

Notice of Waterfowl Hunting Closure of Salem River Wildlife Management Area And Issuance of Waterfowl Advisory

I hereby provide notice that I have instructed the Director of the Department's Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to close the Salem River Wildlife Management Area to all waterfowl hunting, and to undertake appropriate posting and other public notice.

DEP is currently working with the US Coast Guard to respond to a spill that now extends more than 50 miles on the Delaware River. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientific support team has projected that oil spilled from the *ATHOS I* in the Delaware River could be seen as far south as Cape Henlopen, Delaware in the next few days. Monitoring stations are in place and survey teams are keeping watch over the area for any indications of oil on the surface or in the water columns

The purpose of this closure is to preclude waterfowl from inadvertently being flushed from inland roosting and resting areas out into portions of the Delaware River that may be impacted by the oil spill from the *ATHOS I*. This will also provide refuges for waterfowl in unoiled areas where they will hopefully remain if undisturbed.

This closure will remain in effect until further notice. The Department expects to update this notice the week of December 20th.

Waterfowl Advisory

In addition to the closure of Salem River Wildlife Management Area, New Jersey hunters are asked to refrain from hunting in the area from the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge east on Route 74 to the junction with the New Jersey Turnpike. South on the NJ Turnpike to the junction with Route 322. East on Route 322 to Route 45. South on Route 45 to Route 581. South on Route 581 to Route 49. East on Route 49 to Route 654. Route 654 west to Route 651. Route 651 to Route 623. Left on Route 623 to Route 658. Right on Route 658 straight onto Alloway Creek Neck Road to the Salem Nuclear Power Plant.

Important Phone Numbers:

To report areas affected by oil from the *ATHOS I* incident, please call **267-765-3439**

To report oiled animals affected by the spill, call the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at **215-365-1558**.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asks that you do not assume someone else has called.

Volunteers who have training handling oiled wildlife can contact Tri-State Bird Rescue at **302-737-9543**

People with a financial loss and owners of vessels oiled or damaged in the oil spill should call **866-401-0353**

Hunters should continue to be on the lookout for oiled birds and report all observations to **215-365-1558**.