Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast
Deepwater Horizon MC252

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Tuesday, May 25 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, TAMU/TGLO, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Tuesday 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.

Winds are variable throughout this forecast period (E at 7-10 kts through Wednesday AM, N at 5-9 kts Wed/Thursday AM, then W at 5-10). Overflights on Tuesday continued to observe significant amounts of oil associated with convergence zones around the Mississippi Delta and in Breton Sound. Sheens were observed as far west as Caillou Bay. However, with light winds and weakening westward currents, oil is not expected to move significantly further westward. The Mississippi Delta west to Caillou Bay, Breton Sound and the Chandeleur Islands continue to be threatened by shoreline contacts during this forecast period. Note that the southern extent of the oil is not included in this forecast.

Next Forecast: May 26th PM

See Offshore Forecast for trajectories of oil to the south.