

Mosquito Control Update November 1, 2011

Last week a moderate size brood of salt marsh mosquitoes, *Aedes sollicitans*, emerged along the coastal areas of the parish. These mosquitoes were produced from high tides produced from east and southeast winds about two weeks prior to their emergence. The highest counts were along the coast in the south and southeast part of the parish. Aerosol spraying by truck mounted sprayers were successful in reducing the population numbers.

Very little rainfall has occurred over the past 5 weeks and as a result, conditions have become increasingly favorable for the production of a sizeable population of floodwater mosquitoes after the next heavy rainfall. If the rainfall does not occur before night time temperatures begin to reach freezing, chances are that we will not experience a major brood of floodwater mosquitoes. Long range weather forecast predicts dryer than normal conditions through the end of the year. If we have a wetter than normal winter, it becomes more favorable that we will not have an active floodwater mosquito season in the spring.

Populations of the southern house mosquito remain at low to moderate levels. Crews continue to treat the roadside ditches where the mosquitoes breed. Larviciding of these ditches will continue until about the middle of December. Spraying for the control of adult mosquitoes will continue as long as surveillance data indicates activity levels. Typically, night time spraying slows down in November with practically no spraying required in December with the arrival of cold temperatures.