This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Monday, May 17 AM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, Texas A&M/TGLO, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Sunday PM 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 light (5-10 kts) and variable in direction over the next few days. Under light winds, sheens generally are more evident. Any oil in the near offshore near Southwest Pass may come ashore during periods of onshore winds. Breton Sound and the Chandeleur Islands continue to have a potential for shoreline contacts. Ocean models show a west to southwest flow in the vicinity of the source - under these currents and winds the plume from the source may tend westward towards the Delta, with some of the oil moving to the west of the Delta. As the winds weaken, ocean models indicate that any tarballs leading the southern edge of the plume could begin moving more to the SW and potentially into the Loop Current.