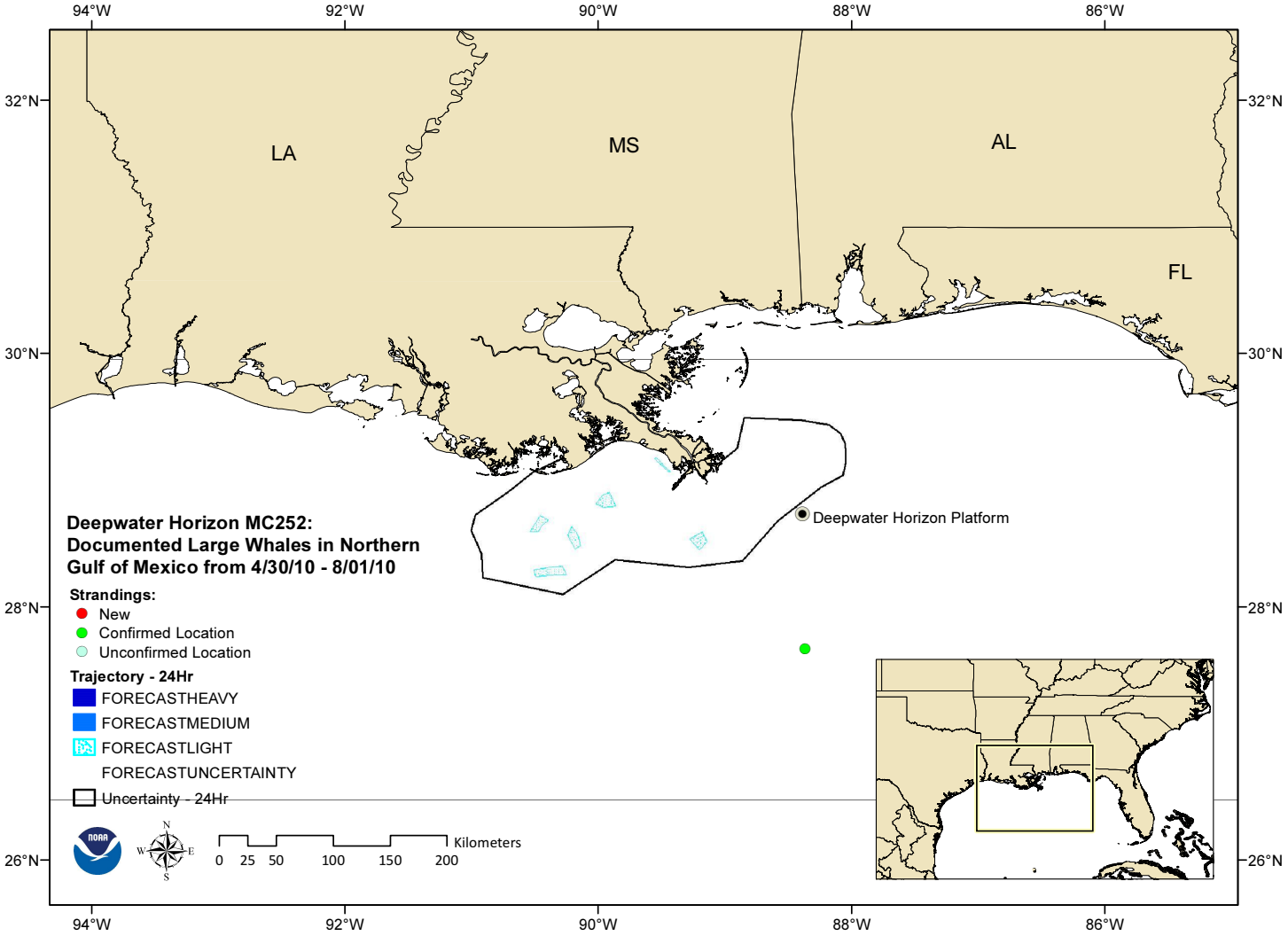
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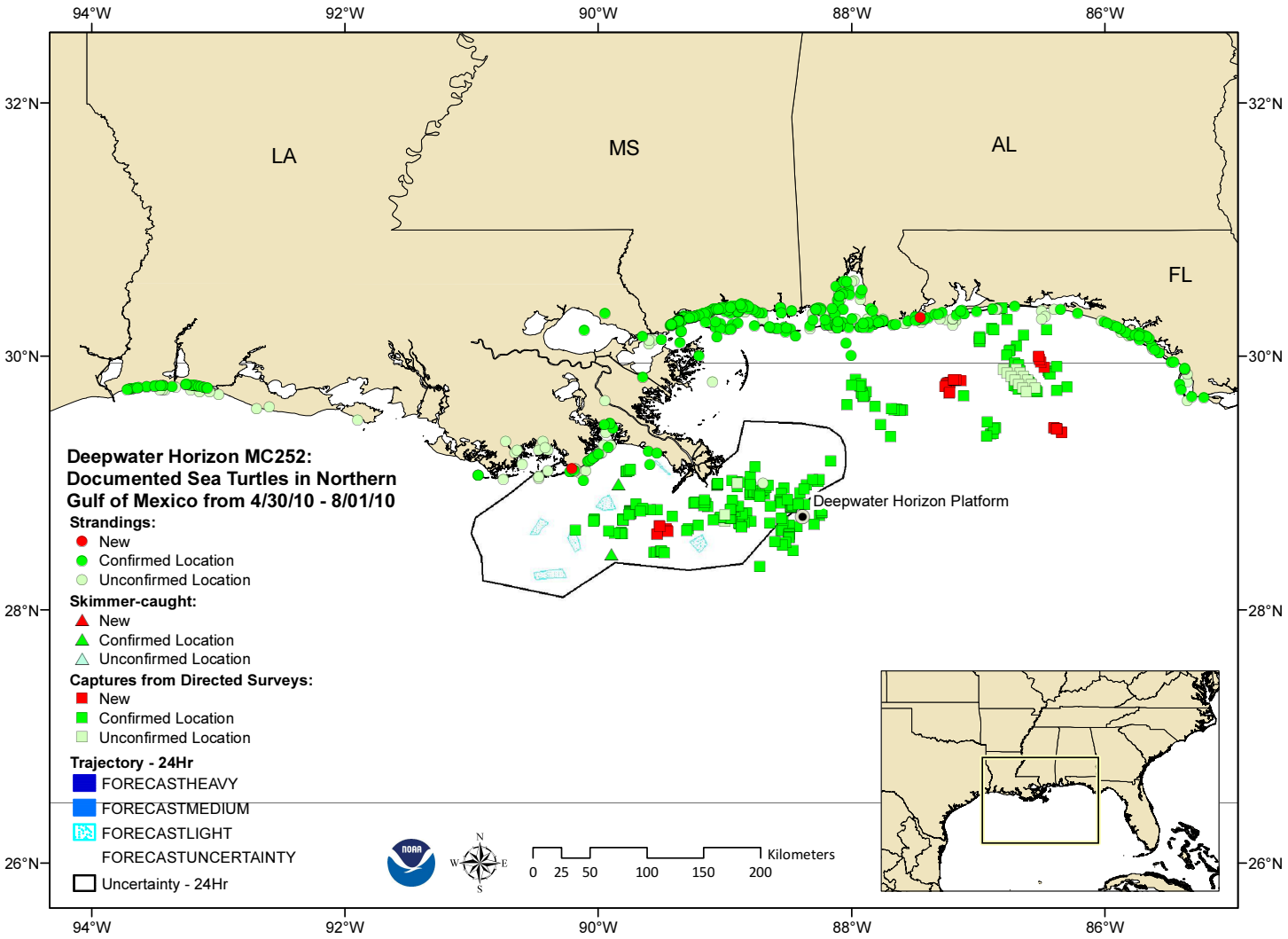
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Summary Totals

	TOTAL Dolphins							
	Live			Dead				
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Date Totals	Released
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	0	0	1	33	0	34	0
Subtotal June	1	4	0	2	17	2	26	1
Subtotal July	0	0	0	0	2	6	8	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Category Totals	1	4	0	3	52	8	68	1

	TOTAL Whales							
	Live			Dead				
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Date Totals	Released
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal June	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Subtotal July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Category Totals	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

	TOTAL Turtles							
	Live			Dead				
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Date Totals	Released
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	0
Subtotal May	12	17	0	1	76	153	259	4
Subtotal June	90	35	0	10	0	195	330	0
Subtotal July	151	9	0	6	0	55	221	29
1-Aug-10	35	0	0	0	0	1	36	14
Category Totals	288	61	0	17	82	404	852	47

	Turtles - Translocation of Gulf Nests					
	# of Nests Translocated			# of Hatchlings		
	Loggerhead	Kemp's Ridley	Green	Loggerhead	Kemp's Ridley	Green
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal June	0	1	0	0	0	0
Subtotal July	129	3	1	1742	57	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	300	35	0
Category Totals	129	4	1	2042	92	0

	TOTAL Dolphins								Dolphin Necropsy Status				
	Live			Dead			Date Totals	Released	Collected and Unable to Necropsy	Partially Necropsied	Fully Necropsied	Verified but Unable to Collect	To Be Necropsied
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending							
Yesterday Totals	1	4	0	3	52	8	68	1	29	11	14	11	1
Today Totals	1	4	0	3	52	8	68	1	29	11	14	11	1
Difference	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

	TOTAL Whales								Whale Necropsy Status				
	Live			Dead			Date Totals	Released	Collected and Unable to Necropsy	Partially Necropsied	Fully Necropsied	Verified but Unable to Collect	To Be Necropsied
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending							
Yesterday Totals	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Today Totals	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Difference	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

	TOTAL Turtles								Turtle Necropsy Status				
	Live			Dead			Date Totals	Released	Collected and Unable to Necropsy	Partially Necropsied	Fully Necropsied	Verified but Unable to Collect	To Be Necropsied
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending							
Yesterday Totals	253	61	0	17	82	403	816	33	18	31	137	46	277
Today Totals	288	61	0	17	82	404	852	47	18	31	137	46	278
Difference	**35**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**36**	**14**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**

	Turtles - Translocation of Gulf Nests					
	# of Nests Translocated			# of Hatchlings Released		
	Loggerhead	Kemp's Ridley	Green	Loggerhead	Kemp's Ridley	Green
Yesterday Totals	99	3	0	1425	57	0
Today Totals	129	4	1	2042	92	0
Difference	**30**	**1**	**1**	**617**	**35**	**0**

Status Summary

	Dolphin Status	Whale Status	Turtle Status - Stranded	Turtle Status - Captured	Turtle Status - Total
Verified Animals					
Total animals collected	**68**	**1**	557	295	852
Total dead animals	63	1	498	5	503
Total live animals	5	0	59	290	349
Total live animals stranded that died in care	3	0	4	3	7
Total live released animals	1	0	11	36	47
Total live animals currently in rehabilitation	1	0	44	251	295
Oiling Status					
Total dead oiled animals	3	0	13	4	17
Total live oiled animals	1	0	10	278	288
Animal Necropsy Status					
Number collected and unable to perform necropsies (e.g., advanced decomposition)	29	0	18		
Number of partial necropsies performed (e.g., due to scavenging or autolysis)	11	0	31		
Number of full necropsies performed	14	0	137		
Verified strandings but animals not collected due to stage of decomposition or unable to recover	11	1	46		
Carcasses to be necropsied, if decomposition stage warrants	1	0	278		

Dolphins

	Dolphins - ALABAMA						
	Live			Dead			Released
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Subtotal June	0	1	0	0	0	2	1
Subtotal July	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	1	0	0	3	3	1
Species Total	7						

	Dolphins - FLORIDA						
	Live			Dead			Released
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal June	1	2	0	0	1	0	0
Subtotal July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	1	2	0	0	1	0	0
Species Total	4						

	Dolphins - LOUISIANA						
	Live			Dead			Released
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	0	0	1	22	0	0
Subtotal June	0	1	0	1	11	0	0
Subtotal July	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	1	0	2	34	0	0
Species Total	37						

	Dolphins - MISSISSIPPI						
	Live			Dead			Released
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
Subtotal June	0	0	0	1	5	0	0
Subtotal July	0	0	0	0	1	5	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	1	14	5	0
Species Total	20						

Whales

	Whales - ALABAMA							Whales - FLORIDA						
	Live			Dead			Released	Live			Dead			Released
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending		Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Species Total	**0**							**0**						

	Whales - LOUISIANA							Whales - MISSISSIPPI						
	Live			Dead			Released	Live			Dead			Released
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending		Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Species Total	**0**							**0**						

	Whales - Off-Shore						
	Live			Dead			Released
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal June	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Subtotal July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Species Total	**1**						

Turtles

	Turtles - ALABAMA							Turtles - FLORIDA						
	Live Strandings			Dead Strandings				Live Strandings			Dead Strandings			
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Released	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Released
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	2	0	0	5	43	1	0	4	0	0	0	27	0
Subtotal June	3	0	0	3	0	23	0	2	6	0	1	0	18	0
Subtotal July	2	0	0	3	0	15	0	0	3	0	0	0	10	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	5	2	0	6	5	81	1	2	13	0	1	0	55	0
Species Total	99							71						

	Turtles - LOUISIANA							Turtles - MISSISSIPPI						
	Live Strandings			Dead Strandings				Live Strandings			Dead Strandings			
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Released	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Released
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Subtotal May	2	2	0	1	2	61	0	0	9	0	0	69	22	3
Subtotal June	1	2	0	3	0	27	0	0	19	0	0	0	126	0
Subtotal July	0	2	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	23	7
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	3	6	0	5	2	96	0	0	28	0	1	75	171	10
Species Total	112							275						

	Turtles - Dedicated On-Water Turtle Surveys						
	Live Directed Captures			Dead Directed Captures			
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Released
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal June	84	8	0	3	0	1	0
Subtotal July	149	4	0	1	0	0	22
1-Aug-10	35	0	0	0	0	0	14
TOTALS	278	12	0	4	0	1	36
Species Total	295						

Oiling Criteria

Defined Categories of Stranded Marine Mammals/Sea Turtles During MC 252 Spill

1) Visibly Oiled
   a. Evidence of external oiling (live or dead animals); or
   b. Evidence of internal oiling on initial exam: Oil in oral cavity, nares or blowhole (live or dead animals); or
   c. Evidence of internal oiling on necropsy: Oil in esophagus, gastrointestinal tract and/or respiratory tract (dead animals).
2) Not Visibly Oiled: Do not meet criteria above. Note not visibly oiled does not imply cause of death nor whether this event impacted the animal.

Procedures for Determining Oiling Status in Marine Mammals or Sea Turtles

1) Upon report of stranded animal, designated members of the Wildlife Branch (trained to appropriate evidence collection and Chain of Custody procedure) will be dispatched to the site for initial evaluation.

2) All animals within the "designated spill area" will be immediately externally evaluated, sampled, and photographed following NOAA's "Marine Mammal Oil Spill Response Guidelines" or the established "Sea Turtle MS 252 Response Guidelines".
   a. All animals within a specified distance that affected mammals or turtles may travel or float after being affected (distance to be determined upon daily consultation with the Envt Unit within the Planning Section and the NRDA Unit) will be immediately externally evaluated and, if suspicious, will be externally sampled.
   b. Those animals not within or adjacent to the "designated spill area" should *not* be considered as part of this spill and not be accounted for in the spill documentation (but standard stranding procedures should be followed).

3) All stranded animals will be grossly evaluated by necropsy (cetacea at site of stranding, at the primary care facility, or at a pre-determined necropsy site if logistically feasible, sea turtles at the primary care facility or at a designated remote pathology center).
   a. For certain carcasses, such as turtles with open coelomic cavities or dolphins in advanced state of decomposition and no intact GI tract, it may not be possible to pathologically determine cause of death or pathologies and collect useable tissues. The sampling of these animals will be for the presence of external oil only.

4) Oiling status will be determined based on external and internal gross evaluation. NOTE THAT THE DETERMINATION OF OILING STATUS DOES NOT ESTABLISH SUB-APPARENT OIL EXPOSURE OR THE CAUSE OF DEATH. In fact, some gross pathological changes, such as respiratory damage or significant irritation to ocular tissues or mucous membranes, can be associated with oil exposure. The determination of these types of impacts must come from further evaluation of the samples and other evidence, such as histopathological evaluation of tissues and/or PAH analysis of the biological samples.

Summary Totals

	TOTAL Dolphins							
	Live			Dead				
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Date Totals	Released
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	0	0	1	33	0	34	0
Subtotal June	1	4	0	2	17	2	26	1
Subtotal July	0	0	0	0	2	6	8	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Category Totals	1	4	0	3	52	8	68	1

	TOTAL Whales							
	Live			Dead				
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pendin g	Date Totals	Released
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal June	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Subtotal July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Category Totals	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

	TOTAL Turtles							
	Live			Dead				
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Date Totals	Released
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	0
Subtotal May	12	17	0	1	76	153	259	4
Subtotal June	90	35	0	10	0	195	330	0
Subtotal July	151	9	0	6	0	55	221	29
1-Aug-10	35	0	0	0	0	1	36	14
Category Totals	288	61	0	17	82	404	852	47

	Turtles - Translocation of Gulf Nests					
	# of Nests Translocated			# of Hatchlings		
	Logger head	Kemp's Ridley	Green	Logger head	Kemp's Ridley	Green
Subtotal April	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal May	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal June	0	1	0	0	0	0
Subtotal July	129	3	1	1742	57	0
1-Aug-10	0	0	0	300	35	0
Category Totals	129	4	1	2042	92	0

	TOTAL Dolphins							
	Live			Dead			Date Totals	Released
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending		
Yesterday Total	1	4	0	3	52	8	68	1
Today Totals	1	4	0	3	52	8	68	1
Difference	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Dolphin Necropsy Status				
Collected and Unable to Necropsy	Partially Necropsied	Fully Necropsied	Verified but Unable to Collect	To Be Necropsied
29	11	14	11	1
29	11	14	11	1
0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

	TOTAL Whales							
	Live			Dead			Date Totals	Released
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending		
Yesterday Total	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Today Totals	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Difference	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Whale Necropsy Status				
Collected and Unable to Necropsy	Partially Necropsied	Fully Necropsied	Verified but Unable to Collect	To Be Necropsied
0	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	1	0
0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

	TOTAL Turtles							
	Live			Dead			Date Totals	Released
	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending	Visibly Oiled	Not Visibly Oiled	Pending		
Yesterday Total	253	61	0	17	82	403	816	33
Today Totals	288	61	0	17	82	404	852	47
Difference	**35**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**36**	**14**

Turtle Necropsy Status				
Collected and Unable to Necropsy	Partially Necropsied	Fully Necropsied	Verified but Unable to Collect	To Be Necropsied
18	31	137	46	277
18	31	137	46	278
0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**

	Turtles - Translocation of Gulf Nests					
	# of Nests Translocated			# of Hatchlings Released		
	Loggerhead	Kemp's Ridley	Green	Loggerhead	Kemp's Ridley	Green
Yesterday Total	99	3	0	1425	57	0
Today Totals	129	4	1	2042	92	0
Difference	**30**	**1**	**1**	**617**	**35**	**0**

Status Summary

	Dolphin Status	Whale Status	Turtle Status - Stranded	Turtle Status - Captured	Turtle Status - Total
Verified Animals					
Total animals collected	**68**	**1**	557	295	852
Total dead animals	63	1	498	5	503
Total live animals	5	0	59	290	349
Total live animals stranded that died in care	3	0	4	3	7
Total live released animals	1	0	11	36	47
Total live animals currently in rehabilitation	1	0	44	251	295
Oiling Status					
Total dead oiled animals	3	0	13	4	17
Total live oiled animals	1	0	10	278	288
Animal Necropsy Status					
Number collected and unable to perform necropsies (e.g., advanced decomposition)	29	0	18		
Number of partial necropsies performed (e.g., due to scavenging or autolysis)	11	0	31		
Number of full necropsies performed	14	0	137		
Verified strandings but animals not collected due to stage of decomposition or unable to recover	11	1	46		
Carcasses to be necropsied, if decomposition stage warrants	1	0	278		

Update through August 1, 2010 (as of 1800)

Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Health and Response

Noteworthy Developments During this Reporting Period

- Two turtle strandings documented (1 dead in LA, 1 late report dead in AL from 7/31).
- 35 live oiled turtles captured by directed on-water search teams (12 from teams based in Destin, FL; 16 from teams based in Orange Beach, AL; 7 from team based in Venice)
    - 14 of the captured turtles were very lightly oiled with no oil in the mouth, and were cleaned and released in unoiled weedlines.
- 335 hatchlings released in Florida from translocated northern Gulf of Mexico nests.
- No dolphin strandings documented.
- The current designated spill area encompasses the coastline from the Texas/Louisiana border to Apalachicola (Franklin County), Florida. All stranded animals within this geographic range are being examined following the oil spill response protocols.

Sea Turtles

Total Turtle Numbers = 852 verified to date within the "designated spill area" (increase of 37 from August 1 report) **(**NOTE: Does NOT include captures from COE dredging project)

- 557 stranded* (increase of 2 from August 1 report)
    - 498 of the stranded were found dead (increase of 2 from August 1 report)
    - 59 of the stranded were found alive (no change from August 1 report)
        - 4 recovered alive but died in rehab (no change from August 1 report)
        - 11 turtles released alive (no change from August 1 report)
        - 44 live turtles in rehabilitation (no change from August 1 report)
- 295 collected during directed turtle sampling efforts (increase of 35 from August 1 report)
    - 5 of the collected were found dead (no change from August 1 report)
    - 290 of the collected were found alive (increase of 35 from August 1 report)
        - 3 turtles recovered live that died in rehab (no change from August 1 report)
        - 36 turtles released alive (increase of 14 from August 1 report)
        - 251 live turtles in rehabilitation (net increase of 21 from August 1 report)

*For this event, a true turtle stranding is defined as a turtle that washes ashore dead or debilitated or is found floating dead or debilitated in the course of non-directed turtle surveys. Turtles observed and/or captured during directed sampling efforts are not categorized as strandings.

