

THE EFFECTS OF THE DEEP WATER HORIZON OIL SPILL ON THE GULF COAST

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APRIL 21, 2010: DEEPWATER HORIZON EXPLODES

















An aerial photograph showing a coastline. The land on the left is a dark, textured surface, possibly a forest or a field. The water on the right is a lighter, textured surface. A small, dark object is visible in the water near the coast. In the top right corner, there is a small, dark rectangular object. A date stamp is located in the bottom right corner.

05/07/2010





In a Wednesday, May 19, 2010 photo, Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser and La. Gov. Bobby Jindal tour through the Roseau Grasses that mark the coastline of Southeast Louisiana at Pass a Loutre at the mouth of the Mississippi River where oil has washed ashore. (AP Photo/The Times-Picayune, Ted Jackson)



West of the Pensacola Beach
Gulf Fishing Pier the beaches
along the 1000 block of Fort
Pickens Road are covered
with oil Wednesday afternoon,
6/23/2010.
(Bruce
Graner/bgraner@pnj.com)

The state's emergency
management site posted this
photo of a tar mat about 75
yards long and 12 feet wide,
spotted today in the Ono
Island channel in the Perdido
Bay area. (Florida
Department of Emergency
Management)



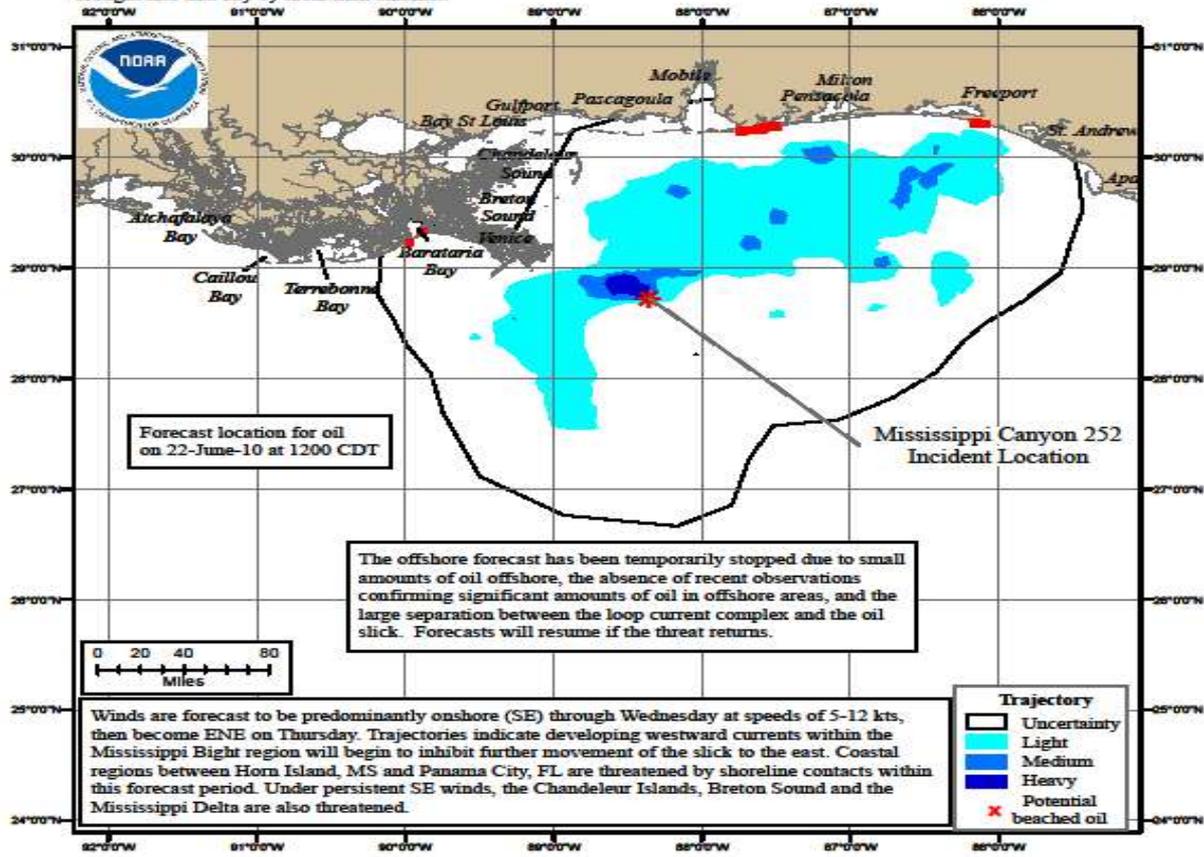
Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast Deepwater Horizon MC252

NOAA/NOS/OR&R

Nearshore

Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Tuesday, 6/22/10
Date Prepared: 2100 CDT, Monday, 6/21/10

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Monday, June 21 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (West Florida Shelf/USE, TGLO/TAMU, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Sunday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and Monday 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.



