Subject: Stranded iurtles in MS
From: Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>
Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2010 07:45:55 -0400
To: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, Tracy Dunn <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, Robert D Stevens <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>
CC: Alexis Gutierrez <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, Sarah Wilkin <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>

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From: Robert D Stevens <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>
Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2010 08:12:02 -0500
To: Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>
CC: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, Tracy Dunn <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, Alexis Gutierrez <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, Sarah Wilkin <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, Steve Campbell <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>

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Harvesting Systems
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From: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2010 09:36:46 -0400
To: Robert D Stevens <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>
CC: Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, Tracy Dunn <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, Alexis Gutierrez <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, Sarah Wilkin <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, Steve Campbell <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, Wendy Teas <Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov>, Barbara Schroeder <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>

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To: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
CC: Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, Tracy Dunn <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, Alexis Gutierrez <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, Sarah Wilkin <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, Steve Campbell <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, Wendy Teas <Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov>, Barbara Schroeder <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>, Mark Kinsey <Mark.Kinsey@noaa.gov>

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To: 'Robert D Stevens' <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, 'David Bernhart' <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
CC: 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, 'Michael Barnette' <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, 'John Mitchell' <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, 'Tracy Dunn' <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, 'Alexis Gutierrez' <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, 'Sarah Wilkin' <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, 'Wendy Teas' <Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov>, 'Barbara Schroeder' <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>, 'Mark Kinsey' <Mark.Kinsey@noaa.gov>

Dale,

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-----Original Message-----
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Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2010 1:54 PM
To: David Bernhart
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Subject: RE: Stranded iurtles in MS
From: Mark Kinsey <Mark.Kinsey@noaa.gov>
Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2010 14:39:16 -0400
To: 'Steve Campbell' <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, 'Robert D Stevens' <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, 'David Bernhart' <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
CC: 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, 'Michael Barnette' <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, 'John Mitchell' <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, 'Tracy Dunn' <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, 'Alexis Gutierrez' <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, 'Sarah Wilkin' <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, 'Wendy Teas' <Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov>, 'Barbara Schroeder' <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>

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Do you think the skimmers were exceeding those regulatory limits, or were you just surprised at how much webbing the state regs allow?

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Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2010 13:50:25 -0500
To: Mark Kinsey <Mark.Kinsey@noaa.gov>
CC: 'Steve Campbell' <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, 'David Bernhart' <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, 'Michael Barnette' <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, 'John Mitchell' <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, 'Tracy Dunn' <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, 'Alexis Gutierrez' <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, 'Sarah Wilkin' <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, 'Wendy Teas' <Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov>, 'Barbara Schroeder' <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>

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Dale Stevens <robert.d.stevens@noaa.gov>
Fisheries Methods & Equipment Specialist

Subject: Re: Stranded iurtles in MS
From: Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>
Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2010 10:14:40 -0400
To: Robert D Stevens <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>
CC: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, Tracy Dunn <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, Alexis Gutierrez <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, Sarah Wilkin <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, Steve Campbell <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>

Thanks Dale, this is good info

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Subject: Re: Stranded iurtles in MS
From: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2010 11:49:44 -0400
To: David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>
CC: Robert D Stevens <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, Michael Barnette <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, Tracy Dunn <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, Alexis Gutierrez <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, Sarah Wilkin <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, Steve Campbell <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, Wendy Teas <Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov>, Barbara Schroeder <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>, Mark Kinsey <Mark.Kinsey@noaa.gov>

Attached is some additional information on the state waters status for shrimping. When the season opened on June 3, MS Sound waters were only open to the West of the Biloxi Ship Channel. (see attachment 10-69)
On June 4, MS DMR issued a revised closure notice, with a smaller closed area off of Pascagoula. The revision notice is a bit unclear on shrimp, but, if I were a shrimper, I would read it to mean that everything other than the closed box was open to shrimping. (see attachment 10-73).

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10-73-LDJ.pdf	**Content-Type:** application/pdf **Content-Encoding:** base64

10-69-SB.pdf	**Content-Type:** application/pdf **Content-Encoding:** base64

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

News Release

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

10-73-LDJ
June 4, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Revised Precautionary Closure: Portions of Mississippi Marine Waters Reopen to Commercial and Recreational Fishing

BILOXI, Miss. – The executive directors of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality are immediately revising the closure of certain portions of Mississippi's territorial marine waters to all commercial and recreational fishing, including all species of finfish, crabs, shrimp and oysters. The revised closure area in the eastern Mississippi Sound has been reduced to include those territorial marine waters of the State of Mississippi lying south of 30 degrees 18 minutes north longitude to federal waters and east of 88 degrees 39 minutes west longitude to the Mississippi-Alabama state boundary. Additional waters that were previously closed to fishing will be reopened.

