Offshore
Surface Oil Forecast
Mississippi Canyon 252

This map shows the predicted location of oil that has potentially entered the loop current. Currents were obtained from four models: NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, NRL IASNFS and NC State SABGOM. Each include Loop Current dynamics. Gulf wide winds were obtained from the gridded NCEP product. The model was initialized from Friday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and observations from a Friday morning overflight. The leading edge may contain tarballs that are not readily observable from the imagery (hence not included in the model initialization).

The most recent satellite imagery indicates that the portion of the oil previously observed moving to the SE towards the Loop Current (LC) has largely been entrained into a counter-clockwise rotating eddy to the north of the LC. Overflight observations report this oil is in the form of very scattered light sheens. It is possible for sheens on the southern edge of the eddy to become entrained into the LC and persist as very widely scattered tarballs not visible from imagery. Model trajectories do not indicate additional oil from the source region will move south towards the LC during this forecast period.

Next Forecast:
May 22nd PM

please refer to Surface Oil Forecast for trajectory information nearshore

Forecast location for oil on 22-May-10 at 1200 CDT

Mississippi Canyon 252 Incident Location

Non contiguous sheens and scattered tarballs

Uncertainty Boundary

0 25 50 100

Miles

this scale bar shows the meaning of the distribution terms at the current time