

Sanibel, Florida - June 2, 2010

Contact - Natural Resources Department

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City of Sanibel Department of Natural Resources Releases Information Regarding Beach Conditions

East end beachgoers have reported a **very low density** of dark colored clumps of algae to the Sanibel Police Department suggesting that they might be tar balls from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. These **very small clumps in no way effect the beach** enjoyment or use of Sanibel's beaches. These clumps have been positively identified by the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) as **filamentous blue green algae broken off from submerged algal mats**.

These clumps are in **no way harmful** and are unrelated to the oil spill. Such algal mats are found both in marine and freshwater conditions and their being found at the east end of the island during significant releases of water by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from Lake Okeechobee at least suggests that their origin may be from the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River or perhaps even farther upstream.

