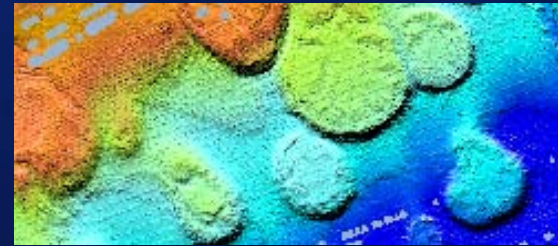


# DWH – RESPONSE MODELING ACTIVITIES?

## DOES THAT INFORM MODELING FOR THE ARCTIC?

NOAA  
National Ocean Service  
Office of Response and Restoration  
Emergency Response Division



# Overview of Modeling Activities to Support Response

Tactical (72 hour) forecasts - surface

5 day outlook/2-week forecast

Operations 48 hour forecast - subsurface

Statistical Analysis

## Considerations for Success

Coordination of observations and forecasting/modeling

Planning/Engagement prior to incident

## Continuing Challenges

Data and model assimilation/integration

Deep blowout dynamics/droplet size distribution

NOAA Update: Science Advisory Board  
Understanding and communicating uncertainty

# Acknowledgements

Many thanks for slides and modeling work provided by:

- Members of OR&R modeling team (Glen Watabayashi, Amy MacFadyen, Chris Barker, CJ Beegle-Krause, Jerry Galt)
- Other NOAA Modeling Support (Rich Patchen, Lyon Lanerolle, Scott Cross, NWS)
- Hydrodynamic Model Contributors (NOAA, Navy, USF, UNC, TAMU . . .)
- Other operational modeling support (Sintef, Clarkson University, ASA)

# Continuum of “Response”

Response

Restoration -  
Recovery



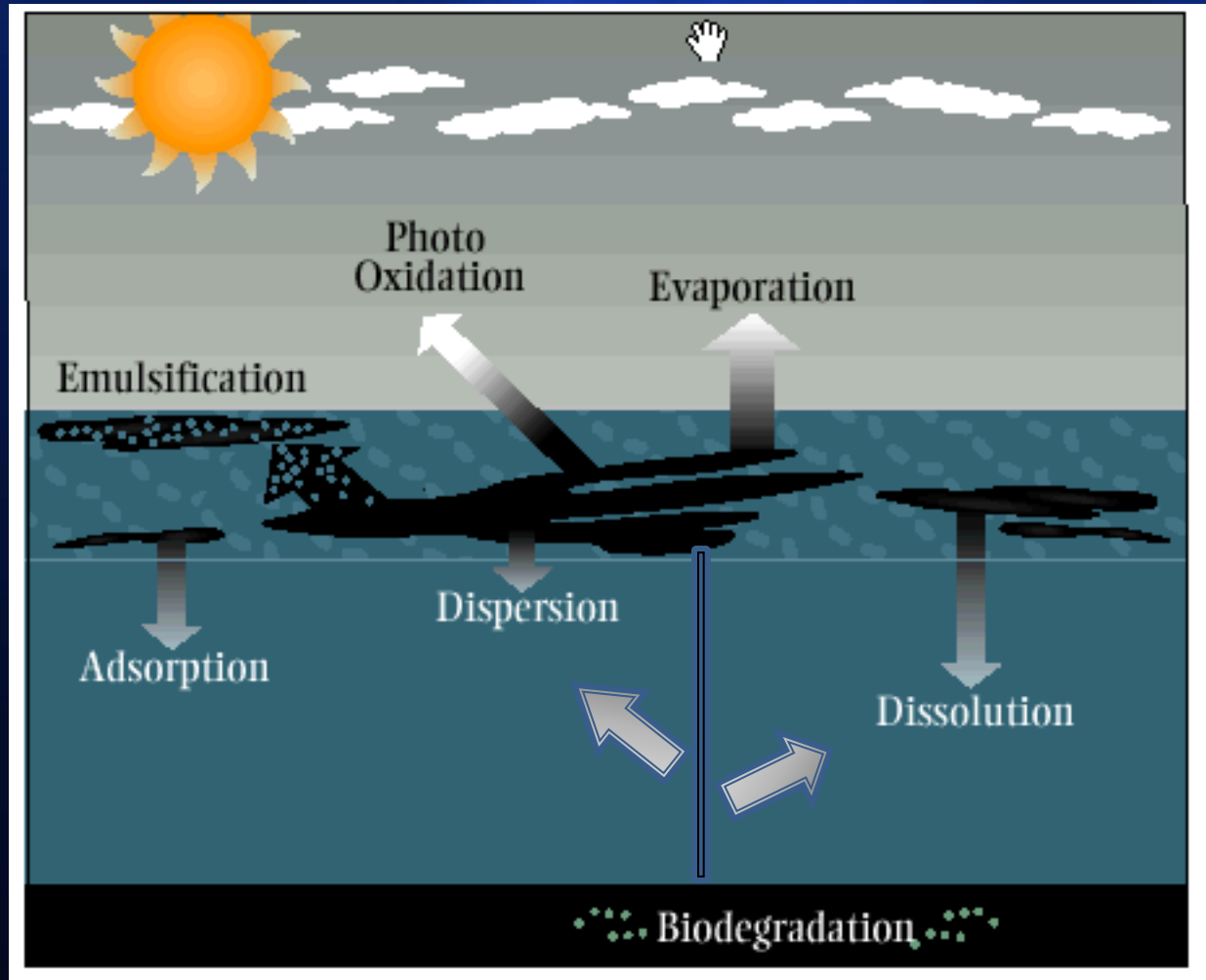
# Forecasting vs Modeling

Trajectory Analysis is using the observed data and model information to develop a forecast of oil movement over some period of time.

