This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Thursday, June 24 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-Thursday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and Thursday 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 predominantly easterly (E/ESE) through Sunday at speeds of 7-15 kts. The northern edge of the slick continues to move northwest threatening the barrier islands of Mississippi/Alabama and the Florida Panhandle east to Freeport. Under these persistent easterly winds, the Chandeleur Islands, Breton Sound and the Mississippi Delta are also increasingly threatened by shoreline contacts in this forecast period. Models suggest westward currents developing south of the Delta may begin moving oil west towards Terrebonne Bay.

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