This closure is a result of the detection of oil in this general area earlier this week, and the potential impacts of the oil on Mississippi's coastal marine resources. All other regulations will remain in full force and effect. The current shrimp closure line is not affected by this revision.

Any individuals retaining any marine species from this closed area will be required to immediately return them to the waters.

This precautionary closure revision supersedes the precautionary order of June 1, 2010, and will take effect and be in force immediately. The purpose of this revision is to be more consistent with the protocol used in the closure of federal waters. Monitoring of this situation continues to ensure the 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.

—MORE—

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

News Release

Contact: Shelly Becker
Phone: 228-523-4051

10-69-SB
June 1, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mississippi 2010-2011 Shrimp Season Opens June 3 in Waters West of the East Biloxi Ship Channel

BILOXI, Miss.—The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has set the opening date of the 2010-2011 shrimp season in **Mississippi territorial waters west of the East Biloxi ship channel for 6 a.m. Thursday, June 3, 2010.**

The area opening will include all Mississippi waters west of a line beginning at Beacon "18" in the East Biloxi Bay Channel including the channel, then following the eastern side of the channel in a southerly direction until it intersects with the Mississippi/EEZ 3 mile nautical line. The northern boundary will begin at Beacon "18" in the East Biloxi Bay Channel and then southwesterly along the most direct line to the southernmost point on Deer Island; then westerly following the north shore of Deer Island to the westernmost tip; then westerly in the most direct line to Biloxi Beacon "8"; then westerly following the meandering of the shoreline at a distance of one-half mile from there to a point on the centerline of the CSX Railroad Bridge over St. Louis Bay; then westerly along the centerline of the bridge to a point one-half mile south of the western abutment of the CSX Railroad Bridge; then southwesterly following the meandering of the shoreline at a distance of one-half mile there from to a point one-half mile east of the mouth of Bayou Caddy; then westerly to the mouth of Bayou Caddy; then southwesterly following the meandering of the shoreline to the Mississippi-Louisiana state line.

These waters may close on short notice if it is detected that oil is moving into the open area.

All regulations set by the DMR are to be in full force and effect, and all boats engaged in catching or transporting shrimp in or from the waters of Mississippi must be legally licensed.

For the latest updates on the Mississippi shrimp fishery, call the toll-free Shrimp Information Hotline 1-866-We Trawl (866-938-7295).

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Subject: RE: Stranded turtles in MS
From: Mark Kinsey <Mark.Kinsey@noaa.gov>
Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2010 15:04:22 -0400
To: 'Robert D Stevens' <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>
CC: 'Steve Campbell' <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, 'David Bernhart' <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, 'Michael Barnette' <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, 'John Mitchell' <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, 'Tracy Dunn' <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, 'Alexis Gutierrez' <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, 'Sarah Wilkin' <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, 'Wendy Teas' <Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov>, 'Barbara Schroeder' <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>

This might be a good time to include Mississippi law enforcement. They could accompany you during the boardings and document any violations. We do have some jurisdiction over the skimmer but that depends on the vessel's home port.

From: Robert D Stevens [mailto:Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2010 2:50 PM
To: Mark Kinsey
Cc: 'Steve Campbell'; 'David Bernhart'; 'Robert Hoffman'; 'Michael Barnette'; 'John Mitchell'; 'Tracy Dunn'; 'Alexis Gutierrez'; 'Sarah Wilkin'; 'Wendy Teas'; 'Barbara Schroeder'
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CC: 'Robert D Stevens' <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, 'Steve Campbell' <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, 'David Bernhart' <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, 'Michael Barnette' <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, 'John Mitchell' <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, 'Tracy Dunn' <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, 'Alexis Gutierrez' <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, 'Sarah Wilkin' <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, 'Barbara Schroeder' <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>, "Sheryan.Epperly" <Sheryan.Epperly@noaa.gov>