Total Turtle Nest/Hatchling Numbers

- 134 nests translocated from northern Gulf of Mexico (no change from August 1 report)
- 2134 hatchlings released in Florida (increase of 335 from August 1 report)

Turtle Necropsy Status (of the 493 dead stranded, 5 dead directed capture, and 7 that died in rehab; dredge or relocation captured turtles not included):

- 18 assessed and unable to perform necropsies (i.e. advance decomposition) (no change from August 1 report)

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- 31 partial necropsies (e.g. due to scavenging or autolysis) (no change from August 1 report)
- 137 full necropsies performed (no change from August 1 report)
- 46 carcasses not collected due to decomposition state or unable to recover but marked and/or buried (no change from August 1 report)
- 278 carcasses to be necropsied, if decomposition stage warrants (increase of 2 from August 1 report)
- Of the initial 75 full or partial necropsies completed, the two primary considerations for the cause of death of the non-oiled recovered turtles are forced submergence or acute toxicosis. Further results are pending.

Information on Signs of Sea Turtle Oiling:

- To date, visible evidence of oil has been documented externally on 13 dead stranded sea turtle and 10 live stranded turtles (2 of which were caught in skimming operations).
- To date, visible evidence of oil has been documented externally on 4 dead sea turtles and 278 live sea turtles captured during directed turtle surveys.

Historical Sea Turtle Strandings:

- The total number of sea turtle strandings that we have documented from the Louisiana/Texas border through the Florida panhandle from July 1 - August 1 is 68.
- For comparison purposes, the number of turtle strandings that have been documented in recent years in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle for the full month of July is given below. The breakdown by state for the range of animals historically stranding in the month of July (2005-2009) is as follows:
    - Louisiana: 0-3 stranded sea turtles
    - Mississippi: 0-8 stranded sea turtles
    - Alabama: 1-4 stranded sea turtles
    - Florida panhandle (Escambia – Wakulla Co.): 7-29 stranded sea turtles
- There has been an increase in awareness and human presence in the northern Gulf of Mexico, which likely has resulted in some of the increased documentation of stranded turtles since the inception of the oil spill; however, we do not believe this factor fully explains the increase.

COE/State of Louisiana Hopper Dredge Project and Associated Trawling for Turtles
(Note: these numbers are reported by COE and corrections are provided daily to us as they review the data, necessitating additions/deletions in numbers reported here)

- 197 unoiled sea turtles captured/entrained in relocation trawlers/hopper dredge (no change from August 1 report due to no activity)
    - 3 turtles died in relocation trawl (no change from August 1)
    - 3 turtles killed in hopper dredge (no change from August 1)
    - 191 captured alive in relocation trawls (no change from August 1 report)
        - 191 turtles released alive (net increase of 2 from August 1 report)

Update through August 1, 2010 (as of 1800)

Marine Mammals

Total Mammal Numbers = 69 total verified to date (no change from August 1 report)

- 68 dolphins stranded* (no change from August 1 report)
  - 63 were dead stranded* dolphins (no change from August 1 report)
  - 5 were live stranded dolphins (no change from August 1 report)
    - 2 died, 1 euthanized shortly after stranding (no change from August 1 report)
    - 1 stranded live and freed immediately (no change from August 1 report)
    - 1 live and in care (no change from August 1 report)
- 1 whale stranded (no change from August 1 report)
  - 1 dead stranded sperm whale (no change from August 1 report)

* Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 409.3, a marine mammal stranding is defined as an event in the wild where:

- A marine mammal is dead and is on the beach or shore of the United States or in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States (including any navigable waters); OR
- A marine mammal is alive and is on a beach or shore of the United States and unable to return to the water, on a beach or shore of the United States and, although able to return to the water, is an apparent need of medical attention or in the waters under the jurisdiction of the United States (including any navigable waters), but is unable to return to its natural habitat under its own power or without assistance.

Mammal Necropsy Status (of the 63 dead stranded dolphins, 1 dead whale and 3 live stranded dolphins that died or were euthanized):

- 29 assessed and unable to perform necropsies (e.g. advanced decomposition) (no change from August 1 report)
- 11 partial necropsies performed (e.g. due to scavenging or autolysis) (no change from August 1 report)
- 14 full necropsies performed (no change from August 1 report)
- 12 verified strandings (11 dolphins, 1 whale) but animals not collected due to stage of decomposition or unable to recover (no change from August 1 report)
- 1 carcass to be necropsied, if decomposition stage warrants (no change from August 1 report)
- Necropsy results are pending for all animals necropsied to date.

Information on Signs of Mammal Oiling:

- Dolphins: Four of the verified dolphins had evidence of external oil on the tongue and/or body and therefore were classified as oiled. However, we are unable at this time to determine whether the three dead stranded animals were externally oiled pre- or post-mortem. All other necropsy findings are pending.
- Whale: The verified whale had no evidence of external oil.

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Historical Mammal Strandings

- The total number of dolphin strandings that we have documented from the Louisiana/Texas border through the Florida panhandle from July 1 - August 1 is 8. The total number of whale strandings that we have documented is 0.
- For comparison purposes, the number of dolphin strandings that have been documented in recent years in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle for the full month of July is given below. The breakdown by state for the range of animals historically stranding in July (2003-2007) is as follows:
    - Louisiana: 0-2 stranded dolphins, 0 whales
    - Mississippi: 0-1 stranded dolphins, 0 whales
    - Alabama: 0-3 stranded dolphins, 0 whales
    - Florida panhandle: 0-1 stranded dolphins, 0 whales
- The total number of strandings during this event is higher than the number of marine mammal strandings that have been documented in recent years in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle during this approximate time frame. In part, this may be a reflection of increased detection and reporting and the lingering effects of an earlier observed spike in strandings for the winter of 2010.

Summary of Action Plan Items:

- On-water capture activities were active on August 1 out of Venice, LA, Orange Beach, AL and Destin, FL.
- Two observers remain on board the Crossmar 7, lead vessel for in-situ burn operations. The vessel remains on anchor and in stand by mode.
- Six observers are on board first response offshore skimmers and 2 were on nearshore skimmers.
- No hopper dredge/relocation trawling activities were conducted on August 1.
- No in situ burn activities were conducted on August 1.

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NOAA Science Situational Awareness Briefing

Deepwater Horizon MC252

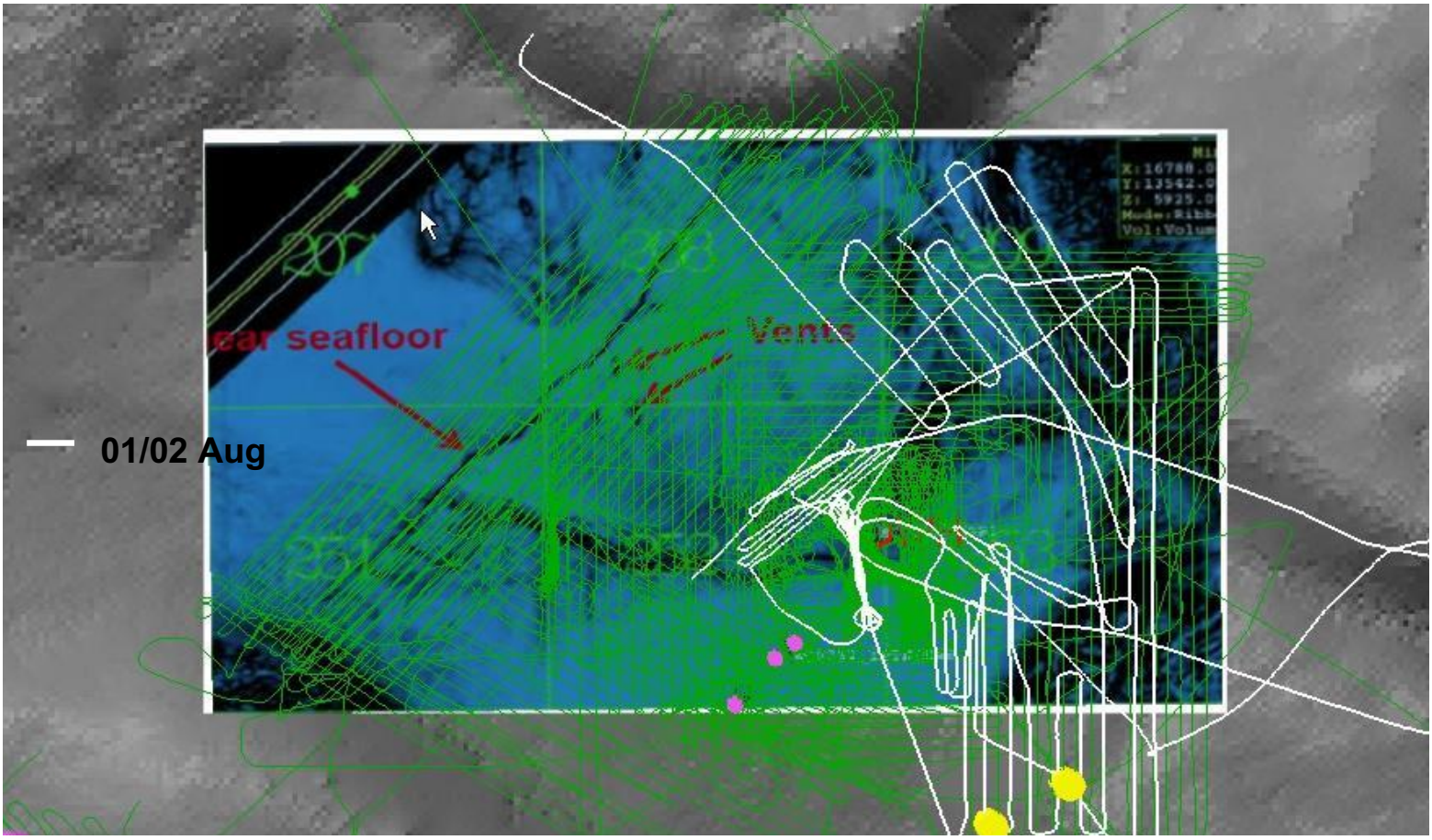
Aug 3, 2010

** For Internal Use ONLY **

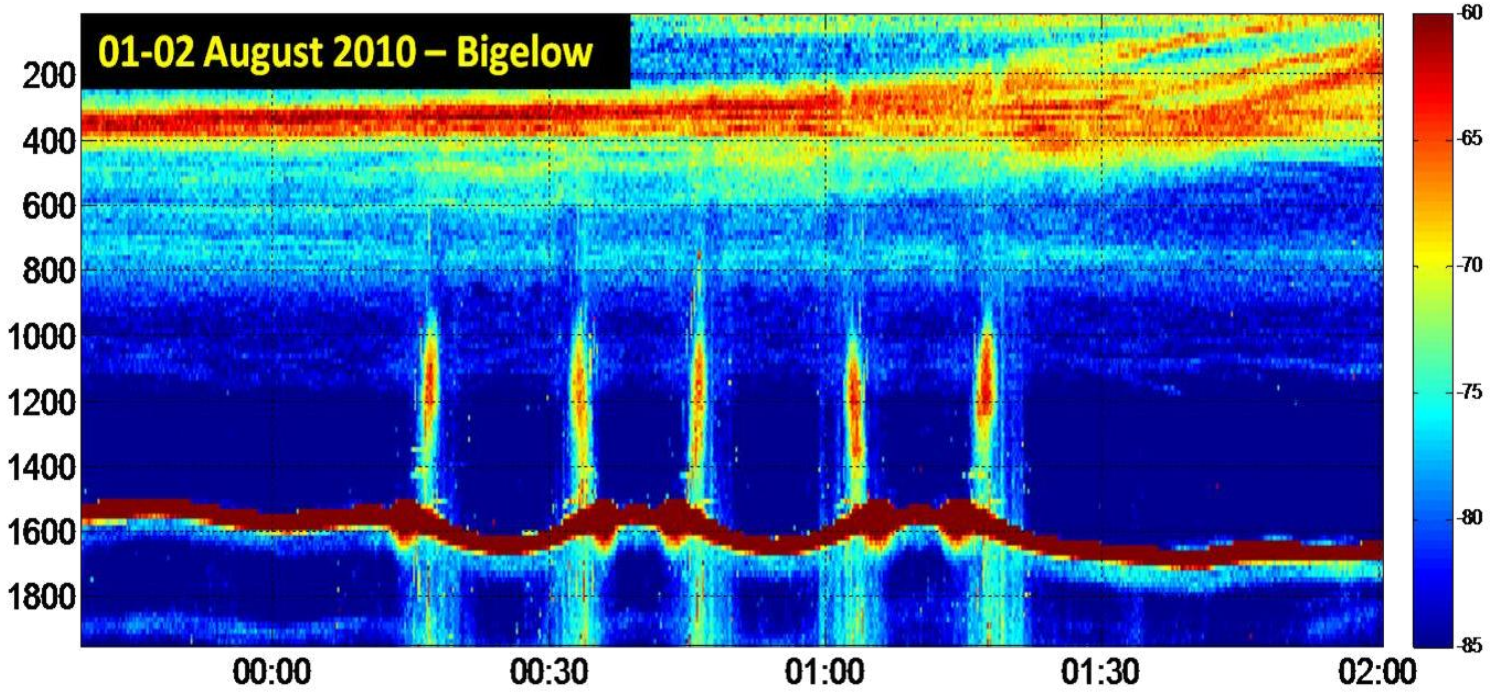
Topic Areas

- NOAA Sonar Monitoring (3-5)
- Loop Current Dynamics (6-7)
- Protected Species Status (8-10)
- Seafood Safety Sampling (11)
- NOAA Assets
    - Planes, Vessels and Charters (12-17)

NOAA SHIP BIGELOW as of 0800 EDT 02 August 2010

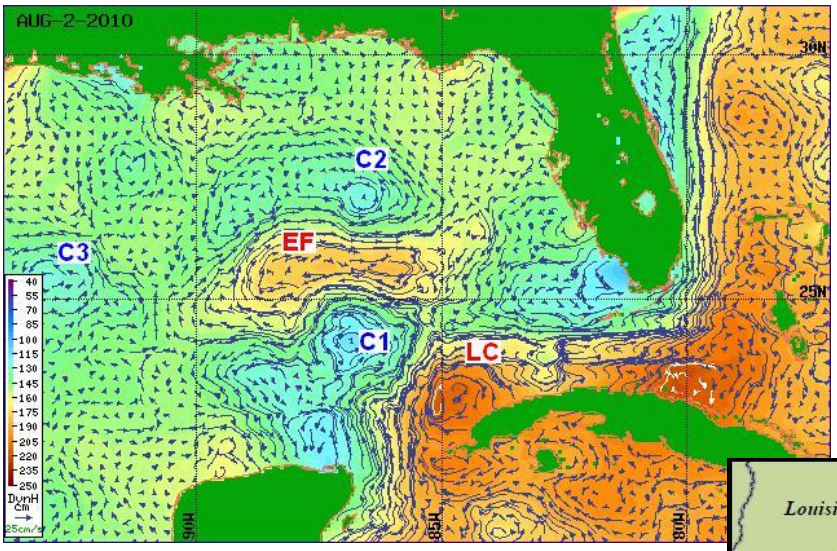


01/02 August 2010
BIGELOW transects of well-head



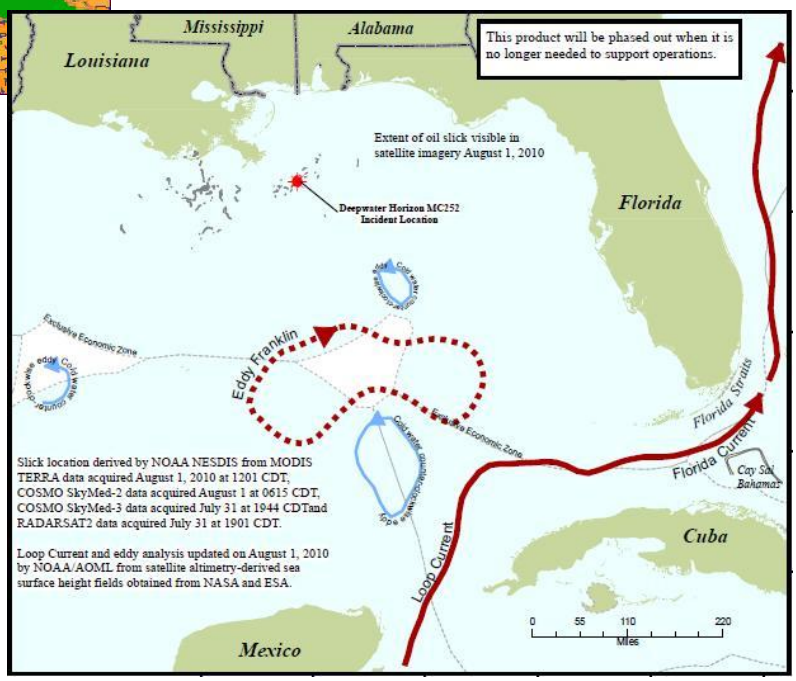
NOAA SHIP BIGELOW
01 - 02 August 2010

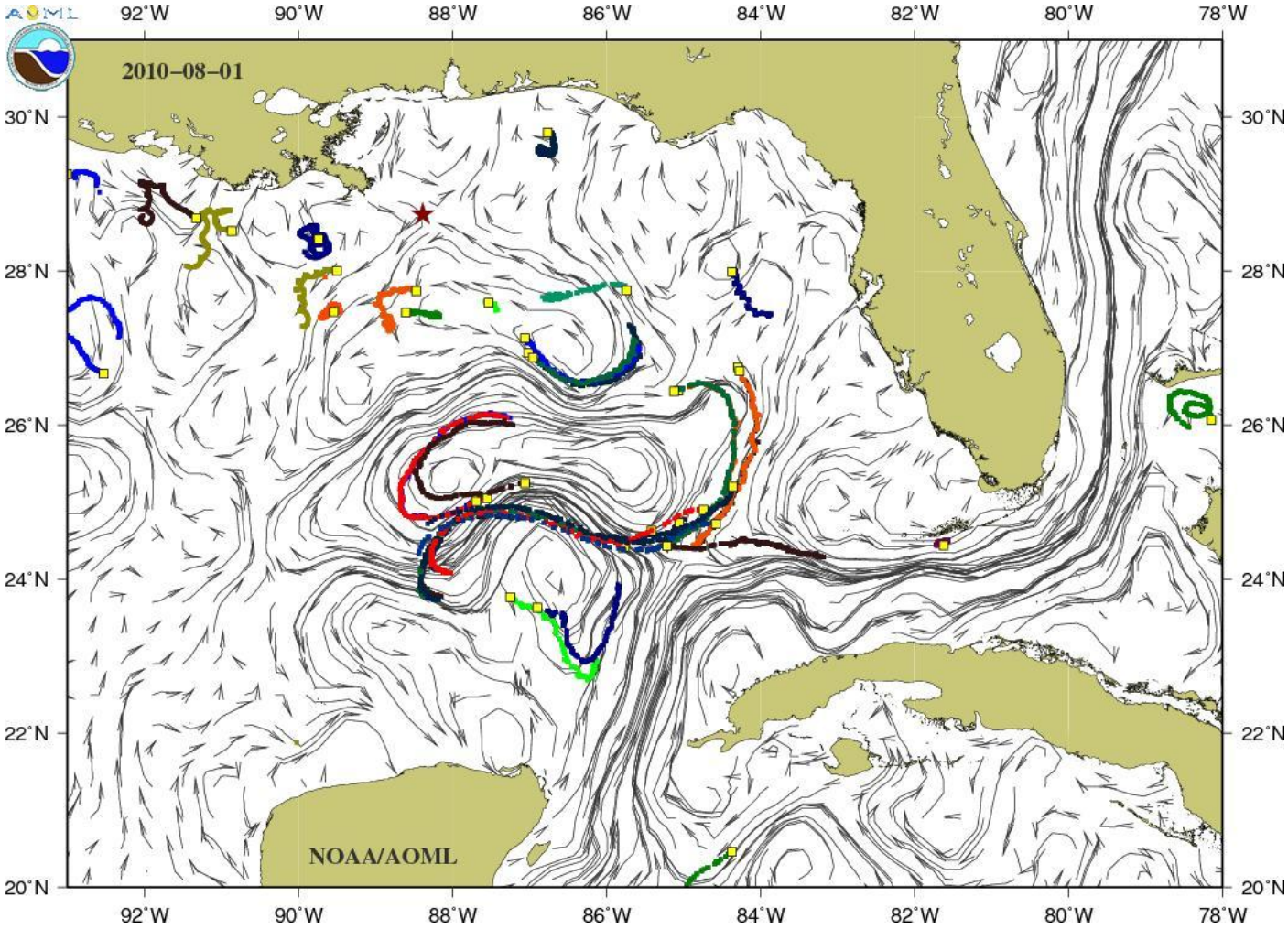
- Working >1.5 km after dark, 500m – 1.5km during daylight, over well-head when possible.
- Ten well-head crossings during daylight hours 01 - 02 August.
- Data over well-head is similar in amplitude and behavior to data collected last week. Bubbles appear relatively steady and rise to above 500m water depth. This implies an oil coating on bubbles. No anomalies.



