



Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

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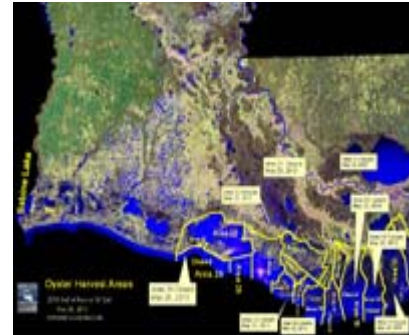
May 26, 2010

DHH Closes Oyster Harvesting Area 28 Due to Oil Spill

Officials Continue Aggressive Testing

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals announced today the closure of oyster harvesting bed Area 28 as a response to the BP oil spill in the Gulf.

The closure, which will take effect today at sundown, is west of the Mississippi River in Iberia Parish.



DHH Secretary Alan Levine and State Health Officer Dr. Jimmy Guidry signed the closure order, which will take effect at sunset today, Wednesday, May 26, 2010. [Click on the map to view full size](#)

DHH officials have been working closely with local, state and federal agencies to monitor the oil plume that continues to grow off of the Louisiana coastline for its potential impacts on oyster harvesting areas. Meanwhile, employees with DHH's Office of Public Health Molluscan Shellfish Program have continued regular testing of 8 million acres of coastal waters along the Louisiana shoreline.

In addition, DHH scientists and engineers are conducting enhanced testing of oyster meat taken from the closed beds to monitor the presence of oil, called hydrocarbon testing. Additional testing is also being conducted in unaffected oyster beds. These tests will create a baseline, which will be used to ensure the safety of oysters once the incident clears in order to reopen beds. Oysters being harvested in open areas are considered safe.

Areas 8 through 15, 17, 21, 22 and 23 remain closed.

The public is encouraged to call a toll-free hotline, 1-800-256-2775, to report the presence of oil or an oil sheen.

For more information related to the oil spill, visit <http://www.emergency.louisiana.gov>. Connect with us on www.facebook.com/GOHSEP and on Twitter @GOHSEP. View photos in from the state's response efforts at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lagoohsep>.

Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness | 7667 Independence Blvd. | Baton Rouge, LA 70806 | 225.925.7500