

Surface Oil Forecast

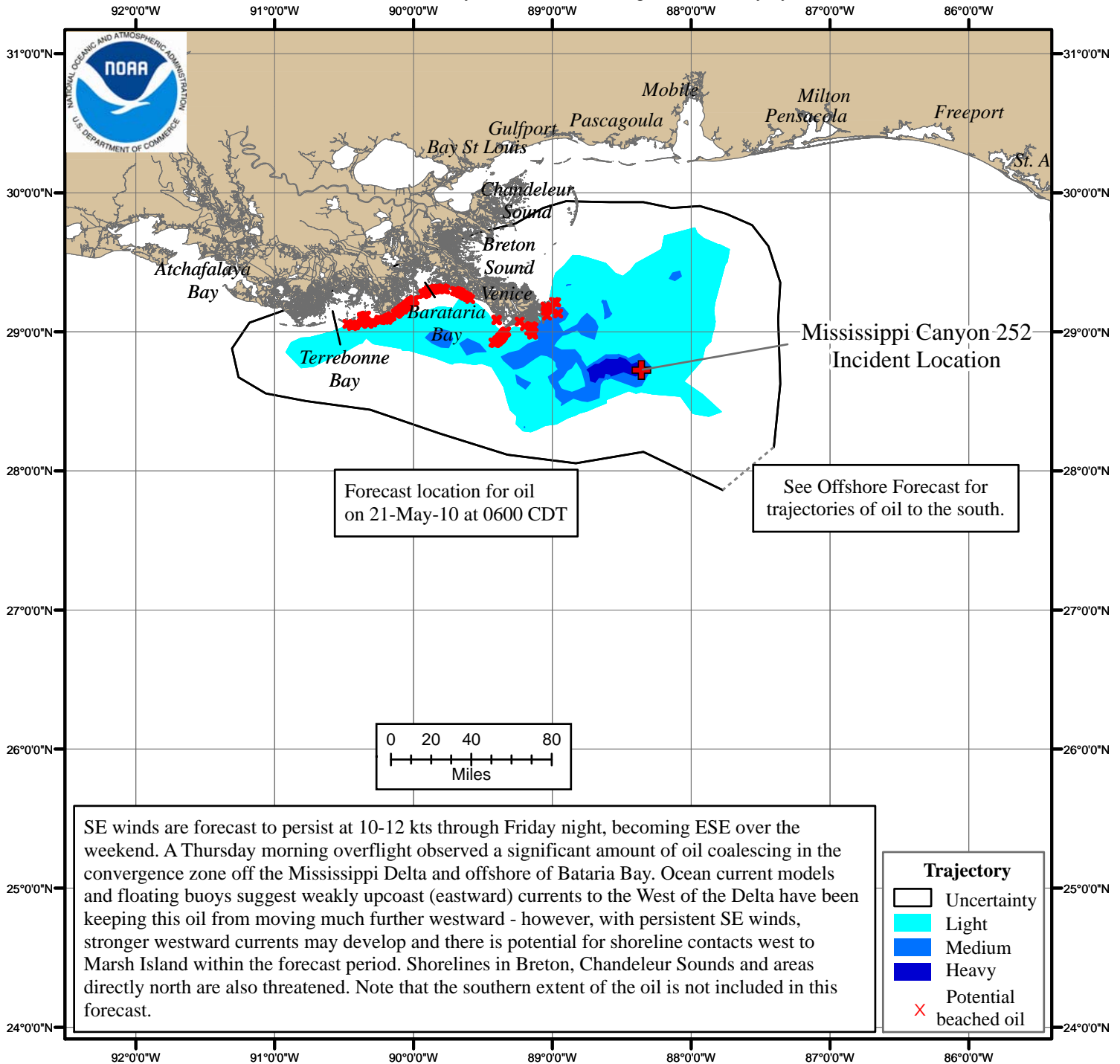
Mississippi Canyon 252

NOAA/NOS/OR&R

Estimate for: 0600 CDT, Friday, 5/21/10

Date Prepared: 1300 CDT, Thursday, 5/20/10

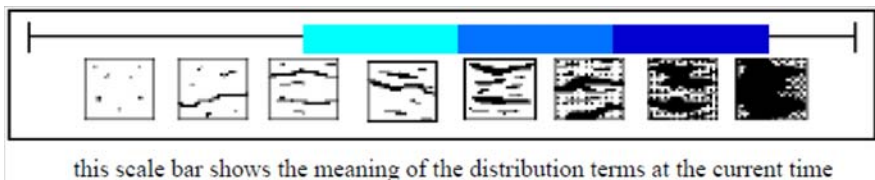
This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Thursday, May 20 AM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, Texas A&M/TGLO, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Thursday morning satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and 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.



SE winds are forecast to persist at 10-12 kts through Friday night, becoming ESE over the weekend. A Thursday morning overflight observed a significant amount of oil coalescing in the convergence zone off the Mississippi Delta and offshore of Bataria Bay. Ocean current models and floating buoys suggest weakly upcoast (eastward) currents to the West of the Delta have been keeping this oil from moving much further westward - however, with persistent SE winds, stronger westward currents may develop and there is potential for shoreline contacts west to Marsh Island within the forecast period. Shorelines in Breton, Chandeleur Sounds and areas directly north are also threatened. Note that the southern extent of the oil is not included in this forecast.

Trajectory

- Uncertainty
- Light
- Medium
- Heavy
- x Potential beached oil



Next Forecast:
May 21st AM