



Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau  
Update #2 on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill  
Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Charlotte County is closely monitoring developments surrounding the Louisiana oil spill in the northern Gulf of Mexico, at the time of this email, there are no projected impacts on the State of Florida within the next 72 hours. Florida has more than 2,200 miles of tidal shoreline and 663 miles of beach including Charlotte County's 28 miles of sand beaches. Like the rest of Florida destinations, all of Charlotte County's accommodations, restaurants and attractions remain 100% open for business. We'll continue to monitor the situation and refer to [www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com](http://www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com) for the most accurate and up-to-date information on our area.

The Charlotte Harbor VCB is also utilizing social media to update followers on the status of beaches. Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/CharlotteHarbor>) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/chqiflorida>).

At the time of this email, there have been no oil sightings associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill confirmed on Florida's shores. About 50 tar balls were found in the Florida Keys earlier this week and today, the Coast Guard announced these tar balls are not related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Historically, tar balls have washed ashore with some regularity and nearby dredging or construction projects can produce debris which could be mistakenly associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. In the meantime, Florida's beaches and attractions are open for public enjoyment. (Source: [http://www.visitflorida.com/florida\\_travel\\_advisory](http://www.visitflorida.com/florida_travel_advisory), May 18, 2010 advisory)

While we remain optimistic Charlotte County beaches will not be directly impacted by the oil spill, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau is in communication with the Charlotte County Emergency Management. It is the responsibility of the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau to convey to the public the impacts of the spill related to Charlotte County Tourism. Charlotte County Emergency Management has emergency plans in place and a plan of action is dependent on the scenario.

To date, the VCB office and VCB's call center have not received any queries regarding the status of Charlotte County relating to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

VISIT FLORIDA, the state's trusted source for travel planning, serves as a resource for travelers to Florida. A travel advisory page has been established ([http://www.visitflorida.com/florida\\_travel\\_advisory/](http://www.visitflorida.com/florida_travel_advisory/)) linking to individual Florida

destinations and an interactive map with Twitter feed updates.

For the latest updates on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, visit the designated Florida Department of Environmental Protection website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/>.

Messages to communicate to our guests:

- Currently, there is no local impact from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands, including all beaches and waters for fishing, are open for business.
- We do not know if our area will be affected, but it is in no imminent danger.

If your business is receiving inquiries or have received cancellations from potential visitors because of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, please keep record of those cancellations for possible reimbursement. BP has a form to file a claim for damages as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The claims form can be found on BP's website <http://www.bp.com/iframe.do?categoryId=9033722&contentId=7062138>.

Also, please alert the Charlotte Harbor VCB if your business has received any cancellations as we would like to track the economic loss to the area. Attached is a form you can log the cancelation and forward it to Elizabeth Parker at [elizabeth.parker@charlottefl.com](mailto:elizabeth.parker@charlottefl.com) or by fax to her attention to (941) 743-2245.

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