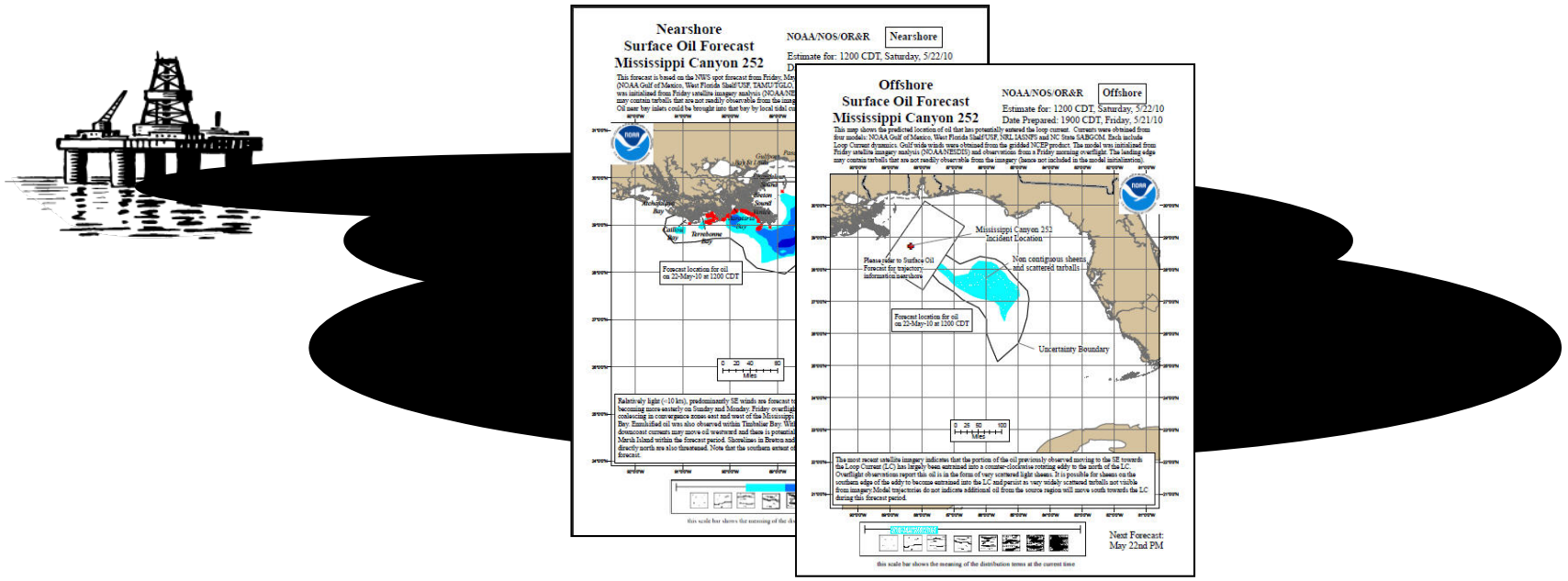
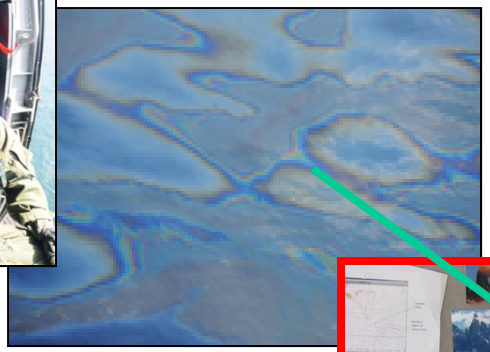
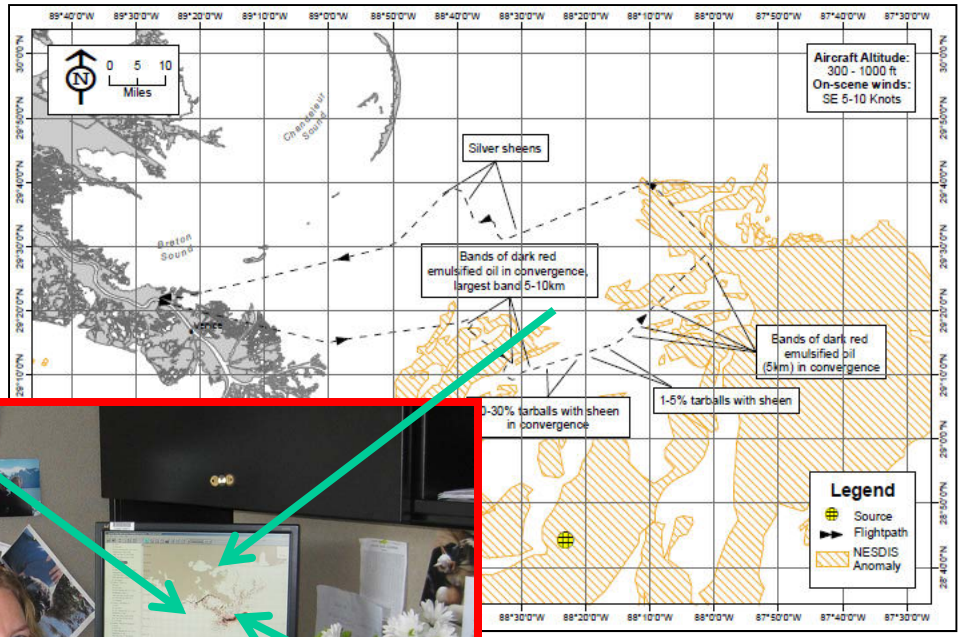
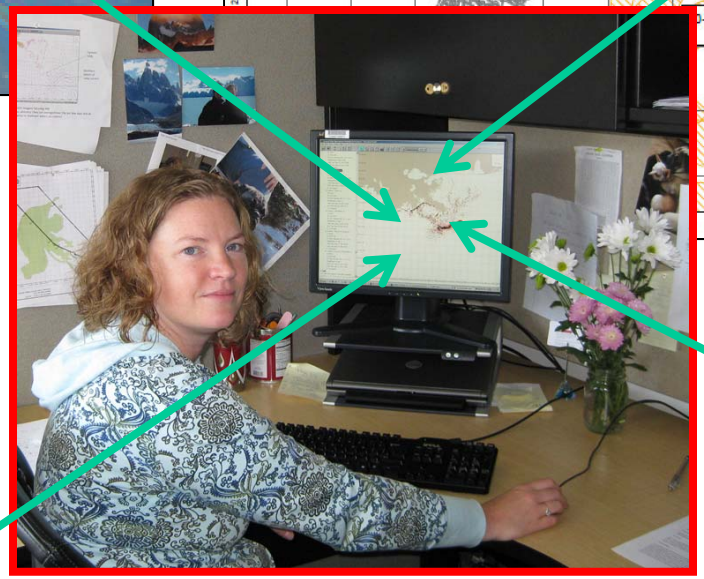
Interpreting NOAA's Trajectory Prediction Maps for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

