

New Updates

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 (as of 4:30 p.m.)

Aerial Assessments

- There is no longer any visible discoloration in Honolulu Harbor and major areas of Keehi Lagoon.
- Aerial surveys have been discontinued, but may resume should new information be made available.

Water Samples

- Water sampling reveals that dissolved oxygen and pH levels are returning to normal target levels in Honolulu Harbor, Keehi Lagoon, and along Moanalua and Kapalama Streams.
- DOH Clean Water Branch reduced water sampling to six locations, removing the four inland sites and five of the in-ocean sites (see updated map at "Sampling" below).

Fish Collection

- Approximately 26,000 dead fish and other organisms have been collected to date.
- The daily count of dead fish and other organisms collected has been decreasing dramatically, with 46 collected yesterday and 10 collected today, including a hammerhead shark near the Sand Island Bridge (death unrelated to molasses spill).

Endangered Species

- Currently no endangered species are known to be impacted by the molasses spill.

Posting of Warning Signs

- Warning signs continue to be posted along the Kapalama Canal, Keehi Lagoon, and Lagoon Drive, pending determinations from the appropriate state agencies.

Coral & Harbor Floor Assessment

- Dive surveys conducted by DLNR, Polaris, and UH, took place at locations near Reef Runway, Sand Island Bridge, and Pier 42. Healthy coral was observed near Reef Runway and within Keehi Lagoon, but damicornis appeared to be dead near Sand Island Bridge and Pier 42. Porites viewed appeared to be in normal condition.
- A dive conducted yesterday morning did not reveal any molasses product on the harbor floor around columns under the piers or in a 200 foot range from the location of the spill.

Federal and State Partnerships

- A constituent call “town hall tele-meeting” conducted by U.S. Senator Brian Schatz took place around noon with Dr. Keith Kawaoka (Hawaii DOH), Commander Steven Wheeler (USCG), Dean Higuchi (USEPA), Ruth Yender (NOAA), Kevin Foster (USFWS), in attendance.
- A joint press release announcing establishment of the Incident Command and Joint Information Center was distributed yesterday.

Contact Information & Updates

- For all questions and news media inquiries, please contact the Joint Information Center at MolassesResponseJIC@gmail.com or (808) 842-5058.
- Molasses spill updates are being posted at: <http://eha-web.doh.hawaii.gov/eha-cma/Leaders/HEER/Honolulu-Harbor-Molasses-Spill-September-2013>