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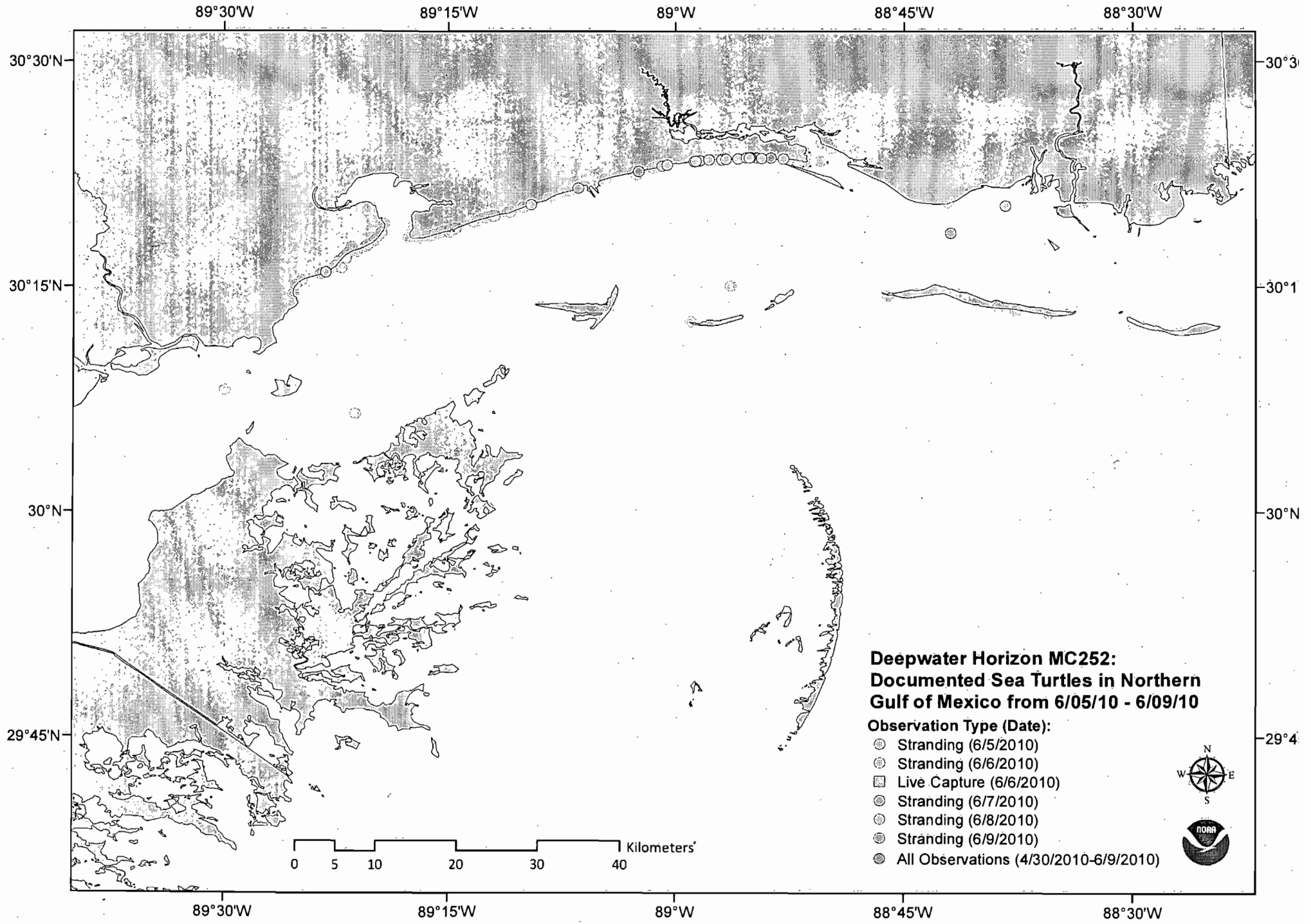
Turtles20100605-20100609.pdf	**Content-Type:** application/pdf **Content-Encoding:** base64


89°30'W
89°15'W
89°W
88°45'W
88°30'W
30°30'N
30°15'N
30°N
29°45'N
Deepwater Horizon MC252:
Documented Sea Turtles in Northern
Gulf of Mexico from 6/05/10 - 6/09/10
Observation Type (Date):
Stranding (6/5/2010)
Stranding (6/6/2010)
Live Capture (6/6/2010)
Stranding (6/7/2010)
Stranding (6/8/2010)
Stranding (6/9/2010)
All Observations (4/30/2010-6/9/2010)
N
W
E
S
NOAA
0 5 10 20 30 40
Kilometers

