



Gulf Coast State Attorneys General

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VIA FEDEX AND E-MAIL

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VIA U.S. MAIL AND E-MAIL

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As you are aware, tar mats are submerged along the Gulf Coast as a result to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Explosion and resulting oil spill. I understand that a number of nearshore tar mats, within reach of a shoreline track hoe, have been identified through the SCAT process and removed. I further understand that the GCRO has now begun initial efforts to test technologies to locate and remove the submerged oil mats (SOMs) further off the beaches.

Hurricane season is upon us, and it is vital that the Gulf Coast be prepared for the oil that is likely to wash ashore as a result of a tropical disturbance. All due haste in locating and removing the SOMs is imperative lest the disastrous results of last year's oil spill be repeated. Therefore, we request that all necessary efforts be expended to quickly map and then remove SOMs off the coastlines of the affected coastal States. At the very least, the quantity, location and size of each SOM should be determined and reported. A grid should be prepared that shows us each SOM, an identifier label, a key describing the dimensions of each SOM and an estimate of the level of threat each SOM potentially poses to the American coastline. As the SOMs are identified, a schedule should be developed setting out the technology to be used and the timing for removal of each SOM. This information is critical for us to perform our duties and be prepared for any issues that may arise from these SOMs.

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