This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Monday, May 17 PM. 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 before becoming S - SE later this week, and ocean models show a west to southwest flow in the vicinity of the source. With these currents and winds the plume from the source may tend westward towards the Delta, with some of the oil moving west of the Delta. Ocean models indicate that the band of oil sheens along the southern edge of the plume which is in a counterclockwise eddy could enter the northeastern edge of the Loop Current. Monday's overflight indicated a significant amount of oil west of the Delta which could begin to come ashore between Barataria Bay and Timbalier Bay this week.