Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast
Deepwater Horizon MC252

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Wednesday, June 16 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 Wednesday 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 forecast to be relatively weak (< 8 kts) and predominantly W/NW through Friday, then become SW on Saturday at 7-10 kts. Trajectories indicate continued movement of the slick to the east over the next few days. With the weak westerly and northwesterly winds forecast, coastal impacts are slightly reduced. However, oil already present nearshore may continue to come ashore and be brought into bays by tidal currents. Coastal regions between Dauphin Island, AL and Panama City, FL continue to be threatened by shoreline contacts within this forecast period.

Date Prepared: 2100 CDT, Wednesday, 6/16/10

Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Friday, 6/18/10

Next Forecast: June 17th PM