

DEEP WATER HORIZON PBC PLANNING TASKFORCE

On Tuesday, April 20, 2010, an offshore oil drilling platform, Deepwater Horizon, exploded in the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana. The rig, owned by Transocean Ltd, was under contract to British Petroleum (BP). Oil continues to leak from the well as BP has attempted unsuccessfully a number of times to stem the flow. BP and the United States Coast Guard are the lead response agencies on the oil spill.

As a result of this event, staff established a special task force to develop a contingency plan which would establish response priorities and strategies in order to deal with oil impacting our beaches and intercoastal waterway estuaries. (See attachment A) The initial Palm Beach County Task Force meeting was held on May 17, 2010 and included representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and County staff. We discussed the status of the spill, projections of plume dispersal, contingency planning and local coordination efforts. Four subcommittees were formed according to defined geographic zones, with each working committee representing an inlet waterway, i.e. Jupiter Inlet, Palm Beach Inlet, Boynton Inlet, Boca Raton Inlet. Each committee included representation from coastal municipalities, inlet commission districts and the FDEP. They discussed local planning and response strategies and provided updated information, including local resource and strategy maps, mapping of natural collection points, detailing staging options and developing an inventory of available resources for our Contingency Plan. The Plan is the focal point of coordinated response planning, providing detailed information on procedures, priorities and appropriate counter measures to discharges of oil (if any) tar bars and tar patches.

With input from well over one hundred individuals representing 33 agencies in the Task Force, a Local Action Plan (LAP) with four zone maps was created to provide response strategies specific to the Deepwater Horizon Spill. (See attachment B) The LAP includes a pre-event sampling plan to record baseline levels of hydrocarbons in the marine environment, work that is already underway. Protective booming and beach cleanup strategies are oriented toward the weathered oil that is more likely to be the basis of any local impact. The LAP emphasizes local concerns and sets out response expectations. It also provides for local actions as needed. Approval of the LAP will ensure a coordinated response and reimbursement for any local actions. If necessary, over 450 county and municipal employees have volunteered to take the BP training class and assist in cleaning our beaches.

On May 20, 2010 the governor approved our request for a declaration of a Local State of Emergency. This declaration permits Palm Beach County to take whatever protection measures are necessary to protect our County and all associated costs would be eligible for reimbursement.

I want to assure the Board of County Commissioners that if BP does not respond appropriately to our needs, staff is prepared to take charge and take whatever action is necessary to protect our beaches and estuaries.



Palm Beach County

DEEPWATER HORIZON TASK FORCE

Local Action Plan

Mississippi Canyon 252

Deepwater Horizon 2010

Event

On Tuesday, April 20, an offshore oil drilling platform, Deepwater Horizon, exploded in the Gulf of Mexico near Louisiana. The rig, owned by Transocean Ltd, was under contract to British Petroleum (BP). The exact quantity of oil discharged is unknown, but does exceed the volume released by any historical event in the U.S. Ocean currents have the capability of transporting oil from the spill to the coastline of Palm Beach County. While in transport, the weathering processes, which include evaporation, dispersion, dissolution and sedimentation, will increase the viscosity of any entrained oil. Current eddies off the Gulf Stream, in conjunction with wind and wave action, could move that oil shoreward, most likely in the form of emulsion or pelagic tar. The volume of oil that may reach the shoreline in Palm Beach County is unknown. Surface oil is being tracked in relation to the Loop Current, but knowledge of subsurface oil extent and location is limited. This Plan provides a synopsis of contingency planning activities to date, outlines local priorities and proposes local response options.

Response Chain of Command

According to federal statutes, the Responsible Party (RP) has primary responsibility for cleanup and mitigation of a discharge. The response must be conducted in accordance with their response plan and be consistent with provisions of the Area Contingency Plan. The RP will pay for all legitimate response measures. If the acting RP fails to adequately respond, it is the responsibility of the Captain of the Port or Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) to take over control of a particular aspect of, or the entire response. In this case, funding will be provided by the federal government until an RP is charged for the response. The FOSC may hire other governmental organizations (state and local) by the use of a Non Federal Agency Pollution Removal Funding Authorization. The organization will document its costs using the Pollution Incident Daily Resource Report or other system approved the NPFC.