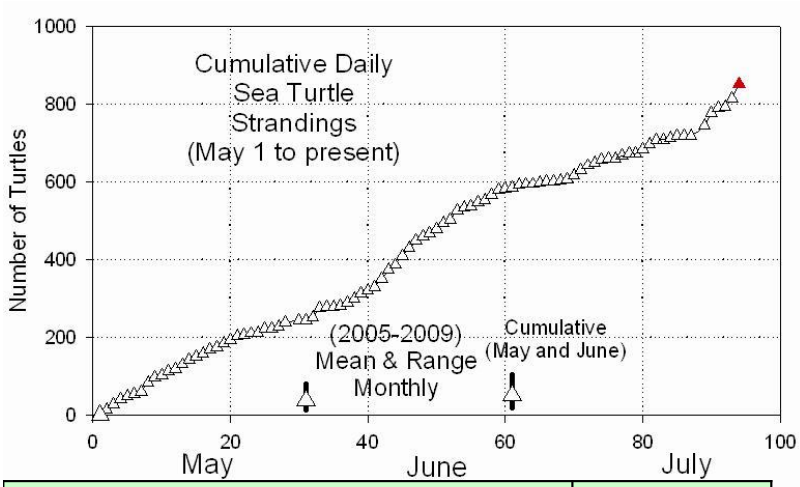
Loop Current Discussion for August 2, 2010

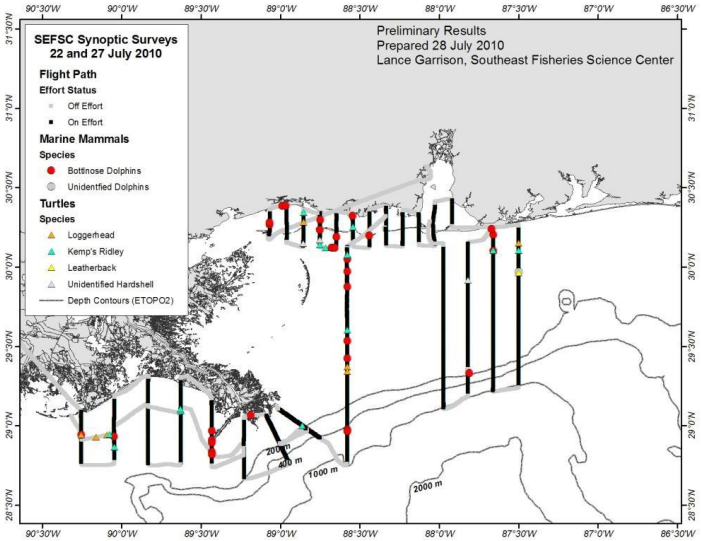
- There are five mesoscale features of interest in the GOM at this moment: Eddy Franklin (EF), the Loop Current (LC) and three cyclonic features, one (C1) located in between EF and LC, one located to the north (C2) of EF, and one (C3) located west of EF.
- The cyclonic feature that was located to the NW of EF has disappeared during the last few days.
- EF continues to be detached from the LC. However surface currents and dynamic height values indicate that a re-attachment between EF and LC may occur on the SE portion of EF in the next days/weeks.
- The LC remains in the south of the GOM with limited water exchange with EF through mixing processes.





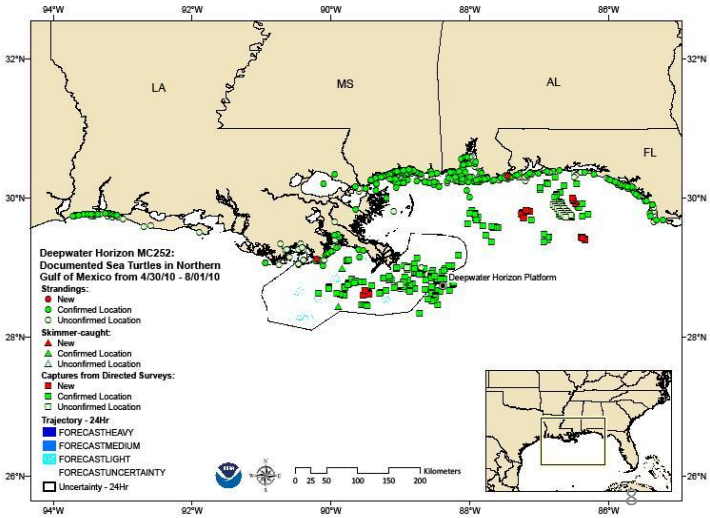
7 day surface drifter trajectories (starting points indicated by squares)

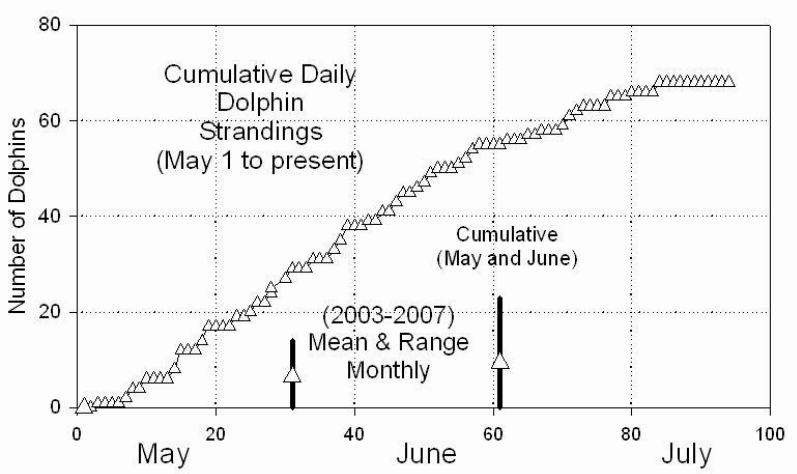


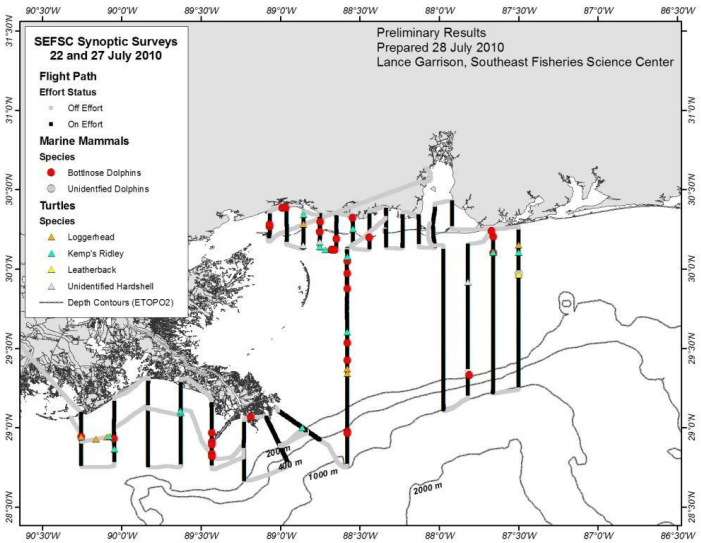


Turtle Status	Total = 852	
Verified Animals	**Stranded**	**Captured**
Total animals collected	557	295
Total dead animals	498	5
Total live animals	59	290
Total live animals stranded that died in care	4	3
Total live released animals	11	36
Total live animals currently in rehabilitation	44	251
Oiling Status		
Total dead oiled animals	13	4
Total live oiled animals	10	278
Animal Necropsy Status		
Number collected and unable to perform necropsies (e.g., advanced decomposition)	18	
Number of partial necropsies performed (e.g., due to scavenging or autolysis)	31	
Number of full necropsies performed	137	
Verified strandings but animals not collected due to stage of decomposition or unable to recover	46	
Carcasses to be necropsied, if decomposition stage warrants	278	

Turtles

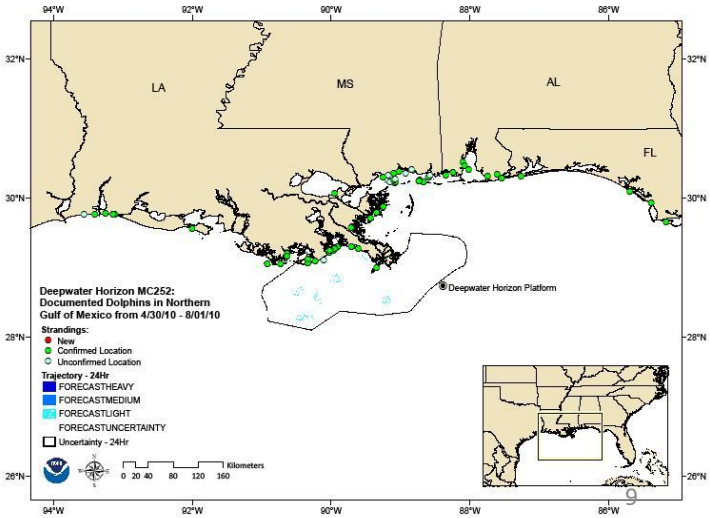






Dolphins

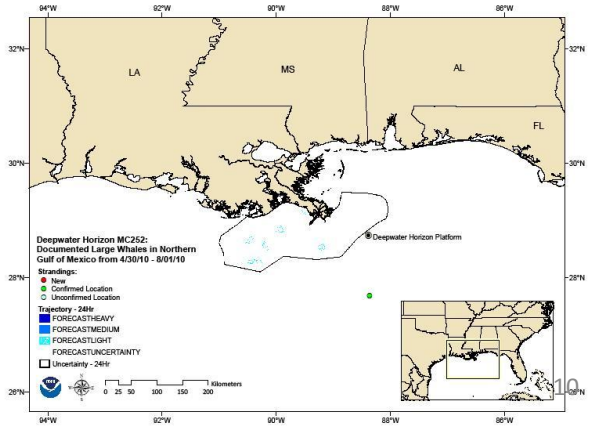
Dolphin Status	
Verified Animals	
Total animals collected	**68**
Total dead animals	63
Total live animals	5
Total live animals stranded that died in care	3
Total live released animals	1
Total live animals currently in rehabilitation	1
Oiling Status	
Total dead oiled animals	3
Total live oiled animals	1
Animal Necropsy Status	
Number collected and unable to perform necropsies (e.g., advanced decomposition)	29
Number of partial necropsies performed (e.g., due to scavenging or autolysis)	11
Number of full necropsies performed	14
Verified strandings but animals not collected due to stage of decomposition or unable to recover	11
Carcasses to be necropsied, if decomposition stage warrants	1



Whales

- The NOAA Ship *Pisces* reported a dead 25 ft sperm whale located 150 miles due south of Pascagoula, MS on June 15, 2010.
- The whale was decomposed and heavily scavenged by sharks.
- There was no oil in the vicinity.
- The whale was photodocumented, sampled (skin/blubber, external swab), and marked with blue paint to reduce resighting/resampling.
- NOAA and the Unified Command Wildlife Branch have had numerous reports of sperm whales sighted swimming in the oil, but this is the first confirmed report of a dead whale since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill began.
- Sperm whales are the only endangered resident cetacean in the upper Gulf of Mexico. Their prime habitat and feeding area are in the upper Gulf offshore area, they feed and live at depth in areas where undersea and aerial dispersants and oil have been present for many weeks, and they feed on deepwater squid which may also be impacted by the oil and dispersants.
- The NOAA Ship *Gordon Gunter* undertook a multi-week cruise to do photo-identification, assessments, and biopsy of sperm whales, Bryde's whales, and other offshore cetaceans as well as to tag sperm whales and Bryde's whales and to conduct prey density studies.

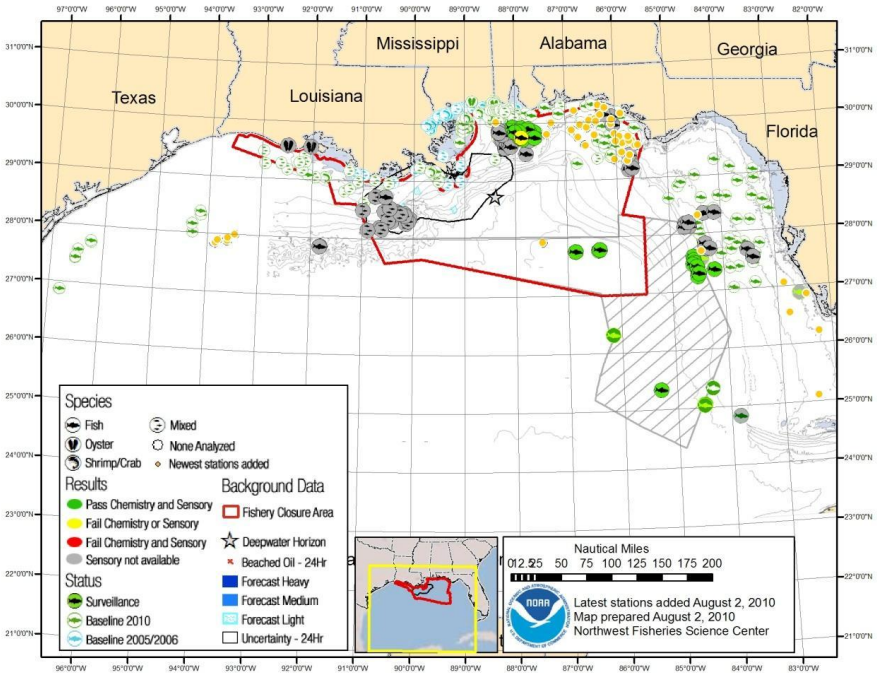
Whale Status	
Verified Animals	
Total animals collected	**1**
Total dead animals	1
Total live animals	0
Total live animals stranded that died in care	0
Total live released animals	0
Total live animals currently in rehabilitation	0
Oiling Status	
Total dead oiled animals	0
Total live oiled animals	0
Animal Necropsy Status	
Number collected and unable to perform necropsies (e.g., advanced decomposition)	0
Number of partial necropsies performed (e.g., due to scavenging or autolysis)	0
Number of full necropsies performed	0
Verified strandings but animals not collected due to stage of decomposition or unable to recover	1
Carcasses to be necropsied, if decomposition stage warrants	0



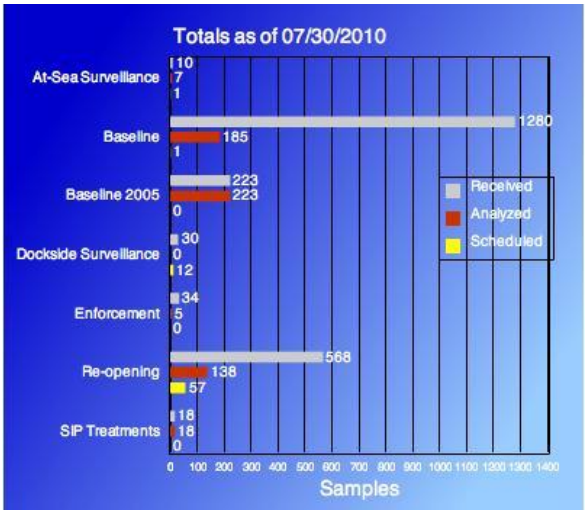
Seafood Safety Sampling

August 2, 2010

- Two shipments containing nearly 250 seafood samples, mostly for re-opening, were received by the NWFSC last week.
- A schedule of chemical analyses of “re-opening” seafood samples for the Florida Panhandle has been developed: one set was completed and undergoing QA/QC review, 2 sets were prepped over the weekend and will be run today on the GC/MS, and processing of an additional 5 sets will commence today.

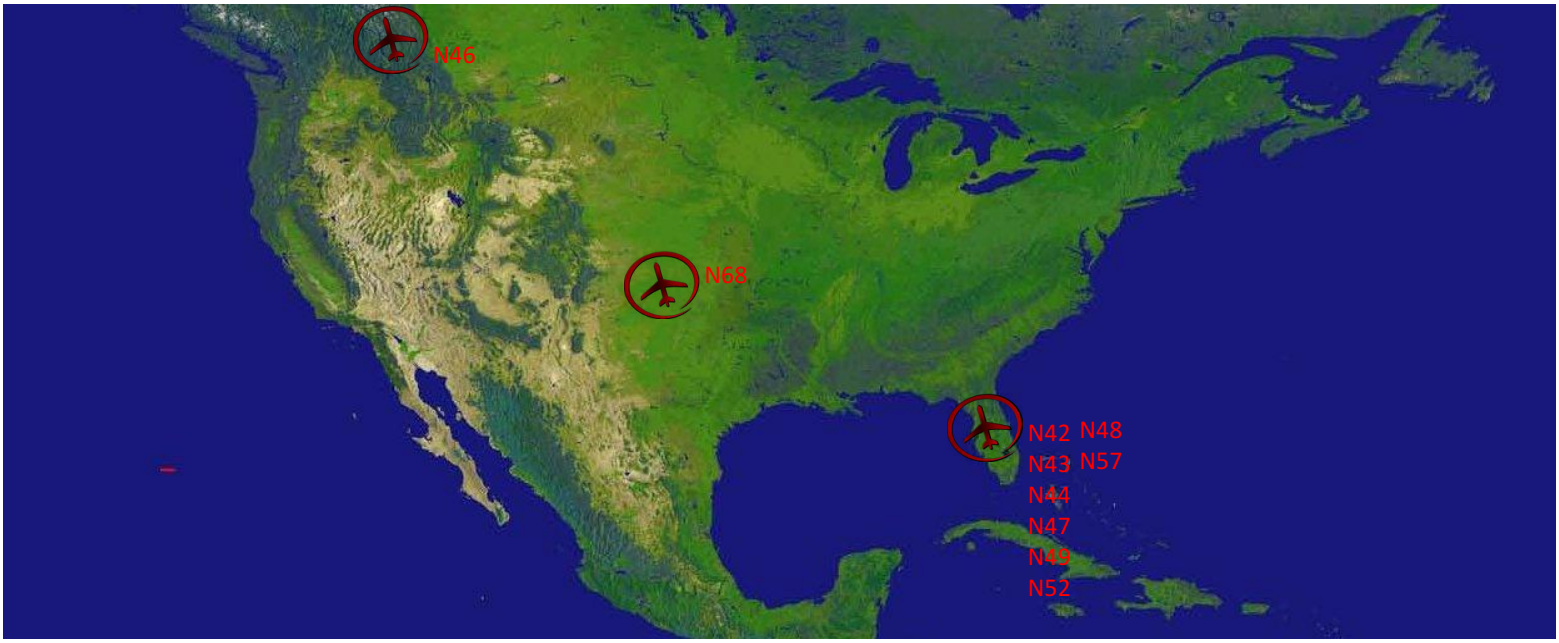


Seafood samples: Status



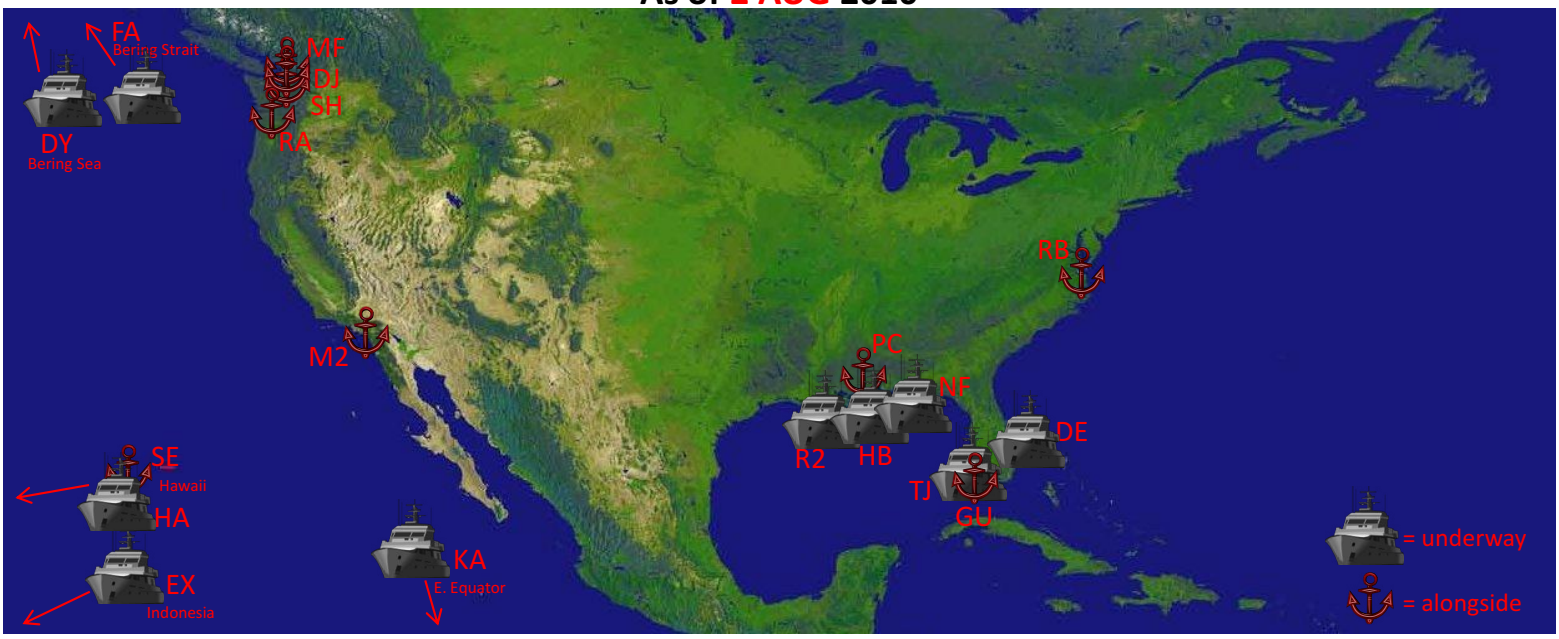
"Received" bar represents all field samples sent to NWFSC from NSIL. Red are samples for which we have chemical results, and yellow are samples scheduled for analysis. Samples are prioritized for analysis based on species, location and status. Closed area samples receive highest priority and are all analyzed.

