



US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

News Release

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Atchafalaya Basin oil spill: most recovered or contained

Wildlife effects minimal, but public should keep clear until cleanup complete

PORT BARRE, La.—An oil-well spill in the Atchafalaya Basin has been contained, but users of Henderson Lake should stay clear over the next couple of months until the job is complete, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Friday.

The spill, noticed by a fisherman, occurred March 21 in the portion of the 6,000-acre lake known as the North Flats. The site is one mile north of Interstate 10 between the Phillips Canal and North Bigeaux.

The spill occurred within the Corps' Indian Bayou area, which is 28,500 acres of Corps-owned land in the Atchafalaya Basin. This area is open to the public for recreation such as hunting, fishing, bird watching and boating.

The Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office and all appropriate federal and state agencies were immediately notified by the responsible party, Goodrich Petroleum.

Responders were Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Spill Coordinator's Office, St. Martin Sheriff's Office and Louisiana State Police. EPA and DEQ are the on-scene coordinators.

A clean-up crew has encircled the affected area with containment booms to enclose the spill while working to remove the oil. Daily flyovers are taking place to ensure that the oil is confined within the booms.

It is estimated that 2,000 barrels were spilled. However, a substantial amount of the oil has already been recovered.

No fish kills have been reported on Henderson Lake. Monitoring will continue until all oil and affected vegetation has been removed, and the spill area is decontaminated. The

Corps of Engineers has requested that fishermen and other users stay away from the site, to reduce boat wakes, until the cleanup is completed.

Corps recreation <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/recreation/index.asp>