

KEYS TOURISM ADVISORY #23B

June 4, 2010 • 9 a.m.

News and Information From the Monroe County Tourist Development Council

BP Installs Cap on Blowout Preventer

A cap was installed on the Deepwater failed oil well blowout preventer Thursday night, but the procedure requires more tuning, before it is known how successful the effort will be to capture oil flowing from the leak at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico.

On NBC's "Today," early Friday morning, BP's CEO Doug Scuttles reported that some of the oil was flowing up an almost mile-long pipe to a surface ship, but he said it would not be known the exact rate until later today. He added some of the oil still pouring out came from vents deliberately placed to keep icelike crystals from forming and technicians would close those later today.

And repeating advisory information sent Thursday afternoon, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Monroe County Emergency Management officials said there were no truth to rumors that Keyswide commercial and recreational fishing were to be closed Friday or early Saturday. Fishing is closed west of Loggerhead Key in the Dry Tortugas.

Officials also confirmed reported tar balls and sheen in a canal on Duck Key, near Hawks Cay Resort, were not from the Gulf oil spill. As a precautionary measure, a Coast Guard contractor did install booms around dolphin habitats at Hawks Cay and the Dolphin Research Center.

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Spill-related websites, primarily focusing on affected areas, include:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/default.htm> • <http://www.noaa.gov>
<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com>

TDC website with spill-related information for visitors: <http://www.fla-keys.com>

Advisory 23 Keys Fishery Closure Rumor Refuted By NOAA, Monroe County Emergency Management

A rumor, claiming that all recreational and commercial fishing in the entire Florida Keys is to be closed by late Friday or early Saturday, was refuted Thursday afternoon by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Monroe County Emergency Management officials.

Both Sean Morton, superintendent of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and Billy Causey, superintendent of the southeast region for the National Marine Sanctuaries, said there was no truth to the rumor.

Irene Toner, director of Monroe County Emergency Management, said there was no discussion regarding a Keyswide fishery closure at a joint agencies meeting in Key West early Thursday afternoon.

“Right now the only closure is west of the Dry Tortugas,” Morton said.

In other news, Morton and Toner confirmed the Coast Guard’s earlier reports that tar balls and sheen in a canal on Duck Key were not from the Gulf oil spill.

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