



The Shrimp e-Advocate

The Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) is a non-profit alliance of members of the U.S. shrimp industry in eight states committed to preventing the continued deterioration of America's shrimp industry and to ensuring the industry's future viability. SSA serves as the national voice for the shrimp fishermen and processors in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas.

Gulf Coast Response

JUNE 22, 2010

Quick Links

[SSA Website](#)

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Gulf Coast Response - Update

In this email:

1. Volunteer guidelines - how we can help?
2. \$20 billion escrow fund - what does this mean for the Gulf?
3. Open House meetings across the Gulf - coming to a city near you
4. Ongoing resources - where can you go for help?

1. **Volunteer Guidelines** - State and Federal agencies have compiled the attached list of volunteer opportunities for those interested in helping in the Gulf. Please distribute the attached fact sheet for those who are interested in taking part.

2. **\$20B Escrow Fund** - Last week, the Administration announced a \$20B escrow fund and independent claims process for settling claims for those affected by the ongoing Gulf Coast oil spill. Please refer to and distribute the attached document to learn more about the fund and the claims process.

3. **Open House** - The federal agencies involved in the Gulf response effort are working together to share information and resources. They have set up a series of open house events for residents to learn more about the response to the Gulf oil spill. The open houses will feature experts and representatives from responding agencies who will answer questions and provide visual information on the various tools, equipment and tactics that are being used in the response, including booms, burns, sand berms, skimming and dispersants. Agencies representatives will be available to address concerns about environmental quality, wildlife, safety and resources available to residents. Information will also be available on the Vessels of Opportunity Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and volunteer and employment efforts. Information for each Open House for this week is below:

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Texas:

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June 21 (TODAY)

Lafourche Parish, 6:00 pm

Larose Civic Center

307 E. 5th Street

Larose, LA 70373

985-963-7355

June 21 (TODAY)

Moss Point at Pelican Landing, 6:00 pm

Pelican Landing Conference Center,

6217 Highway 613,

Moss Point, MS 39563

June 22

Jefferson Parish, 6:00 pm

Fisher High School

2529 Jean Lafitte Boulevard

Lafitte, LA 70067

June 23

Orleans Parish, 6:00 pm

The Pavilion of the Two Sister at City Park

12 Victory Avenue,

New Orleans, LA 70124

504-482-4888

June 29

Iberia Parish, 6:00 pm

Caneview Elementary,

5301 Hwy 90 E. Frontage Rd,

New Iberia, LA

4. **Resources:** Please refer to the list below for more information or updates on the ground in the Gulf.

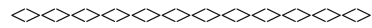
- For information about the response effort, visit www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com.
- For specific information about the federal-wide response, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/deepwater-bp-oil-spill>.
- To contact the Deepwater Horizon Joint Information Center, call (985) 902-5231. To volunteer, or to report oiled shoreline, call (866) 448-5816. Volunteer opportunities can also be found [here](#).
- To submit your vessel as a vessel of opportunity skimming system, or to submit alternative response technology, services, or products, call 281-366-5511
- To report oiled wildlife, call (866) 557-1401. Messages will be checked hourly.
- For information about validated environmental air and water sampling results, visit www.epa.gov/bpspill.
- For National Park Service updates about potential park closures, resources at risk, and NPS actions to protect vital park space and wildlife, visit <http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/oil-spill-response.htm>.
- For Fish and Wildlife Service updates about response along the Gulf Coast and the status of national wildlife refuges, visit <http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/>.
- For daily updates on fishing closures, visit <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

- For information on assistance loans for affected businesses, visit the SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance, call (800) 659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired), or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.
- To file a claim with BP, visit www.bp.com/claims or call BP's helpline at (800) 440-0858. A BP fact sheet with additional information is available [here](#). Those who have already pursued the BP claims process and are not satisfied with BP's resolution, can call the Coast Guard at (800) 280-7118. More information about what types of damages are eligible for compensation under the Oil Pollution Act as well as guidance on procedures to seek that compensation can be found [here](#).

Thank you,

Amy Salzman, White House Council on Environmental Quality,
asalzman@ceq.eop.gov

Greg Nelson, White House Office of Public Engagement, gnelson@who.eop.gov



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DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE

Fact Sheet on Volunteer Programs

Federal agencies responding to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and BP have received many offers of volunteer support since early May. Volunteer assistance can fall into the following general categories: beach and shoreline patrolling to identify and report the presence of oil, oiled wildlife or wildlife that may be at risk (e.g., nesting turtles), providing animal rehabilitation support through trained paraprofessionals, and volunteer services that indirectly support these activities (e.g., babysitting to allow someone to participate in patrolling beaches.)