NOAA Aircraft Positions
As of 02 AUG 2010



ID	Type	Status Today
N42	P-3	No flights scheduled, MacDill, AFB
N43	P-3	Phase Maintenance, MacDill AFB
N44	P-3	Maintenance, MacDill AFB
N45	Turbo Cmdr	GRAV-D, Anchorage, AK
N46	Twin Otter	Maintenance, Calgary, AB
N47	Shrike	No flights scheduled, MacDill AFB
N48	Twin Otter	No Flights Scheduled, MacDill AFB
N49	G-IV	Local Test Flight Scheduled, MacDill AFB
N51	Shrike	Harbor Seals, Homer, AK
N52	Citation	In disposal process, MacDill AFB
N56	Twin Otter	Harbor Seal, Anchorage, AK
N57	Twin Otter	No Flights Scheduled, MacDill AFB
N68	King Air	Maintenance, Newton, KS

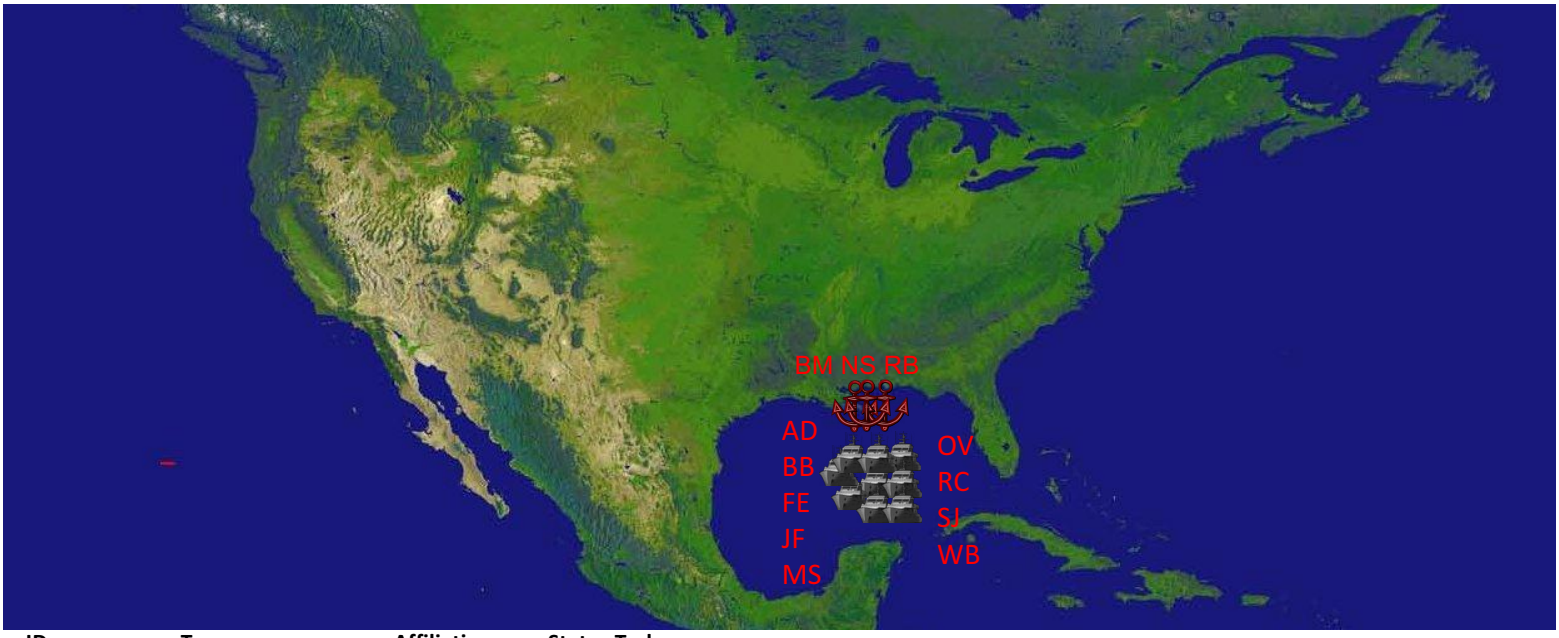
NOAA Ship Positions
As of 2 AUG 2010



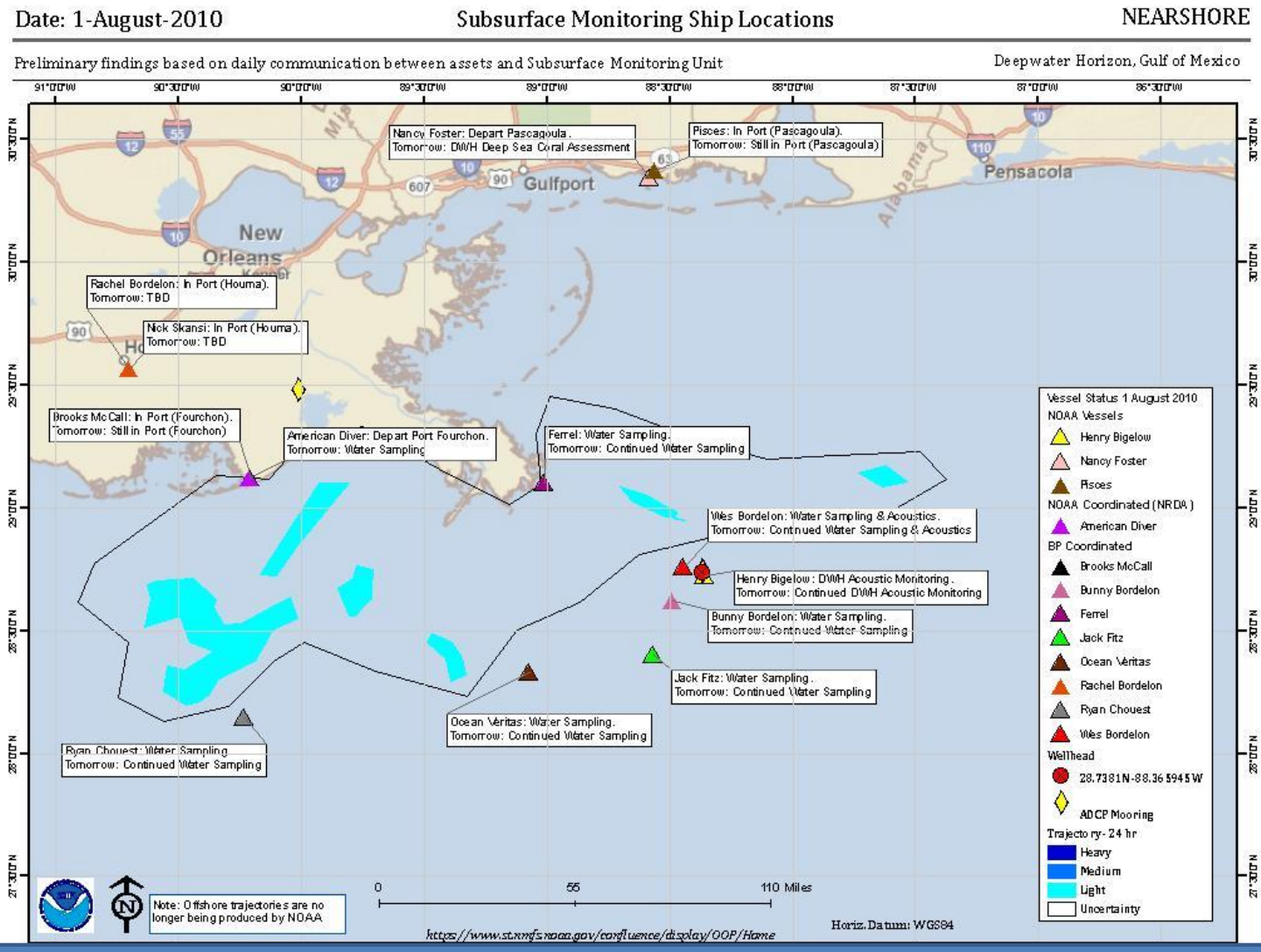
IDS	Status Today
FA	Underway for scheduled project. Arrival 8/14 Nome, AK
SH	Alongside Seattle, WA. Departure 8/27 for scheduled project
MF	Alongside Seattle, WA. Departure 8/3 for scheduled project
DY	Underway for scheduled project. Arrival 8/7 Dutch Harbor, AK
HA	Underway for scheduled project. Arrival 8/20 Pearl Harbor, HI
M2	Alongside San Diego, CA. Departure 8/4 for scheduled project
SE	Alongside Pearl Harbor, HI. Departure 8/4 for scheduled project
KA	Underway for scheduled project. Arrival 8/10 Manzanillo, MX
RA	Alongside Cascade Shipyard, Portland, OR for major repair period
DJ	Alongside Seattle, WA. Decommissioning on week of 8/2
EX	Underway for scheduled project. Arrival 8/7 Bitung, Indonesia

ID	Status Today
DE	Underway for scheduled project. Arrival 8/9 Morehead City, NC
TJ	Underway for scheduled project. Arrival 8/6 Key West, FL
HB	Underway for DWH Wellhead Monitoring. Arrival 8/5 Pascagoula, MS
NF	Underway for DWH Deep Sea Corals. Arrival 8/8 Pascagoula, MS
RB	Alongside Norfolk, VA. Shipyard repair contract ends 8/24
GU	Alongside Key West, FL. Departure today, 8/2, for DWH Ocean Chemistry
PC	Alongside Pascagoula, MS. Departure 8/4 for DWH Wellhead Monitoring
R2	Underway for DWH Seafood Safety Trawl Leg 3. Arrival 8/3 Pascagoula, MS

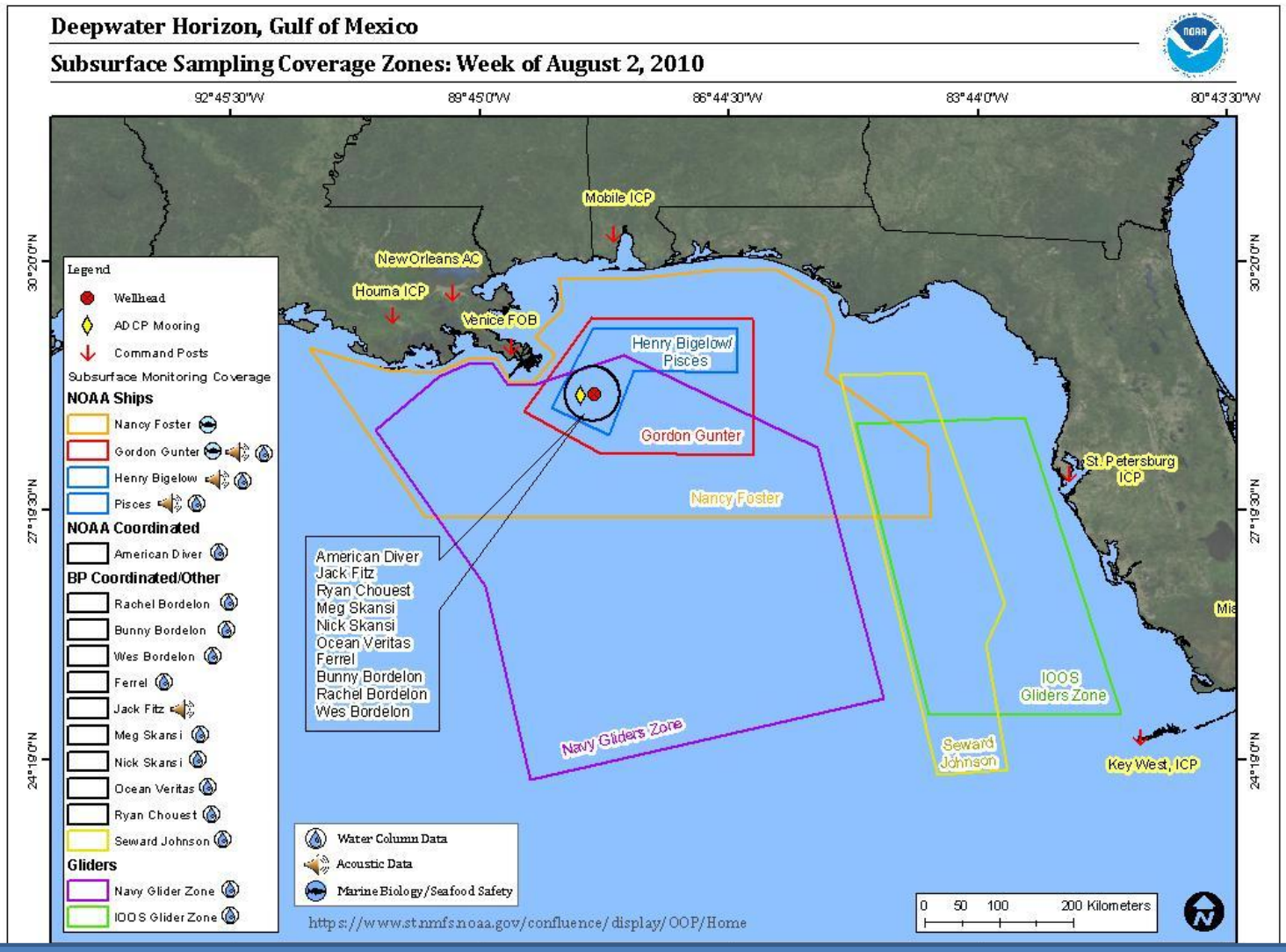
Chartered Ship Positions
As of 02 AUG 2010



ID	Type	Affiliation	Status Today
AD	R/V American Diver	NRDA	Conducting water sampling operations
BM	M/V Brooks McCall	BP	In Port Fourchon
BB	OSV Bunny Bordelon	BP	Conducting water sampling operations
FE	R/V Ferrel	BP	Conducting water sampling operations
JF	OSV Jack Fitz	BP	Conducting water sampling operations
MS	M/V Meg Skansi	BP	Conducting water sampling operations
NS	M/V Nick Skansi	BP	In Port Houma
OV	M/V Ocean Veritas	BP	Conducting water sampling operations
RB	OSV Rachel Bordelon	BP	In Port Houma
RC	OSV Ryan Chouest	BP	Conducting water sampling operations
SJ	R/V Seward Johnson	UNOLS	Arrive and Depart St. Petersburg
WB	M/V Wes Bordelon	BP	Conducting water sampling and acoustic operations



https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/confluence/display/OOP/Subsurface+Monitoring+Ship+Locations



https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/confluence/display/OOP/Subsurface+Coverage+Zones

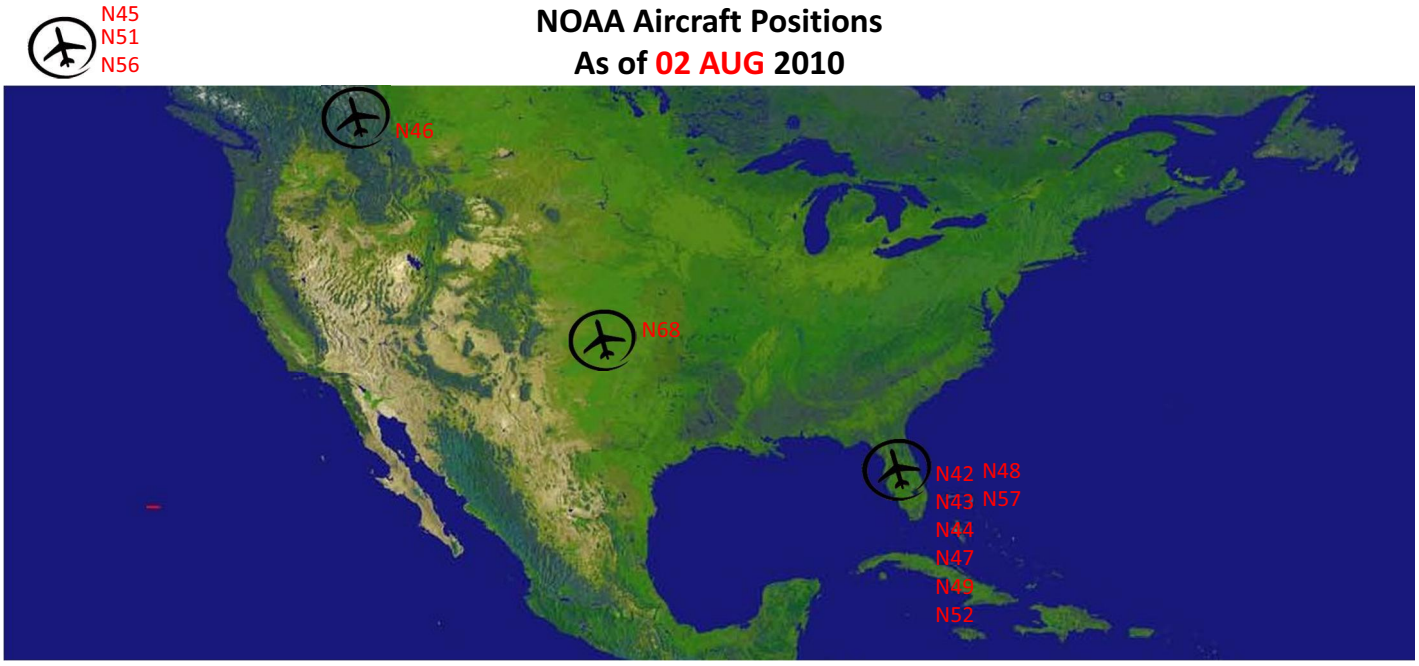
Subsurface Monitoring Vessel Assignments

Vessel Assignments for August 02, 2010 to August 04, 2010

Vessel - MMSI	*Affiliation*	*Chief Scientist*	*August 02, 2010*	*August 03, 2010*	*August 04, 2010*
American Diver 368434000	NRDA	Cabell Davis	Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling
Brooks McCall 338257000	BP	Leigh Stevens	In Port (Fourchon)	Depart Fourchon	Water Sampling
Bunny Bordelon 366816890	BP	Woody Powell	Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling
Ferrel 338574000	BP	Tony Parkin	Water Sampling	Arrive Fourchon	
Gordon Gunter 303913000	NOAA	Tony Martinez	Depart Key West	Transit to well site	DWH Water Chemistry
Henry Bigelow 200144392	NOAA	John Hare	DWH Acoustic Monitoring	DWH Acoustic Monitoring	DWH Acoustic Monitoring
Jack Fitz 366765580	BP	Stefan Blachinski	Water Sampling	Water Sampling	Water Sampling
Meg Skansi	BP		Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling
Nick Skansi		Eric Roach	In Port (Houma)	TBD	TBD
Ocean Veritas 367116090	BP	Don Aurand	Water Sampling	Arrrive Fourchon	In Port (Fourchon)
Pisces 369970145	NOAA	Tom Weber	In Port (Pascagoula)	Still In Port (Pascagoula)	Depart Pascagoula
Rachel Bordelon 367359570	BP	Frank Johnson	In Port (Houma)	TBD	TBD
Ryan Chouest 366237000	BP	Andrew Ross	Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling
Seward Johnson 303576000	UNOLS	Shirley Pomponi	Arrive/Depart St. Petersburg	Water Sampling and Submersible Dives	Water Sampling and Submersible Dives
Wes Bordelon 366816920	BP	Dave Browning	Water Sampling & Acoustics	Continue Water Sampling & Acoustics	Continue Water Sampling & Acoustics

https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/confluence/display/OOP/Daily+Vessel+Call+Notes

NOAA Aircraft Positions
As of 02 AUG 2010



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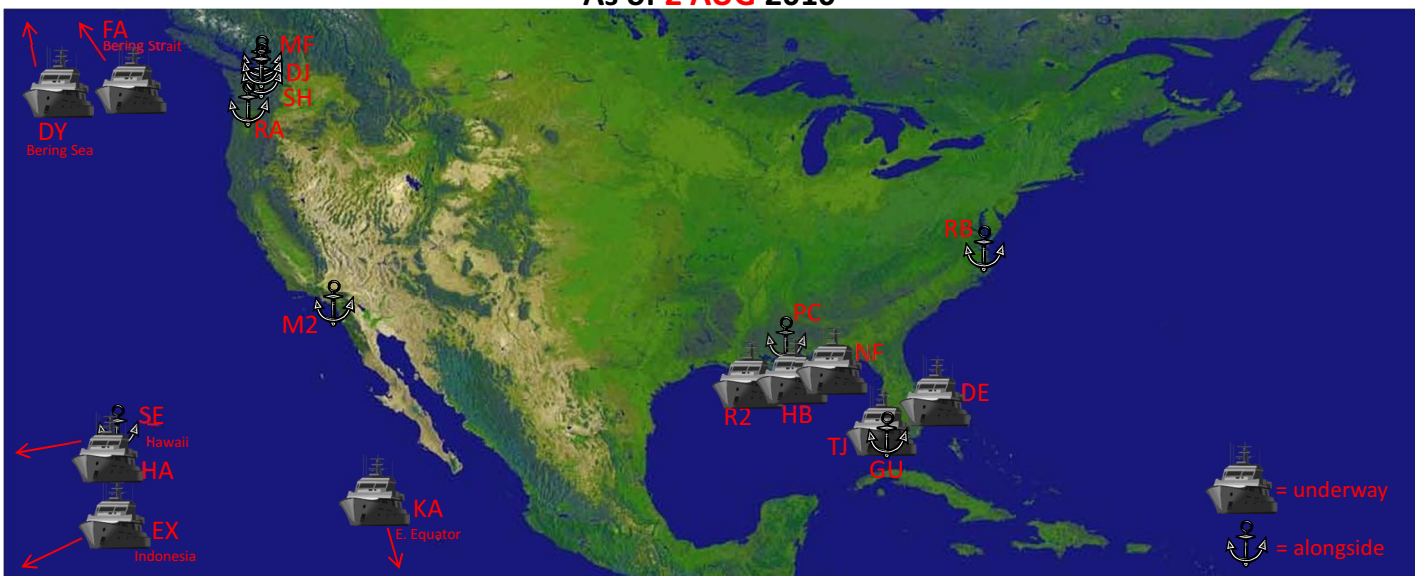
N47	Shrike	No flights scheduled, MacDill AFB
N48	Twin Otter	No Flights Scheduled, MacDill AFB
N49	G-IV	Local Test Flight Scheduled, MacDill AFB
N51	Shrike	Harbor Seals, Homer, AK
N52	Citation	In disposal process, MacDill AFB
N56	Twin Otter	Harbor Seal, Anchorage, AK
N57	Twin Otter	No Flights Scheduled, MacDill AFB
N68	King Air	Maintenance, Newton, KS