Forecast location for oil on 22-June-10 at 1200 CDT

Mississippi Canyon 252 Incident Location

The offshore forecast has been temporarily stopped due to small amounts of oil offshore, the absence of recent observations confirming significant amounts of oil in offshore areas, and the large separation between the loop current complex and the oil slick. Forecasts will resume if the threat returns.

0 20 40 80 Miles

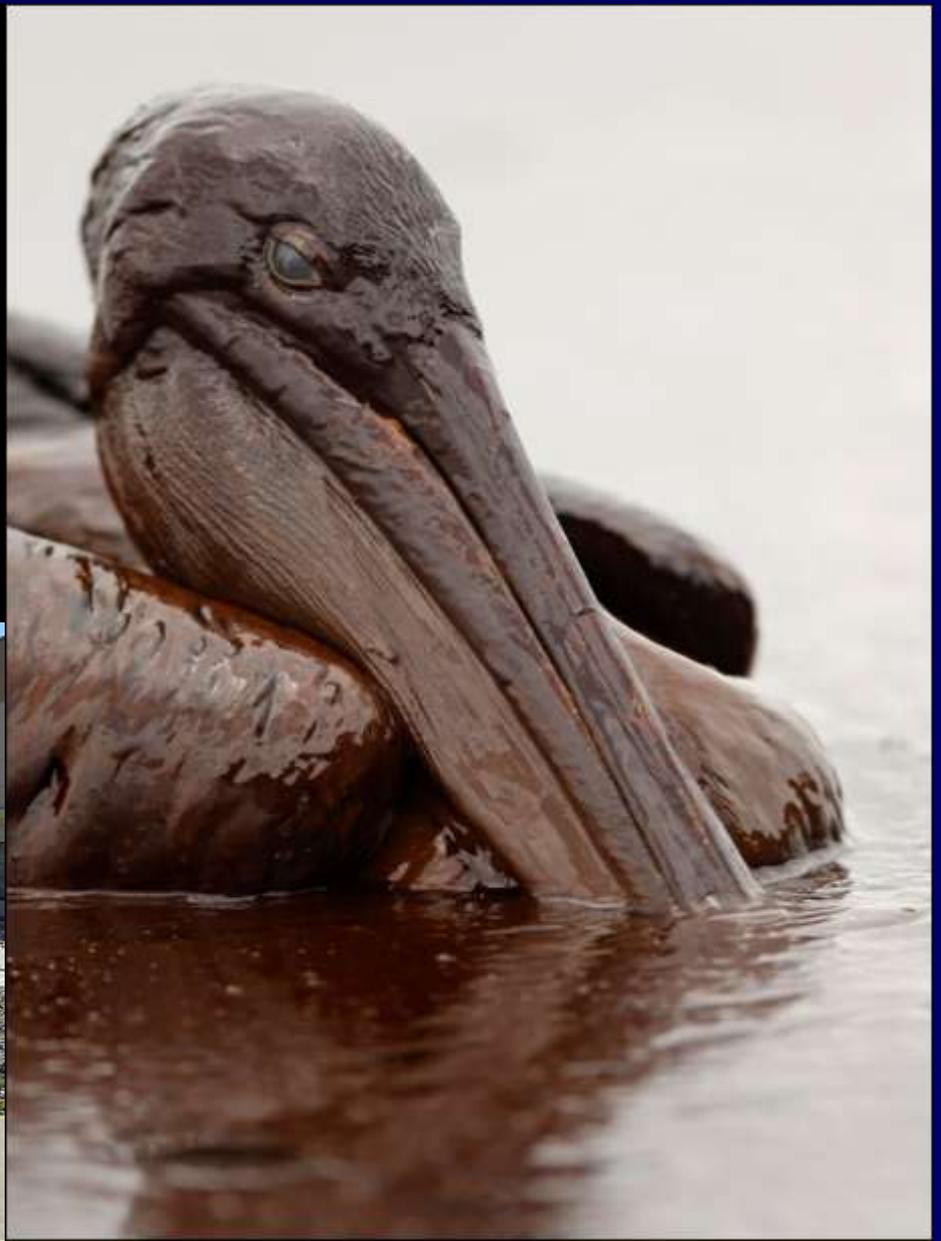
Winds are forecast to be predominantly onshore (SE) through Wednesday at speeds of 5-12 kts, then become ENE on Thursday. Trajectories indicate developing westward currents within the Mississippi Bight region will begin to inhibit further movement of the slick to the east. Coastal regions between Horn Island, MS and Panama City, FL are threatened by shoreline contacts within this forecast period. Under persistent SE winds, the Chandeleur Islands, Breton Sound and the Mississippi Delta are also threatened.

