

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

FISH AND SHELLFISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

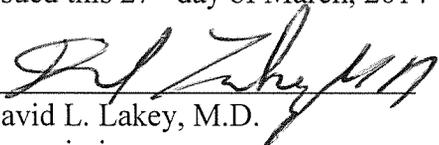
ADV-52

This advisory is issued as a result of an oil spill located in Galveston Bay in the near shore Gulf of Mexico to Matagorda Bay where oil is present.

AREA: Southern Galveston Bay to Matagorda Bay including the Gulf waters where oil is present.

CONSUMPTION ADVISORY: Because of the presence of oil in Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico it is recommended that people not consume fish, shrimp or crabs from areas where oil is present. Persons should discard fish, shrimp or crabs that have oil on them or have a hydrocarbon smell or taste.

Issued this 27th day of March, 2014



David L. Lakey, M.D.
Commissioner



**Galveston Bay to Matagorda Bay Seafood Consumption Advisory
(Frequently Asked Questions)**

*Prepared by the Seafood and Aquatic Life Group
March 2014*

Q: Is the seafood safe to eat?

A: Recreationally caught fish and shellfish that do not have oil on them or smell like oil are safe for consumption.

Q: Is fishing closed because of the oil spill?

A: The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) advises people not to keep fish from areas where there is visible oil. DSHS has not closed any areas to the harvesting of fish, shrimp or crabs. Galveston Bay is closed to oyster harvesting for reasons unrelated to the spill. People should always check the status of oyster harvesting areas prior to harvest.

Q: Is seafood in restaurants and stores affected by the oil spill?

A: There is no indication that seafood in the marketplace has been impacted by the oil spill. The DSHS is instituting increased surveillance at seafood wholesalers and distributors to check for any seafood that may have been contaminated.

Q: When will it be safe to consume fish in areas that have oil?

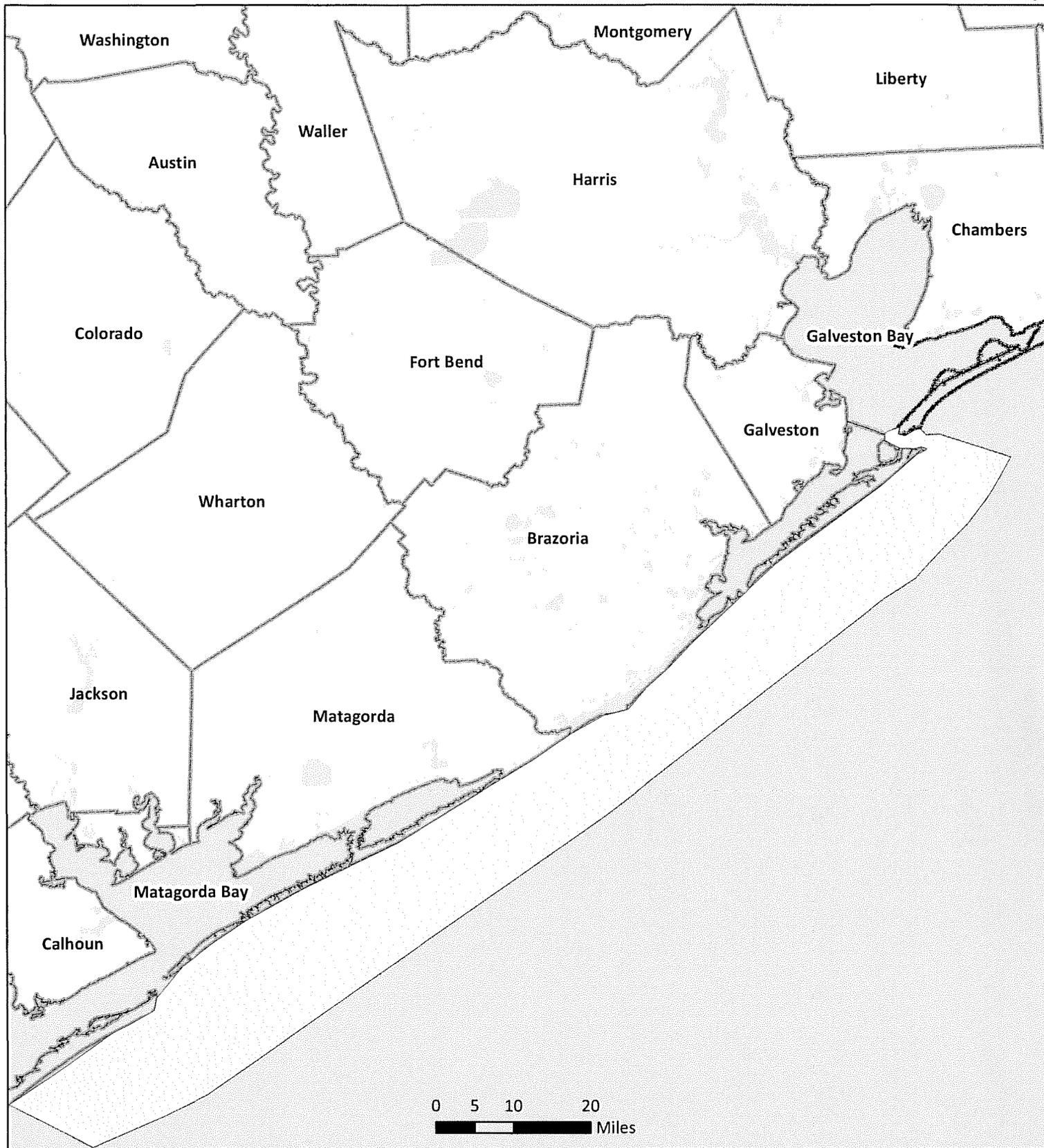
A: Once the oil is no longer visible and the fish, shrimp or crabs do not taste or smell like oil consumption can resume.

Q: Should I cancel my fishing trip to the coast?

A: There are many areas along the coast that do not have oil. The oil is patchy in its distribution. Other areas that are free of oil do not likely have contaminated fish, shrimp or crabs. If after catching fish, shrimp or crabs oil is seen or the seafood smells of hydrocarbon you should discard.

Galveston Bay and All Nearshore Waters of the Gulf of Mexico to Matagorda Bay

ADV-52 Issued March 27, 2014



Advisory Area:

Southern Galveston Bay to Matagorda Bay including nearshore Gulf of Mexico waters where oil is present

Consumption Advisory:

Because of the presence of oil in Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico it is recommended that people not consume fish, shrimp or crabs from areas where oil is present. Persons should discard fish, shrimp or crabs that have oil on them or have a hydrocarbon smell or taste.