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CC: 'Robert D Stevens' <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, 'Steve Campbell' <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, 'David Bernhart' <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, 'Michael Barnette' <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, 'John Mitchell' <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, 'Tracy Dunn' <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, 'Sarah Wilkin' <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, 'Barbara Schroeder' <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>, "'Sheryan.Epperly'" <Sheryan.Epperly@noaa.gov>

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Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2010 20:12:45 -0400
To: Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov
CC: 'Robert D Stevens' <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, 'Steve Campbell' <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, 'David Bernhart' <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, 'Michael Barnette' <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, 'John Mitchell' <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, 'Tracy Dunn' <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, 'Alexis Gutierrez' <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, 'Sarah Wilkin' <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, 'Barbara Schroeder' <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>, "'Sheryan.Epperly'" <Sheryan.Epperly@noaa.gov>

Thanks Wendy, we will try everything in our power to assist with this devastation.

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Cc: 'Robert D Stevens'; 'Steve Campbell'; 'David Bernhart'; 'Robert Hoffman'; 'Michael Barnette'; 'John Mitchell'; 'Tracy Dunn'; 'Alexis Gutierrez'; 'Sarah Wilkin'; 'Barbara Schroeder'; Sheryan.Epperly
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Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2010 21:43:46 -0500
To: Mark Kinsey <Mark.Kinsey@noaa.gov>
CC: "Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov" <Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov>, Alexis Gutierrez <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, Robert D Stevens <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, Steve Campbell <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, David Bernhart <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, Robert Hoffman <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, Tracy Dunn <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, Sarah Wilkin <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, Barbara Schroeder <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>, "Sheryan.Epperly" <Sheryan.Epperly@noaa.gov>

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Do you have any plans to try to monitor skimmer trawler effort again?

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O.K. ---- I will recap the events from the last two patrols in the Mississippi Sound. On Tuesday June 3, 2010 the state of Mississippi opened inshore waters from the Biloxi/Ocean Springs channel, West, to the LA/MS state line for shrimp trawling. NOAA Special

Agents Steve Campbell and James Kajoennen accompanied me onboard the GMT SafeBoat for a TEDs patrol to assure that trawlers were complying with TED requirements. Forty vessels were observed trawling in a 2 to 3 square mile area off of Biloxi MS.

We estimated the number of vessels operating with skimmer trawls as opposed to conventional otter trawls at approximately 3 to 1. The conventional trawlers required to have TEDs installed in their nets were all in compliance with no violations found. After observing this many trawlers in such a confined area and giving the number of large skimmer trawl vessels in the fleet it was a concern to us that this would result in stranded turtles.

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NOAA Special Agent Steve Campbell and I patrolled the same area and found four otter trawl vessels actively trawling with one skimmer trawl vessel at anchor. The main purpose of this patrol was to get a more accurate count of the skimmers vessels in the area and try to observe the tow times of some of these vessels. One thing that was of a concern to me was the size of the skimmers being observed during the previous patrol. With no skimmers found on the shrimping grounds we proceeded to the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor in Biloxi MS. There we observed 20 vessels in the harbor, only four of these vessels were otter trawl vessels.

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Any way we can check on shrimpers in MS sound, esp skimmers (check tow times). We have had 15 stranded turtles in MS Sound (quite a few around Pascagoula) with no oil and looking like they were healthy prior to death in the last 24 hours.

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From: "Barbara.Schroeder" <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>
Date: Fri, 11 Jun 2010 11:04:14 -0400
To: Mark Kinsey <Mark.Kinsey@noaa.gov>
CC: Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov, 'Alexis Gutierrez' <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, 'Robert D Stevens' <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, 'Steve Campbell' <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, 'David Bernhart' <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, 'Michael Barnette' <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, 'John Mitchell' <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, 'Tracy Dunn' <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, 'Sarah Wilkin' <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, "'Sheryan.Epperly'" <Sheryan.Epperly@noaa.gov>, David Cottingham <David.Cottingham@noaa.gov>

