

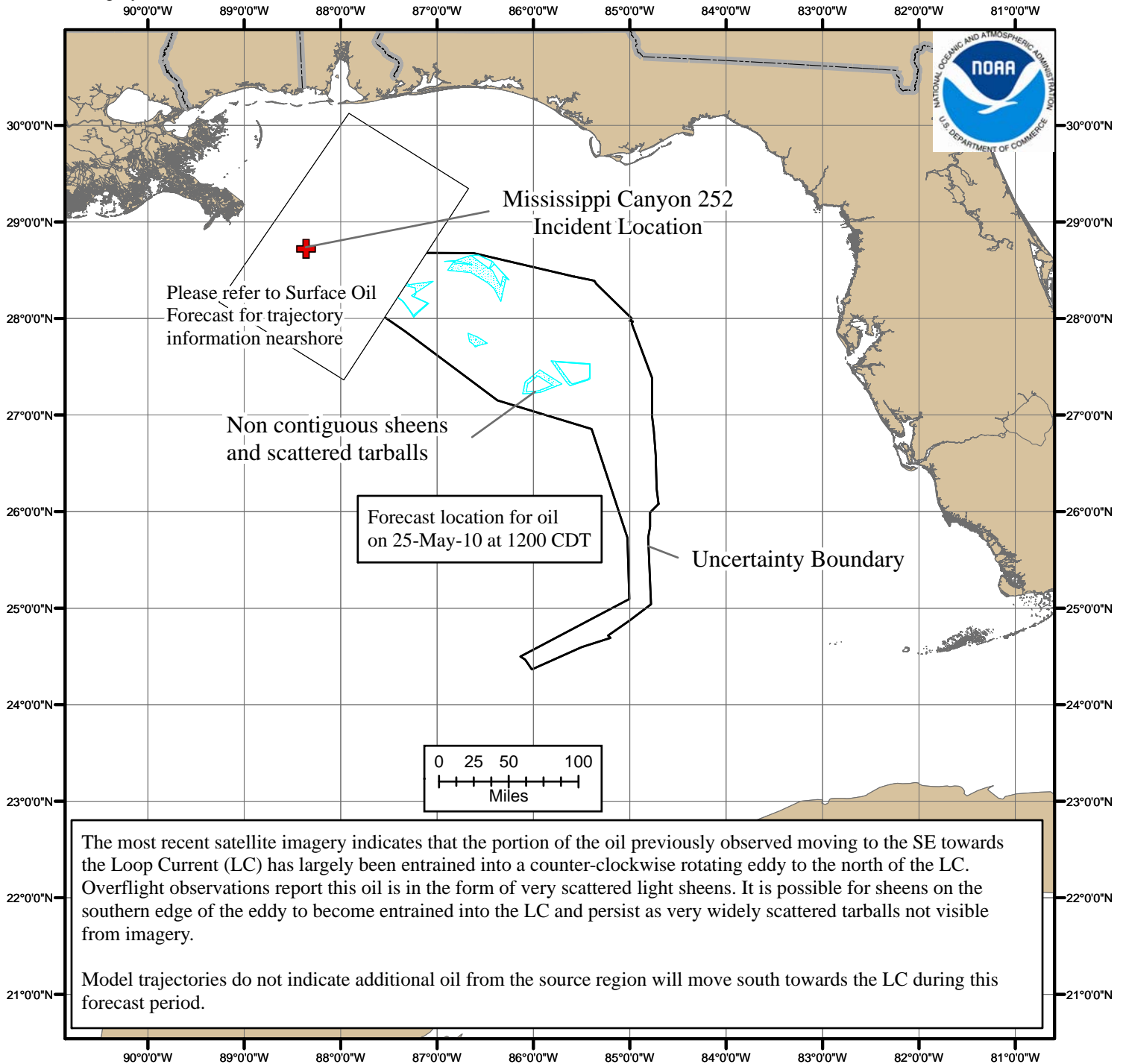
Offshore Surface Oil Forecast Mississippi Canyon 252

NOAA/NOS/OR&R

Offshore

Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Tuesday, 5/25/10
Date Prepared: 2100 CDT, Saturday, 5/22/10

This map shows the predicted location of oil that has potentially entered the loop current. 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. The model was initialized from Saturday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and observations from a Saturday overflights. The leading edge may contain tarballs that are not readily observable from the imagery (hence not included in the model initialization).



The most recent satellite imagery indicates that the portion of the oil previously observed moving to the SE towards the Loop Current (LC) has largely been entrained into a counter-clockwise rotating eddy to the north of the LC. Overflight observations report this oil is in the form of very scattered light sheens. It is possible for sheens on the southern edge of the eddy to become entrained into the LC and persist as very widely scattered tarballs not visible from imagery.

Model trajectories do not indicate additional oil from the source region will move south towards the LC during this forecast period.



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

Next Forecast:
May 23rd PM