Mosquito Control Update
June 14, 2011

Dry conditions continue to contribute to the above average populations of the southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus.* These mosquitoes breed and develop in roadside septic ditches. Many homes in the unincorporated part of the parish utilize filter beds and septic tanks for waste water treatment, and the effluent is discharged into the roadside ditches. High organic content in the ditches builds, especially when there is little rainfall to flush the ditches and freshen up the water. The southern house mosquito thrives in septic water conditions high in organic content. The breeding index of this mosquito species in the roadside septic ditches is 10.0, which is considered moderately high. Six truck mounted larvicide sprayers are utilized 5 days a week to treat the roadside ditches for the control of the southern house mosquito.

Two weeks ago, the marshes were inundated with a high tide, which produced a mixed brood of *Aedes vexans,* the inland floodwater mosquito and *Aedes sollicitans*, the salt marsh mosquito. Some of the areas were aerially larvicided and some were larvicided by airboat.

Several aerial adulticide treatments were employed to reduce the southern house mosquito and *Aedes vexans.* Treatments were performed along the coast from Slidell to Madisonville, shortly after adult emergence of *Aedes vexans* that bred in the coastal marshes. Also, large blocks in Covington, Mandeville and Slidell were aerially treated for the control of the southern house mosquito. Truck mounted ULV sprayers have been utilized throughout the parish.

One mosquito pool tested positive for West Nile virus in mid May. The positive pool was in the southern house mosquito. This is the first positive pool in this species so far this year. A total of 1080 mosquito pools have been tested, from throughout the parish, so far this year. A mosquito pool consists of a vial of 5-50 mosquitoes of the same species.