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From: Sheryan Epperly <Sheryan.Epperly@noaa.gov>
Date: Fri, 11 Jun 2010 07:05:24 -0400
To: Mark Kinsey <Mark.Kinsey@noaa.gov>
CC: Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov, 'Alexis Gutierrez' <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, 'Robert D Stevens' <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, 'Steve Campbell' <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, 'David Bernhart' <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, 'Michael Barnette' <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, 'John Mitchell' <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, 'Tracy Dunn' <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, 'Sarah Wilkin' <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, 'Barbara Schroeder' <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>

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From: Mark Kinsey <Mark.Kinsey@noaa.gov>
Date: Fri, 11 Jun 2010 08:48:43 -0400
To: 'Sheryan Epperly' <Sheryan.Epperly@noaa.gov>
CC: Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov, 'Alexis Gutierrez' <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, 'Robert D Stevens' <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, 'Steve Campbell' <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, 'David Bernhart' <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, 'Michael Barnette' <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, 'John Mitchell' <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, 'Tracy Dunn' <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, 'Sarah Wilkin' <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, 'Barbara Schroeder' <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>

If approved, we will likely board the skimmers, monitor their tow time, interview the crew and evaluate their catch. It will almost be impossible to do this discretely because of our operation will be overt. This should deter any illegal actions and possibly give us the information we need to help determine the causes of high stranding rate.

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From: Sheryan Epperly [mailto:Sheryan.Epperly@noaa.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 7:05 AM
To: Mark Kinsey
Cc: Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov; 'Alexis Gutierrez'; 'Robert D Stevens'; 'Steve Campbell'; 'David Bernhart'; 'Robert Hoffman'; 'Michael Barnette'; 'John Mitchell'; 'Tracy Dunn'; 'Sarah Wilkin'; 'Barbara Schroeder'
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Date: Fri, 11 Jun 2010 15:43:16 -0400
To: "'Barbara.Schroeder'" <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>
CC: Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov, 'Alexis Gutierrez' <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, 'Robert D Stevens' <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, 'Steve Campbell' <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, 'David Bernhart' <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, 'Michael Barnette' <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, 'John Mitchell' <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, 'Tracy Dunn' <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, 'Sarah Wilkin' <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, "'Sheryan.Epperly'" <Sheryan.Epperly@noaa.gov>, 'David Cottingham' <David.Cottingham@noaa.gov>

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So, given that a regular door trawler will only get 60-70% opening spread with his doors, but a skimmer can get 100% opening-- at least on the headrope-- the state regs actually allow skimmers to carry a lot more net than door trawlers. Door trawlers also have a maximum standard door height of 34", which will limit the height of

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I took some video of these vessels at the dock to show how large these skimmers are and to show the amount of webbing in these nets.

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This is something we've been looking at since Wendy alerted us to the pulse in MS strandings on Monday. There've been a number of e-mails going around. Sorry you haven't been on those, I'll forward some for your info.

Shrimping opened in MS Sound on June 3. NMFS OLE with Pascagoula assistance and MSDMR marine patrol did a pretty large amount of TED

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Subject: Re: Stranded turtles in MS
From: Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov
Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2010 22:37:16 -0400
To: Mark Kinsey <Mark.Kinsey@noaa.gov>
CC: 'Alexis Gutierrez' <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, 'Robert D Stevens' <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, 'Steve Campbell' <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, 'David Bernhart' <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, 'Michael Barnette' <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, 'John Mitchell' <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, 'Tracy Dunn' <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, 'Sarah Wilkin' <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, 'Barbara Schroeder' <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>, '"Sheryan.Epperly"' <Sheryan.Epperly@noaa.gov>

That's great! We appreciate anything you can do to help make this stop.

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> OLE for an extended period. At a minimum, we should be able to reduce the
> stranding rate by repetitive boardings. Additionally, I will contact
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As per our earlier telephone conversation, we'll get together

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David,
I just talked to some fishermen out of Bayou La Batre AL. They

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that a skimmer trawl is typically a trawl used primarily at

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They do

at times push in the daylight hours when the sea conditions are rough and the bottom is stirred up. This was the case during the June 3, patrol. I will get with Enforcement and arrange a night patrol in the near future to try and document tow times.

David Bernhart wrote:

MS DMR regulations state:

"It shall be unlawful to use skimmer trawls or wing nets with a maximum size greater than 25 feet on the headrope and 32 feet on the footrope."

