

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Lessons Learned



Chief Jon Callais
Port Fourchon Harbor Police





April 20, 2010. We never imagined what was in store for us.



Oil soon covered our beaches.



05/22/2010

It just kept coming in...



...wave after wave.



Vinyl Sheet Pile Dams

We had to identify and close breaches in our beachhead to prevent oil from contaminating the fragile marshland beyond.



Sand and Limestone Dam

05/17/2010

An aerial photograph showing a large-scale construction project. A long, narrow, light-colored earthen embankment or bridge is being built across a wide, dark waterway. The bridge is flanked by yellow caution tape. To the right of the bridge, a paved road is visible with several vehicles parked. The surrounding area includes marshy land with green vegetation and a large, light-colored sandy or silty area on the left. A black text box is overlaid on the lower-left portion of the image.

Another Land Bridge Closing a Breach at Bayou Thunder



Sand bags are no match for breaches with tidal movement...



...but we had to try.



And try.



05/09/2010

And try.



05/10/2010

It didn't work.



Fragile Marshland

Where Sandbags
Were Dropped

Breach Opening



HESCO Baskets were installed to shore up beach dunes.



These worked well.



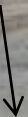
HESCO Baskets were a quick and easy setup.



2.25 miles of HESCO baskets were placed on Fourchon Beach.



This worked



This didn't



05/17/2010

“Cajun Engineering” at its best worked to close breaches.



We saved large areas of wetlands from being oiled.

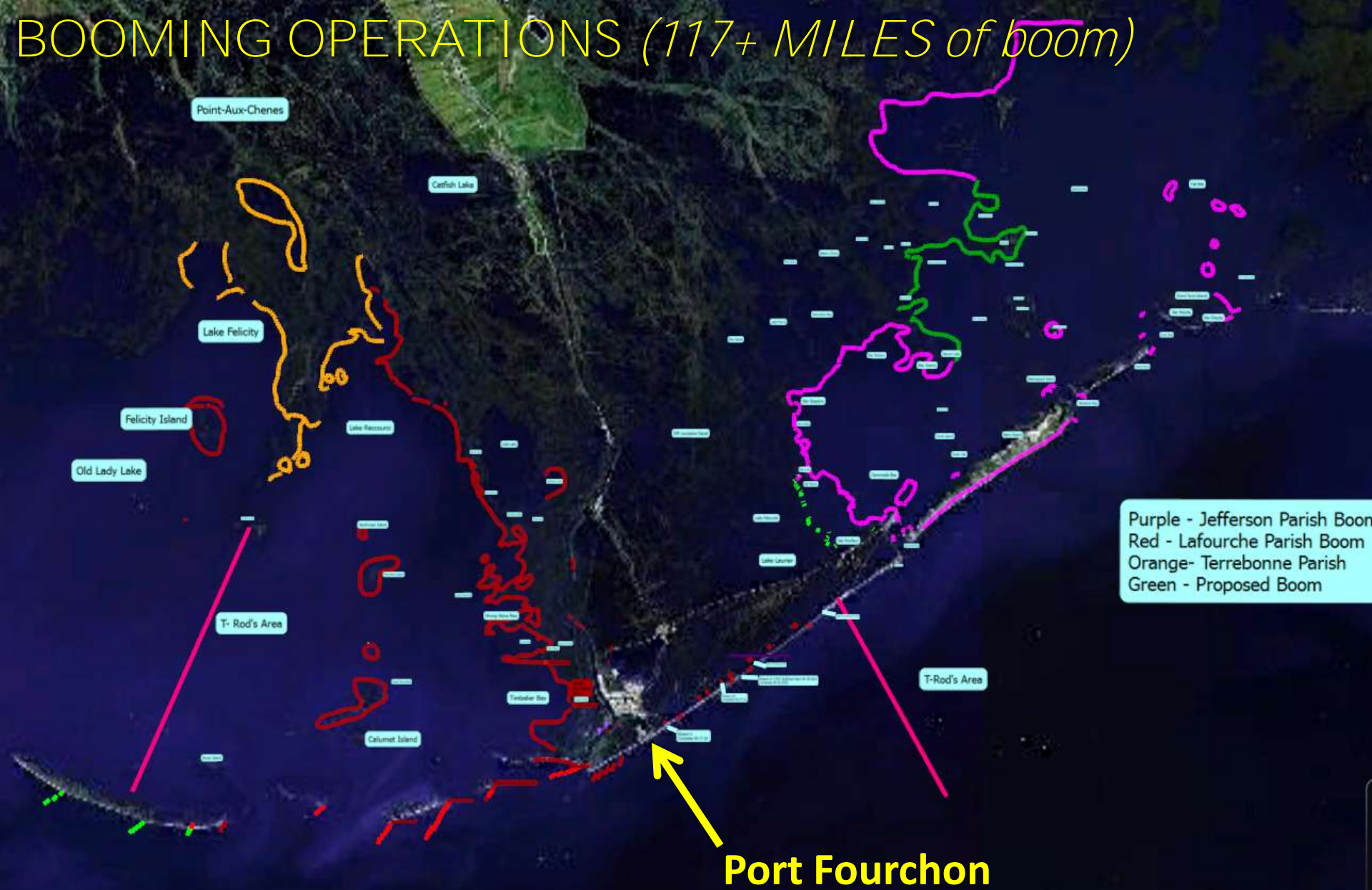


Some oil did get through.



And it kept coming in.

BOOMING OPERATIONS (117+ MILES of boom)



Computer programs such as the C-4 system helped our EOC to keep track of boom deployment.



We had to take care of protesters quickly and thoroughly.



Crews worked around the clock to set out containment boom.



Local fishermen were put to work by BP in the Vessels of Opportunity Program, or VOO.



More locals at work to save our coast.



Wildlife was especially vulnerable.



Dispersants were used in an attempt to break up the oil.



Porpoises swimming in oil broken up by dispersants.



We controlled the throngs of media by providing guided access twice daily with escorts.



Port Fourchon had multiple visits from local, state, and federal leaders while dealing with the oil spill and its aftermath.



VIPs and other visitors were kept away from cleanup “hot zones” for their safety.



Cleanup workers were housed in Port Fourchon in flotels.



Background checks were performed on each laborer that worked on Fourchon Beach.



Flotels, or floating hotels, sitting on a barge at a dock in Fourchon.



Flotels and tent city in Port Fourchon



Tent City



All cleanup equipment was kept in one staging area near Fourchon Beach.



Cleanup materials were brought out to a centralized location called the "Action Area."



Smaller VOO vessels picked up needed materials from the Action Area instead of going into port, meaning less drive time.



This system worked really well.



Several vessels loading materials from a barge in the Action Area.



Boom going from vessel to water.



And there were many boats working.



Instead of fishing for shrimp, this local fisherman is fishing for oil.



Fishing vessels were modified to drag boom instead of nets.



Boom deployment by local fishermen in action.



Port Fourchon was an ideal location to stage decontamination sites. There were five in port for this operation.



*It takes a village to clean up an oil spill.
Our village is Port Fourchon.*

Questions?



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(Chief Callais is the man on the right)