

**Subject:** The Ongoing Administration-Wide Response to the Deepwater BP Oil Spill  
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**To:** info@californiaskywatch.com

DATE: June 16, 2010 19:03:30 CST

# The Ongoing Administration-Wide Response to the Deepwater BP Oil Spill

## Key contact numbers

- Report oiled shoreline or request volunteer information: (866) 448-5816
- Submit alternative response technology, services or products: (281) 366-5511
- Submit your vessel for the Vessel of Opportunity Program: (281) 366-5511
- Submit a claim for damages: (800) 440-0858
- Report oiled wildlife: (866) 557-1401
- Medical support hotline: (888) 623-0287

## Deepwater Horizon Incident Joint Information Center

**Phone: (985) 902-5231  
(985) 902-5240**

## The Ongoing Administration-Wide Response to the Deepwater BP Oil Spill

Prepared by the Joint Information Center

UPDATED June 16, 2010 7 PM

\* *For a full timeline of the Administration-wide response, visit the [White House Blog](#).*

## PAST 24 HOURS

### President Obama and Top Administration Officials Hold Meeting with BP at White House

President Obama and top administration officials today met with BP Chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg, CEO Tony Hayward and other top BP officials in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. They discussed the ongoing efforts to stop the oil leaking into the Gulf of Mexico and BP's responsibility not only to pay for the cost of the cleanup of the oil spill, but also to compensate residents and businesses that have suffered financially as a result of the oil spill.

In [remarks](#) after the meeting, the President announced that BP has agreed to set aside \$20 billion in an [escrow account](#) to pay economic damage claims to people and businesses that have been affected by the oil spill, and that BP and the Administration agreed to appoint Ken Feinberg, who administered the claims process for victims of 9/11, to run the independent claims process.

### President Obama Sends Letter to Congress on Budget Amendment for BP Oil Spill Commission

In a [letter](#) to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, President Obama requested that Congress consider a budget amendment proposal for Fiscal Year 2011—for the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, which the President established by Executive Order to provide for a comprehensive look at how the oil and gas industry operates and how it is regulated.

### Admiral Allen, Press Secretary Gibbs and Assistant to the President Carol Browner Hold Briefing at White House

National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen, White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs and Carol Browner, Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change, provided a briefing at the White House to inform the American public and answer questions on the progress of the administration-wide response to the BP oil spill. A transcript is available [here](#).

### Secretary Salazar Meets with Gulf Coast Elected Officials to Discuss BP Oil Spill Response

Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar today held meetings with Gulf Coast elected officials to discuss the administration's ongoing response to the BP oil spill and ways to reform off-shore drilling practices to improve safety. Salazar met with House and Senate Members from Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi on Capitol Hill and later met with Louisiana officials—U.S. Senator Landrieu, Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu, and Parish Presidents—at the Department of Interior.

## **NOAA Expands Fishing Closed Area in Gulf of Mexico; More than Sixty-Six Percent of Gulf Federal Waters Remain Open**

As part of continued efforts to ensure the safety of seafood from the Gulf of Mexico and protect consumers, NOAA has expanded the closed fishing area to capture portions of the oil slick moving beyond the area's current northern boundary, off the Florida panhandle's federal-state waterline. This boundary was moved just to the west of St. Joe Bay and Panama City Beach.

The closed area now represents 80,806 square miles—approximately 33.4 percent—of federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico—this closure does not apply to any state waters. This leaves more than 66 percent of Gulf federal waters available for fishing. Details can be found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

## **Federal and Local Officials Hold Open House Meetings for Louisiana Residents**

Representatives from the Coast Guard, Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA and other state and local partner agencies participating in the ongoing response effort to the BP oil spill today held the second in a series of open house meetings in Louisiana in Cameron Parish. The meetings are an opportunity for local residents to meet with experts and hear firsthand about the claims process, volunteer and contracting opportunities, environmental quality, worker safety and the various tools, equipment and strategies being used in the response. The first meeting was held yesterday in St. Bernard Parish, and a third is scheduled tomorrow in St. Mary's Parish. Click [here](#) for more info.

## **BP Continues to Capture Some Oil and Gas Using Containment Device**

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

## **Progress Continues in Drilling Relief Wells**

The *Development Driller III*

continues to drill the first relief well to a depth of more than 15,000 feet—11 days ahead of schedule—and is beginning to angle the well at 23 degrees. The *Development Driller II* has drilled the second relief well to a depth of 9,774 feet.

## **Successful Controlled Burn**

In recent days, favorable weather conditions have allowed responders to conduct successful controlled burn operations. As part of a coordinated response that combines tactics deployed above water, below water, offshore, and close to coastal areas, controlled burns efficiently remove oil from the open water in an effort to protect shoreline and wildlife. In total, more than 210 burns have been conducted to remove a total of 5.2 million gallons of oil from the water to date.

