

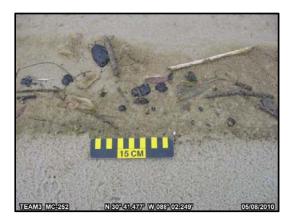
CHARLIE CRIST Governor SECRETARY MICHAEL W. SOLE Florida Department of Environmental Protection

DAVID HALSTEAD State Coordinating Officer

## WHAT FLORIDIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT REPORTING OIL

Report evidence of oil by calling the State Warning Point at 1-877-2-SAVE-FL (1-877-272-8335), or by dialing #DEP from a cell phone.

- Impacts reported to the State Warning Point will be investigated by reconnaissance teams of trained individuals for verification. When verified, a Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) team will be deployed.
- Oil on Florida's coastline will most likely be in the form of tar balls, oil sheen, tar patches or mats.
- The following photos\* are meant to help people when calling the State Warning Point.



**Tar Balls:** Pliable, globules of weathered oil, ranging from mostly oil to highly emulsified with varying amount of debris and/or sediment. Tar balls may vary in size from millimeters to 20-30 centimeters across.



**Tar Patches:** An oil configuration or "structure" that reflects a broad range of shapes and dimensions. Numerous tar balls could combine to form a patch; oil of various colors and consistency could form a patch or single layer 10s of cm to 10s (or even 100s) of meters in diameter. Patches of oily debris, barely able to float with sediment/plants in them, might be called "tar mats."



**Oil Sheen:** When fresh oil spreads out on the water surface, it eventually becomes sheen, a very thin layer of oil floating on the water surface. Sheens can vary greatly in color. In regards to the Deepwater Horizon incident, the thinnest sheens are nearly transparent, and the thickest are dull brown in color.

\*Photos provided by the Unified Command Joint Information Center.