

Deepwater Horizon Incident Walton County Florida Local Action Plan



May 5, 2010

Introduction:

As floating petroleum from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (the Mississippi Canyon Block 252 incident) threatens; Walton County Florida Board of County Commissioners and the Walton County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management and Public Safety Communications is compelled to work with British Petroleum, Inc. and State and Federal agencies to protect public health and environment. County Staff possesses valuable local knowledge and skills that are available for coordinated prevention and response efforts. Review of the Area Contingency Plan reveals small but significant omissions of actions that are specific to the present threat of floating petroleum approaching the Gulf Coast of Walton County. Walton County has 26 miles of beaches with 13 Coastal Dune Lakes and hundreds of square miles of enclosed waters.

Prevention of floating petroleum entering onto our beaches and coastal dune lakes is one of Walton County's top priorities. Walton County submits this Local Action Plan (LAP) to the appropriate state, federal, and other agencies in an effort to share ideas and coordinate response to the present threat.

Walton County Action Plan

Stage 1

To prevent the oil from coming ashore in Walton County barges equipped with blowers will be placed to spray hay into the water to absorb the oil. The hay will clump in the water adhering to the oil making it easier to remove from the water. The plan is to spot the oil before it reaches our shores and attack it while it is still far off shore. The hay's absorbance of the oil will not immediately affect its buoyancy. Additionally, wave action degrades the effectiveness of booms, reducing their effectiveness to +/- 10%. However the wave action actually helps spread the hay and increases absorbency. We would then advocate hiring local commercial fisherman to assist, if feasible, to retrieve the hay using nets and skimmers. If it is not feasible to use local commercial fisherman, then we would advocate appropriate recovery vessels. The clear advantage of this plan is that it engages the oil while still out to sea.

Stage 2

Phase two of this plan is a redundant system whereby 50,000 feet of New Green Type 4 Belted Silt Retention Fence made from a cotton nylon fiber is ready to be deployed along the shores. This fencing will be pre-positioned along the beach to act as a second line of defense against the oil. The fencing would only be deployed if it became apparent that the oil soaked hay had bypassed the collection vessels. The fencing would be placed on the beach at the median high tide line. The oil soaked hay would then be collected by beach raking machine. This would reduce the amount of oil that would eventually have to be removed by scraping the sand.

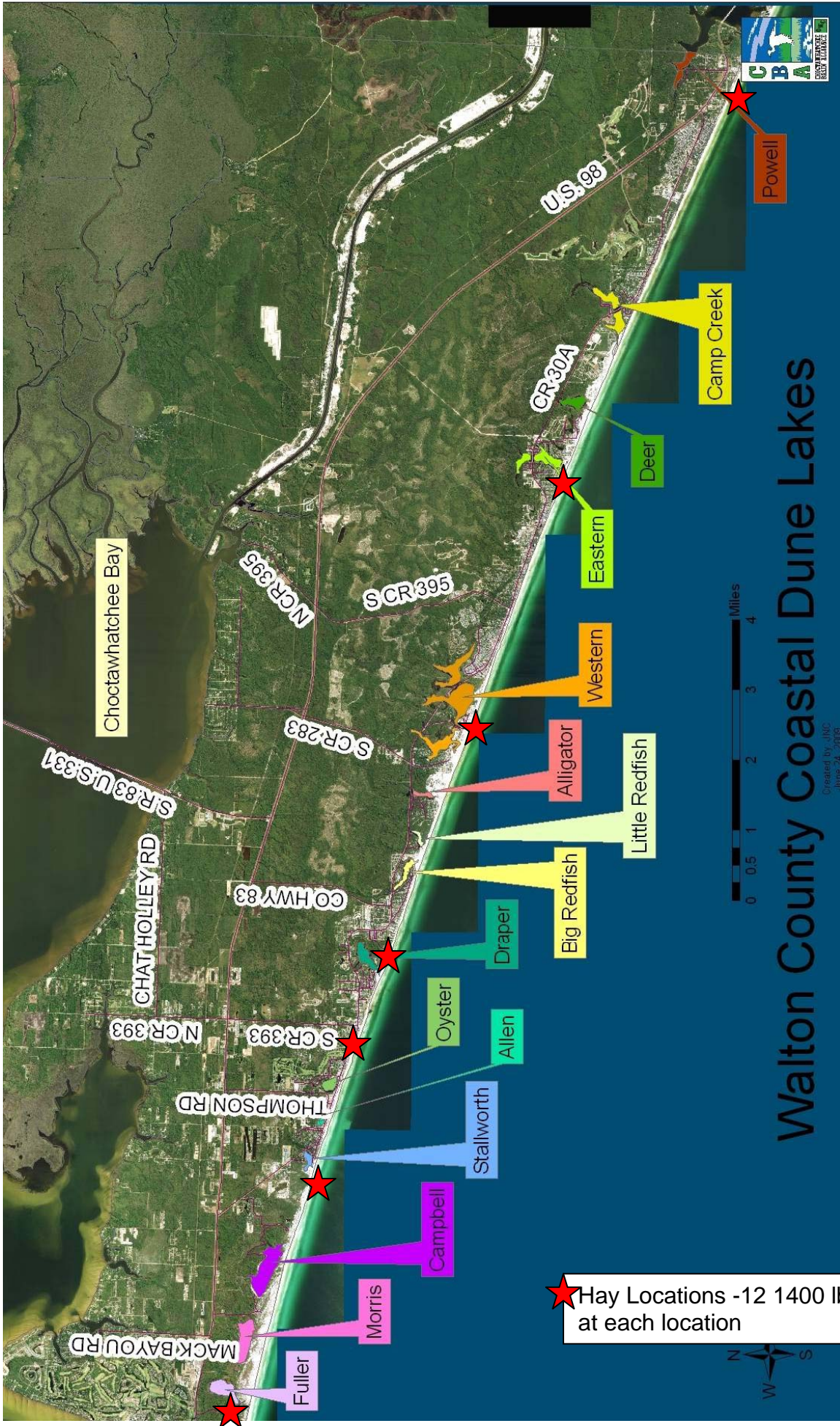
If oil reaches the fences, additional hay can be used on the shore along with the fence. Bales of hay are being deployed along the shoreline in strategic areas for rapid deployment in case the oil does reach the shoreline to assist with soaking up the oil and keeping the damage minimum.

Stage 3

To protect the Coastal Dune Lakes concrete jersey walls will be placed in the outfall path and lined with New Green Type 4 Belted Silt Retention Fence. Additionally, Organic GeoHay rolls will be placed in front of the lined jersey fence to increase the level of protection. The GeoHay is made from 100% recycled synthetic fiber that is extremely absorbent. This will provide a line of defense for these precious resources. Booms will be used to line the area as well. The advantage of this plan is that should the need arise it would be much simpler to open the lakes up using jersey fence than traditional earthen measures used to close the lakes. The number one goal here is to protect this resource.

Stage 4

A final stop gap measure will be the deployment of booms. 10,000 feet of booms are on the ground in Walton Co. and are available as well to be deployed. Until floating petroleum approaches the Florida coast, it is impossible to predict the precise location(s), extent and amount of time the Boom equipment would need to be deployed.



Walton County Coastal Dune Lakes

Created by: JBC
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★ Hay Locations - 12 1400 lb rolls at each location