Nearshore
Surface Oil Forecast
Deepwater Horizon MC252

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Friday, July 23 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, TGL/TAMU, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Friday 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 those bays by local tidal currents.

This set of trajectories does not include any additional release from the source since 7/15. Trajectories will continue to be updated daily as the situation evolves.

Winds and seas will be increasing Friday night as Tropical Storm Bonnie moves into the region. Maximum winds by late Saturday are forecast to be 30-40 kts (from the NE then SW). Winds on Sunday-Monday are forecast to be SE from 10-20 kts. Today’s overflights and aerial imagery indicate the surface oil is continuing to break up into numerous patches. Trajectories indicate the leading edge to the north will continue to move northwestward into Breton Sound and towards the Chandeleur Islands. Oil moving westward around the Mississippi Delta is collecting in the convergence line associated with the fresh water outflow – this oil will continue moving westward threatening the Delta and shorelines west to Caillou Bay.

Next Forecast:
July 24th PM