Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast
Mississippi Canyon 252

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Monday, May 24 PM. 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 Monday 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.

Relatively light (<10 kt) winds are forecast to persist through much of the week, becoming NW on Thursday. Overflights on Monday continued to observe significant amounts of oil associated with convergence zones around the Mississippi Delta and in Breton Sound. Sheens were observed as far west as Pt Au Fer Island. However, with light winds and weakening westward currents, oil is not expected to move significantly further westward. The Mississippi Delta west to Caillou Bay, Breton Sound and the Chandeleur Islands continue to be threatened by shoreline contacts during this forecast period. Note that the southern extent of the oil is not included in this forecast.

See Offshore Forecast for trajectories of oil to the south.

Next Forecast: May 25th PM