Nearshore
Surface Oil Forecast
Deepwater Horizon MC252

NOAA/NOS/OR&R

Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Sunday, 7/18/10
Date Prepared: 1900 CDT, Saturday, 7/17/10

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Saturday, July 17 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, TGLO/TAMU, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Friday-Saturday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and Saturday 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.

Persistent onshore winds (SE/S) are forecast to continue through Monday with speeds of 10-15 kts. Easterly winds at 10-15 kts are forecast for Tuesday. Remote sensing imagery and overflights indicate that remaining surface oil is in a northeast-southwest oriented band situated ~30-40 miles off the Mississippi Delta. Trajectories indicate this band will continue to spread both northward and westward over the next few days. Observed floating oil from today's overflights and satellite analysis is not expected to landfall within the forecast period but scattered tarballs may continue to impact previously impacted shorelines.

This set of trajectories does not include any additional release from the source since 7/15. Trajectories will continue to be updated daily as the situation evolves.