The Southeast Florida Area Contingency Plan (ACP)

The ACP is the focal point of coordinated response planning, providing detailed information on procedures, priorities and appropriate countermeasures to discharges of oil in or near the geographic area. The ACP was written by the Area Committee, chaired by a Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) from the U.S. Coast Guard. The FOSC provides general direction and guidance for the Area Committee in the continual review and revising of the ACP. The Area Committee is responsible for working with State and local officials to pre-plan for joint response efforts, including appropriate procedures for shoreline cleanup and the protection of sensitive environmental areas. Though the ACP was revised in 2008, some of the resource mapping is based on earlier survey data. Strategies are focused on the most probable discharge based on historical spill data rather than on a specific event. The 2008 ACP needs to be modified to address potentially large amounts of weathered oil landfalling in SE FL for a prolonged period of time.

Unified Command (UC) Structure

If an incident is determined to be of sufficient scale, the Unified Command (UC) Structure provides joint coordination for a large number of response groups at every level though each agency retains its own organizational identity, chain of command and direct control of personnel and resource tasking. The UC will set priorities, identify any constraints, develop incident objectives and strategies, establish response guidelines and approves the ordering and release of resources. Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) from the U.S. Coast Guard is the lead federal official for spill response. The FOSC's responsibilities include coordinating all containment, removal and disposal efforts and resources during an incident, including federal, state, local and RP efforts. The State On-Scene Coordinator represents all state interests at the command level of the response organization. Local participation is based on jurisdictional authority and response participation.

The UC is supported by many federal and state resource agencies, including the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is locating and tracking the spill with aircraft, satellites and research vessels. Computer modeling is being used to project movement of the spill using updated ocean current and weather data. Sampling of the spill as the oil weathers will provide viscosity data required for the formulation of specific response criteria.

Local response is being coordinated through the Palm Beach County Emergency Operations Center. Although local response capability is presently limited due to specialized equipment and training requirements, local authorities are working to identify their resources and options in order to assist in any impact response.

Pre-Event Preparation

A countywide Task Force was created to update the ACP, create a Local Action Plan, and coordinate communication among the coastal municipalities and agencies (participant list attached). A web site was created to disseminate information and allow potential volunteers to be added to a local database. A request for EOC notification of any oil seen in the County was conveyed to the public through the municipalities and the press.

Local pre-impact sampling of background hydrocarbon levels in sediment and water samples is currently being coordinated by FDEP's Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA). Because of limited resources, the state plan presently includes only seven sample stations in Palm Beach County in the vicinity of reefs and Loxahatchee River. County staff has proposed 15 additional estuarine sites in Lake Worth Lagoon and Boca Raton and 6 beach sites to be tested by the FDEP or the County to provide a more representative baseline offshore, nearshore, on the beaches and in our waterways.

The County has requested training in impact assessment through NOAA and beach clean-up through BP for both governmental staff and volunteers. A request for training of marina staff in boat cleaning is pending.

PBC EOC is now at level 4 activation and coordinates daily with state and federal agencies. The ACP identifies protection strategies within the county's waterways and lists potential staging areas. The UC will utilize NOAA projections to determine the timetable for resource pre-deployment to the staging areas and configuration of the initial response plan.

Proposed Revisions to the ACP

Environmentally sensitive areas and prioritized booming strategies to protect those resources are included in the original Plan along with a list of staging sites. Updated resource maps are being provided based on recent surveys and review from members of the local Planning Task Force. Protective boom strategies are defined using criteria detailed in the original Plan and natural collection sites (convergent zones) are identified

primarily for use in recovering pelagic tar. It is anticipated that the diversion/exclusion booming strategy will be consistent in responding to a spill involving high viscosity or weathered oil. As deployment, maintenance and removal of boom may result in impacts to the resources, their use will be triggered by a relative certainty of substantial oil impact.

Inlet boom strategies have been updated based on changes to available staging/collection sites as well as strategies to allow continued operation of the Port of

Palm Beach. It is anticipated that inlet booming will be used to protect local waterways from high viscosity oil, as boom efficiency in a high current environment is further limited as the oil weathers. The strategies, too, are dependent upon the availability of skimming equipment and specific boom types.

The inventory of **Beach Staging Sites** has been updated to include additional information for deployment of cleaning crews and equipment.

Reef maps have been expanded to include convection areas where debris naturally accumulates.