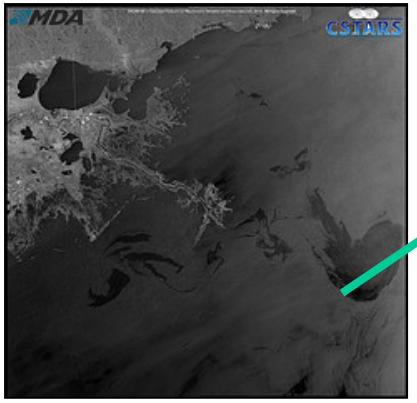


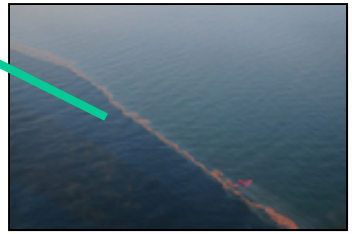
How a trajectory forecast is created



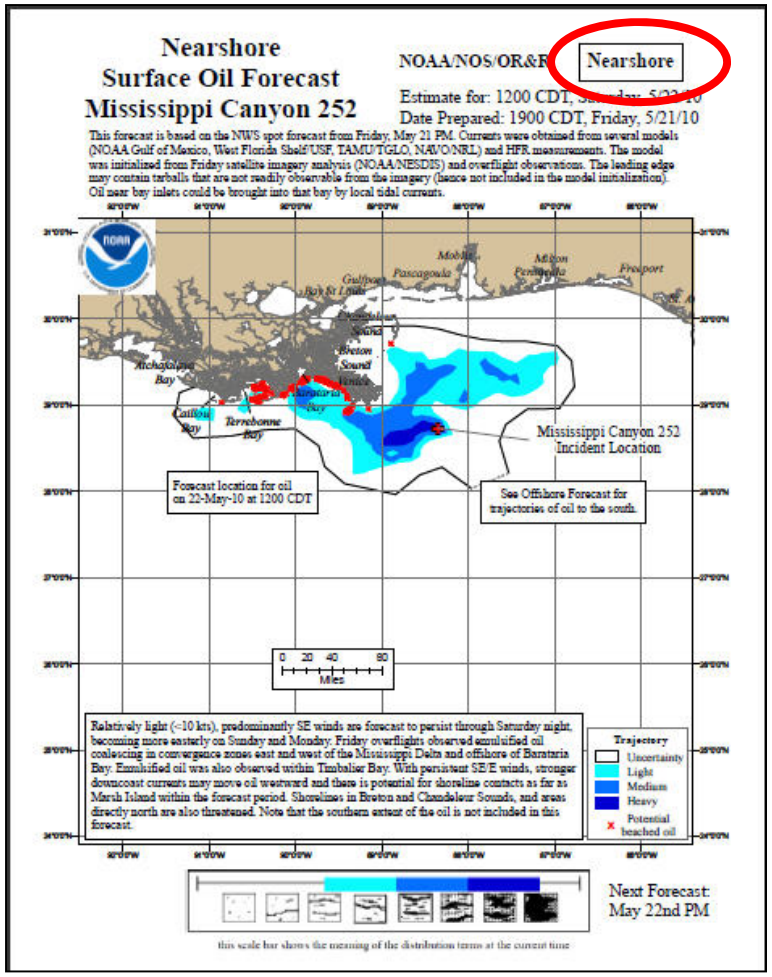


