



CHARLIE CRIST  
Governor

SECRETARY MICHAEL W. SOLE  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

DAVID HALSTEAD  
State Coordinating Officer

## M E M O R A N D U M

**DATE:** May 22, 2010  
**TO:** Interested Media  
**FROM:** Sterling Ivey, Governor's Press Secretary  
**RE:** Governor Charlie Crist's Letter to Secretary Janet Napolitano Requesting Additional Resources

Please see the attached letter from Governor Charlie Crist to Secretary Janet Napolitano requesting resources and equipment as a part of Florida's response plans to the Deepwater Horizon spill and reports that oil may be in the loop current.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Governor Crist's press office at (850) 488-5394.



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

May 22, 2010

Secretary Janet Napolitano  
United States Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane, Southwest  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

Now that some reports indicate oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill may be in the loop current in the Gulf of Mexico, it is my duty and responsibility as Governor of Florida to ensure that we are taking every necessary step to prepare for possible impact. This effort is especially important, first to the Panhandle region of Florida, and then to all coastal counties currently at risk of devastating effects to their economic security and the environment.

Let me emphasize that the coastal counties now at risk of impact include many of Florida's most treasured beaches, fishing grounds and tourism destinations. Any impact in these areas would have severe long-term economic and environmental consequences. For this reason, I urge you to ensure Florida has the resources and equipment needed to take the necessary steps to prepare and mitigate any effects from the oil spill.

First, Florida must acquire adequate amounts of containment boom needed to protect our shores, beaches, and estuaries. I ask you to take the urgent steps needed to ensure Florida has sufficient boom to respond to the new development of oil being present in the loop current. We must make the protection of Florida's coastline one of our highest priorities by ensuring Florida receives the boom our state needs and deserves.

Second, I ask that you ensure BP immediately opens claims offices in additional Florida counties. While the \$25-million grant from BP is helping support our state's initial preparations and suffering businesses in the Panhandle region, it unfortunately took longer than expected for BP to open claims offices in the region. Certainly, these funds are helping shore up Florida's economy for now; however, it is unclear what the long-term effects will be, now that the loop current is involved. In fact, businesses in South Florida are already experiencing negative impacts, so there is no doubt that additional funds will be needed to address the long-term effects.

Last, it is my understanding that President Obama is assembling a presidential commission to investigate the oil spill. I am requesting that an Executive Office of the Governor appointee serve on the commission so that Florida's expertise is adequately represented. Knowing that we have been on the frontlines dealing with this incident, our experience would be a tremendous resource.

I want to commend our state emergency management and environmental protection teams for their diligence and expertise in managing Florida's response to this disaster. Their coordination with local emergency management teams ensures that Florida is prepared and able to protect Florida's shores as much as possible. As we approach the beginning of hurricane season in just 10 days, I am confident that our team has the knowledge and skill Florida needs. Now, I ask for your help in acquiring the resources and equipment the people of Florida need to protect our precious beaches and treasured fishing grounds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist