Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast
Deepwater Horizon MC252

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Thursday, July 15 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USSF, TGLO/TAMU, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Wednesday-Thursday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and Thursday 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.

Persistent onshore winds (SE/S) are forecast through Sunday with speeds of 5-15 kts. Remote sensing imagery and overflights indicate that oil from the source is continuing to move to the south/southeast and there is very little oil remaining to the north. However, trajectories indicate oil from the source region may begin spreading north and west over the next few days. Observed floating oil from today's overflights and satellite analysis is not expected to landfall within the forecast period but scattered tarballs may continue to impact previously impacted shorelines.

Date Prepared: 2100 CDT, Thursday, 7/15/10