Trajectory
 [White Box] Uncertainty
 [Light Blue Box] Light
 [Medium Blue Box] Medium
 [Dark Blue Box] Heavy
 [Red X] Potential beached oil



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

Next Forecast: June 22nd PM





Families Awaiting Word, April 22, 2010

http://photos.al.com/mobile-press-register/2010/04/waiting_for_word_1.html

http://photos.al.com/mobile-press-register/2010/04/emotional_news.html



THE IMPACTS OF THE BP SPILL

- Regional Economic
- Community Social Capital
- Family Stability
- Individual Mental & Physical Health

CONTESTED IMPACTS OF THE BP SPILL

- 185 million gallons?
- 2 million gallons of dispersants?
- Agonizing claims process?
- Community, family and mental health impacts?
- Seafood safety?

Present Sociological Impacts: Formation of Corrosive Communities

- Anger expressed at public meetings
- Marginalization of groups due to the VOO Program/overt conflict
- Increase in police calls over 100%
- Increase in calls to local mental health agencies
- Increase in DUI arrests
- Increase in domestic violence
- Increase health concerns

Documentation of Economic Impacts

- Severe and serious for identified seasonal high-risk groups
 - Commercial fisher, charter boat operators, shrimpers, oyster harvesters, restaurant owners, real estate employees, souvenir shop owners, etc., etc.
- Restaurants down 50-75%
- Hotels, condos, cottages down 50-75%
- Fishing/shrimping grounds closed

Economic Impacts, (cont.)

- Estimates of losses for Gulf Coast communities = 10 billion dollars or more
- Loss of tax revenues for communities
- BP claims process confusing and slow
- Hundreds of communities and millions of people are being impacted

Present Mental Health Impacts

- Severe depression documented across the Gulf Coast up 25%
- Problems especially acute for minority communities, e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodian's and African-American
- Crying and anxiety documented
- Helplessness and fear for losing vessels, homes and businesses
- Suicide of boat captain on 65th day/Navarre resident, June 17

QUOTES

“It’s not like Katrina, where we can say in a year or two or maybe three we will get our lives back together. Right now...It’s if we are never going to get our lives back together.”

St. Bernard Parish Resident USA

Today, June 18.

QUOTES (CONT.)

“I just cry all the time. I can’t stop. My husband now works on the clean-up because he cannot shrimp. We have not talked to each other in a month. I do not think our marriage will survive the spill.”

Venice, LA resident,

June 22

LITIGATION

- Over 350 lawsuits filed
- Complex and long term litigation will result
- Escrow account is a legal strategy
- Waiver to litigate necessary for claimants
- Contested “science” will emerge

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SURVEY

- 26.6% may move
- 70.2% avoided beach
- 25.8% income decreased
- 40.0% feel they were exposed to oil/dispersants
- 32.6% children have physical health problems

NSF SURVEY

- PTSD higher in South Mobile County than Alaska
- Economic and Health Concerns Predict PTSD
- Research Documents Serious Mental Health Problems from BP Spill

SUMMARY

- Community, social and psychological impacts are serious and will be long-term (2-10 years)
- Outreach mitigation strategies have begun
- These include peer listener training, refocus of post-Katrina volunteer/faith-based organizations, and project rebound.

CONCLUSIONS

- Over 400 peer listeners have been trained
- Listeners are helpers trained in communication, observation and resource facilitation
- Listeners support distressed victims and have referral skills
- Start therapeutic cycle
- Long-term challenge for coastal communities.