Deepwater Horizon Impact Assessment & Response

Regional Response Teams are presently positioned to collect samples and assess impacts within an hour of notification. Samples will be analyzed at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Laboratory in New London, Connecticut for consistency with oil from the Deepwater spill. The Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) is a standardized method of collecting impact data, develop cleanup guidelines, priorities & methods and monitor cleanup efforts. The program was developed by NOAA as a part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process and is coordinated with BP, FDEP and the Fish & Wildlife Service. SCAT teams may include federal, state, BP and local representatives.

Offshore

In calm sea conditions, skimming vessels can be effective in collecting floating tar & emulsified oil. The ACP includes deployment of deepwater skimming vessels when a sizable volume of oil is visible near shore.

Reefs

In addition to the pre-event sampling at various reef sites, convergent zones were mapped for future monitoring of any submerged oil. Periodic monitoring by local government and volunteers will be formalized into a monthly schedule if any oil is found on the reefs. Cleanup is generally only required for extensive impacts and is undertaken by specialized floating vacuum equipment. No manual removal activities are presently anticipated.

Beaches

The beaches of Palm Beach County are utilized by the endangered Leatherback sea turtle in greater number than any other location in the U.S. and have the second highest concentration of Green and Loggerhead turtle nests. Nesting season began in February and will not end until November. Our beaches are also an integral part of the local tourism economy and an important recreational resource. Immediate response to any impacts is a priority to the local community.

Booming options to deflect or exclude oil from the county's beaches are not practical due to the relatively high wave climate and potential impacts to nearshore reef resources and sea turtle nesting activities.

As the beaches of Palm Beach County are relatively uniform in shoreline type, pre-planned strategies for tar impacts by manual or mechanical means will allow for a timely response. Short-term small-scale manual removal by trained government staff will be authorized if BP crews are unable to respond to every assessed site on a daily basis. Gratuitous services may be utilized in accordance with local policies. Mechanical removal below MHWL using trained contractors with beach rakes or sifters will be utilized when the scope of work exceeds the resources available for manual cleanup. The PBC Solid Waste Authority has the necessary resources for collection at the staging sites and permitted disposal sites.

Waterways

The ACP delineates 14 miles of sensitive environmental resources within our waterways. Many were created using Federal, State and local funding and all form a unique habitat for a variety of species, including several considered endangered or threatened. Protecting these areas from any oil impact is essential as cleanup activities may actually compound the damage. When the most viable post-impact strategy is to allow the marine environment to assimilate oil through the long-term process of biodegradation, future regional restoration efforts must contend with added substrate and water quality challenges.

Maintenance of commercial vessel access will need to be considered throughout the planning process. An average of 112 ships per month navigate the inlet to reach facilities at the Port of Palm Beach. A demand for charter and yacht maintenance activities will continue as will the need to service vessels used in any offshore cleanup activities.

Protective booming strategies outlined in the ACP include both collection and protection tactics. Specific deployment sites, boom type, anchoring strategies, deployment equipment and staffing requirements, collection methodologies and disposal options will be updated by the UC as data on oil characteristics and locations are acquired. Boom efficiency is limited by current velocities, oil viscosity and the extent to which oil is dispersed throughout the water column.

As any local impact from this spill is anticipated to be in the form of pelagic tar (tar balls, mats or patties) or emulsified oil (oil/water mix) at various depths, exclusion and protection strategies will likely prove to be the most successful. Sections of the waterway with limited access and subject to limited current velocities may be successfully isolated for surface material. Boom may be deployed at shallow depths, parallel to the prevailing currents and directly adjacent to the resources, thereby deflecting oil to natural collection points (convergent zones) for recovery. Prompt recovery near the inlets will limit further oil dispersion throughout the waterway. The need and effectiveness of using booms will be evaluated by NOAA and the UC prior to any deployment. Boom resources are limited, but some resources are reserved at local USCG facilities. Skimming vessels are expected to be in short supply.

Permits

On May 6, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Jacksonville District initiated emergency permit procedures in response to the spill. An FDEP Emergency Final Order dated May 12 authorizes some activities and defines conditions for Field Authorizations or Emergency Permits. All activities must be conducted in a manner consistent with the ACP.

Hull Cleaning Activities

Oiled ship and watercraft decontamination protocols will need to be adapted to local conditions. Offshore cleaning stations would be difficult to maintain in the high current environment off Palm Beach County and may adjacent impact reef. Inshore double-boomed stations at the Lake Worth Inlet outside of seagrass areas may be suitable for non-chemical pressure cleaning.



