

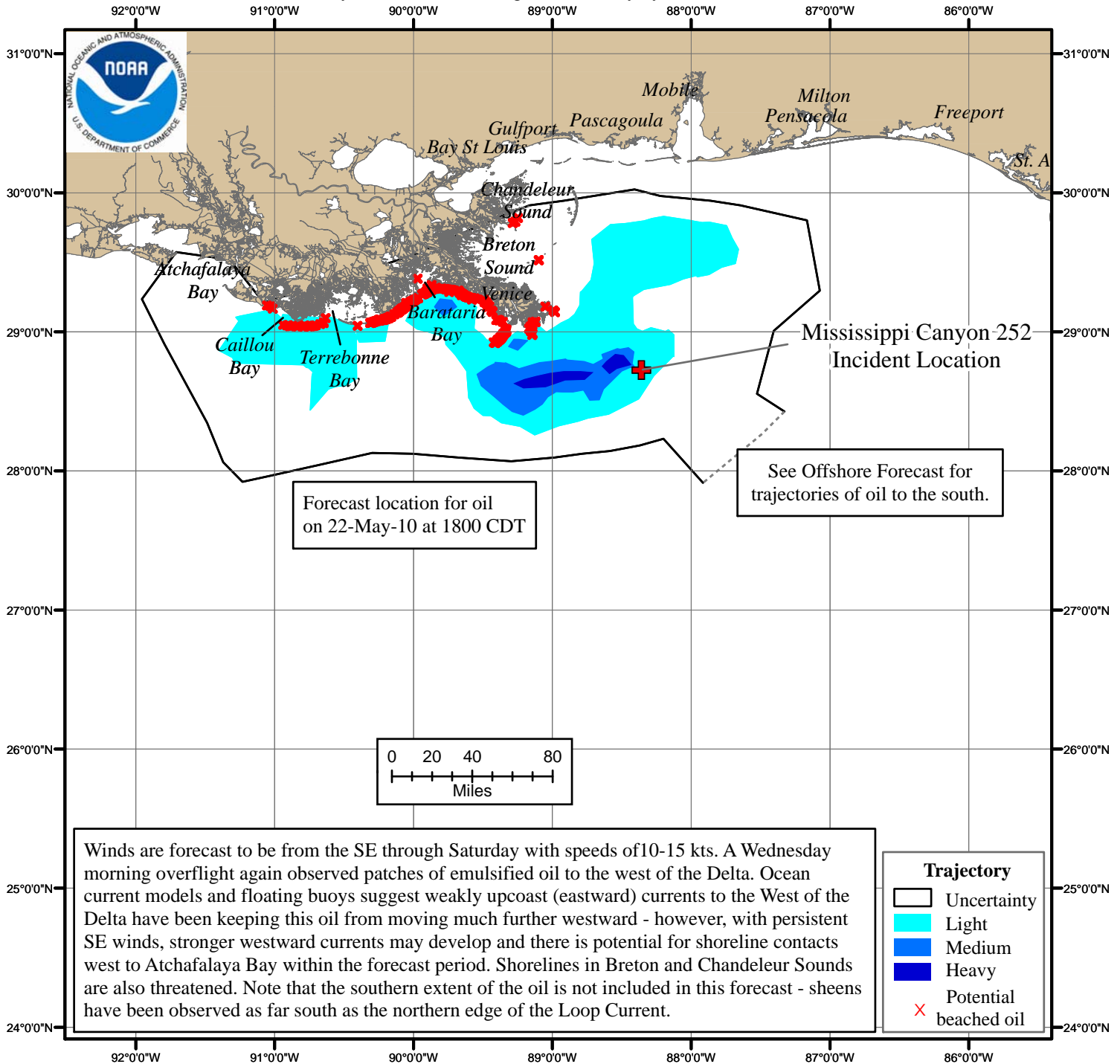
Surface Oil Forecast Mississippi Canyon 252

NOAA/NOS/OR&R

Estimate for: 1800 CDT, Saturday, 5/22/10

Date Prepared: 2000 CDT, Wednesday, 5/19/10

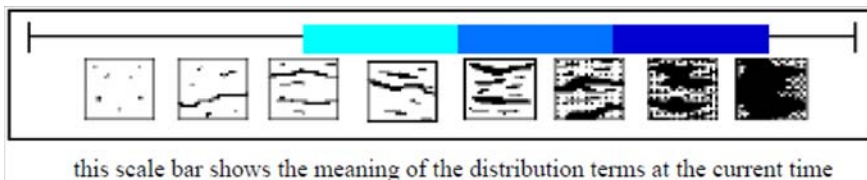
This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Wednesday, May 19 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, Texas A&M/TGLO, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and Wednesday overflight 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 the bay by local tidal currents.



Winds are forecast to be from the SE through Saturday with speeds of 10-15 kts. A Wednesday morning overflight again observed patches of emulsified oil to the west of the Delta. 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 Atchafalaya Bay within the forecast period. Shorelines in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds are also threatened. 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.

Trajectory

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



Next Forecast:
May 21st PM