This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Friday, June 18 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (West Florida Shelf/USF, TGLO/TAMU, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Thursday-Friday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and Friday 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.

Winds are forecast to continue to be relatively light (<10 kts) and variable this weekend, then become more persistently onshore (SE) Sunday night through Tuesday. Trajectories indicate continued slow movement of the slick to the east. Coastal regions between Dauphin Island, AL and Panama City, FL continue to be threatened by shoreline contacts within this forecast period. More persistent SE winds later in the forecast period will begin to increase the threat of shoreline contacts to the Chandeleur Islands and the Mississippi Delta.

The offshore forecast has been temporarily stopped due to small amounts of oil, the absence of recent observations confirming significant amounts of oil, and the large separation between the loop current complex and the oil slick. Forecasts will resume if the threat returns.