Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast

Deepwater Horizon MC252

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Sunday, June 26 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, TGLO/TAMU, NA VO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Sunday 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.

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.

Winds are forecast to continue to have an easterly component (ESE/SE) through Wednesday at speeds of 12-23 kts. This will result in the northern edge of the slick continuing to move northwest threatening the barrier islands of Mississippi/Alabama and the Florida Panhandle west of Freeport, FL. The Chandeleur Islands, Breton Sound and the Mississippi Delta are also threatened by shoreline contacts in this forecast period. An overflight today observed significant amounts of oil south of the Delta extending towards Barataria Bay. Some of this oil may begin moving westward, threatening shorelines as far west as Caillou Bay.

Nearshore

Next Forecast: June 28th PM