June 18, 2010

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Commissioners**

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Captain Jim Fitton
Captain of the Port
USCG Sector Miami
100 MacArthur Causeway
Miami Beach, FL 33139

Dear Captain Fitton,

Palm Beach County would like to thank you and the members of the Area Committee for your long-term and recent efforts in oil spill response planning. The Sector Miami Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Area Contingency Plan (ACP) provides a collaborative comprehensive strategy to which only event-specific details are needed for a successful response.

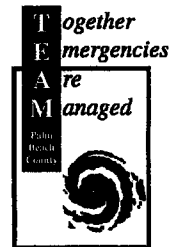
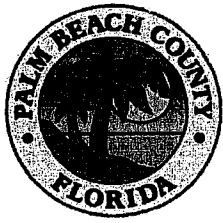
In coordination with your ongoing efforts to address the Deepwater Horizon spill, Palm Beach County convened a Task Force to discuss local planning and response priorities and strategies, as well as to provide updated information, including local resource and strategy maps, natural collection points, detailing staging options and an inventory available equipment. With input from well over one hundred individuals representing 35 Federal, State and local agencies, a Local Action Plan (LAP) was created to update elements of the ACP and provide local response strategies specific to the Deepwater Horizon spill. The LAP includes a pre-event sampling plan to record baseline levels of hydrocarbons in the marine environment. Protective booming and beach cleanup strategies are oriented toward the weathered oil that is more likely to be the basis of any local impact. The LAP emphasizes local concerns, sets out response expectations and provides for local actions as needed.

As the ACP sets the responsibility for coordinating local resources with the local community, we believe that the Area Committee's approval of our LAP will ensure the continuation of a coordinated response to this event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Weisman", with a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Weisman
County Administrator



**PALM BEACH COUNTY
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
Deepwater Horizons
Planning Task Force Contacts**