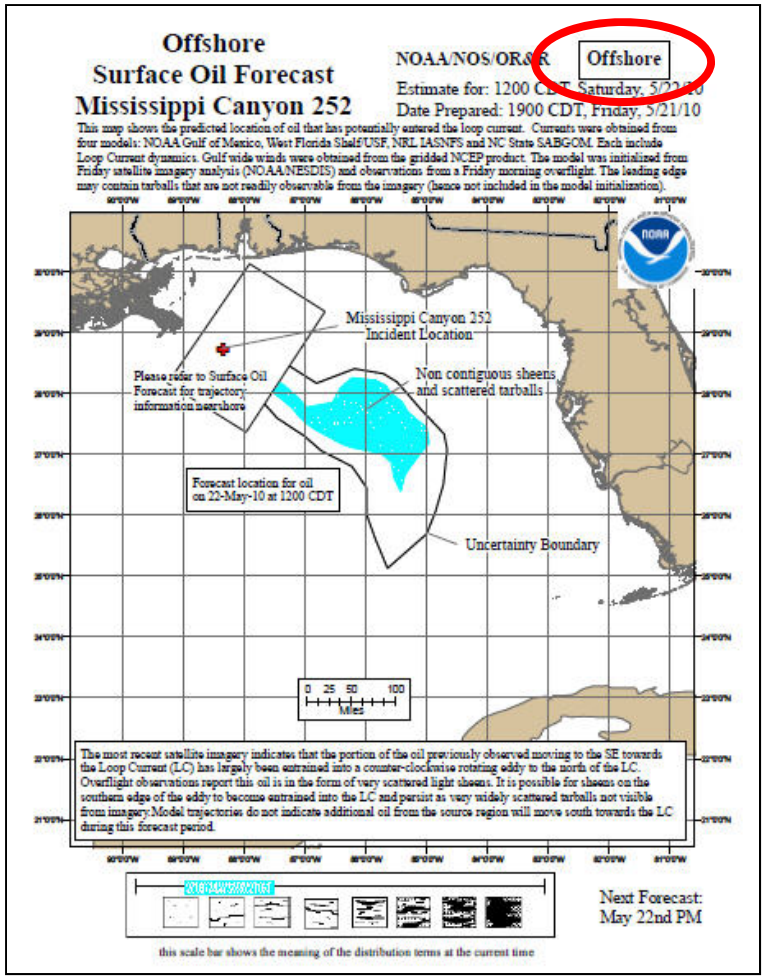






Two kinds of Surface Oil Forecasts each day

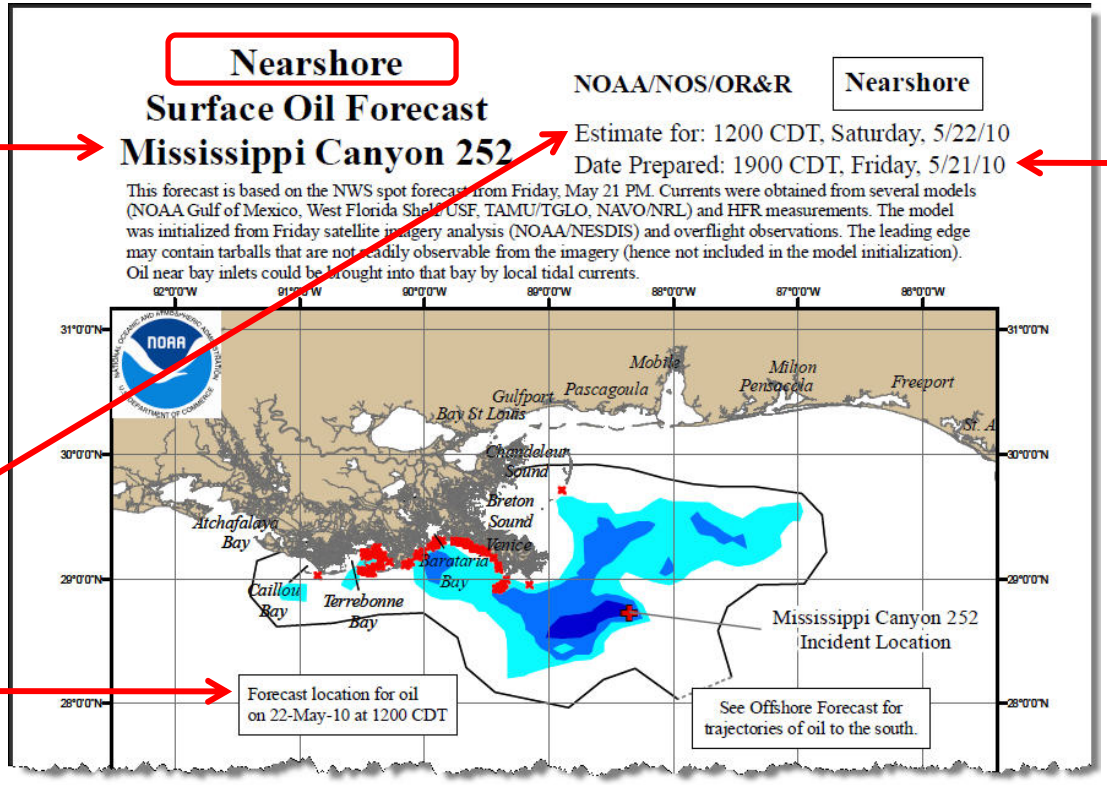




Some basic information

