Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast

Deepwater Horizon MC252

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Sunday, June 13 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, NAVO/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.

Winds are forecast to be primarily onshore (predominantly S/SE winds) but at less than 10 knots through the forecast. Persistent onshore winds have resulted in northward movement of the slick towards the Mississippi/Alabama barrier islands and the Florida Panhandle. Coastal regions in Mississippi Sound west of Freeport may continue to experience shoreline contacts throughout this forecast period. Persistent south-southeasterly winds are also resulting in movement of oil towards the Chandeleur Islands, Breton Sound, and the Mississippi Delta. These region are also threatened by shoreline contacts within this forecast period.

Forecast location for oil on 16-June-10 at 1200 CDT

See Offshore Forecast for trajectories of oil to the south.