## **Approved SBA Economic Injury Assistance Loans Surpass \$4 Million**

SBA has approved 69 economic injury assistance loans to date, totaling more than \$4 million for small businesses in the Gulf Coast impacted by the BP oil spill. Additionally, the agency has granted deferments on 393 existing SBA disaster loans in the region, totaling more than \$1.76 million per month in payments. For information on assistance loans for affected businesses, visit the SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance), call (800) 659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired), or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

## **Administration Continues to Oversee BP's Claims Process**

The administration will continue to hold the responsible parties accountable for repairing the damage, and repaying Americans who've suffered a financial loss as a result of the BP oil spill. BP reports that 56,689 claims have been opened, from which more than \$81.3 million have been disbursed. No claims have been denied to date. There are 667 claims adjusters on the ground. To file a claim, visit [www.bp.com/claims](http://www.bp.com/claims) or call BP's helpline at 1-800-440-0858. Those who have already pursued the BP claims process and are not satisfied with BP's resolution can call the Coast Guard at (800) 280-7118. Additional information about the BP claims process and all available avenues of assistance can be found at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov).

## **By the Numbers to Date:**

- The administration has authorized the deployment of 17,500 National Guard troops from Gulf Coast states to respond to this crisis; to date, 1,611 have been activated.
- Approximately 31,000 personnel are currently responding to protect the shoreline and wildlife and cleanup vital coastlines.
- More than 5,000\* vessels are currently responding on site, including skimmers, tugs, barges, and recovery vessels to assist in

containment and cleanup efforts—in addition to dozens of aircraft, remotely operated vehicles, and multiple mobile offshore drilling units.

- Approximately 2.39 million feet of containment boom and 3.48 million feet of sorbent boom have been deployed to contain the spill—and approximately 468,000 feet of containment boom and 1.8 million feet of sorbent boom are available.
- Approximately 21.2 million gallons of an oil-water mix have been recovered.
- Approximately 1.3 million gallons of total dispersant have been applied—885,000 on the surface and 414,000 subsea. More than 505,000 gallons are available.
- More than 210 controlled burns have been conducted, efficiently removing a total of more than 5.2 million gallons of oil from the open water in an effort to protect shoreline and wildlife.
- 17 staging areas are in place to protect sensitive shorelines.
- Approximately 52.6 miles of Gulf Coast shoreline is currently experiencing impacts from BP's leaking oil—34.8 miles in Louisiana, 0.9 miles in Mississippi, 9.9 miles in Alabama, and 7 miles in Florida.
- Approximately 80,800 square miles of Gulf of Mexico federal waters remain closed to fishing in order to balance economic and public health concerns. More than 66 percent remain open. Details can be found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.
- To date, the administration has leveraged assets and skills from numerous foreign countries and international organizations as part of this historic, all-hands-on-deck response, including Canada, Germany, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, the United Nations' International Maritime Organization and the European Union's Monitoring and Information Centre.

*\* The total vessels number reported in the June 15 update contained a reporting error.*

#### **Resources:**

- For information about the response effort, visit [www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com](http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com).
- For specific information about the federal-wide response, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/deepwater-bp-oil-spill>.
- To contact the Deepwater Horizon Joint Information Center, call (985) 902-5231.
- To volunteer, or to report oiled shoreline, call (866) 448-5816. Volunteer opportunities can also be found [here](#).
- To submit your vessel as a vessel of opportunity skimming system, or to submit alternative response technology, services, or products, call 281-366-5511.
- To report oiled wildlife, call (866) 557-1401. Messages will be checked hourly.
- For information about validated environmental air and water sampling results, visit [www.epa.gov/bpspill](http://www.epa.gov/bpspill).
- For National Park Service updates about potential park closures, resources at risk, and NPS actions to protect vital park space and wildlife, visit <http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/oil-spill-response.htm>.
- For Fish and Wildlife Service updates about response along the Gulf Coast and the status of national wildlife refuges, visit <http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/>.
- For daily updates on fishing closures, visit <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.
- For information on assistance loans for affected businesses, visit the SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance), call (800) 659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired), or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).
- To file a claim with BP, visit [www.bp.com/claims](http://www.bp.com/claims) or call BP's helpline at (800) 440-0858. A BP fact sheet with additional information is available [here](#). Those who have already pursued the BP claims process and are not satisfied with BP's resolution, can call the Coast Guard at (800) 280-7118. More information about what types of damages are eligible for compensation under the Oil Pollution Act as well as guidance on procedures to seek that compensation can be found [here](#).
- In addition, [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) has been enhanced to provide a one-stop shop for information on how to file a claim with BP and access additional assistance—available in English and Spanish.

- Any members of the press who encounter response personnel restricting their access or violating the [media access policy](#) set forth by Admiral Allen should contact the Joint Information Center. Click [here](#) for more information, including a list of regular embed opportunities.

For information about the response effort, visit [www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com](http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com).

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(function() { var s = document.createElement('SCRIPT'), s1 = document.getElementsByTagName('SCRIPT')[0]; s.type = 'text/javascript'; s.async = true; s.src = 'http://widgets.digg.com/buttons.js'; s1.parentNode.insertBefore(s, s1); })();
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