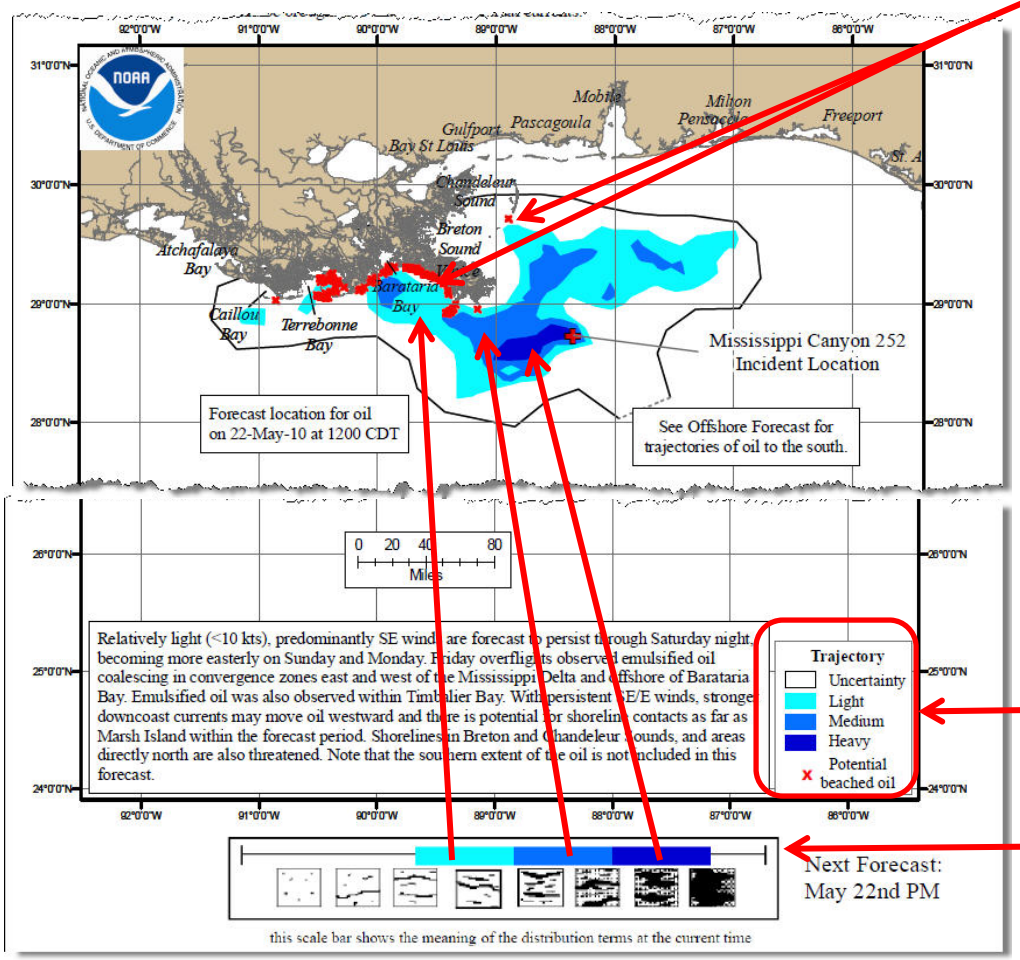
NOAA's name for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Predicted oil locations on the map are for this date and time