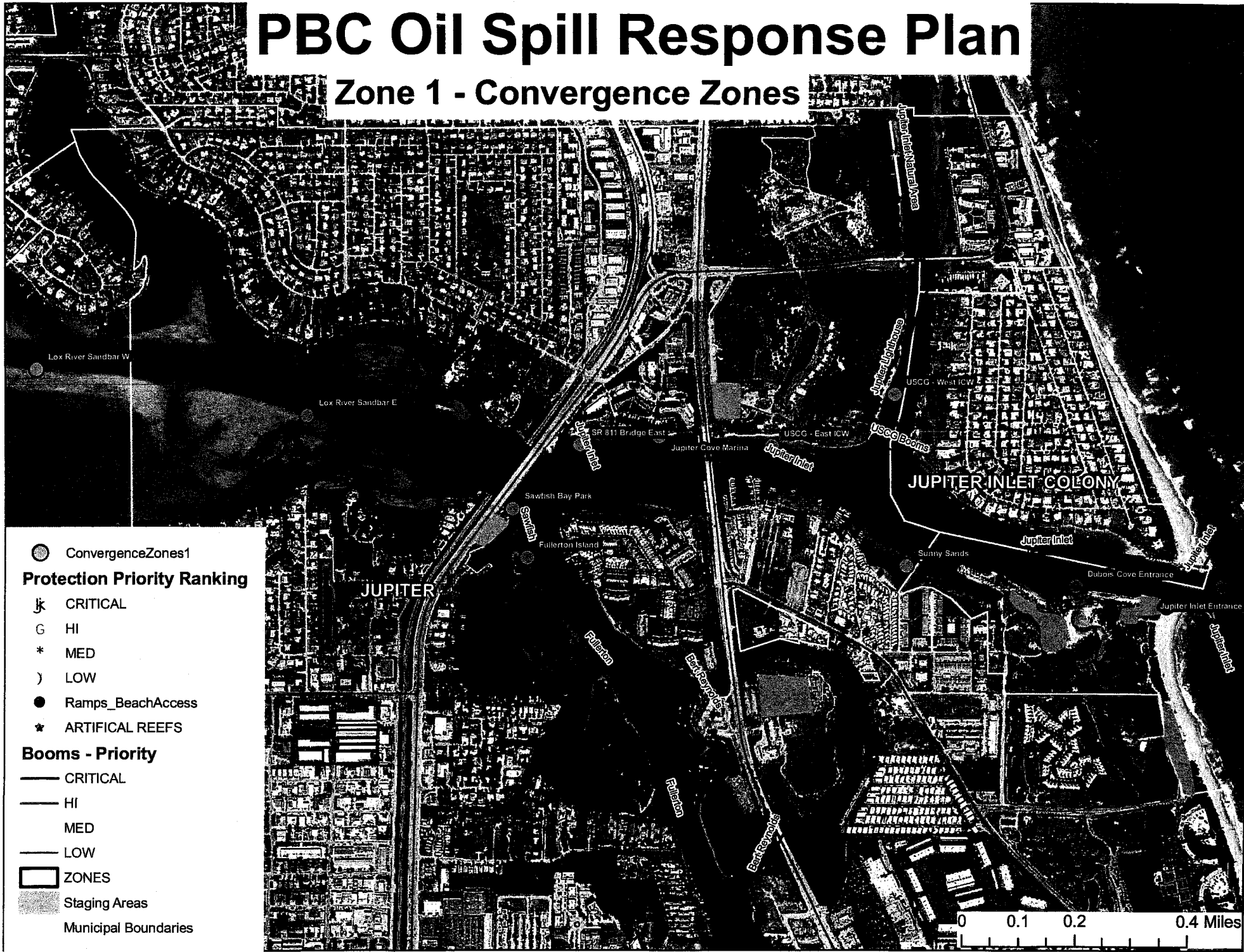
Agency	Contact	Title	Phone	E-Mail
Army Corp of Engineers	Doug Wood	Resident Engineer	(561) 472-3500	Walter.d.wood@usace.army.mil
Coast Guard	Vincent Cesario	Chief, Contingency Planning and Force Readiness Division Miami Sector	(305) 535-8757	Frank.V.Cesario@uscg.mil
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Jack Long	Director, Southeast District Office	(561) 681-6661	Jack.Long@dep.state.fl.us
Florida Division of Emergency Management	John Scott	Regional Coordinator, Area 7	(850) 519-8639	john.scott@em.myflorida.com
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Chuck Collins	Regional Director	(561) 625-5122	Chuck.Collins@myfwc.com
Jupiter Inlet District	Michael Grella	Executive Director	(561) 746-2223	mgrella@jupiterinletdistrict.org
Marine Industries of Palm Beach County	Alison Pruitt	Executive Director	(561) 832-8444	Alison@marinepbc.org
Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control	Dianne Sauve	Director	(561) 233-1251	
Palm Beach County Health Department	Dr. Alina Alonso	Director	(561) 840-4500	alina_alonso@doh.state.fl.us
Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management	Bill Johnson	Director	(561) 712-6331	
Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management	Richard Walesky	Director	(561) 233-2400	
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Hazmat Response	Chief Steve Jerauld	Chief	(561) 616-7001	

Palm Beach County Public Affairs	Lisa De La Rionda	Director	(561) 355-6105	
Port of Palm Beach	Manny Almira	Executive Director	(561) 383-4100	MAlmira@portofpalmbeach.com RFriedman@portofpalmbeach.com
Solid Waste Authority	Mark Hammond	Executive Director	(561) 640-4000	mhammond@swa.org mcbruner@swa.org
South Florida Water Management District	Carol Wehle	Executive Director	(561) 686-8800	cwehle@sfwmd.gov
Tourist Development Council	Roger Amidon	Executive Director	(561) 233-3133	
Coastal Municipal City Managers				
Village of Tequesta	Michael Couzzo	Village Manager	(561) 575-6200	
Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony	Joann Manganiello	Town Administrator	(561) 746-3787	
Town of Jupiter	Andrew Lukasik	Town Manager	(561) 746-5134	
Town of Juno Beach	Joseph LoBello	Town Manager	(561) 626-1122	
City of Palm Beach Gardens	Ron Ferris	City Manager	(561) 799-4100	
Village of North Palm Beach	Jimmy Knight	Village Manager	(561) 841-3355	
Town of Lake Park	Maria Davis	Town Manager	(561) 881-3300	
City of Riviera Beach	Ruth Jones	City Manager	(561) 845-4010	
Town of Palm Beach Shores	Cynthia Lindskoog	Town Administrator	(561) 844-3457	
Town of Palm Beach	Peter Elwell	Town Manager	(561) 838-5400	
City of West Palm Beach	Edward Mitchell	City Administrator	(561) 822-1400	
City of Lake Worth	Susan Stanton	City Manager	(561) 586-1600	
Town of South Palm Beach	Rex Taylor	Town Manager	(561) 588-8889	
Town of Lantana	Michael Bornstein	Town Manager	(561) 540-5000	
Town of Hypoluxo	Barbara Searls Ross	Town Clerk	(561) 582-0155	
Town of Manalapan	Gregory Dunham	Town Manager	(561) 585-9477	
City of Boynton Beach	Kurt Bressner	City Manager	(561) 742-6010	
Town of Ocean Ridge	Ken Schenck	Town Manager	(561) 737-8359	
Town Briny Breezes	Diane Spears	Corporation Manager	(561) 272-5495	
Town of Gulf Stream	William Thrasher	Town Manager	(561) 276-5116	
City of Delray Beach	David Harden	City Manager	(561) 243-7000	
Town of Highland Beach	Dale Sugerman	Town Manager	(561) 278-4548	
City of Boca Raton	Leif Ahnell	City Manager	(561) 393-7700	