For regular trawlers: "..not more than 2 nets, each no larger than 25

feet on headrope and 32 feet on footrope."

So, given that a regular door trawler will only get 60-70% opening

spread with his doors, but a skimmer can get 100% opening-- at least on

the headrope-- the state regs actually allow skimmers to carry a lot

more net than door trawlers. Door trawlers also have a maximum

standard door height of 34", which will limit the height of the net to

something in the several feet range. How tall were the legs of the

skimmers, Dale? 10-12'?

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From: Mark Kinsey <Mark.Kinsey@noaa.gov>
Date: Fri, 11 Jun 2010 17:17:32 -0400
To: 'Alexis Gutierrez' <Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov>, 'Wendy Teas' <Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov>
CC: "'Barbara.Schroeder'" <Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov>, 'Robert D Stevens' <Robert.D.Stevens@noaa.gov>, 'Steve Campbell' <Steve.Campbell@noaa.gov>, 'David Bernhart' <David.Bernhart@noaa.gov>, 'Robert Hoffman' <Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov>, 'Michael Barnette' <Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov>, 'John Mitchell' <John.Mitchell@noaa.gov>, 'Tracy Dunn' <Tracy.Dunn@noaa.gov>, 'Sarah Wilkin' <Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov>, "'Sheryan.Epperly'" <Sheryan.Epperly@noaa.gov>, 'David Cottingham' <David.Cottingham@noaa.gov>

The oil spill is heading in that direction, forcing a closure. I am waiting for confirmation.

-----Original Message-----
From: Alexis Gutierrez [mailto:Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 4:36 PM
To: Wendy Teas
Cc: Mark Kinsey; 'Barbara.Schroeder'; 'Robert D Stevens'; 'Steve Campbell'; 'David Bernhart'; 'Robert Hoffman'; 'Michael Barnette'; 'John Mitchell'; 'Tracy Dunn'; 'Sarah Wilkin'; 'Sheryan.Epperly'; 'David Cottingham'
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Great news! Is there any way we can confirm this? Thanks, A

Wendy Teas wrote:

> Great, I hope it is more than just rumor!
>
> Mark Kinsey wrote:
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> > I am hearing rumors the state of Mississippi is planning to shut down shrimping in state waters. I don't know if this will happen before we can monitor the skimmer tow time. Either way, it should reduce the strandings.
> >
> > *From:* Barbara.Schroeder [mailto:Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov]
> > *Sent:* Friday, June 11, 2010 11:04 AM
> > *To:* Mark Kinsey
> > *Cc:* Wendy.Teas@noaa.gov; 'Alexis Gutierrez'; 'Robert D Stevens'; 'Steve Campbell'; 'David Bernhart'; 'Robert Hoffman'; 'Michael Barnette'; 'John Mitchell'; 'Tracy Dunn'; 'Sarah Wilkin'; 'Sheryan.Epperly'; David Cottingham
> > *Subject:* Re: Stranded turtles in MS
> >
> > It is only 10AM here central time and we are working now to verify 20 NEW stranding reports for MS called in already. I reccomend the state take immediate action and close down the shrimp season until this can be resolved, if they can't we should take emergency action under ESA if at all possible. Has anyone spoken with the state folks that manages the shrimp fisheries? It seems like we are all in agreement that all information points to skimmers or regular trawlers volume.
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David Bernhart wrote:

MS DMR regulations state:

"It shall be unlawful to use skimmer trawls or wing nets with a maximum size greater than 25 feet on the headrope and 32 feet on the footrope."

For regular trawlers: "..not more than 2 nets, each no larger than 25 feet on headrope and 32 feet on footrope."

So, given that a regular door trawler will only get 60-70% opening spread with his doors, but a skimmer can get 100% opening-- at least on the headrope-- the state regs actually allow skimmers to

carry a
lot

more net than door trawlers. Door trawlers also
have a

maximum

standard door height of 34", which will limit the
height

of

the
net to

something in the several feet range. How tall
were the

legs

of
the

skimmers, Dale? 10-12'?

Do you think the skimmers were exceeding those
regulatory

limits, or

were you just surprised at how much webbing the
state regs

allow?>

Do you have any plans to try to monitor skimmer
trawler

effort
again?