The map was prepared at this date and time

Areas predicted to be oiled

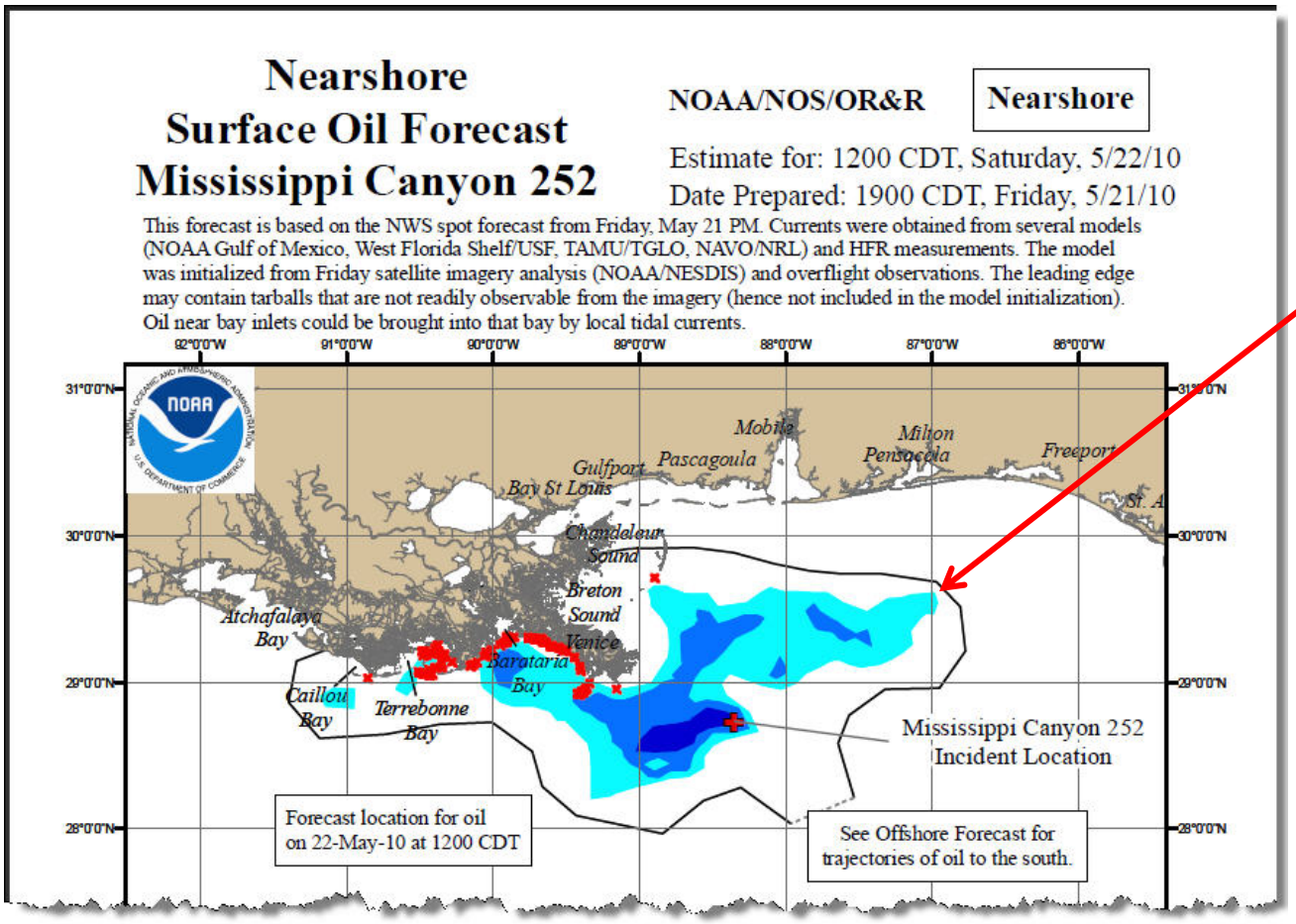


Locations of potentially beached oil

Oil coverage legend