PBC Oil Spill Response Plan

Zone 1 - Convergence Zones

ATTACHMENT 3



● ConvergenceZones1

Protection Priority Ranking

- ⌋ CRITICAL
- G HI
- * MED
-) LOW

- Ramps_BeachAccess
- ★ ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Booms - Priority

- CRITICAL
- HI
- MED
- LOW

□ ZONES

■ Staging Areas

— Municipal Boundaries

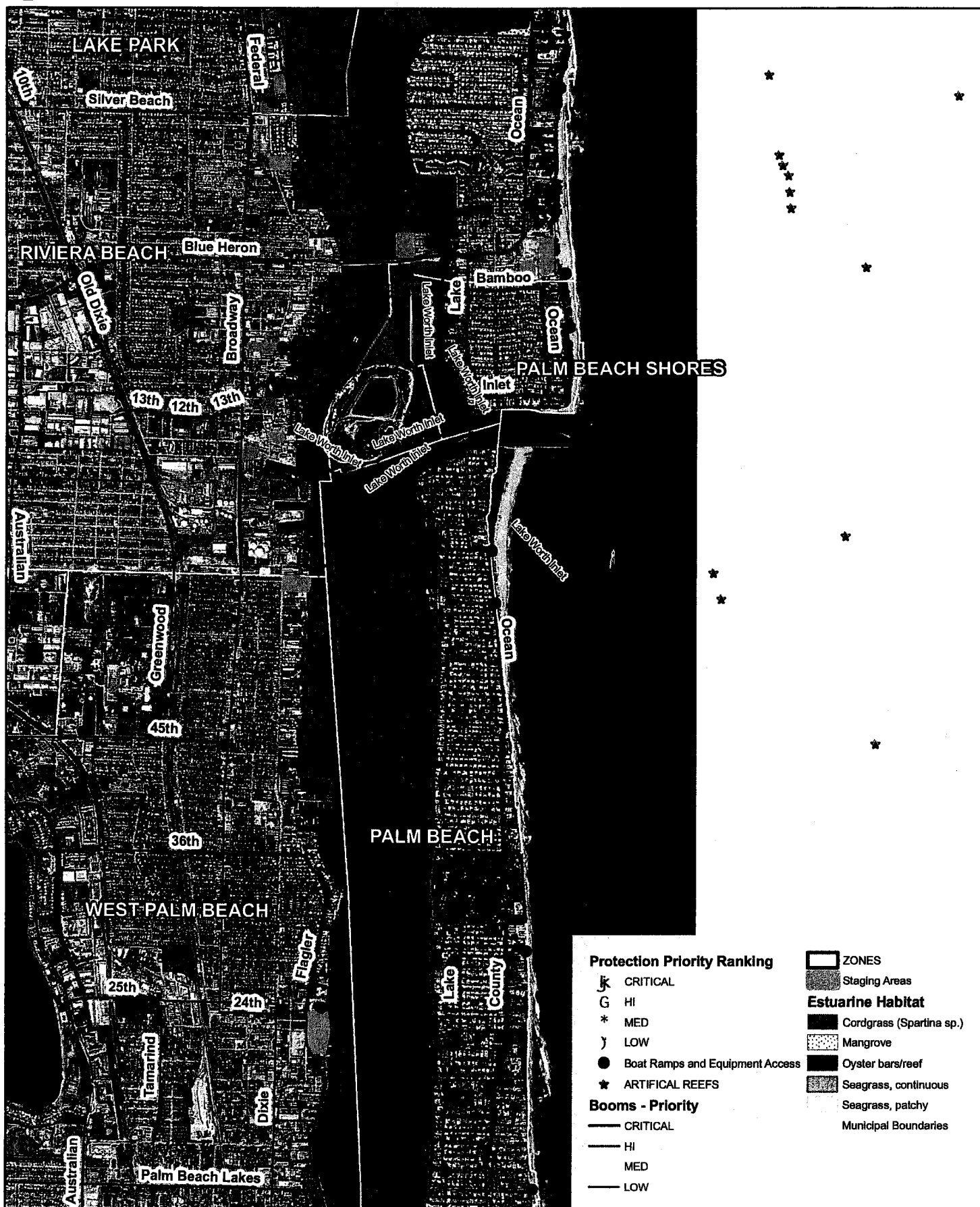
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles



