



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Western Gulf of Mexico Fuel Oil Spill Advisory

On November 11, 2005, the Articulated Tug Barge DBL152 struck a submerged oil platform. Over the next few weeks, an estimated three million gallons of slurry oil was released in the vicinity of 29° 12.35' North latitude, 93° 28.08' West longitude. This location is approximately 35 nautical miles south-southeast of Sabine Pass, Texas, and 35 nautical miles south-southwest of Calcasieu Pass, Louisiana.

Since the incident, a 10 nautical mile (east-west) by 8 nautical mile (north-south) safety zone has been in effect around the accident site. No fishing vessels have been allowed within this safety zone. The salvage operations are nearly complete, and in the near future the safety zone will be opened, and fishing will again be allowed in the area.

However, fishermen and the public should be aware substantial quantities of the slurry oil remain in the area. The fuel oil is heavier than water and the majority of it is on the bottom, but smaller particles may be suspended in the water column near the bottom. Recreational and commercial seafood harvesters fishing in the vicinity may encounter large or small quantities of this oil. The oil can foul nets or externally cover seafood such as fish or shrimp. There is no known specific health hazard, but

NOAA Fisheries Service recommends fishermen exercise caution in the area. The oil is expected to move generally in a southwestward direction, and offshore, as it dissipates.

NOAA's Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management and enforcement. NMFS provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners and nearly 60 countries to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes.