

Preparing for Effects from the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico

* North Carolina Beaches (but more importantly Holden Beach) are open and no closures are anticipated at this time due to the spill!

* The Coast Guard is the lead agency in charge if oil threatens coastal waters, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the lead for inland waters.

* Other responding agencies include:

The North Carolina Department of Crime Patrol and Public Safety

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

* North Carolina does have an oil spill response plan that defines roles and responsibilities for the responding agencies.

- The Department of Crime Patrol and Public Safety is currently working with the Coast Guard and other federal and state agencies to review the response plan and update it in light of the current circumstances.

* The Coast Guard believes there is very little chance the oil will make it to our coast but if it does the estimated travel time to North Carolina is thought to be about four weeks after the oil particles reach the area near Naples, Florida.

* There are occasional tar balls found on beaches in North Carolina. They are common and are typically from activities unrelated to the oil spill.

*For the most up-to-date pictures and videos of the current conditions at Holden Beach, please visit our town website at hbtownhall.com

Key Information Resources:

www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doc/2931/552115

www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doctype/2931/53023/

Federal government coordinated response:

www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/site/2931/

EPA response to Gulf oil Spill: www.epa.gov/bpspill/

Subscribe to spill updates (reach from home page of EPA, upper left in banner): www.epa.gov

Coast Guard North Carolina Sector Headquarters in Atlantic Beach: 252-247-4501

www.enr.state.nc.us