PBC Oil Spill Response Plan

Zone 2 - Central

0 0.5 1 Miles





PBC Oil Spill Response Plan

Zone 3 - Central





PBC Oil Spill Response Plan

Zone 4 - South



Protection Priority Ranking

- ⌘ CRITICAL
- G HI
- * MED
-) LOW
- Ramps_BeachAccess
- ★ ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Booms - Priority

- CRITICAL
- HI
- MED
- LOW

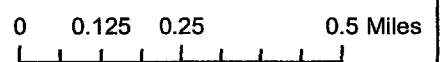
ZONES

- Staging Areas

Estuarine Habitat

- Cordgrass (*Spartina* sp.)
- ▨ Mangrove
- Oyster bars/reef
- Seagrass, continuous
- ▨ Seagrass, patchy

Municipal Boundaries



Monitoring, Survey and Response Trigger Guide Branch Miami - Operations

Status	Trigger	Activity
Base Monitoring Phase	No confirmed Deepwater Horizon product (Tar Balls or Sheen). and No Remote sensing of oil in the Gulf Loop Current (GLC) and No Sentry Vessel reports of oil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify & procure assets & resources to monitor location and trajectory of product & weathered product. • Establish a scientific common operating picture. • Establish and employ targeted air surveillance and surface sentry operations. • Maintain robust public outreach posture. • Create, review & update monitoring, response and recovery plans as necessary. • Meet regularly with partners & stakeholders.
Guarded Survey Phase	Remote sensing of oil in the Gulf Loop Current (GLC) Or Sentry Vessels confirm oil in GLC at or within 30 miles west of the Dry Tortugas. Or Tarball analysis indicated match with Deepwater Horizon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor & support Branch operations/ activities. • SCAT dispatched to local area of recovered DWH tarball. • Increase, as appropriate, (Aircraft and sentinel vessels) monitoring and survey operations based on trajectory • Assess and identify appropriate in-water recovery and shoreline protection strategies (situational) • Pre-stage equipment as deemed necessary by branch • Monitor Branch inventory of consumables. • VOO plan activation. • Activate Volunteer Management Plan • Activate local JIC (as required)
Elevated Response Phase	Tarball quantities require contracted cleanup. Or Sentry Vessels confirm oil in Florida Current in Middle Keys AOR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise offshore monitoring (Aircraft and sentry vessels) to ascertain potential impact duration and extent. • Implement Branch in-water recovery strategies (if necessary) • Implement Branch shoreline protection strategies (if necessary) • Stage and prep near shore recovery resources, as required. • Mobilize SCAT as required. • Contract OSRO for cleanup, as required. • Begin Sentry operations along shoreline and other areas as determined by Environmental Unit.
High Response Phase	Tarball response exceeds organic Branch resources Or Appreciable streamers /sheen observed within 3 miles of shore line Or Confidence that oil/sheen will be on shore within 1 Day (Confirmed by Near Shore sentry vessels)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize prescribed near shore recovery resources as required. • Optimize near shore protective activities/resources as required. • Identify/mobilize land based cleanup equipment based on product type. • Request additional staff / field to manage response as appropriate. • Activate Disposal Plan.
Action Response Phase	Oil Based Product on Shore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence on shore clean-up. • Prepare to escalate as required. • Monitor critical inventories, manage critical resources through FPCP.