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Statement by
STATE COORDINATING OFFICER DAVID HALSTEAD
Regarding the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Statistical
Modeling Study on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

“The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released a report on July 2 modeling the historical wind and ocean currents to project the likelihood that surface oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill will impact additional U.S. coastline. While the report suggests there is a potential for oil impacts along the rest of Florida’s coastline, it is vital that all of Florida’s residents and visitors recognize that this report is based merely on a model, not an actual observation.

“I want to remind everyone that at this time, ***there has not been any confirmed oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Florida Straits.*** Based on the 500 scenarios on which the model is run, most scenarios assume that the Loop Current is fully connected and extends northward into the Gulf of Mexico, which would then serve as a mechanism to transport oil product south and east to the Florida Straits. At this time, there is a Loop Current Ring that is not attached to the main Loop Current channel in the Florida Straits and there is currently no strong evidence to support that this feature will reattach in the near future.

The State of Florida is aggressively monitoring the Deepwater Horizon impacts, utilizing air, water and land reconnaissance and is prepared to respond, should conditions change.”