NOAA Ship Positions
As of 2 AUG 2010



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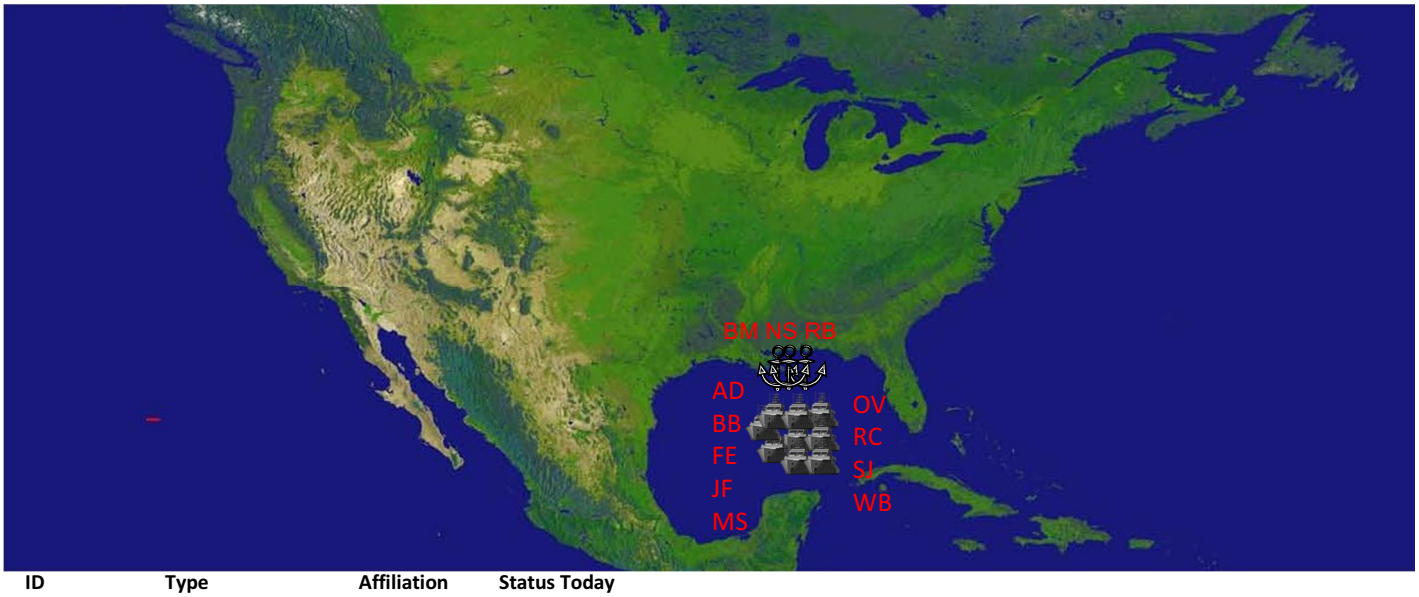
GU	Alongside Key West, FL. Departure today, 8/2, for DWH Ocean Chemistry
PC	Alongside Pascagoula, MS. Departure 8/4 for DWH Wellhead Monitoring
R2	Underway for DWH Seafood Safety Trawl Leg 3. Arrival 8/3 Pascagoula, MS

Chartered Ship Positions
As of 02 AUG 2010



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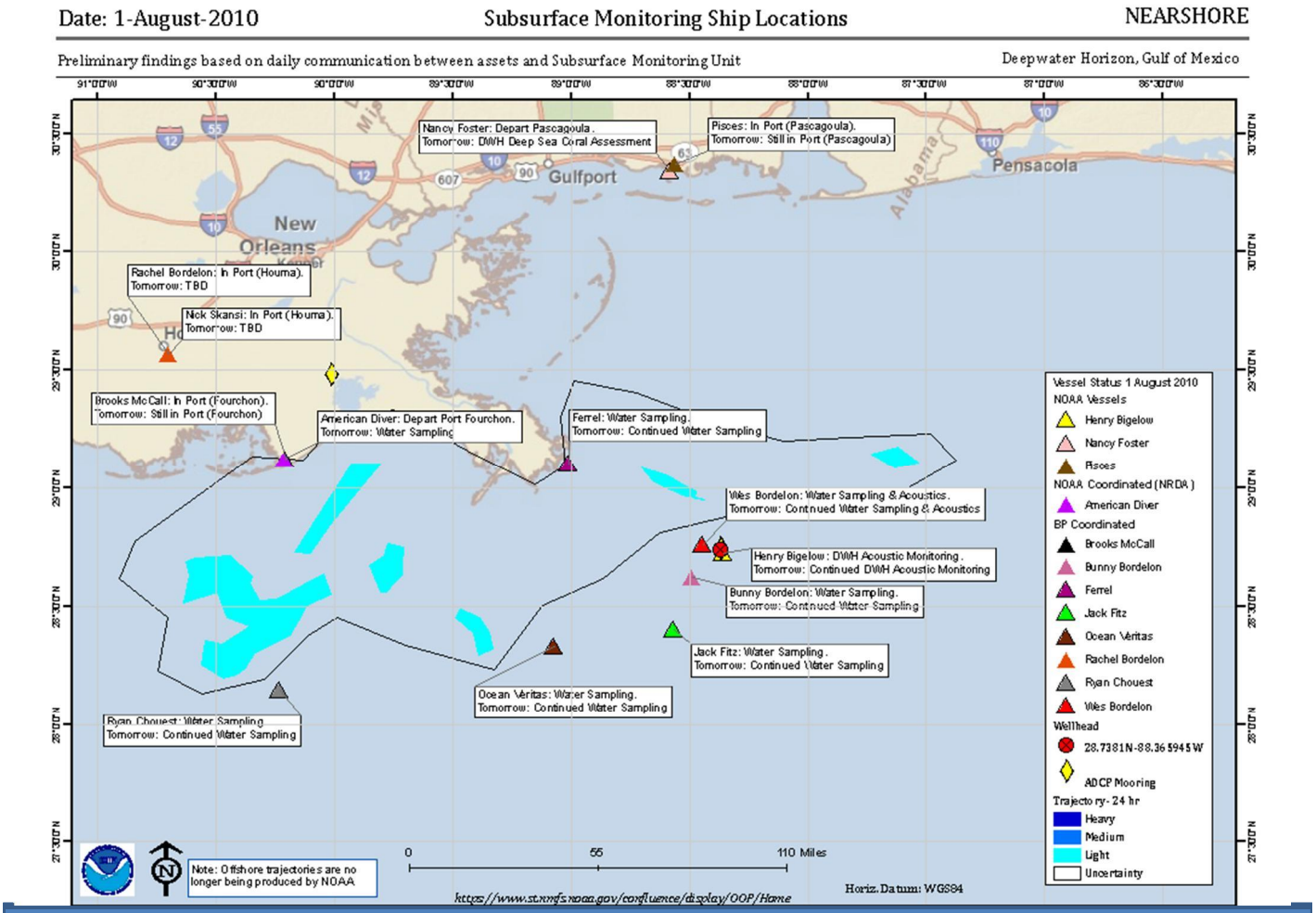
BM	M/V Brooks McCall	BP	In Port Fourchon
BB	OSV Bunny Bordelon	BP	Conducting water sampling operations
FE	R/V Ferrel	BP	Conducting water sampling operations
JF	OSV Jack Fitz	BP	Conducting water sampling operations
MS	M/V Meg Skansi	BP	Conducting water sampling operations
NS	M/V Nick Skansi	BP	In Port Houma
OV	M/V Ocean Veritas	BP	Conducting water sampling operations
RB	OSV Rachel Bordelon	BP	In Port Houma
RC	OSV Ryan Chouest	BP	Conducting water sampling operations
SJ	R/V Seward Johnson	UNOLS	Arrive and Depart St. Petersburg
WB	M/V Wes Bordelon	BP	Conducting water sampling and acoustic operations



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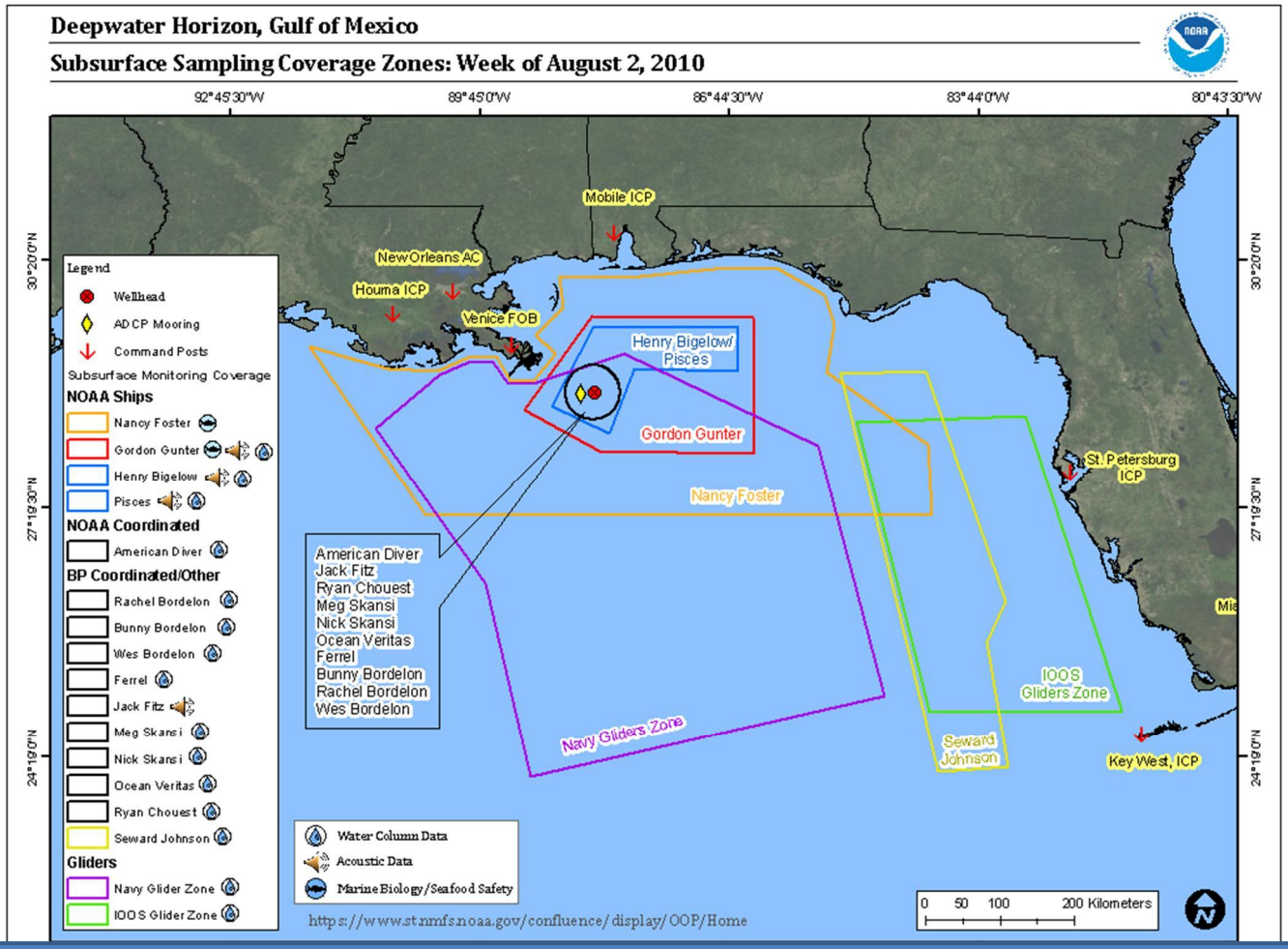

https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/confluence/display/OOP/Subsurface+Coverage+Zones

Subsurface Monitoring Vessel Assignments

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Brooks McCall 338257000	BP	Leigh Stevens	In Port (Fourchon)	Depart Fourchon	Water Sampling
Bunny Bordelon 366816890	BP	Woody Powell	Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling
Ferrel 338574000	BP	Tony Parkin	Water Sampling	Arrive Fourchon	
Gordon Gunter 303913000	NOAA	Tony Martinez	Depart Key West	Transit to well site	DWH Water Chemistry
Henry Bigelow 200144392	NOAA	John Hare	DWH Acoustic Monitoring	DWH Acoustic Monitoring	DWH Acoustic Monitoring
Jack Fitz 366765580	BP	Stefan Blachinski	Water Sampling	Water Sampling	Water Sampling
Meg Skansi	BP		Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling
Nick Skansi		Eric Roach	In Port (Houma)	TBD	TBD
Ocean Veritas 367116090	BP	Don Aurand	Water Sampling	Arrrive Fourchon	In Port (Fourchon)
Pisces 369970145	NOAA	Tom Weber	In Port (Pascagoula)	Still In Port (Pascagoula)	Depart Pascagoula
Rachel Bordelon 367359570	BP	Frank Johnson	In Port (Houma)	TBD	TBD
Ryan Chouest 366237000	BP	Andrew Ross	Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling	Continue Water Sampling
Seward Johnson 303576000	UNOLS	Shirley Pomponi	Arrive/Depart St. Petersburg	Water Sampling and Submersible Dives	Water Sampling and Submersible Dives
Wes Bordelon 366816920	BP	Dave Browning	Water Sampling & Acoustics	Continue Water Sampling & Acoustics	Continue Water Sampling & Acoustics

https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/confluence/display/OOP/Daily+Vessel+Call+Notes

OMAO Assets (as of 8/2/

	Aug	Sep
N42 WP-3D	Hurricane Seas	
N43 WP-3D	Phase Maintenance	
N46 Twin Otter	Fuel Tank / Maintenance	BOWFEST
N48 Twin Otter	DWH Multi Spectral Oil MacDill AFB, FL Future tasking TBD	BWASP
N56 Twin Otter	Harbor Seals	Leatherback Turtles
N57 Twin Otter	DWH Marine Mammal Surveys MacDill AFB, FL Future tasking TBD	
N68 King Air	Coastal Mappi	
Bigelow	Cetacean Abundance Mapping DWH Acoustic Monitoring	Bottom Trawl
Delaware II	ECOMON Underway for scheduled project. Arrival 8/9 Morehead City, NC	Atl. Herring
Brown	Shipyard / Trials / Fleet Inspection	Tsunami/Trop. Atl
Foster	DWH Corals FGBNMS/Reg Assmt/Seafloor/Lionfish/Norfolk Canyon In Port Pascagoula	
Gunter	DWH MM F.I. U/W for Marine Mammal assessment	Fall Plankton
Jefferson	Key West Underway for scheduled Project, ETA Key West 8/6	Chesapeake Bay
Oregon II	Longline Shark / Red Snapper U/W for Seafood Safety Trawl	
Pisces	South Atlantic Reef Fish - TBD In Port Pascagoula	

NOAA Line Office Asse

	Aug	Sep
R/V HST	No update	
R/V Gandy	No update	
R/V Caretta	No update	
R/V Harold B	No update	

6/16/2011

25' Parker			

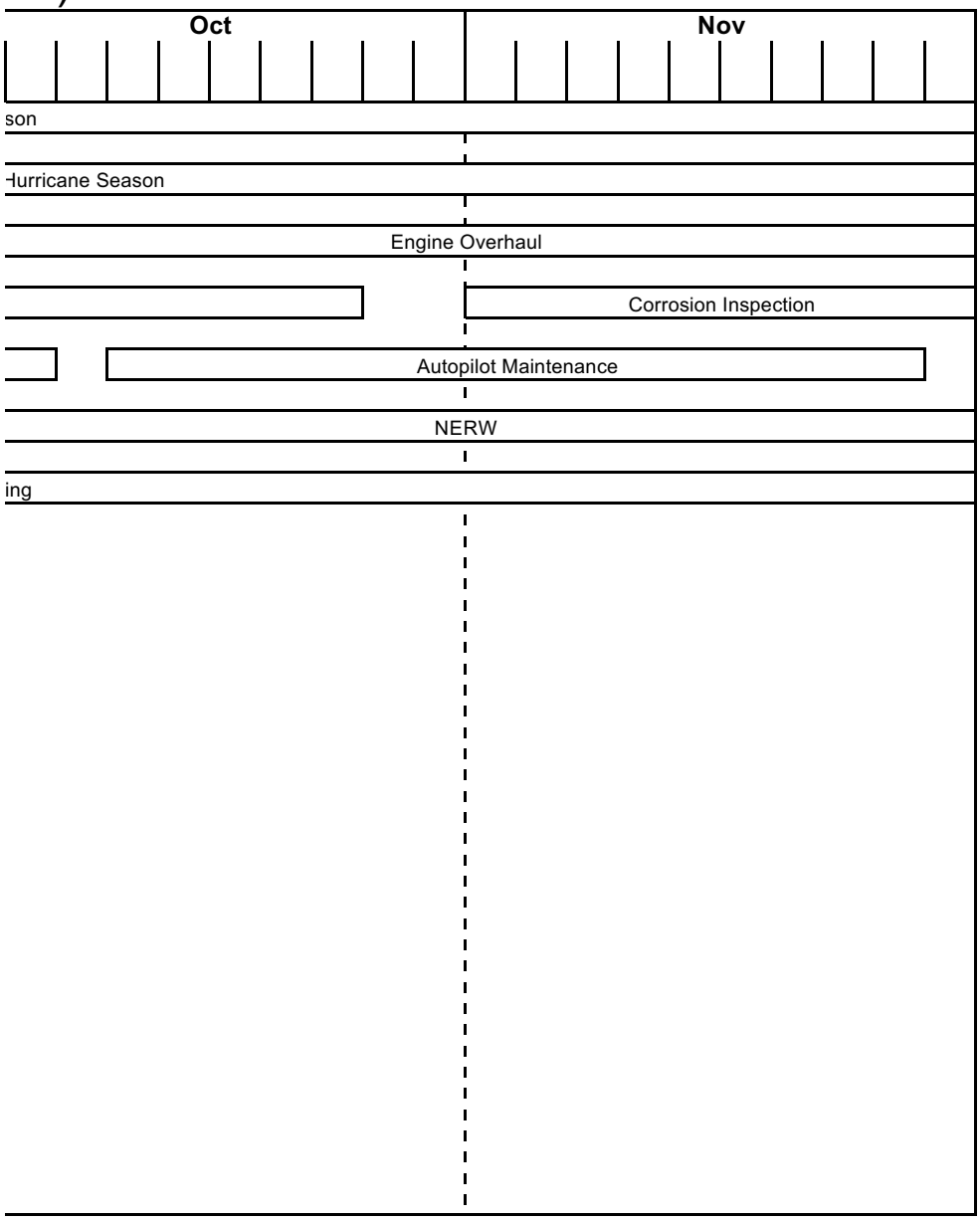
6/16/2011

25 Parker	No update

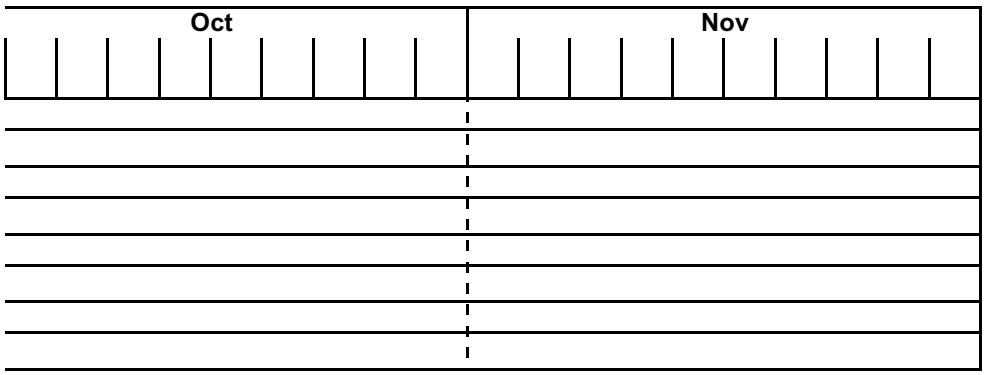
Other Assets

	Aug	Sep
American Diver (NRDA)	Conducting water sampling operations	
Beau Rivage	No update	
Bellows	No update	
Brooks McCall (BP)	In Port Fourchon	
Bunny Bordelon (BP)	Conducting Water Sampling	
Cape Hatteras	No update	
Endeavor	No update	
Ferrel (BP)	Conducting Water Sampling	
Jack Fitz (BP)	Conducting Water Sampling	
Meg Skansi (BP)	Conducting Water Sampling	
Nlck Skansi (BP)	In Port Houma	
Ocean Veritas (BP)	Conducting water sampling operations	
Pelican	No update	
Rachel Bordelon(BP)	In Port (Houma)	
Ridley Thomas (BP)	No update	
Rutgers and USF Sea	No update	
Ryan Chouest (BP)	Underway conducting water sampling	
Seward Johnson (UNOLS)	Arrive and Depart St. Petersbur, FL	
Walton Smith	No update	
Wes Bordelon (BP)	Conducting water sampling and acoustic operations	
NAVO Gliders	No update	

10)



ts



6/16/2011

Oct	Nov

6/16/2011

Received(Date): Tue, 03 Aug 2010 14:08:05 -0400
From: Roy Crabtree <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: Additional food for thought and facts for trawling proposal
To: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Cc: Heather Blough <Heather.Blough@noaa.gov>,Buck Sutter <Buck.Sutter@noaa.gov>,Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>,Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>

Do you know if they have plans to open the area to shrimping in the near term? Go ahead and draft a letter but we need to have some discussions with LDFW before we send anything.