Oil coverage scale bar

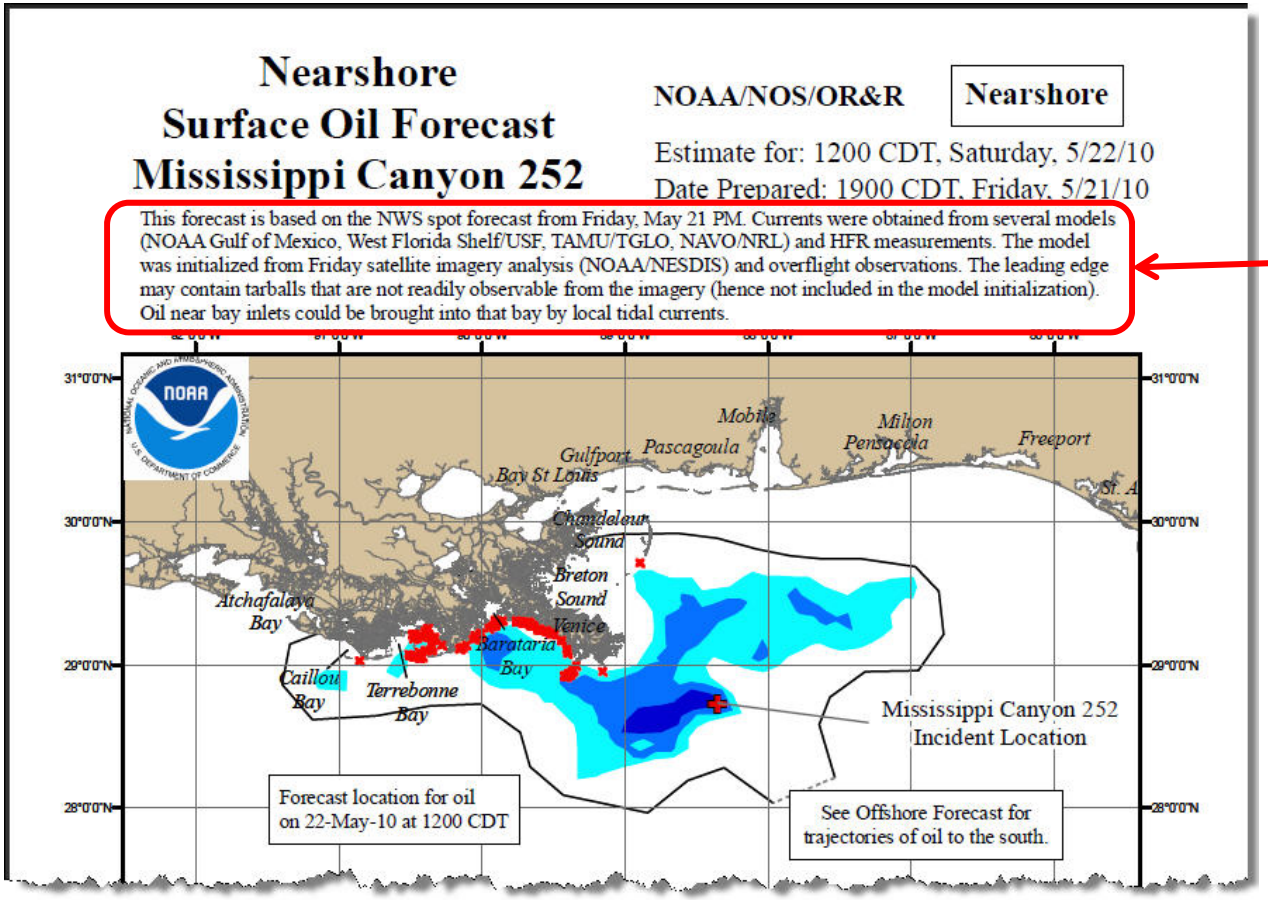
The uncertainty boundary



Uncertainty Boundary

There's a chance oil could be located anywhere inside this line

