



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HALEY BARBOUR, GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Trudy D. Fisher, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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MDEQ NOTICES INCREASE IN TAR BALLS DUE TO STORM ACTIVITY

(JACKSON, Miss.) – Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) staff conducting oil spill response duty noticed a slight increase in tar balls after storm events moved through the Gulf Coast region last week. The area of impact was centered on the beach in the area of the Silver Slipper Casino in Hancock County. This tarballing is indicative that there are most likely subtidal tar mats in the area not rapidly degrading and producing tar balls after storms.

“We have been aware that there might be an increase in tar balls following storms on the Gulf Coast so we have taken measures to assess affected beach areas and will monitor beaches cleaned by BP’s contractors. Mississippi’s beaches are open for this spring and summer, and we will continue to work to ensure that beachgoers have an enjoyable experience,” said Trudy Fisher, MDEQ Executive Director.

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