



Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

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DHH Closes Oyster Harvesting Area 9 Due to Oil Spill

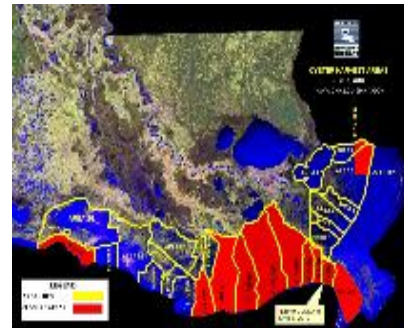
Officials Continue Aggressive Testing

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals announced today the closure of oyster harvesting bed Area 9 in response to the BP oil spill in the Gulf.

The closure is west of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish.

DHH Secretary Alan Levine and State Health Officer Dr. Jimmy Guidry signed the closure

order, which will take effect at sunset today, Sunday, June 6, 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 register sanitarians 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.

Portions of areas 2 and 3 remain closed, as do areas 8, 10 through 15, 17 and 28

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 as @GOHSEP.

View photos from the state's response efforts at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lagohsep>.

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