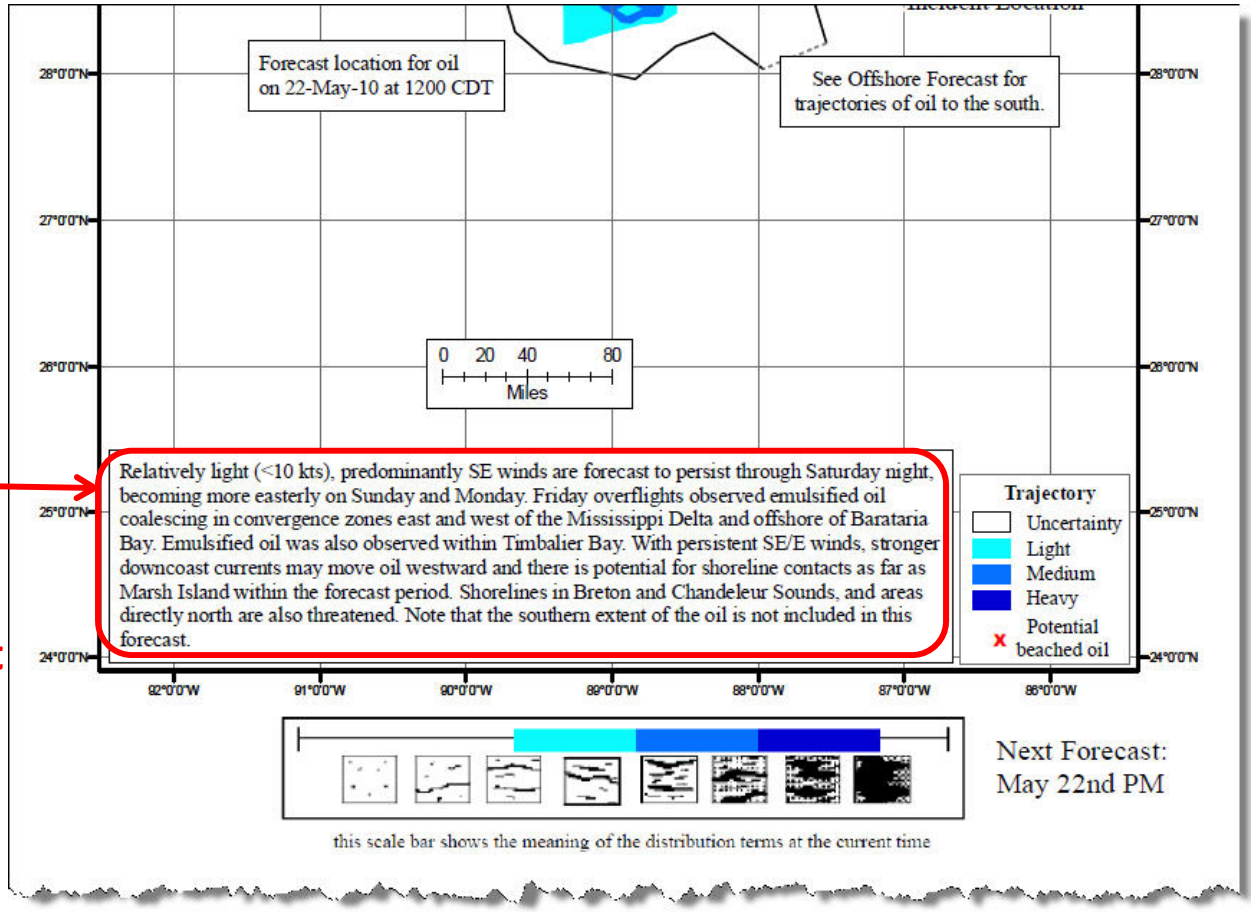
Text above the map



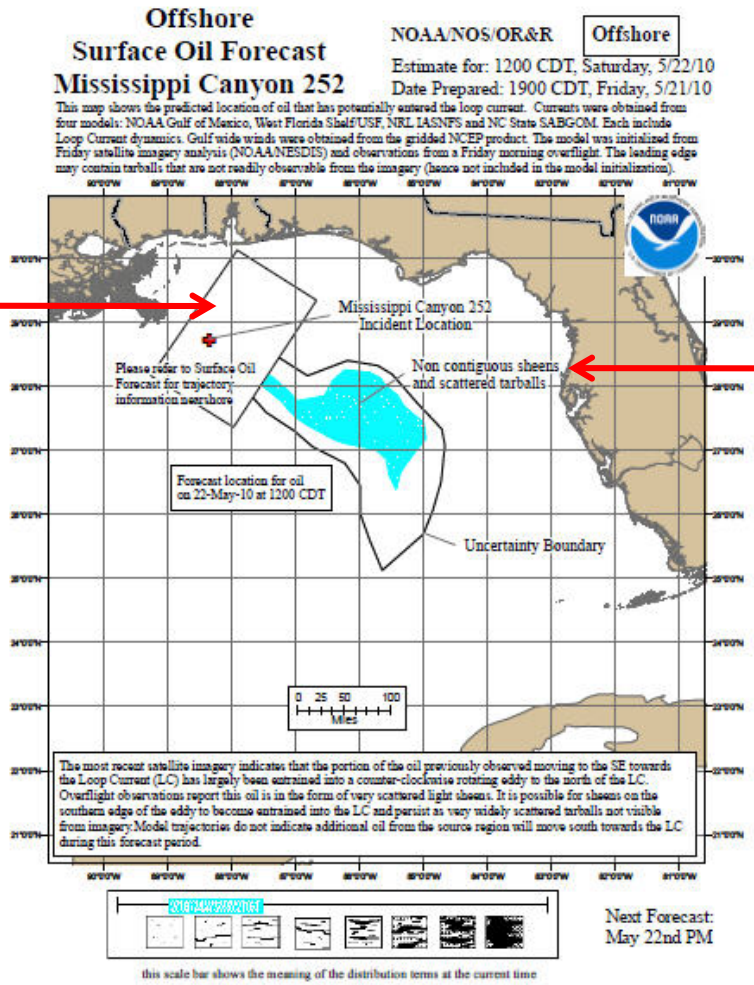
Information about how the oil trajectory was modeled