-DB

Robert D Stevens wrote:

O.K. ---- I will recap the events from the last two patrols in the Mississippi Sound. On Tuesday June 3, 2010 the state of Mississippi opened inshore waters from the Biloxi/Ocean Springs channel, West, to the LA/MS state line for shrimp trawling. NOAA Special Agents Steve Campbell and James Kajoennen accompanied me onboard the GMT SafeBoat for a TEDs patrol to assure that trawlers were complying with TED requirements. Forty vessels were observed trawling in

a

2 to
3 square

mile area off of Biloxi MS.

We estimated the number of vessels operating with

skimmer
trawls as

opposed to conventional otter trawls at approximately

3

to
1. The

conventional trawlers required to have TEDs installed

in

their nets

were all in compliance with no violations found. After

observing this

many trawlers in such a confined area and giving the

number
of large

skimmer trawl vessels in the fleet it was a concern to

us
that this

would result in stranded turtles.

After the report of dead turtles over the weekend

another patrol was

conducted on Tuesday June 8, 2010.

NOAA Special Agent Steve Campbell and I patrolled the

same area and

found four otter trawl vessels actively trawling with

one skimmer

trawl vessel at anchor. The main purpose of this patrol

was to get a

more accurate count of the skimmers vessels in the area

and try to

observe the tow times of some of these vessels. One

thing that was of

a concern to me was the size of the skimmers being

observed during

the previous patrol. With no skimmers found

on the

shrimping
grounds

we proceeded to the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor in

Biloxi

MS.
There we

observed 20 vessels in the harbor, only four
of these

vessels were

otter trawl vessels.

The remaining sixteen vessels were the larger
skimmer

trawl
vessels

and the same ones observed on the shrimping
grounds

during
the

previous patrol. These are large vessels
pushing very

large
skimmers.

I took some video of these vessels at the
dock to show

how
large

these skimmers are and to show the amount of
webbing

in

these nets.

I have this video and will try to somehow get it

transfered
to a DVD

if any of you are interested in it.

David Bernhart wrote:

Hi Bob,

This is something we've been looking at
since

Wendy

alerted us to

the pulse in MS strandings on Monday.
There've

been

a
number of

e-mails going around. Sorry you haven't
been on

those,
I'll forward

some for your info.

Shrimping opened in MS Sound on June 3.
NMFS OLE

with
Pascagoula

assistance and MSDMR marine patrol did a
pretty

large
amount of TED

compliance boardings and, as I
understand, didn't

find
any

significant violations. However, OLE
noted that

the

trawlers were

very concentrated in a few areas, and
Dale Stevens

estimated that

the boats were 75% skimmer trawls.
Pascagoula and

OLE
therefore

immediately made plans to go out on June
8 to look

into
the skimmer

trawls more closely. So Dale, we'll
await your

detailed
report

eagerly.

On the locations of the strandings vs. the shrimping effort: Wendy do you have all the stranding locations yet? I know those data were incomplete as of a few days ago. It would be nice to look at that vs. the shrimping effort. BUT, I don't think we should draw any major conclusions from that. I think it's a reasonable assumption (though far from always true) that a stranding occurs pretty close to where the mortality occurred. But Miss. Sound is a pretty small

area itself: longshore movements of carcasses from tide and wind and the movement of the concentration of the shrimp fleet could make any analysis not too conclusive...

-DB

Robert D Stevens wrote:

Bob,

Special Agent Steve Campbell and myself conducted a patrol on Tuesday June 8. 2010. We patrolled the area off Biloxi MS and down to Gulfport MS. I will follow this reply with a more detailed

report of what we observed as I need
to go get

my
notes off the GMT

boat. One thing to note, the waters
off of

Pascagoula have been

closed due too oil so no trawlers
have been in

this
area. I guess

the currents could have carried the
turtles to

the
area from some

other location, however during the
last two

patrols
(June 3 and

June 8) the winds and the currents
have been

strong
from the East

to West. All trawling to the East has
been

closed
down due to the

oil so I don't know where they would
have come

from
down that way.

I will follow up in a few with a more

detailed

report on what

observed on Tuesday.

Robert Hoffman wrote:

Any way we can check on shrimpers
in MS

sound,
esp skimmers (check

tow times). We have had 15 stranded

turtles

in
MS Sound (quite a

few around Pascagoula) with no
oil and

looking
like they were

healthy prior to death in the
last 24 hours.