

Spill threat low for Marco

New assessment says oil likely to bypass island

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Marco Island is unlikely to be severely affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, according to leaders of the cleanup.

The island is rated "as a low threat for near and future oil impact" by state and federal personnel involved in the massive

government reaction to the oil-rig explosion.

Marco city officials learned that fact at a meeting with the U.S. Coast Guard Unified Command.

The unified command consists of the Coast Guard officials and state and local emergency management officials monitoring and prepar-

ing for the oil from St. Petersburg to Everglades City.

Interim city manager Jim Riviere, city councilman Larry Magel and deputy fire chief Chris Byrne met with the unified command in Miami on June 10.

Forecast models show if the oil enters the Loop Current the current could

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eddy current traveling clockwise back to the original location, the letter from Riviere to Marco Island City Council members said.

Trigger point

The letter also states that the unified command has established a "trigger point" 94 miles off Marco.

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If the oil hits that mark, it would trigger the positioning of mitigation equipment.

Marco officials were also told that due to the oil's consistency and the fact it would be weathered by the time it reached this area, it's unlikely that booms or hay bales would be effective barriers.