Text below the map

Additional notes about the predicted oil movement

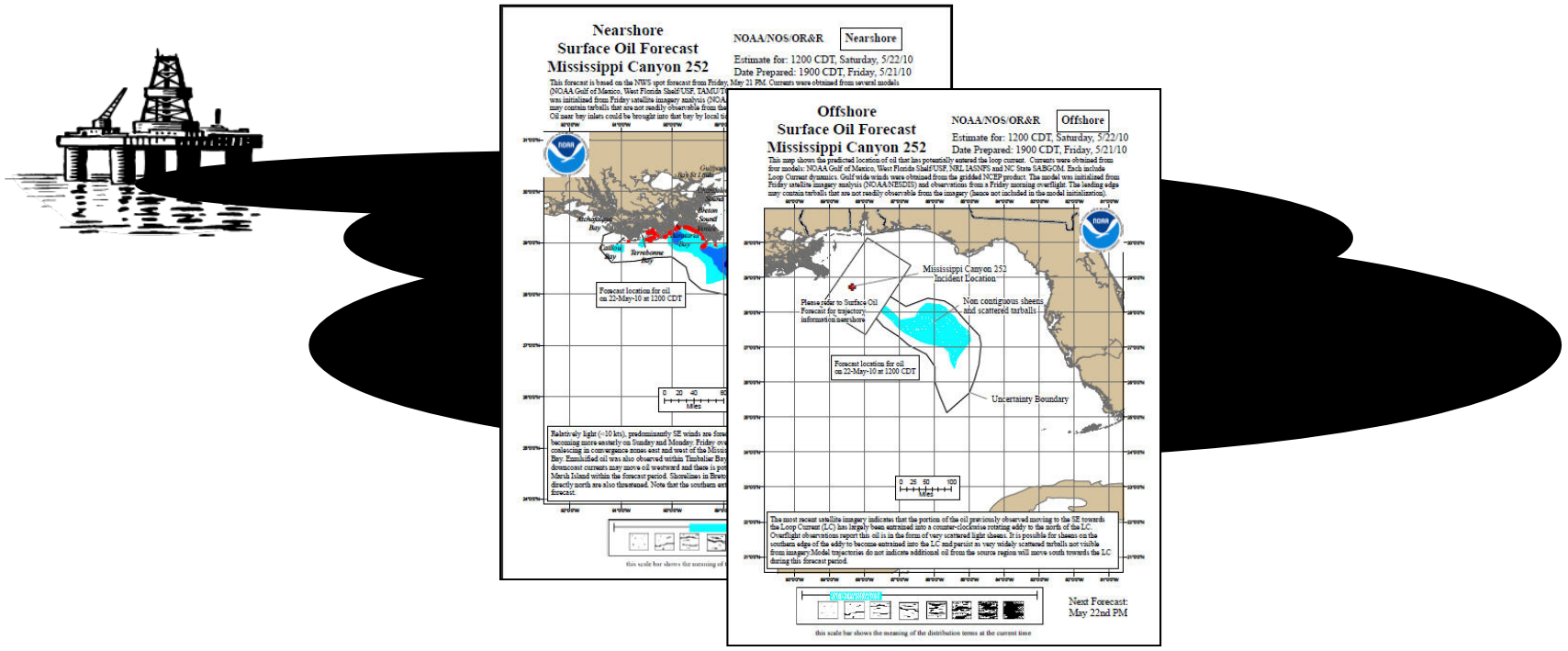


The offshore map



Box showing area covered by nearshore map

Additional information about the oil coverage


Nearshore
Surface Oil Forecast
Mississippi Canyon 252
NOAA/NOS/OR&R
Nearshore
Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Saturday, 5/22/10
Date Prepared: 1900 CDT, Friday, 5/21/10
Forecast location for oil on 22-May-10 at 1200 CDT
Offshore
Surface Oil Forecast
Mississippi Canyon 252
NOAA/NOS/OR&R
Offshore
Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Saturday, 5/22/10
Date Prepared: 1900 CDT, Friday, 5/21/10
Mississippi Canyon 252 Incident Location
Please refer to Surface Oil Forecast for trajectory information nearshore
Non contiguous sheens and scattered tarballs
Forecast location for oil on 22-May-10 at 1200 CDT
Uncertainty Boundary
Next Forecast: May 22nd PM