

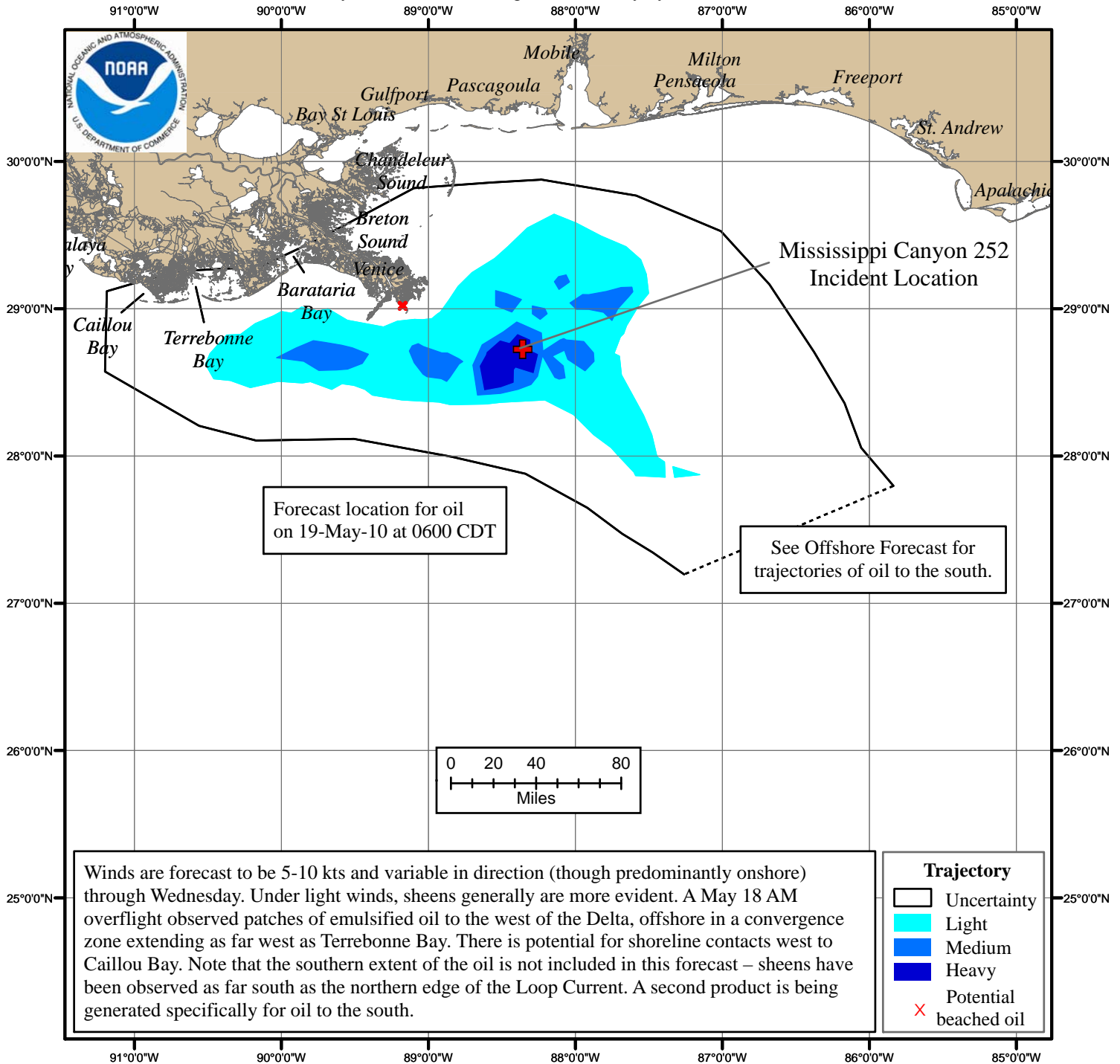
Surface Oil Forecast Mississippi Canyon 252

NOAA/NOS/OR&R

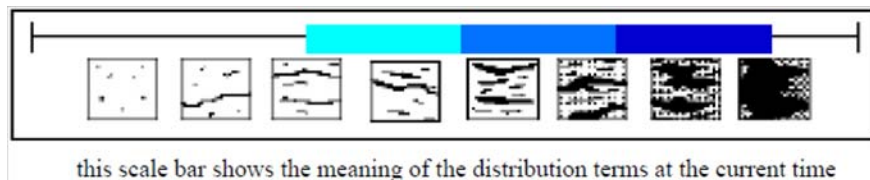
Estimate for: 0600 CDT, Wednesday, 5/19/10

Date Prepared: 1300 CDT, Tuesday, 5/18/10

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Tuesday, May 18 AM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, Texas A&M/TGLO, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Monday AM 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 that bay by local tidal currents.



Winds are forecast to be 5-10 kts and variable in direction (though predominantly onshore) through Wednesday. Under light winds, sheens generally are more evident. A May 18 AM overflight observed patches of emulsified oil to the west of the Delta, offshore in a convergence zone extending as far west as Terrebonne Bay. There is potential for shoreline contacts west to Caillou Bay. Note that the southern extent of the oil is not included in this forecast – sheens have been observed as far south as the northern edge of the Loop Current. A second product is being generated specifically for oil to the south.



Next Forecast:
May 19th AM