As part of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Volunteer Plan, state volunteer coordinating organizations in each of the four Gulf of Mexico states are charged with leading volunteer efforts in their respective states. The lead organizations and points of contact are:

- Janet Pace with the Louisiana Serve Commission in the Office of the Governor. E-mail: JPace@crt.state.la.us. Phone: 225-342-3125 www.volunteerlouisiana.gov
- Tom Linley, with Volunteer Florida/Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, E-mail: Tom@volunteerflorida.org Phone: 850-922-2101 www.volunteerflorida.org
- Lisa Castaldo, with Serve Alabama, Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, E-mail: Lisa.Castaldo@ServeAlabama.gov. Phone: 334-954-7440
- Emily Wilemon, with the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service. E-mail: EWilemon@MCVS.org. Phone: 601-432-6779. www.mcv.org

Approximately 20,000 volunteers have signed up to work in the Gulf region. Volunteers cannot come into contact with contaminated materials but may perform mitigation activities in non-oil contaminated areas such as pre-cleaning or patrolling beaches. Volunteers also may work in wildlife recovery centers if they receive appropriate training as paraprofessionals, however, volunteers without federal or state wildlife licenses cannot handle wildlife.

Volunteers are being trained in different modules ranging from safety for beach clean-up to wildlife monitoring. Information about registering and training can be found on the incident website under "volunteers" at www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com. Individuals wishing to volunteer may contact the state organizations directly. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older to participate.

To comply with safety regulations regarding handling of hazardous materials and wildlife, state and non-governmental organizations involved in hazardous materials cleanup or cleanup/rescue of wildlife must limit their use of volunteers to those who have had specialized and mandated training or certification. Volunteers are being made aware of this and state volunteering organizations are setting realistic expectations about how they can be helpful during this crisis. BP awarded \$25 million to each state to assist with state contingency plans.

Essential levels of training for volunteers or contractors are:

Level 1 (Basic HSE Training) – Volunteers not in contact with spilled oil (e.g., beach patrolling.)

Level 2 (Contractors and Paraprofessionals) - For contractor employees conducting clean-up work.

Level 3 (Wildlife Recovery and Rehabilitation) - For trained Wildlife Recovery & Rehabilitation volunteers assisting with wildlife cleanup. This is a graded certification course.

Level 4 – For responders with direct contact to petroleum (including boat captains and crew already under contract to BP).

For more information, please visit: www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com

Fact sheet updated on June 15, 2010

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 16, 2010

CLAIMS AND ESCROW FACT SHEET

INDEPENDENT CLAIMS FACILITY

A new, independent claims process will be created with the mandate to be fairer, faster, and more transparent in paying damage claims by individuals and businesses.

- To assure independence, Kenneth Feinberg, who previously administered the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, will serve as the independent claims administrator.
- The facility will develop standards for recoverable claims that will be published.
- A panel of three judges will be available to hear appeals of the administrator's decisions.
- The facility is designed for claims of individuals and businesses who have been harmed by the oil spill; local, state, tribal, and federal government claims will continue to be handled directly by BP.
- The facility will decide all claims as expeditiously as possible, and in any event within the existing statutory timeframe.
- Dissatisfied claimants maintain all current rights under law, including the right to go to court or to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.
- Decisions under current law by the independent claims facility shall be binding on BP.
- All claims adjudicated under this facility have access to the escrow account for payment.

ESCROW ACCOUNT

BP has agreed to contribute \$20 billion over a four-year period at a rate of \$5 billion per year, including \$5 billion within 2010. BP will provide assurance for these commitments by setting aside \$20 billion in U.S. assets.

- BP has reaffirmed its commitment to pay all removal costs and damages that it owes as a responsible party. It will not assert any liability cap under OPA to avoid liability.
- The creation of the escrow account will provide assurance to the public that funds will be available to compensate the injured.
- This account is neither a floor nor a ceiling on liability.
- The escrow account is to be used to pay claims adjudicated by the independent claims facility, as well as judgments and settlements, natural resource damage costs, and state and local response costs.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION FOR RIG WORKERS

- BP will contribute to a foundation \$100 million to support unemployed oil rig workers.
- The Administration's May legislative proposal would create a new program of unemployment assistance, modeled after the Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program, to provide benefits to workers who lose their jobs as a result of a spill of national significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH MONITORING

- BP has previously committed \$500 million for the ten-year Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative to improve understanding of the impacts of and ways to mitigate oil and gas pollution.
- As a part of this initiative, BP will work with governors, and state and local environmental and health authorities to design the long-term monitoring program to assure the environmental and public health of the Gulf Region.

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