David Bernhart wrote:
> Hi Roy,
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> emergency berm and its impact on turtles. Here's an e-mail from Dena
> Dickerson, who's the COE's scientist managing the turtle relocation
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> anymore, so it's unlikely we could control that area with enforcement.
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> this information from the berm-trawling along with our concerns about
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> would ask the LDWF to keep that last area closed to shrimping until
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>> been halted. The only change that has occurred is that the hopper
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>> relocated to dredge material from the river instead of from the Hewes
>> Point borrow site. As a result this redirection of the hopper dredges
>> (possibly temporary), trawling operations associated with the hopper
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>> turtles being pushed away from the oiled areas and in closer to shore
>> and into clearer waters. It would be critical to document the
>> long-term behavior of these animals related to various factors
>> associated with the overall oil spill (oil spill areas, berm
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>> protect these turtles are extremely important. Additional assessments
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>> needed as to whether the turtles utilize the oil-impacted areas
>> similarly to previously tracked turtles from those areas.
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>> throughout the oil spill.
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>> *From:* Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS
>> *Sent:* Mon 8/2/2010 8:08 PM
>> *To:* eruder@indecon.com; simeon.hahn@noaa.gov; sheila.o'brien@noaa.gov
>> *Cc:* Eric Hawk (eric.hawk@noaa.gov); David Bernhart
>> (david.bernhart@noaa.gov); Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS
>> *Subject:* Partnering with Lousiana Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries
>>
>> All,
>> I just talked with Mandy Tumlin with the Louisiana Dept Wildlife and
>> Fisheries. Re:
>> 1) her impression of the numbers and sizes of turtles we recently
>> captured at Hewes Point with respect to their historical data;
>> 2) is anyone from the state pursuing assessment of berm impacts on
>> ESA species or essential fish habitat as stated in the dredging
>> permit provision;
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>> tagging studies (e.g. trawling);
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>> 5) what is happening to the rehabbed turtles they have taken to Audubon;
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>> the areas we were trawling at Hewes Point;
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>> without enforcement of TEDs will result in large numbers of turtle
>> mortalities; and
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>> for more optimal assessments avenues.
>> 1) They seldom get turtles of the larger size classes reported in the
>> capture data they maintain or in their strandings data. They usually
>> get the smaller juveniles of loggerheads and Kemp's.
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>> trawl capture of turtles for studies. Therefore, they would not be
>> able to adequately pursue evaluations of ESA species (e.g. sea
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>> for the berm construction. She was also unaware of any provisions in
>> the berm permit that addressed potential impacts to essential fish
>> habitat or ESA species. This was news to her.
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>> were recovered via the LA Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries rescue
>> operations. LA Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries is VERY INTERESTED in
>> putting telemetry packages on however many of those turtles that
>> would support tags when released. They would very much like to
>> partner with the NRDA efforts, if possible, to tag these turtles. She
>> is going to get me a breakdown of the sizes of turtles they are
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>> Hewes Point will be included. Our trawling data will be used to help
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>> This is a potential source of oiled/rehabbed turtles for some
>> telemetry tags. Possibly for at least the 5 Kiwi and maybe the 4 SPOT
>> tags.
>> Dena

Received(Date): Tue, 03 Aug 2010 14:51:04 -0400
From: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Subject: [Fwd: Re: Additional food for thought and facts for trawling proposal]
To: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
Cc: Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>

Hi Mike,
Will you please contact LDWF about Roy's question? Also, will you begin drafting a letter?

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: Re: Additional food for thought and facts for trawling proposal
Date: Tue, 03 Aug 2010 14:08:05 -0400
From: Roy Crabtree <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>
To: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
CC: Heather Blough <Heather.Blough@noaa.gov>, Buck Sutter <Buck.Sutter@noaa.gov>, Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>
References: <C4CF3FB80A756643BE25F5F55CAC3ABC0B17980C@ERD-ML1ERD.erd.ds.usace.army.mil> <C4CF3FB80A756643BE25F5F55CAC3ABC0B17980E@ERD-ML1ERD.erd.ds.usace.army.mil> <4C585861.9090303@noaa.gov>

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>> Dena

Received(Date): Tue, 22 Jun 2010 13:11:32 -0400
From: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
To: 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>,David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Subject: [Fwd: [Fwd: Fwd: skimmers in MS, AL & LA]
Fwd: skimmers in MS/AL
Michael_Barnette.vcf

FYI

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: [Fwd: Fwd: skimmers in MS, AL & LA
Date: Tue, 22 Jun 2010 11:44:46 -0500
From: John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>
To: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>

Mike,

The email below is from Dave Burrage with Miss. / AL Sea Grant Consortium. Dave reports that in 2008 there were 5,510 resident skimmer nets and 80 nonresident in Louisiana. MS and AL do not license vessels by gear type, so there are no accurate skimmer counts. A pers. comm. from a MS DMR shrimp manager estimates about 400 skimmers in MS and we are "guessing" something less than that in AL.

- JM

Received(Date): Thu, 17 Jun 2010 09:55:54 -0500
From: José Miguel Carvajal <carva77@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: skimmers in MS/AL
To: John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>

---------- Mensaje reenviado ----------
De: **Dave Burrage** <daveb@ext.msstate.edu>
Fecha: 15 de junio de 2010 09:36
Asunto: Re: skimmers in MS/AL
Para: "Gaude, III, Albert P." <AGaude@agcenter.lsu.edu>
Cc: José Miguel Carvajal <carva77@gmail.com>, "Thomas, Glenn" <GThomas@agcenter.lsu.edu>

I have 2008 figures for LA. 5,510 resident skimmer net. 80 nonresident skimmer net. In Alabama and Miss., we don't license the gear, just the boat in three size categories, less than 30 ft., 30-45 ft., and over 45 feet. I'm guessing that most of those non-resident Louisiana licenses were sold to MS and AL small boats, which in a normal year work the marsh of the east side of your state.

Dave Burrage
Extension Professor
Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Extension Program Leader
MSU Coastal Research & Extension Center
1815 Popps Ferry Road
Biloxi, MS 39532
phone: 228-546-1028
FAX: 228-388-1375
daveb@ext.msstate.edu

----- Original Message -----
From: Gaude, III, Albert P.
To: daveb@ext.msstate.edu
Cc: José Miguel Carvajal ; Thomas, Glenn
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 12:05 PM
Subject: skimmers in MS/AL

Dave,

Looking for recent number of shrimp skimmer licenses for MS/AL. I have LA for 2007 as most recent.

Can you help?

RUSTY GAUDE'

AREA FISHERY AGENT

Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Orleans Parishes

LOUISIANA SEA GRANT PROGRAM

LSU AGCENTER

479A F. EDWARD HEBERT BLVD.

BELLE CHASSE LA 70037

504-433-3664

agaude@agcenter.lsu.edu

LOUISIANA

AgCenter
Research & Extension

Michael Barnette

Fishery Biologist

National Marine Fisheries Service
Protected Resources Division

263 13th Avenue South
Southeast Regional Office
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

(727) 551-5794 (Work)
(727) 824-5309 (Fax)

michael.barnette@noaa.gov (Internet)

Formatted Name
Michael Barnette

Name
Family: Barnette
First: Michael
Middle:
Prefix:
Suffix:

Organization
National Marine Fisheries Service
Protected Resources Division

Address (Domestic)
P.O. Address: 263 13th Avenue South
Extended Address:
Street: Southeast Regional Office
Locality: St. Petersburg
Region: FL
Postal Code: 33701
Country:

Electronic Mail Address (Internet)
michael.barnette@noaa.gov

Title
Fishery Biologist

Telephone Number (Work)
(727) 551-5794

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Version
2.1

Received(Date): Mon, 03 May 2010 10:06:55 -0400
From: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
To: Barbara Schroeder <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>,David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>,Lisa Belskis <Lisa.Belskis@noaa.gov>,Sheryan Epperly <Sheryan.Epperly@noaa.gov>
Subject: stranded turtles and shrimp effort
Michael_Barnette.vcf

Mississippi shrimping closed on April 30. Effort may have dropped out just before then due to rough weather. Obviously, no boats are out now due to the closure, weather, and oil (apparently some ports are shut with deployed oil booms).
Louisiana was open for like a day, but also had strong winds that likely limited effort.
Will check on AL...

Michael Barnette

Fishery Biologist

National Marine Fisheries Service
Protected Resources Division

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Version
2.1

Received(Date): Tue, 03 Aug 2010 14:51:40 -0400
From: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: Additional food for thought and facts for trawling proposal
To: Roy Crabtree <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>
Cc: Heather Blough <Heather.Blough@noaa.gov>,Buck Sutter <Buck.Sutter@noaa.gov>,Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>,Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>

I don't know, but we'll ask. We'll get to work on a draft letter, too.
Thanks,
David

Roy Crabtree wrote:
> Do you know if they have plans to open the area to shrimping in the
> near term? Go ahead and draft a letter but we need to have some
> discussions with LDFW before we send anything.
>
> David Bernhart wrote:
>> Hi Roy,
>>
>> As you know, there's a lot of issues swirling around the Louisiana
>> emergency berm and its impact on turtles. Here's an e-mail from Dena
>> Dickerson, who's the COE's scientist managing the turtle relocation
>> aspects of the project. We've known that the berm project has
>> unusually high catch rates of turtles. The summary below puts in
>> perspective just how unprecedentedly high they are, compared to all
>> previous trawling projects.
>>
>> LDWF's website shows that the area east and north of the Chandeleurs
>> remains closed to shrimping. The berm project's borrow site is at the
>> north end of the Chandeleurs. If this area reopens to shrimping, it's
>> likely that sea turtle takes would occur at this extremely high rate.
>> If they're using skimmer trawls without TEDs or the
>> compliance/condition of TEDs in otter trawlers is not good, there
>> could be really significant mortality. Gov. Jindal recently vetoed
>> the state bill to allow enforcement of TED regs by LDWF, USCG is tied
>> up in oil spill, and NMFS LE doesn't have a real patrol capability
>> anymore, so it's unlikely we could control that area with enforcement.
>>
>> I would like to draft a letter to LDWF for your signature relaying
>> this information from the berm-trawling along with our concerns about
>> impacts to loggerhead turtles from reopening the area to shrimping.
>> We would ask the LDWF to keep that last area closed to shrimping
>> until the berm-related trawling shows a decrease to more normal
>> levels in the density of turtles in the area. Do you support our
>> preparing such a letter?
>>
>> This is somewhat similar to the issue raised by the petitioners when
>> they asked to keep Texas waters closed. I think this case is notably
>> different, though, in that we have specific information confirming
>> unheard of numbers of turtles in the area and that they may be more
>> vulnerable than usual to trawl-related mortality.
>>
>> Thanks,
>> David
>>
>>
>> Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS wrote:
>>> All,

>>> Below are a few facts that might help as we all move forward with
>>> the trawling proposal and answering questions regarding
>>> justification for the proposal. Attached are also 2 documents that
>>> provide supporting data.
>>> Dena
>>>
>>> - Construction of the Louisiana coastal barrier berm project has not
>>> been halted. The only change that has occurred is that the hopper
>>> dredges working on the east side of the river delta have been
>>> relocated to dredge material from the river instead of from the
>>> Hewes Point borrow site. As a result this redirection of the hopper
>>> dredges (possibly temporary), trawling operations associated with
>>> the hopper dredging activities have been discontinued (possibly
>>> temporary). If hopper dredging resumes in areas outside the river
>>> such as Hewes Point or St Bernard's Shoal, then associated trawling
>>> operations would also resume.
>>>
>>> - Historical trawling data for dredging projects since 1995 are
>>> provided in the attached document which was presented to the 2007
>>> World Dredging Congress. The trawling data documented during the
>>> 9-23 Jul 2010 effort far exceeds trawling results for any other
>>> dredging project since 1995. The only project of similar results was
>>> seen in Cape Canaveral Florida in 1981 during an unusual cold
>>> stunning event.
>>>
>>> - Between 1995-2006 (11 years): 70 trawling relocation projects (44
>>> Gulf, 26 Atlantic); 1239 turtles relocated (844 turtles Gulf; 395
>>> turtles Atlantic); CPUE ranged from 0.01 to 0.08 turtles per tow
>>> throughout seven geographic subregions for the Gulf and Atlantic;
>>> monthly CPUE ranged from 2.7 to 13.3 turtles relocated per trawling
>>> project (Gulf projects) and 2.0 to 99.0 turtles relocated per
>>> trawling project (Atlantic projects).
>>>
>>> - From 9-23 Jul 2010 (15 days) Louisiana barrier berm project only:
>>> a total of 194 sea turtles (185 loggerheads, 8 Kemp's ridley, 1
>>> green turtle) were captured using 2 trawlers over 584 tows
>>> (30-minutes per tow) for a CPUE of 0.33 turtles per tow, 12.9
>>> turtles per day, and 194 turtles per trawling project. These
>>> trawling results far exceed any other relocation trawling project
>>> conducted between 1995-2006 for any other dredging project
>>> throughout the northern Gulf of Mexico or the US Atlantic coast.
>>>
>>> - State of Louisiana is preparing to open fishing/trawling
>>> activities in areas east of the MS River Delta. The State of
>>> Louisiana currently does not enforce the use of TEDs on trawl
>>> vessels. If trawling is allowed without TEDs enforcement in or near
>>> the area of Hewes Point, large numbers of sea turtles will be killed
>>> by the trawl fishing.
>>>
>>> - The previous trawling operation at Hewes Point documented an
>>> unusual occurrence of high numbers of large size-class sea turtles.
>>> It has been speculated that this may have been as a result of the
>>> turtles being pushed away from the oiled areas and in closer to
>>> shore and into clearer waters. It would be critical to document the
>>> long-term behavior of these animals related to various factors
>>> associated with the overall oil spill (oil spill areas, berm
>>> construction, dredging activities, action of being relocated,
>>> recovered oil spill areas).

>>>
>>> - If the turtles have been concentrated into areas closer to shore
>>> away from the oiled areas, then they will become extremely
>>> vulnerable to fishing activities once these activities resume.
>>> Efforts to protect these turtles are extremely important. Additional
>>> assessments of these turtles are needed as well as enforcement of
>>> TEDs regulations is critical to protect these increased numbers of
>>> turtles in the fishing zones.
>>>
>>> - Whether the berm construction continues or not, assessments are
>>> needed as to whether the turtles utilize the oil-impacted areas
>>> similarly to previously tracked turtles from those areas.
>>>
>>> - Dive duration data from telemetry turtles are essential for
>>> interpretation and modeling of aerial survey data collected
>>> throughout the oil spill.
>>>
>>>
>>> ---
>>>
>>> *From:* Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS
>>> *Sent:* Mon 8/2/2010 8:08 PM
>>> *To:* eruder@indecon.com; simeon.hahn@noaa.gov; sheila.o'brien@noaa.gov
>>> *Cc:* Eric Hawk (eric.hawk@noaa.gov); David Bernhart
>>> (david.bernhart@noaa.gov); Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS
>>> *Subject:* Partnering with Lousiana Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries
>>>
>>> All,
>>> I just talked with Mandy Tumlin with the Louisiana Dept Wildlife and
>>> Fisheries. Re:
>>> 1) her impression of the numbers and sizes of turtles we recently
>>> captured at Hewes Point with respect to their historical data;
>>> 2) is anyone from the state pursuing assessment of berm impacts on
>>> ESA species or essential fish habitat as stated in the dredging
>>> permit provision;
>>> 3) does her department have any mechanism for capturing turtles for
>>> tagging studies (e.g. trawling);
>>> 4) what sizes/numbers of stranded turtles have they found;
>>> 5) what is happening to the rehabbed turtles they have taken to
>>> Audubon;
>>> 6) are they going to be allowing fishing/trawling to resume in/near
>>> the areas we were trawling at Hewes Point;
>>> 7) is her department aware that trawling in/near the Hewes Point
>>> area without enforcement of TEDs will result in large numbers of
>>> turtle mortalities; and
>>> 8) what are possible opportunities that we could partner interests
>>> for more optimal assessments avenues.
>>> 1) They seldom get turtles of the larger size classes reported in
>>> the capture data they maintain or in their strandings data. They
>>> usually get the smaller juveniles of loggerheads and Kemp's.
>>> 2 & 3) She does not think they currently have authorization to do
>>> any trawl capture of turtles for studies. Therefore, they would not
>>> be able to adequately pursue evaluations of ESA species (e.g. sea
>>> turtles) as specified by the provisions set in the emergency permit
>>> for the berm construction. She was also unaware of any provisions in
>>> the berm permit that addressed potential impacts to essential fish
>>> habitat or ESA species. This was news to her.
>>> 4) they typically get small juveniles of loggerheads and Kemp's

>>> 5) Audubon has over 140 oil spill related turtles being held that
>>> were recovered via the LA Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries rescue
>>> operations. LA Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries is VERY INTERESTED in
>>> putting telemetry packages on however many of those turtles that
>>> would support tags when released. They would very much like to
>>> partner with the NRDA efforts, if possible, to tag these turtles.
>>> She is going to get me a breakdown of the sizes of turtles they are
>>> holding. Many are going to be too small for the GPS tags but she
>>> said that some would be able to take a GPS tag.
>>> 6 &7) Mandy is checking to find out more of the details abotu when
>>> and where the fishing is to resume. It is likely that areas near
>>> Hewes Point will be included. Our trawling data will be used to help
>>> guide their efforts. They would welcome any additional data we may
>>> obtain.
>>> 7) Currently, there is no enforcement of the TEDS regulation in
>>> Louisiana waters. She would welcome any additional funding (maybe
>>> through the restoration side) to help with this.
>>> 8) Yes, her department would be willing to partner with efforts to
>>> capture turtles, utilize already captured turtles, and assess the
>>> overall impacts of the oil spill on sea turtles.
>>> Her contact info is:
>>> Mandy Tumlin (sea turtle person for LA Dept Wildlife & Fisheries)
>>> mtumlin@wlf.la.gov <mailto:mtumlin@wlf.la.gov>
>>> office: 985-787-2163
>>> cell: 337-962-7092
>>> Myron Fischer (Director for LA Dept Wildlife & Fisheries Research
>>> Laboratory)
>>> Grand Isle, LA
>>> Office 985-787-2163
>>> Cell 985-258-6006
>>> mfischer@wlf.la.gov <mailto:mfischer@wlf.la.gov>
>>> This is a potential source of oiled/rehabbed turtles for some
>>> telemetry tags. Possibly for at least the 5 Kiwi and maybe the 4
>>> SPOT tags.
>>> Dena
>

Received(Date): Tue, 24 Aug 2010 17:13:25 -0400
From: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
To: Alexis Gutierrez <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>
Subject: [Fwd: Louisiana Report]
Cameron LA 8-2010-Final.doc
Michael_Barnette.vcf

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: Louisiana Report
Date: Tue, 24 Aug 2010 10:40:17 -0500
From: John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>
To: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>

See attached

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Mississippi Laboratories
P.O. Drawer 1207
Pascagoula, MS 39568-1207

August 16, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/SEC42 John Mitchell

FROM: F/SEC42 - Dale Stevens/Jack Forrester

SUBJECT: Trip report

On August 11, 2010 Jack Forrester and Dale Stevens departed Pascagoula MS enroute to Cameron, LA, the Western-most shrimping port in Louisiana. The purpose of this trip was to conduct a series of courtesy dockside TED inspections along the Western Louisiana coastline to try and determine the level of TED compliance within the shrimp fishery in this region. These inspections showed TED compliance to be poor at best.

At the port of Cameron, TED inspections were conducted aboard nine (9) vessels. Of the nine vessels, two were found with the escape holes sewn completely closed. Two vessels were found to have no TEDs installed at all. Of these two vessels it was obvious that one of them had recently been trawling due to the presence of dead fish and other debris which was visible in the net. Two of the vessels were equipped with single flaps and escape openings that would stretch to less than 32-inches, Federal regulations require a minimum of 71-inches when stretched. These vessels had forward cuts that stretched to less than 20-inches where Federal Regulations require a minimum of 26-inches. One vessel was equipped with large pipe TEDs installed at 68-degree angles and escape openings of 65-inches. Another vessel was found with double cover flaps sewn together down the middle. Of the nine vessels, only one was found to be compliant with the TED regulations. Recommendations were made to the captains and boat owners on how to better equip their TEDs to achieve maximum shrimp retention. Most of them stated that it didn't matter because they kept their TEDs sewed closed when they were trawling. A large number of the TEDs we inspected supported this claim. It should be noted that most of these vessels were small in size (35 to 65 feet in length) making one think they would be trawling in inshore waters, however everyone we questioned stated that they worked in the offshore waters between Cameron and Sabine.

The next port, Delcambre LA, consisted of mostly skimmer trawl vessels; however two vessels were observed to have conventional otter trawl gear onboard. Of these two vessels one was equipped with TEDs and the other vessel had no TEDs installed in the nets. No one was onboard either vessel, so no contact was made with these captains.

