

**Deepwater Horizon/Mississippi Canyon 252 Spill**  
**Dauphin Island Sea Lab Severe Weather Sample Preservation Plan**

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**APPROVED:**

  
Louisiana Trustee Representative:

8/17/2012  
Date

  
BP Representative:

2012 - July - 26  
Date

Jessica White (for Lisa DiPinto)  
NOAA Trustee Representative  
(on behalf of all other trustees)

07/25/2012  
Date

# Dauphin Island Sea Lab Severe Weather Sample Preservation Plan

July 2012

In the event a tropical storm or hurricane enters the Gulf of Mexico the oyster intake facility for the NOAA Deepwater Horizon (DWH) natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab will initiate steps to either secure on-site or transfer off-island frozen archived samples from the NOAA DWH NRDA project. The decision by DISL staff to secure or transfer will be based on the 96 hour landfall projection for each storm event and will be re-visited every 12 hours after that projection is published.

If the storm is predicted to make landfall as a tropical storm or Category 1 hurricane and Dauphin Island is in the potential path of the storm when the 96 hour projection is published, the following steps will be taken to secure sample archive freezers and samples on-site:

1. Ensure freezers are locked
2. Fuel and test the generator responsible for powering the freezers in the event of a power outage on the island
3. Test the generator's automatic power switch
4. Periodically check the temperature to ensure the generator is powering the freezers in the event of a power outage

If the storm is predicted to make landfall as a Category 2 or higher storm but Dauphin Island is not in the potential path of the storm when the 96 hour projection is published the freezers and samples will remain on the island and the same steps outlined above will be taken to secure both freezers and samples. As stated above this decision will be revisited every 12 hours.

In the event samples need to be moved off-island (detailed below) it is the responsibility of the Trustees to provide a refrigerated truck(s) to transfer samples off-island and it is the responsibility of DISL staff to inventory samples, load, seal, and lock the refrigerated truck. DISL or Dade Moeller staff will be responsible for accompanying samples off-island depending on the nature of the hurricane projection (detailed below). BP will reimburse the Trustees for the truck rental/shipping fees for each storm event if we receive an estimate of costs prior to the storm that covers a reasonable time duration for the event (we will not fund standby charges of a vehicle). BP will also reimburse the Trustees to move samples to a long-term safe haven storage location when the samples are no longer required to be maintained at DISL for future analysis. If the Trustees secure a vehicle based on the 96 hour landfall prediction and the route of the storm subsequently changes so that DISL is no longer in the path of the storm, BP will reimburse the Trustees for any fees or expenses related to truck rental or cancellation thereof.

If the storm is predicted to make landfall as a Category 2 or 3 hurricane and Dauphin Island is in the potential path of the storm when the 96 hour projection is published, the following steps will be taken to secure sample archive freezers and to transfer samples off-island for temporary storage at the University of South Alabama or a location chosen by DISL staff:

1. Freezer trucks and properly licensed and insured drivers will be provided by Trustees no later than 48 hours prior to projected landfall of the hurricane to transport frozen samples to the University of South Alabama in Mobile or alternate location chosen by DISL staff. DISL staff will alert the Trustees of the need for freezer trucks and drivers as soon as feasible following the 96-hour hurricane projection. If Dauphin Island is not in the path of the storm, DISL staff will revisit the forecast every 12 hours. If the predicted path of the storm changes after the 96 hour projection to include Dauphin Island, DISL staff will notify the Trustees of the need for freezer trucks and drivers as soon as possible; in such cases, the Trustees will provide trucks and drivers within 12 hours of notification from DISL.
2. Once the freezer truck storage compartments have reached the appropriate temperature all frozen samples will be moved from the DISL freezers to freezer trucks by DISL staff or personnel under the direct supervision of DISL staff. Once the freezers are empty, Dauphin Island Sea Lab maintenance staff will secure the freezers on-site. Freezers will be locked by DISL staff and will remain within a fenced, locked yard. There are no trees nearby that could fall and damage the freezers and maintenance staff will clear the yard of any debris that could pose a wind-borne hazard.
3. DISL staff will accompany the samples to the University of South Alabama for the duration of the storm and until the DISL freezers can be demonstrated to be fully operational. The freezer truck will be parked by the Life Sciences Building at the University of South Alabama. This is a secure location, walled on three sides, monitored by a security camera, with a power outlet for the freezer truck, if necessary. Additionally, this building runs on generator power in the event of a power outage. Should it be necessary for DISL staff to select an alternate location for temporary storage of the samples, all reasonable efforts shall be made to choose a location with a similar or greater level of security and access to backup power.
4. The freezer truck will be locked by DISL staff prior to transport and daily internal temperature recordings will be made to ensure the samples are being maintained at the correct temperature.
5. Chain of custody will be maintained, and access to samples will be restricted as during normal operations. All access to samples will be recorded in the DISL log according to DISL's standard procedures for this project.

If the storm is predicted to make landfall as a Category 4 or 5 hurricane and Dauphin Island is in the potential path of the storm when the 96 hour projection is published, the following steps will be taken to secure sample archive freezers and to transfer samples off-island.

1. Freezer trucks and properly licensed and insured drivers will be provided by the Trustees no later than 48 hours prior to projected landfall of the hurricane to transport frozen samples. DISL staff will alert the Trustees of the need for freezer trucks and drivers as soon as feasible following the 96-hour hurricane projection. If Dauphin Island is not in the path of the storm, DISL staff will revisit the forecast every 12 hours. If the predicted path of the storm changes after the 96 hour projection to include Dauphin Island, DISL staff will notify the Trustees of the need for freezer trucks and drivers as soon as possible in such cases, the Trustees will provide trucks and drivers within 12 hours of notification from DISL.
2. Once the freezer truck storage compartments have reached the appropriate temperature all frozen samples will be moved from the DISL freezers to freezer trucks. Once the freezers are empty Dauphin Island Sea Lab maintenance staff will secure the freezers on-site. Freezers will be

locked by DISL staff and will remain within a fenced, locked yard. There are no trees nearby that could fall and damage the freezers and maintenance staff will clear the yard of any debris that could pose a wind-borne hazard.

3. Dade Moeller staff will direct transport of and accompany the samples laterally away from the predicted area of landfall for the storm (i.e. if the storm will make landfall at or east of Dauphin Island the samples will be moved to Louisiana; if the storm will make landfall at or west of Dauphin Island the samples will be moved to Florida).
4. The freezer truck will be locked by DISL staff prior to transport and daily internal temperature recordings will be made by Dade Moeller staff to ensure the samples are being maintained at the correct temperature.
5. Chain of custody will be maintained, and access to samples will be restricted as during normal operations. All access to samples will be recorded in the DISL log according to DISL's standard procedures for this project.

The ability to transport samples off-island will be limited by the ability to obtain a freezer truck as well as the size of the freezer truck. Availability of freezer trucks may be limited following the 96 hour storm forecast.

If the truck is too small to transport all samples they will be prioritized for evacuation as follows:

**Priority 1**-Contaminant samples being held for future processing and non-processed settlement plates.

**Priority 2**-Processed settlement plates.

**Priority 3**-Archived partial quadrat samples.

**Priority 4**-Archived partial dredge samples.

In the event samples must remain on-island in the DISL freezers such as in the event that the Trustees are unable to procure a freezer truck or if the freezer truck is not large enough to transport all samples, the freezers will remain hooked up to the generator which will run the freezers in the event of a power outage. The generator will run for a minimum of 3 days on a full tank and, if fuel cannot be replenished, the freezers are rated to maintain internal temperature for 48 hours.