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Office of Emergency Preparedness

PRESS RELEASE

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Recovery Opportunities for Fishermen & Others Affected by Oil Spill

There are several opportunities for aid for commercial fishermen and other business owners in the wake of the Gulf oil spill. BP has established a toll-free hotline to discuss spill-related damage claims, including loss of income. (800) 440-0858. Here are other specific programs with representatives in Lafourche Parish:

SBA Disaster Recovery Loans

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has opened a Business Recovery Center at the South Lafourche Public Library today. The center will be open weekdays from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the library, located at 16241 East Main Street in Cut Off. The SBA is offering low-interest loans which can go up to 30 years. Each loan is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. These loans are expected to help out the businesses connected primarily to the seafood industry. For more information, call (800) 877-8339, or to apply directly online, go to <http://www.sba.gov>.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Representatives from the Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS) are available at the Cut Off Youth Center (205 W. 79th Street, Cut Off) to assist residents in applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the “food stamp” program. This is NOT a disaster relief program, but simply a convenient location to assist residents of areas directly affected by the oil spill. Representatives are also available at the Grand Isle Community Center (3811 Hwy. 1, Grand Isle). The times of operation for both locations are 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and they will be present for the next seven days. This assistance will provide monthly benefits as long as the applicant meets the eligibility requirements. For more information on the program, visit the DSS website at <http://dss.louisiana.gov>.

Louisiana Workforce Development Commission

The Louisiana Workforce Commission will be setting up a Mobile Career Unit in Lafourche Parish later this week to assist residents who are out of work due to the oil spill. The mobile unit will provide assistance for job seekers, assistance with unemployment claims, and will have information on available social services such as food stamps and Medicaid. Lafourche Parish Government will provide additional information on this mobile unit once it is received. In addition to the mobile unit, residents can visit the Louisiana Workforce Commission Satellite Office, located at 1711 Ridgefield Road, or contact the office at (985) 446-3016. You can also log on to their website for more information at <http://www.laworks.net>.