The next port was Intracoastal City, LA where approximately seventeen vessels were observed. Most of the vessels in this port were using fixed angle TEDs (45-degree angles) with double cover flaps. The overlapped portion of the flaps on all of these TEDs measured from 24-inches to 32-inches, significantly exceeding the fifteen inch maximum stretched measurement allowed in the Federal Regulations. Several TEDs were observed with the flaps completely overlapped from side to side. Most of these TEDs had leading edge cuts which measured 46 to 48 inches; well below the minimum required cut of 56-inches. Four vessels were equipped with standard TEDs from Tony's net shop in New Orleans. These TEDs were all equipped with the single flap. On these TEDs, the leading edge cut was only 46-inches; this is 25 inches less than the 71 inch leading edge cut

requirement. The flaps on these TEDs would only stretch to 48-inches, well below the 71-inch stretched measurement as required by Federal TED regulations. One vessel was observed with grid angles at 65-degrees and several vessels had illegal single flap openings measuring 52 to 60-inches (71-inch minimum required). Of the seventeen vessels inspected, only two were found to be fully compliant.

The next port was Morgan City LA where four vessels were observed with fixed angle TEDs. There was no one on board these vessels so we were not able to conduct a thorough evaluation.

We traveled from Houma down to Dulac LA. where very few vessels were observed with trawl gear onboard. This did not come as a surprise and was expected due to the oil spill and vessels being employed by BP's Vessels of Opportunity program (VOO).

We then traveled down through Cut Off, Golden Meadow, and Port Fourchon ending in Grand Isle. We saw more of the same with regard to vessels without trawl gear as all appeared to be working with BP's VOO program. Two vessels with TEDs were inspected in Port Fourchon and found to have forward cuts of 9 inches and 6 inches respectively (minimum requirement is 26-inches). One of these TEDs had a leading edge cut of 64-inches (minimum requirement is 71-inches). One TED was installed at an angle of 70-degrees (55 degree maximum requirement). The angles on all other TEDs looked good. Both vessels had two, 6-3/4-inch X 8-3/4-inch floats installed on the front surface of the TED at a point where a turtle would exit the device. Federal TED regulations require that floats which are installed inside the TED extension must be placed behind the front surface of the grid. The float placement observed on the TEDs of these two vessels would have likely blocked the escape route of a turtle trying to exit through the TED.

Of the vessels observed a total of 29 were boarded and measurements taken on the TEDs.
Of the 29 vessels three were found to be in full compliance with the TED regulations. Five were found to have problems with their gear that may or may not result in the death of a turtle depending on the size of the turtle encountered. Twenty one of these vessels were equipped with TEDs, which in our opinion, would result in the capture and possible death of a sea turtle.

During this trip we also made an attempt to count the number of Skimmer and Butterfly trawl equipped vessels which we observed. This count was taken for the purpose of estimating the number of TEDs which may be needed in the event that TEDs are required to be installed in these gear types. A total of 500 vessels were counted with skimmer and butterfly gear during our tour of Western Louisiana. This number far exceeds the number of otter trawl vessels we saw, by an estimated order of 3:1. Note; this number reflects only skimmer and butterfly vessels which were in our field of view during the trip, and is only a sample. The true number is likely significantly higher as there are many small bayous and towns in which we did not travel too. Additionally, a large number of these vessels are likely employed by BP's VOO program. This number should be regarded as an indication that a larger number of TEDs will be required in the skimmer and butterfly shrimp fishery of Louisiana if and when a TED rule is implemented in these fisheries.

We returned to Pascagoula MS. on August 13, 2010.

Michael Barnette

Fishery Biologist

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Received(Date): Mon, 23 Aug 2010 10:23:48 -0400
From: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
To: 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>,David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Subject: [Fwd: [Fwd: Memo to SERO: Skimmer trawl TED testing]]
Memo to SERO: Skimmer trawl TED testing
Michael_Barnette.vcf

FYI

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: [Fwd: Memo to SERO: Skimmer trawl TED testing]
Date: Fri, 20 Aug 2010 15:42:32 -0500
From: Jeff Gearhart <Jeff.Gearhart@noaa.gov>
To: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>

Mike,

Here is the memo. It has to clear Lisa and the Center before it is
official so keep it to yourself til that happens. We expect any changes
from them so you can go ahead and use the numbers that in the document
for the economic analysis.

Jeff

Received(Date): Thu, 19 Aug 2010 14:38:41 -0500
From: John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>
Subject: Memo to SERO: Skimmer trawl TED testing
To: Lisa Desfosse <Lisa.Desfosse@noaa.gov>
Cc: Jeff Gearhart <Jeff.Gearhart@noaa.gov>
Skimmer Trawl TED tesing Memo to SERO.doc
John.Mitchell.vcf

Lisa,

The attached memo was prepared by Jeff Gearhart and is provided to the SERO Protected Species Branch at their request for our preliminary results from TED testing in the skimmer trawl shrimp fishery. SERO is working on emergency regulatory action which will require TEDs in skimmer trawls and will include our preliminary results in the supplementary information section of the rule.

As you know, Jeff is the project lead for all of our work related to the Sea Turtle Strategy. Skimmer trawls are one of the gear types which were identified as a candidate for TED testing. The implementation of TEDs for this gear was not scheduled until Phase 2 of the regulatory process, thus our testing is not complete and more is scheduled this year.

If you feel a cover letter/memo from Bonnie is needed, we can provide this.

Thanks - JM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Mississippi Laboratories
P.O. Drawer 1207
Pascagoula, MS 39568-1207

August 19, 2010

TO: David Bernhart, Chief, Protected Species Branch; F/SER3

FROM: Jeff Gearhart, Research Fisheries Biologist; F/SEC3

SUBJECT: Comparative TED tests in Skimmer Trawls; Preliminary Results

Due to recent sea turtle stranding events and the implication of skimmer trawls as the cause, the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) has been directed to prepare an emergency rule that would require the use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TED's) in this fishery. In response, SERO has requested information regarding Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) TED testing in the skimmer trawl fishery. Because of the need for a timely response to this request, preliminary analysis of the data prior to the completion of a final report was required.

The Harvesting Systems Unit conducted preliminary Turtle Excluder Device (TED) testing in skimmer trawls during the 2008 and 2009 fishing seasons. Testing was conducted aboard contracted commercial vessels in Mississippi and Alabama with all data collected on traditional fishing grounds. All vessels were twin rigged, which facilitated naked net, paired testing with a TED installed in one trawl while the other net was left naked (no TED installed). To reduce side bias, the TED was switched between each side of the vessel on a daily basis. Top opening "Super Shooter" TEDs with double cover flap leatherback openings were used throughout the study. To optimize performance, TEDs were matched to trawl size with three mid-size (40") and one large (50") TED used. During the 2008 season, Harvesting Systems' staff manned all trips, while NOAA Fisheries Southeast shrimp trawl observers sampled 2009 trips.

During 2008, a total of 52 successful comparative tows were conducted aboard two separate vessels. One vessel was equipped with a large TED, while the other was equipped with a mid-sized TED. Analysis revealed a significant 4.2% (95%CI -8.6% to +0.1%) shrimp loss on the vessel with the large TED and a significant 10.1% (95%CI -15.6% to -6.2%) shrimp loss on the vessel with the mid-sized TED. During 2009, a total of 72 successful comparative tows were conducted aboard two separate vessels, each equipped with a mid-sized TEDs. Analysis revealed a significant 4.4% (95%CI -9.7% to +0.9%) shrimp loss on one vessel and a non-significant shrimp loss of 0.5% (95%CI -7.9% to +6.9%) on the other vessel.

When all 124 tows from each study were combined, shrimp loss was 5.1% (95%CI -7.9% to -2.3%). Significant bycatch reduction was also observed aboard each vessel especially for common bycatch species such as skates and rays. Handling of the TED only posed problems on one of the vessels and these problems were resolved quickly by meeting with the captain and reconfiguring his rigging slightly. A complete analysis of the data and final report will be available in the coming months. Seven skimmer trawl vessels in North Carolina have been contracted to continue TED testing during the 2010 season. Various TED opening and orientation configurations will be tested in an effort to find the combination that works best for this fishery.

cc: Lisa Desfosse F/SEC3
John Mitchell F/SEC3

John Mitchell

Branch Leader
Harvesting Systems Branch
NOAA Fisheries

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Received(Date): Tue, 24 Aug 2010 15:49:21 -0400
From: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
To: Roy Crabtree <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>
Subject: [Fwd: Louisiana Report]
Cameron LA 8-2010-Final.doc
Michael_Barnette.vcf

FYI-
The attached report was from a recent LA TED inspection trip.
Additional troubling findings....

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: Louisiana Report
Date: Tue, 24 Aug 2010 10:40:17 -0500
From: John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>
To: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>

See attached

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Mississippi Laboratories
P.O. Drawer 1207
Pascagoula, MS 39568-1207

August 16, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/SEC42 John Mitchell

FROM: F/SEC42 - Dale Stevens/Jack Forrester

SUBJECT: Trip report

On August 11, 2010 Jack Forrester and Dale Stevens departed Pascagoula MS enroute to Cameron, LA, the Western-most shrimping port in Louisiana. The purpose of this trip was to conduct a series of courtesy dockside TED inspections along the Western Louisiana coastline to try and determine the level of TED compliance within the shrimp fishery in this region. These inspections showed TED compliance to be poor at best.

At the port of Cameron, TED inspections were conducted aboard nine (9) vessels. Of the nine vessels, two were found with the escape holes sewn completely closed. Two vessels were found to have no TEDs installed at all. Of these two vessels it was obvious that one of them had recently been trawling due to the presence of dead fish and other debris which was visible in the net. Two of the vessels were equipped with single flaps and escape openings that would stretch to less than 32-inches, Federal regulations require a minimum of 71-inches when stretched. These vessels had forward cuts that stretched to less than 20-inches where Federal Regulations require a minimum of 26-inches. One vessel was equipped with large pipe TEDs installed at 68-degree angles and escape openings of 65-inches. Another vessel was found with double cover flaps sewn together down the middle. Of the nine vessels, only one was found to be compliant with the TED regulations. Recommendations were made to the captains and boat owners on how to better equip their TEDs to achieve maximum shrimp retention. Most of them stated that it didn't matter because they kept their TEDs sewed closed when they were trawling. A large number of the TEDs we inspected supported this claim. It should be noted that most of these vessels were small in size (35 to 65 feet in length) making one think they would be trawling in inshore waters, however everyone we questioned stated that they worked in the offshore waters between Cameron and Sabine.

The next port, Delcambre LA, consisted of mostly skimmer trawl vessels; however two vessels were observed to have conventional otter trawl gear onboard. Of these two vessels one was equipped with TEDs and the other vessel had no TEDs installed in the nets. No one was onboard either vessel, so no contact was made with these captains.

The next port was Intracoastal City, LA where approximately seventeen vessels were observed. Most of the vessels in this port were using fixed angle TEDs (45-degree angles) with double cover flaps. The overlapped portion of the flaps on all of these TEDs measured from 24-inches to 32-inches, significantly exceeding the fifteen inch maximum stretched measurement allowed in the Federal Regulations. Several TEDs were observed with the flaps completely overlapped from side to side. Most of these TEDs had leading edge cuts which measured 46 to 48 inches; well below the minimum required cut of 56-inches. Four vessels were equipped with standard TEDs from Tony's net shop in New Orleans. These TEDs were all equipped with the single flap. On these TEDs, the leading edge cut was only 46-inches; this is 25 inches less than the 71 inch leading edge cut

requirement. The flaps on these TEDs would only stretch to 48-inches, well below the 71-inch stretched measurement as required by Federal TED regulations. One vessel was observed with grid angles at 65-degrees and several vessels had illegal single flap openings measuring 52 to 60-inches (71-inch minimum required). Of the seventeen vessels inspected, only two were found to be fully compliant.

The next port was Morgan City LA where four vessels were observed with fixed angle TEDs. There was no one on board these vessels so we were not able to conduct a thorough evaluation.

We traveled from Houma down to Dulac LA. where very few vessels were observed with trawl gear onboard. This did not come as a surprise and was expected due to the oil spill and vessels being employed by BP's Vessels of Opportunity program (VOO).

We then traveled down through Cut Off, Golden Meadow, and Port Fourchon ending in Grand Isle. We saw more of the same with regard to vessels without trawl gear as all appeared to be working with BP's VOO program. Two vessels with TEDs were inspected in Port Fourchon and found to have forward cuts of 9 inches and 6 inches respectively (minimum requirement is 26-inches). One of these TEDs had a leading edge cut of 64-inches (minimum requirement is 71-inches). One TED was installed at an angle of 70-degrees (55 degree maximum requirement). The angles on all other TEDs looked good. Both vessels had two, 6-3/4-inch X 8-3/4-inch floats installed on the front surface of the TED at a point where a turtle would exit the device. Federal TED regulations require that floats which are installed inside the TED extension must be placed behind the front surface of the grid. The float placement observed on the TEDs of these two vessels would have likely blocked the escape route of a turtle trying to exit through the TED.

Of the vessels observed a total of 29 were boarded and measurements taken on the TEDs.
Of the 29 vessels three were found to be in full compliance with the TED regulations. Five were found to have problems with their gear that may or may not result in the death of a turtle depending on the size of the turtle encountered. Twenty one of these vessels were equipped with TEDs, which in our opinion, would result in the capture and possible death of a sea turtle.

During this trip we also made an attempt to count the number of Skimmer and Butterfly trawl equipped vessels which we observed. This count was taken for the purpose of estimating the number of TEDs which may be needed in the event that TEDs are required to be installed in these gear types. A total of 500 vessels were counted with skimmer and butterfly gear during our tour of Western Louisiana. This number far exceeds the number of otter trawl vessels we saw, by an estimated order of 3:1. Note; this number reflects only skimmer and butterfly vessels which were in our field of view during the trip, and is only a sample. The true number is likely significantly higher as there are many small bayous and towns in which we did not travel too. Additionally, a large number of these vessels are likely employed by BP's VOO program. This number should be regarded as an indication that a larger number of TEDs will be required in the skimmer and butterfly shrimp fishery of Louisiana if and when a TED rule is implemented in these fisheries.

We returned to Pascagoula MS. on August 13, 2010.

Michael Barnette

Fishery Biologist

National Marine Fisheries Service
Protected Resources Division

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Received(Date): Mon, 03 May 2010 10:15:25 -0400
From: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
To: Barbara Schroeder <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>,David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>,Lisa Belskis <Lisa.Belskis@noaa.gov>,Sheryan Epperly <Sheryan.Epperly@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: stranded turtles and shrimp effort
Michael_Barnette.vcf

Shrimping was open in Alabama since August 25, 2009, but is currently closed (state and federal waters as of 3 PM yesterday).

As oil slick threatens the coast, seafood industry and officials worry
By David Ferrara
April 28, 2010, 5:00AM
and Guy Busby
The oil slick in the Gulf of Mexico is threatening shrimp spawning grounds, which could deal a blow to the seafood industry.
BAYOU LA BATRE, Ala. -- Late Tuesday morning, Terry Drawdy, owner of Drawdy Crab Co., received a call from an East Coast seafood dealer. "You need to get all you can get, because it looks like that oil spill's gonna mess us up," Drawdy told him.

http://blog.al.com/live/2010/04/as_oil_slick_threatens_the_coa.html

Michael Barnette wrote:
> Mississippi shrimping closed on April 30. Effort may have dropped out
> just before then due to rough weather. Obviously, no boats are out
> now due to the closure, weather, and oil (apparently some ports are
> shut with deployed oil booms).
> Louisiana was open for like a day, but also had strong winds that
> likely limited effort.
> Will check on AL...

Michael Barnette

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Received(Date): Thu, 15 Jul 2010 09:37:27 -0400
From: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
To: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Cc: Roy Crabtree <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>,Tracy Dunn <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>,Duane Smith <Duane.Smith@noaa.gov>,Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>,Phil Steele <Phil.Steele@noaa.gov>,Steve Branstetter <Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: [Fwd: Sifting a Range of Suspects as Gulf Wildlife Dies - NYTimes.com]
Michael_Barnette.vcf

See below:

VETO LETTER

June 30, 2010

The Honorable Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: House Bill No. 1334 by Representative Lambert
Wildlife and Fisheries: Provides relative to fisheries management by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill 1334 by Representative Lambert would expand the authority of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to promulgate sustainability programs for both saltwater and freshwater fish resources. The bill also repeals the prohibition of the department enforcing certain federal laws which require the use of turtle excluder devices and fish excluder devices by commercial fishermen in Louisiana waters.

While the bill appears to be well intended, I am concerned that the stakeholders in the fishing communities and industry did not have sufficient time to give their input during the development of this bill due to the BP oil spill. Considering the overwhelming amount of challenges and issues currently facing our fishermen, it is my opinion that the stakeholders and the policy makers required more time to collaborate on sustainable legislation.

For this reason, I have vetoed House Bill No. 1334 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Bobby Jindal
Governor

David Bernhart wrote:
> FYI. On the 2nd page of this long article, there's a lot of

> discussion about shrimping and TEDs.
>
> Also, there's a sentence in there that says Gov. Jindal vetoed the
> bill that would've removed the ban on TEDs enforcement by the state.
> I hadn't heard that before. Can anyone confirm that?
>
> -DB
>
> -------- Original Message --------
> Subject: Sifting a Range of Suspects as Gulf Wildlife Dies - NYTimes.com
> Date: Thu, 15 Jul 2010 09:02:35 -0400
> From: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
> To: Barbara Schroeder <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>, Teri Rowles
> <Teri.Rowles@noaa.gov>, Michael Ziccardi <mhziccardi@ucdavis.edu>,
> _NMFS SER Emergency Consult <nmfs.ser.emergency.consult@noaa.gov>,
> Stacey Horstman <Stacey.Horstman@noaa.gov>
>
>
>
>
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/15/science/earth/15necropsy.html?pagewanted=2&_r=2&partner=rss&emc=rss
>
>
>

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Bcc: John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>
Received(Date): Tue, 03 Aug 2010 16:09:04 -0400
From: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
To: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Cc: Roy Crabtree <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>,Heather Blough <Heather.Blough@noaa.gov>,Buck Sutter <Buck.Sutter@noaa.gov>,Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: Additional food for thought and facts for trawling proposal
Michael_Barnette.vcf

Hi David-
I talked to Marty B. and he said the current closed areas (from heavy oiling - the red areas on their maps) would likely stay that way for a while, and he added, "probably a good while." They have not initiated sampling or anything like that to get the ball rolling for a request to lift the closure.
More troubling though, was that Michelle Pico approached LA DWF regarding complimentary TEDs for LA skimmer trawls, and during the conference call (he mentioned Randy and some others were on it), LA DWF opted to decline the NFWF offer. So, that definitely makes our job that tougher, especially if we pursue a TED requirement and the NFWF funding has evaporated at that point....
Mike

David Bernhart wrote:
> I don't know, but we'll ask. We'll get to work on a draft letter, too.
> Thanks,
> David
>
> Roy Crabtree wrote:
>> Do you know if they have plans to open the area to shrimping in the
>> near term? Go ahead and draft a letter but we need to have some
>> discussions with LDFW before we send anything.
>>
>> David Bernhart wrote:
>>> Hi Roy,
>>>
>>> As you know, there's a lot of issues swirling around the Louisiana
>>> emergency berm and its impact on turtles. Here's an e-mail from Dena
>>> Dickerson, who's the COE's scientist managing the turtle relocation
>>> aspects of the project. We've known that the berm project has
>>> unusually high catch rates of turtles. The summary below puts in
>>> perspective just how unprecedentedly high they are, compared to all
>>> previous trawling projects.
>>>
>>> LDWF's website shows that the area east and north of the Chandeleurs
>>> remains closed to shrimping. The berm project's borrow site is at
>>> the north end of the Chandeleurs. If this area reopens to shrimping,
>>> it's likely that sea turtle takes would occur at this extremely high
>>> rate. If they're using skimmer trawls without TEDs or the
>>> compliance/condition of TEDs in otter trawlers is not good, there
>>> could be really significant mortality. Gov. Jindal recently vetoed
>>> the state bill to allow enforcement of TED regs by LDWF, USCG is
>>> tied up in oil spill, and NMFS LE doesn't have a real patrol
>>> capability anymore, so it's unlikely we could control that area with
>>> enforcement.
>>>
>>> I would like to draft a letter to LDWF for your signature relaying

>>> this information from the berm-trawling along with our concerns
>>> about impacts to loggerhead turtles from reopening the area to
>>> shrimping. We would ask the LDWF to keep that last area closed to
>>> shrimping until the berm-related trawling shows a decrease to more
>>> normal levels in the density of turtles in the area. Do you support
>>> our preparing such a letter?
>>>
>>> This is somewhat similar to the issue raised by the petitioners when
>>> they asked to keep Texas waters closed. I think this case is notably
>>> different, though, in that we have specific information confirming
>>> unheard of numbers of turtles in the area and that they may be more
>>> vulnerable than usual to trawl-related mortality.
>>>
>>> Thanks,
>>> David
>>>
>>>
>>> Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS wrote:
>>>> All,
>>>> Below are a few facts that might help as we all move forward with
>>>> the trawling proposal and answering questions regarding
>>>> justification for the proposal. Attached are also 2 documents that
>>>> provide supporting data.
>>>> Dena
>>>>
>>>> - Construction of the Louisiana coastal barrier berm project has
>>>> not been halted. The only change that has occurred is that the
>>>> hopper dredges working on the east side of the river delta have
>>>> been relocated to dredge material from the river instead of from
>>>> the Hewes Point borrow site. As a result this redirection of the
>>>> hopper dredges (possibly temporary), trawling operations associated
>>>> with the hopper dredging activities have been discontinued
>>>> (possibly temporary). If hopper dredging resumes in areas outside
>>>> the river such as Hewes Point or St Bernard's Shoal, then
>>>> associated trawling operations would also resume.
>>>>
>>>> - Historical trawling data for dredging projects since 1995 are
>>>> provided in the attached document which was presented to the 2007
>>>> World Dredging Congress. The trawling data documented during the
>>>> 9-23 Jul 2010 effort far exceeds trawling results for any other
>>>> dredging project since 1995. The only project of similar results
>>>> was seen in Cape Canaveral Florida in 1981 during an unusual cold
>>>> stunning event.
>>>>
>>>> - Between 1995-2006 (11 years): 70 trawling relocation projects (44
>>>> Gulf, 26 Atlantic); 1239 turtles relocated (844 turtles Gulf; 395
>>>> turtles Atlantic); CPUE ranged from 0.01 to 0.08 turtles per tow
>>>> throughout seven geographic subregions for the Gulf and Atlantic;
>>>> monthly CPUE ranged from 2.7 to 13.3 turtles relocated per trawling
>>>> project (Gulf projects) and 2.0 to 99.0 turtles relocated per
>>>> trawling project (Atlantic projects).
>>>>
>>>> - From 9-23 Jul 2010 (15 days) Louisiana barrier berm project only:
>>>> a total of 194 sea turtles (185 loggerheads, 8 Kemp's ridley, 1
>>>> green turtle) were captured using 2 trawlers over 584 tows
>>>> (30-minutes per tow) for a CPUE of 0.33 turtles per tow, 12.9
>>>> turtles per day, and 194 turtles per trawling project. These
>>>> trawling results far exceed any other relocation trawling project

