State to Reopen More Oyster Beds Tomorrow

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BATON Rouge -- The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals will reopen some of the oyster beds that were closed Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012, as a precautionary measure in advance of Hurricane Isaac. Oyster harvesting areas 1-7 and 14-17, which are located in coastal areas of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes, will reopen half an hour before sunrise on Monday, Sept. 10. The order to reopen these harvest areas was signed by DHH Secretary Bruce D. Greenstein, Office of Public Health Assistant Secretary J.T. Lane and State Health Officer Dr. Jimmy Guidry.

Oyster harvesting areas 1-28 were closed on Aug. 28. Last weekend, the state reopened areas 26, 27 and 28, which are located along the coastal areas of Vermillion and St. Mary parishes and on offshore waters.

Water standards for oyster harvesting are set by the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference. DHH has the authority to close these waters under LSA-R.S. 40:5, 3.