Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast
Deepwater Horizon MC252

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Monday, June 7 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Monday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and overflight observations. The leading edge may contain tarballs that are not readily observable from the imagery (hence not included in the model initialization). Oil near bay inlets could be brought into that bay by local tidal currents.

Weak, offshore (NW) winds are forecast for Tuesday, but are expected to become SE overnight. Onshore (SE/ESE) winds are forecast to continue through Friday at 10 knots or less. Persistent southwesterly winds over the last few days have resulted in northward movement of the slick towards the Mississippi/Alabama barrier islands and westward movement along the Florida Panhandle. Models show alongshore currents becoming more westward over the next few days, inhibiting further eastward movement. However, coastal regions between Dauphin Island and Freeport may continue to experience shoreline contacts throughout this forecast period. To the west of the Delta, any remaining floating oil in this region could come ashore between Timbalier Bay and SW Pass.

Next Forecast: June 8th PM