>>>> conducted between 1995-2006 for any other dredging project
>>>> throughout the northern Gulf of Mexico or the US Atlantic coast.
>>>>
>>>> - State of Louisiana is preparing to open fishing/trawling
>>>> activities in areas east of the MS River Delta. The State of
>>>> Louisiana currently does not enforce the use of TEDs on trawl
>>>> vessels. If trawling is allowed without TEDs enforcement in or near
>>>> the area of Hewes Point, large numbers of sea turtles will be
>>>> killed by the trawl fishing.
>>>>
>>>> - The previous trawling operation at Hewes Point documented an
>>>> unusual occurrence of high numbers of large size-class sea turtles.
>>>> It has been speculated that this may have been as a result of the
>>>> turtles being pushed away from the oiled areas and in closer to
>>>> shore and into clearer waters. It would be critical to document the
>>>> long-term behavior of these animals related to various factors
>>>> associated with the overall oil spill (oil spill areas, berm
>>>> construction, dredging activities, action of being relocated,
>>>> recovered oil spill areas).
>>>>
>>>> - If the turtles have been concentrated into areas closer to shore
>>>> away from the oiled areas, then they will become extremely
>>>> vulnerable to fishing activities once these activities resume.
>>>> Efforts to protect these turtles are extremely important.
>>>> Additional assessments of these turtles are needed as well as
>>>> enforcement of TEDs regulations is critical to protect these
>>>> increased numbers of turtles in the fishing zones.
>>>>
>>>> - Whether the berm construction continues or not, assessments are
>>>> needed as to whether the turtles utilize the oil-impacted areas
>>>> similarly to previously tracked turtles from those areas.
>>>>
>>>> - Dive duration data from telemetry turtles are essential for
>>>> interpretation and modeling of aerial survey data collected
>>>> throughout the oil spill.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> ---
>>>>
>>>> *From:* Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS
>>>> *Sent:* Mon 8/2/2010 8:08 PM
>>>> *To:* eruder@indecon.com; simeon.hahn@noaa.gov;
>>>> sheila.o'brien@noaa.gov
>>>> *Cc:* Eric Hawk (eric.hawk@noaa.gov); David Bernhart
>>>> (david.bernhart@noaa.gov); Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS
>>>> *Subject:* Partnering with Lousiana Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries
>>>>
>>>> All,
>>>> I just talked with Mandy Tumlin with the Louisiana Dept Wildlife
>>>> and Fisheries. Re:
>>>> 1) her impression of the numbers and sizes of turtles we recently
>>>> captured at Hewes Point with respect to their historical data;
>>>> 2) is anyone from the state pursuing assessment of berm impacts on
>>>> ESA species or essential fish habitat as stated in the dredging
>>>> permit provision;
>>>> 3) does her department have any mechanism for capturing turtles for
>>>> tagging studies (e.g. trawling);
>>>> 4) what sizes/numbers of stranded turtles have they found;

>>>> 5) what is happening to the rehabbed turtles they have taken to
>>>> Audubon;
>>>> 6) are they going to be allowing fishing/trawling to resume in/near
>>>> the areas we were trawling at Hewes Point;
>>>> 7) is her department aware that trawling in/near the Hewes Point
>>>> area without enforcement of TEDs will result in large numbers of
>>>> turtle mortalities; and
>>>> 8) what are possible opportunities that we could partner interests
>>>> for more optimal assessments avenues.
>>>> 1) They seldom get turtles of the larger size classes reported in
>>>> the capture data they maintain or in their strandings data. They
>>>> usually get the smaller juveniles of loggerheads and Kemp's.
>>>> 2 & 3) She does not think they currently have authorization to do
>>>> any trawl capture of turtles for studies. Therefore, they would not
>>>> be able to adequately pursue evaluations of ESA species (e.g. sea
>>>> turtles) as specified by the provisions set in the emergency permit
>>>> for the berm construction. She was also unaware of any provisions
>>>> in the berm permit that addressed potential impacts to essential
>>>> fish habitat or ESA species. This was news to her.
>>>> 4) they typically get small juveniles of loggerheads and Kemp's
>>>> 5) Audubon has over 140 oil spill related turtles being held that
>>>> were recovered via the LA Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries rescue
>>>> operations. LA Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries is VERY INTERESTED in
>>>> putting telemetry packages on however many of those turtles that
>>>> would support tags when released. They would very much like to
>>>> partner with the NRDA efforts, if possible, to tag these turtles.
>>>> She is going to get me a breakdown of the sizes of turtles they are
>>>> holding. Many are going to be too small for the GPS tags but she
>>>> said that some would be able to take a GPS tag.
>>>> 6 &7) Mandy is checking to find out more of the details abotu when
>>>> and where the fishing is to resume. It is likely that areas near
>>>> Hewes Point will be included. Our trawling data will be used to
>>>> help guide their efforts. They would welcome any additional data we
>>>> may obtain.
>>>> 7) Currently, there is no enforcement of the TEDS regulation in
>>>> Louisiana waters. She would welcome any additional funding (maybe
>>>> through the restoration side) to help with this.
>>>> 8) Yes, her department would be willing to partner with efforts to
>>>> capture turtles, utilize already captured turtles, and assess the
>>>> overall impacts of the oil spill on sea turtles.
>>>> Her contact info is:
>>>> Mandy Tumlin (sea turtle person for LA Dept Wildlife & Fisheries)
>>>> mtumlin@wlf.la.gov <mailto:mtumlin@wlf.la.gov>
>>>> office: 985-787-2163
>>>> cell: 337-962-7092
>>>> Myron Fischer (Director for LA Dept Wildlife & Fisheries Research
>>>> Laboratory)
>>>> Grand Isle, LA
>>>> Office 985-787-2163
>>>> Cell 985-258-6006
>>>> mfischer@wlf.la.gov <mailto:mfischer@wlf.la.gov>
>>>> This is a potential source of oiled/rehabbed turtles for some
>>>> telemetry tags. Possibly for at least the 5 Kiwi and maybe the 4
>>>> SPOT tags.
>>>> Dena
>>
>

Michael Barnette

Fishery Biologist

National Marine Fisheries Service
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Received(Date): Tue, 03 Aug 2010 15:02:50 -0400
From: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
To: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Cc: Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: [Fwd: Re: Additional food for thought and facts for trawlingproposal]
Michael_Barnette.vcf

Yup.

David Bernhart wrote:
> Hi Mike,
> Will you please contact LDWF about Roy's question? Also, will you
> begin drafting a letter?
>
> -------- Original Message --------
> Subject: Re: Additional food for thought and facts for trawling proposal
> Date: Tue, 03 Aug 2010 14:08:05 -0400
> From: Roy Crabtree <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>
> To: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
> CC: Heather Blough <Heather.Blough@noaa.gov>, Buck Sutter
> <Buck.Sutter@noaa.gov>, Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>,
> Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>
> References:
> <C4CF3FB80A756643BE25F5F55CAC3ABC0B17980C@ERD-ML1ERD.erd.ds.usace.army.mil>
> <C4CF3FB80A756643BE25F5F55CAC3ABC0B17980E@ERD-ML1ERD.erd.ds.usace.army.mil>
> <4C585861.9090303@noaa.gov>
>
>
>
> Do you know if they have plans to open the area to shrimping in the near
> term? Go ahead and draft a letter but we need to have some discussions
> with LDFW before we send anything.
>
> David Bernhart wrote:
> > Hi Roy,
> >
> > As you know, there's a lot of issues swirling around the Louisiana
> > emergency berm and its impact on turtles. Here's an e-mail from Dena
> > Dickerson, who's the COE's scientist managing the turtle relocation
> > aspects of the project. We've known that the berm project has
> > unusually high catch rates of turtles. The summary below puts in
> > perspective just how unprecedentedly high they are, compared to all
> > previous trawling projects.
> >
> > LDWF's website shows that the area east and north of the Chandeleurs
> > remains closed to shrimping. The berm project's borrow site is at the
> > north end of the Chandeleurs. If this area reopens to shrimping, it's
> > likely that sea turtle takes would occur at this extremely high rate.
> > If they're using skimmer trawls without TEDs or the
> > compliance/condition of TEDs in otter trawlers is not good, there
> > could be really significant mortality. Gov. Jindal recently vetoed the
> > state bill to allow enforcement of TED regs by LDWF, USCG is tied up
> > in oil spill, and NMFS LE doesn't have a real patrol capability
> > anymore, so it's unlikely we could control that area with enforcement.
> >
> > I would like to draft a letter to LDWF for your signature relaying
> > this information from the berm-trawling along with our concerns about
> > impacts to loggerhead turtles from reopening the area to shrimping. We

> > would ask the LDWF to keep that last area closed to shrimping until
> > the berm-related trawling shows a decrease to more normal levels in
> > the density of turtles in the area. Do you support our preparing such
> > a letter?
> >
> > This is somewhat similar to the issue raised by the petitioners when
> > they asked to keep Texas waters closed. I think this case is notably
> > different, though, in that we have specific information confirming
> > unheard of numbers of turtles in the area and that they may be more
> > vulnerable than usual to trawl-related mortality.
> >
> > Thanks,
> > David
> >
> >
> > Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS wrote:
> >> All,
> >> Below are a few facts that might help as we all move forward with the
> >> trawling proposal and answering questions regarding justification for
> >> the proposal. Attached are also 2 documents that provide supporting data.
> >> Dena
> >>
> >> - Construction of the Louisiana coastal barrier berm project has not
> >> been halted. The only change that has occurred is that the hopper
> >> dredges working on the east side of the river delta have been
> >> relocated to dredge material from the river instead of from the Hewes
> >> Point borrow site. As a result this redirection of the hopper dredges
> >> (possibly temporary), trawling operations associated with the hopper
> >> dredging activities have been discontinued (possibly temporary). If
> >> hopper dredging resumes in areas outside the river such as Hewes
> >> Point or St Bernard's Shoal, then associated trawling operations
> >> would also resume.
> >>
> >> - Historical trawling data for dredging projects since 1995 are
> >> provided in the attached document which was presented to the 2007
> >> World Dredging Congress. The trawling data documented during the 9-23
> >> Jul 2010 effort far exceeds trawling results for any other dredging
> >> project since 1995. The only project of similar results was seen in
> >> Cape Canaveral Florida in 1981 during an unusual cold stunning event.
> >>
> >> - Between 1995-2006 (11 years): 70 trawling relocation projects (44
> >> Gulf, 26 Atlantic); 1239 turtles relocated (844 turtles Gulf; 395
> >> turtles Atlantic); CPUE ranged from 0.01 to 0.08 turtles per tow
> >> throughout seven geographic subregions for the Gulf and Atlantic;
> >> monthly CPUE ranged from 2.7 to 13.3 turtles relocated per trawling
> >> project (Gulf projects) and 2.0 to 99.0 turtles relocated per
> >> trawling project (Atlantic projects).
> >>
> >> - From 9-23 Jul 2010 (15 days) Louisiana barrier berm project only: a
> >> total of 194 sea turtles (185 loggerheads, 8 Kemp's ridley, 1 green
> >> turtle) were captured using 2 trawlers over 584 tows (30-minutes per
> >> tow) for a CPUE of 0.33 turtles per tow, 12.9 turtles per day, and
> >> 194 turtles per trawling project. These trawling results far exceed
> >> any other relocation trawling project conducted between 1995-2006 for
> >> any other dredging project throughout the northern Gulf of Mexico or
> >> the US Atlantic coast.
> >>
> >> - State of Louisiana is preparing to open fishing/trawling activities

> >> in areas east of the MS River Delta. The State of Louisiana currently
> >> does not enforce the use of TEDs on trawl vessels. If trawling is
> >> allowed without TEDs enforcement in or near the area of Hewes Point,
> >> large numbers of sea turtles will be killed by the trawl fishing.
> >>
> >> - The previous trawling operation at Hewes Point documented an
> >> unusual occurrence of high numbers of large size-class sea turtles.
> >> It has been speculated that this may have been as a result of the
> >> turtles being pushed away from the oiled areas and in closer to shore
> >> and into clearer waters. It would be critical to document the
> >> long-term behavior of these animals related to various factors
> >> associated with the overall oil spill (oil spill areas, berm
> >> construction, dredging activities, action of being relocated,
> >> recovered oil spill areas).
> >>
> >> - If the turtles have been concentrated into areas closer to shore
> >> away from the oiled areas, then they will become extremely vulnerable
> >> to fishing activities once these activities resume. Efforts to
> >> protect these turtles are extremely important. Additional assessments
> >> of these turtles are needed as well as enforcement of TEDs
> >> regulations is critical to protect these increased numbers of turtles
> >> in the fishing zones.
> >>
> >> - Whether the berm construction continues or not, assessments are
> >> needed as to whether the turtles utilize the oil-impacted areas
> >> similarly to previously tracked turtles from those areas.
> >>
> >> - Dive duration data from telemetry turtles are essential for
> >> interpretation and modeling of aerial survey data collected
> >> throughout the oil spill.
> >>
> >>
> >> ----------
> >> *From:* Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS
> >> *Sent:* Mon 8/2/2010 8:08 PM
> >> *To:* eruder@indecon.com; simeon.hahn@noaa.gov; sheila.o'brien@noaa.gov
> >> *Cc:* Eric Hawk (eric.hawk@noaa.gov); David Bernhart
> >> (david.bernhart@noaa.gov); Dickerson, Dena D ERDC-EL-MS
> >> *Subject:* Partnering with Lousiana Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries
> >>
> >> All,
> >> I just talked with Mandy Tumlin with the Louisiana Dept Wildlife and
> >> Fisheries. Re:
> >> 1) her impression of the numbers and sizes of turtles we recently
> >> captured at Hewes Point with respect to their historical data;
> >> 2) is anyone from the state pursuing assessment of berm impacts on
> >> ESA species or essential fish habitat as stated in the dredging
> >> permit provision;
> >> 3) does her department have any mechanism for capturing turtles for
> >> tagging studies (e.g. trawling);
> >> 4) what sizes/numbers of stranded turtles have they found;
> >> 5) what is happening to the rehabbed turtles they have taken to Audubon;
> >> 6) are they going to be allowing fishing/trawling to resume in/near
> >> the areas we were trawling at Hewes Point;
> >> 7) is her department aware that trawling in/near the Hewes Point area
> >> without enforcement of TEDs will result in large numbers of turtle
> >> mortalities; and
> >> 8) what are possible opportunities that we could partner interests

> >> for more optimal assessments avenues.
> >> 1) They seldom get turtles of the larger size classes reported in the
> >> capture data they maintain or in their strandings data. They usually
> >> get the smaller juveniles of loggerheads and Kemp's.
> >> 2 & 3) She does not think they currently have authorization to do any
> >> trawl capture of turtles for studies. Therefore, they would not be
> >> able to adequately pursue evaluations of ESA species (e.g. sea
> >> turtles) as specified by the provisions set in the emergency permit
> >> for the berm construction. She was also unaware of any provisions in
> >> the berm permit that addressed potential impacts to essential fish
> >> habitat or ESA species. This was news to her.
> >> 4) they typically get small juveniles of loggerheads and Kemp's
> >> 5) Audubon has over 140 oil spill related turtles being held that
> >> were recovered via the LA Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries rescue
> >> operations. LA Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries is VERY INTERESTED in
> >> putting telemetry packages on however many of those turtles that
> >> would support tags when released. They would very much like to
> >> partner with the NRDA efforts, if possible, to tag these turtles. She
> >> is going to get me a breakdown of the sizes of turtles they are
> >> holding. Many are going to be too small for the GPS tags but she said
> >> that some would be able to take a GPS tag.
> >> 6 &7) Mandy is checking to find out more of the details abotu when
> >> and where the fishing is to resume. It is likely that areas near
> >> Hewes Point will be included. Our trawling data will be used to help
> >> guide their efforts. They would welcome any additional data we may
> >> obtain.
> >> 7) Currently, there is no enforcement of the TEDS regulation in
> >> Louisiana waters. She would welcome any additional funding (maybe
> >> through the restoration side) to help with this.
> >> 8) Yes, her department would be willing to partner with efforts to
> >> capture turtles, utilize already captured turtles, and assess the
> >> overall impacts of the oil spill on sea turtles.
> >> Her contact info is:
> >> Mandy Tumlin (sea turtle person for LA Dept Wildlife & Fisheries)
> >> mtumlin@wlf.la.gov <mailto:mtumlin@wlf.la.gov>
> >> office: 985-787-2163
> >> cell: 337-962-7092
> >> Myron Fischer (Director for LA Dept Wildlife & Fisheries Research
> >> Laboratory)
> >> Grand Isle, LA
> >> Office 985-787-2163
> >> Cell 985-258-6006
> >> mfischer@wlf.la.gov <mailto:mfischer@wlf.la.gov>
> >> This is a potential source of oiled/rehabbed turtles for some
> >> telemetry tags. Possibly for at least the 5 Kiwi and maybe the 4 SPOT
> >> tags.
> >> Dena
>
>

Michael Barnette

Fishery Biologist

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Received(Date): Thu, 15 Jul 2010 09:10:54 -0400
From: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Subject: [Fwd: Sifting a Range of Suspects as Gulf Wildlife Dies - NYTimes.com]
To: Roy Crabtree <Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov>, Tracy Dunn <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>,Duane Smith <Duane.Smith@noaa.gov>,Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>,Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, Phil Steele <Phil.Steele@noaa.gov>,Steve Branstetter <Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov>

FYI. On the 2nd page of this long article, there's a lot of discussion about shrimping and TEDs.

Also, there's a sentence in there that says Gov. Jindal vetoed the bill that would've removed the ban on TEDs enforcement by the state. I hadn't heard that before. Can anyone confirm that?

-DB

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: Sifting a Range of Suspects as Gulf Wildlife Dies - NYTimes.com
Date: Thu, 15 Jul 2010 09:02:35 -0400
From: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
To: Barbara Schroeder <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>, Teri Rowles <Teri.Rowles@noaa.gov>, Michael Ziccardi <mhziccardi@ucdavis.edu>, _NMFS SER Emergency Consult <nmfs.ser.emergency.consult@noaa.gov>, Stacey Horstman <Stacey.Horstman@noaa.gov>

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/15/science/earth/15necropsy.html?pagewanted=2&_r=2&partner=rss&emc=rss

Received(Date): Tue, 18 May 2010 17:00:05 -0400
From: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
To: doug.vaughan@noaa.gov, joseph.w.smith@noaa.gov
Subject: Gulf of Mexico menhaden fishery - vessel activity
Michael_Barnette.vcf

Hi-
Due to the recent elevated sea turtle stranding events in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, we are attempting to get a handle on potential activity in various Gulf fisheries. Due to the BP Deepwater Horizon event, we heard some boats from Mississippi Sound area were dispatched west to get away from any oil. Additionally, we were aware of some menhaden boats working off Texas, and some associated fish kills thought to be associated with their activity.
Would it be possible to get an idea of what boats are operating in the Gulf of Mexico, and where they were working during the period of April 15 - May 15? This is a high-priority tasker that needs to go to HQ by early afternoon tomorrow, so any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated!
Cheers,
Mike

Michael Barnette

Fishery Biologist

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Received(Date): Tue, 30 Nov 2010 15:02:18 -0500
From: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>
To: Michelle Pico <Pico@NFWF.org>
Cc: John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>,David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>,Jeff Gearhart <Jeff.Gearhart@noaa.gov>,Robert D Stevens <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>
Subject: LA Sea Grant contact
Michael_Barnette.vcf

Hi Michelle-
Great meeting you yesterday. I talked to Dr. Glenn Thomas today at LA Sea Grant. As it turns out, they are planning some workshops with Hurricane Gustav/Ike funding on bycatch reduction and fishing efficiency in the near future. As part of this project, LA Sea Grant is looking to invest a good chunk of that hurricane money (I think he said $6 million) to outfit some vessels with various bycatch reduction gear for testing/monitoring. This may be a good collaboration opportunity for NFWF and LA Sea Grant, and also a way to get the word out about a TED program for skimmer boats. His contact info is below, and I mentioned you may be contacting him in the near future. He is, however, headed to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries soon, but said they have a foundation that could likely act as a conduit, as well as LA Sea Grant.

R. Glenn Thomas, Ph.D.
Director, Marine Extension
234 Sea Grant Bldg.
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Phone: (225) 578-6290
Fax: (225) 578-6331
E-mail: gthomas@lsu.edu

John-
Part of their upcoming workshops will also be on gear/fuel/fishing/vessel efficiency, and I mentioned the flat bar TED. He had not considered that before, but he is now definitely interested in hearing about it and possibly presenting it at the workshops. Something to consider?

Cheers,
Mike

Michael Barnette

Fishery Biologist

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