Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast
Mississippi Canyon 252

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Sunday, May 22 PM and the NWS/NCEP gridded NAM winds. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, TAMU/TGLO, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Saturday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and Sunday 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.

Relatively light (<10 kts) winds are forecast to persist through much of the week. Sunday overflights observed significant oil offshore and within Timbalier Bay, and in a convergence zone in Breton Sound. With light winds and weakening westward currents, oil is not expected to move significantly westward. There is potential for shoreline contacts from the South Pass to as far as Timbalier Bay. The southern Mississippi Delta and areas east of Main past have potential for oil beaching. Note that the southern extent of the oil is not included in this forecast.

Date Prepared: 2100 CDT, Sunday, 5/23/10
Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Wednesday, 5/26/10

See Offshore Forecast for trajectories of oil to the south.