

# Offshore Surface Oil Forecast Deepwater Horizon MC252

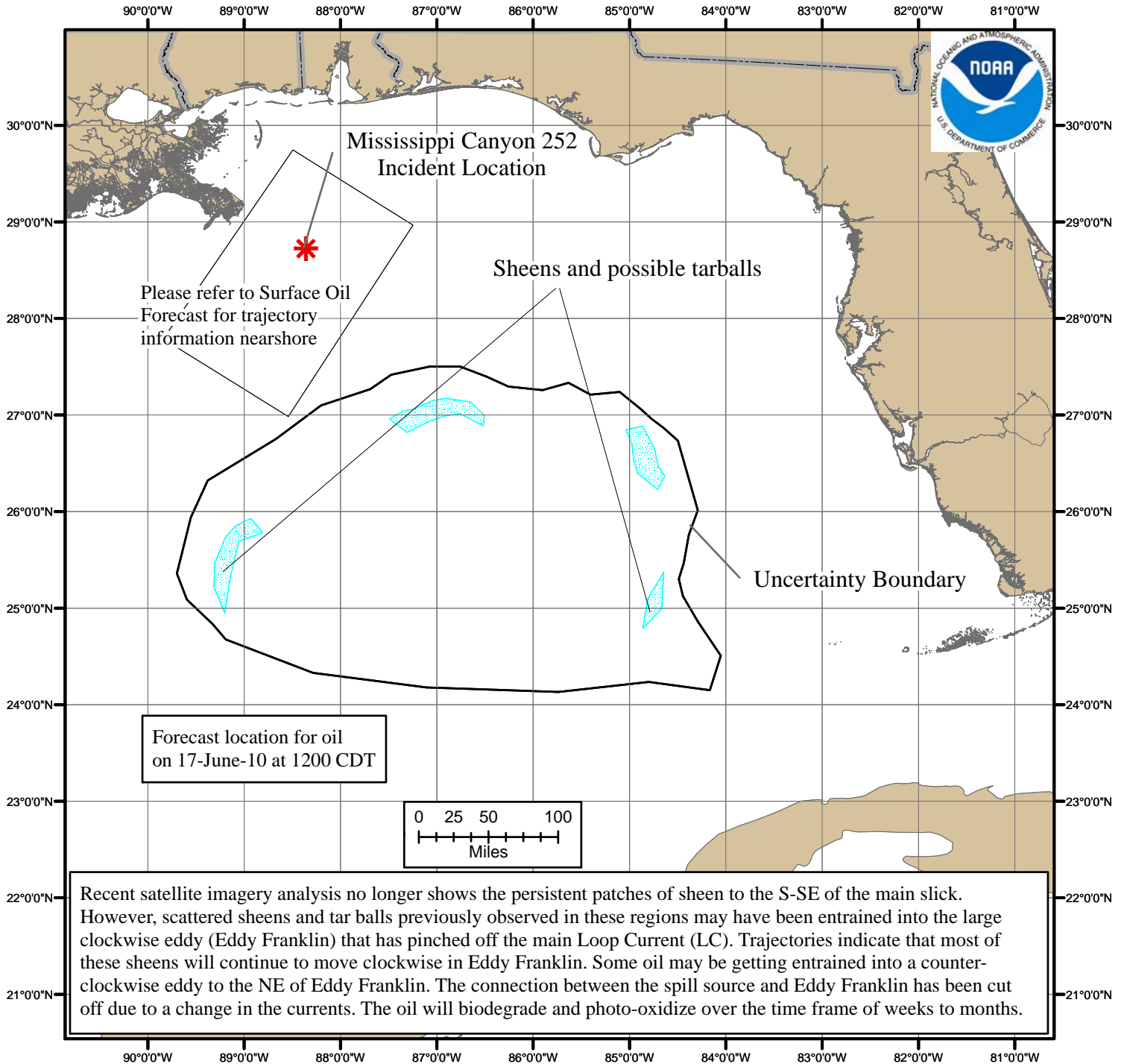
NOAA/NOS/OR&R

**Offshore**

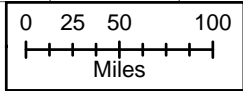
Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Thursday, 6/17/10

Date Prepared: 1900 CDT, Wednesday, 6/16/10

Currents were obtained from four models: NOAA Gulf of Mexico, NavO/NCOM, NRL/IASNFS, and NC St./SABGOM. Each includes Loop Current dynamics. Gulf wide winds were obtained from the gridded NCEP product. The model was initialized from June 11 to June 14 satellite imagery analysis, a June 16 CG/NOAA overflight, and June 15 ship obs. The leading edge may contain tarballs that are not readily observable from the imagery (hence not included in the model initialization).



Forecast location for oil on 17-June-10 at 1200 CDT



Recent satellite imagery analysis no longer shows the persistent patches of sheen to the S-SE of the main slick. However, scattered sheens and tar balls previously observed in these regions may have been entrained into the large clockwise eddy (Eddy Franklin) that has pinched off the main Loop Current (LC). Trajectories indicate that most of these sheens will continue to move clockwise in Eddy Franklin. Some oil may be getting entrained into a counter-clockwise eddy to the NE of Eddy Franklin. The connection between the spill source and Eddy Franklin has been cut off due to a change in the currents. The oil will biodegrade and photo-oxidize over the time frame of weeks to months.



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

Next Forecast:  
June 17th PM