

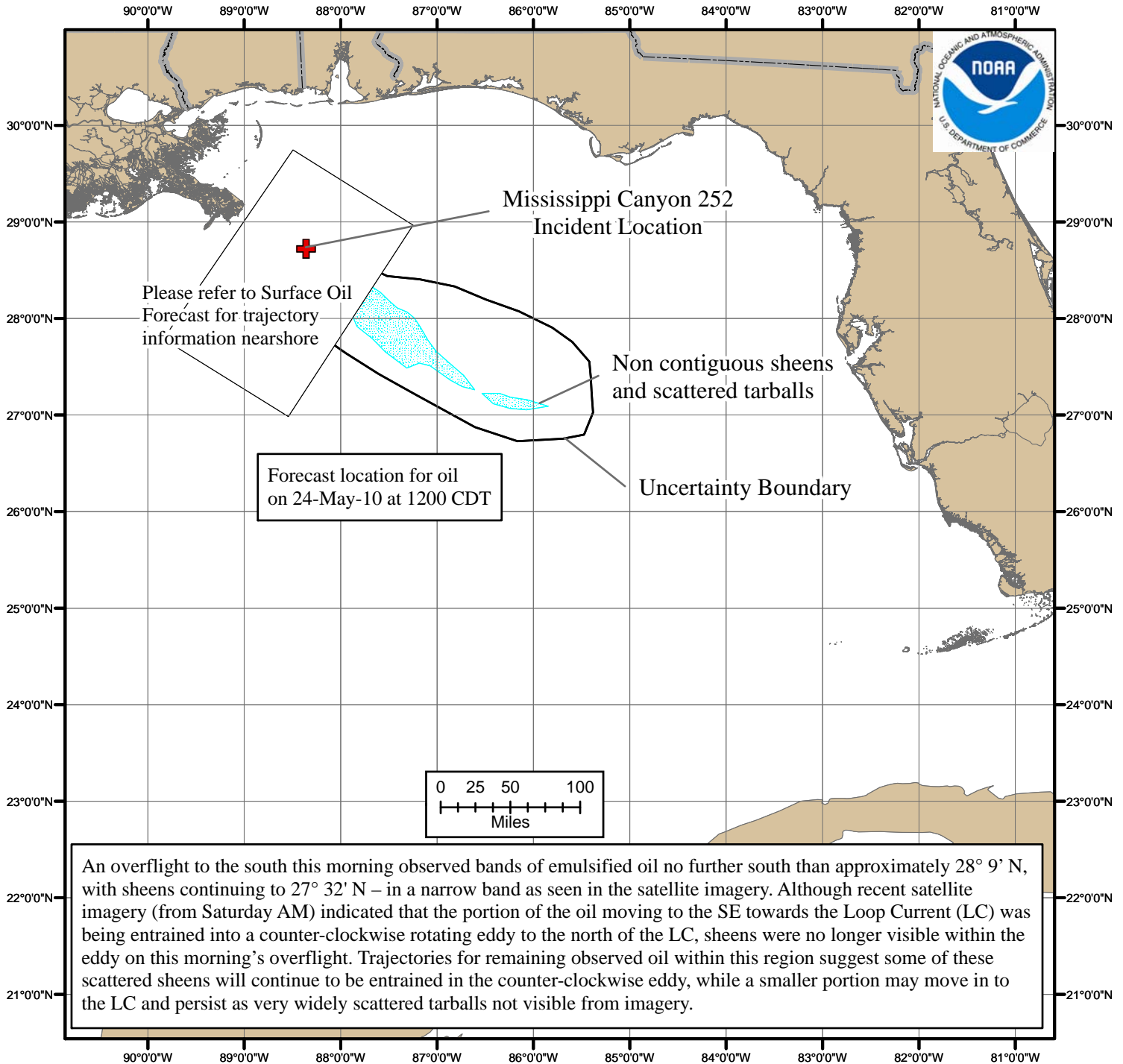
Offshore Surface Oil Forecast Mississippi Canyon 252

NOAA/NOS/OR&R

Offshore

Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Monday, 5/24/10
Date Prepared: 1700 CDT, Sunday, 5/23/10

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 Saturday/Sunday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and observations from a Sunday morning overflight. The leading edge may contain tarballs that are not readily observable from the imagery (hence not included in the model initialization).



An overflight to the south this morning observed bands of emulsified oil no further south than approximately 28° 9' N, with sheens continuing to 27° 32' N – in a narrow band as seen in the satellite imagery. Although recent satellite imagery (from Saturday AM) indicated that the portion of the oil moving to the SE towards the Loop Current (LC) was being entrained into a counter-clockwise rotating eddy to the north of the LC, sheens were no longer visible within the eddy on this morning's overflight. Trajectories for remaining observed oil within this region suggest some of these scattered sheens will continue to be entrained in the counter-clockwise eddy, while a smaller portion may move in to the LC and persist as very widely scattered tarballs not visible from imagery.



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

Next Forecast:
May 24th PM