Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast

Deepwater Horizon MC252

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Monday, June 21 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (West Florida Shelf/USF, TGLO/TAMU, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Sunday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and Monday 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.

Forecast location for oil on 24-June-10 at 1200 CDT

The offshore forecast has been temporarily stopped due to small amounts of oil offshore, the absence of recent observations confirming significant amounts of oil in offshore areas, and the large separation between the loop current complex and the oil slick. Forecasts will resume if the threat returns.

Winds are forecast to be predominantly onshore (SE) through Wednesday at speeds of 5-12 kts, then become ENE on Thursday. Trajectories indicate developing westward currents within the Mississippi Bight region will begin to inhibit further movement of the slick to the east. Coastal regions between Horn Island, MS and Panama City, FL are threatened by shoreline contacts within this forecast period. Under persistent SE winds, the Chandeleur Islands, Breton Sound and the Mississippi Delta are also threatened.

Next Forecast: June 22nd PM