Models are used to track movement of particles that behave like air (weather models), water (hydrodynamic models) or oil (trajectory model).

For modeling the Deepwater Horizon MC-252 oil, the trajectory model GNOME (General NOAA Operational Modeling Environment) was used with observational data and weather and hydro model as input.

# Weathering – Oil Fate

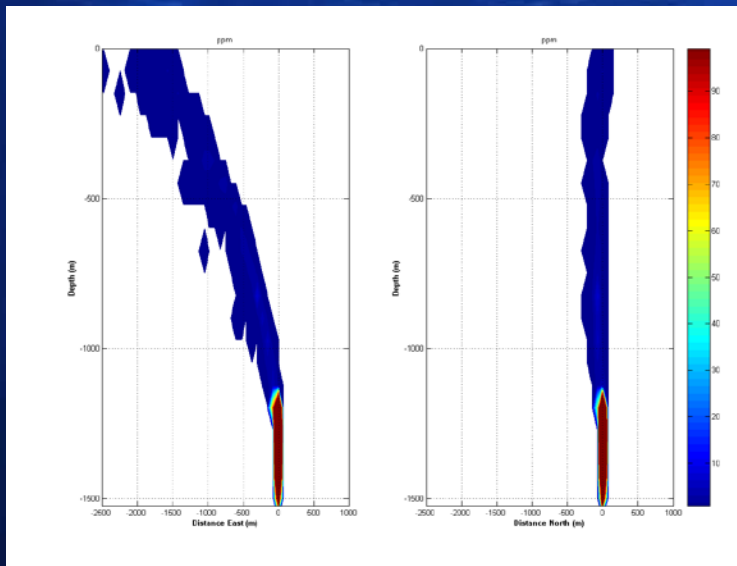


# Plume Dynamics

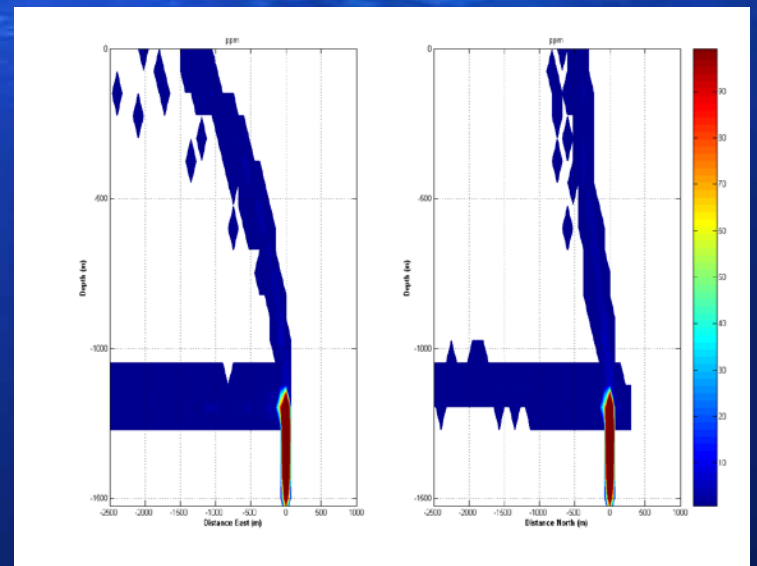
Clarkson Deepwater Oil and Gas blowout model (C-DOG)

Sintef Deep Blow

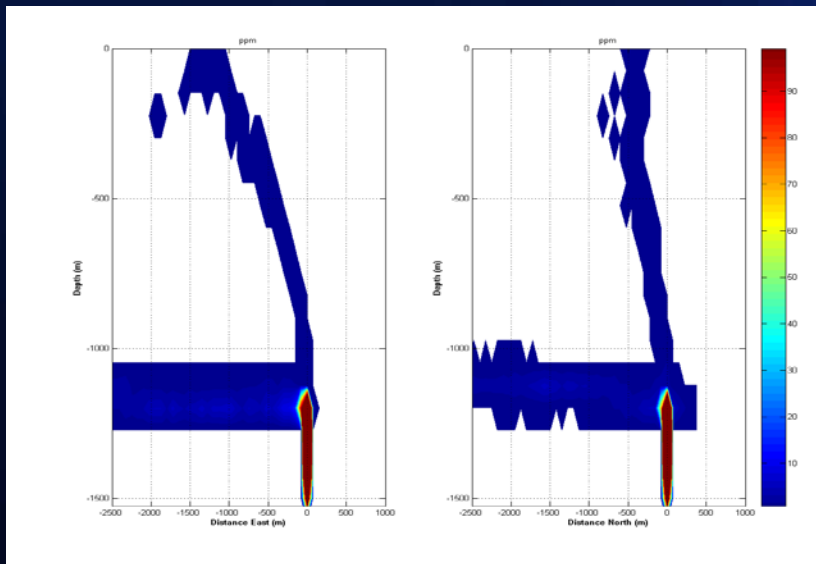
1. Plume escapes from well head with thermal and mechanical buoyancy dominating
2. Near plume separation, droplet buoyancy dominates movement; small particles (<60 microns) stay in deep layer (1000-1300m), large particles rise quickly (>1 millimeter)



**No dispersant case**



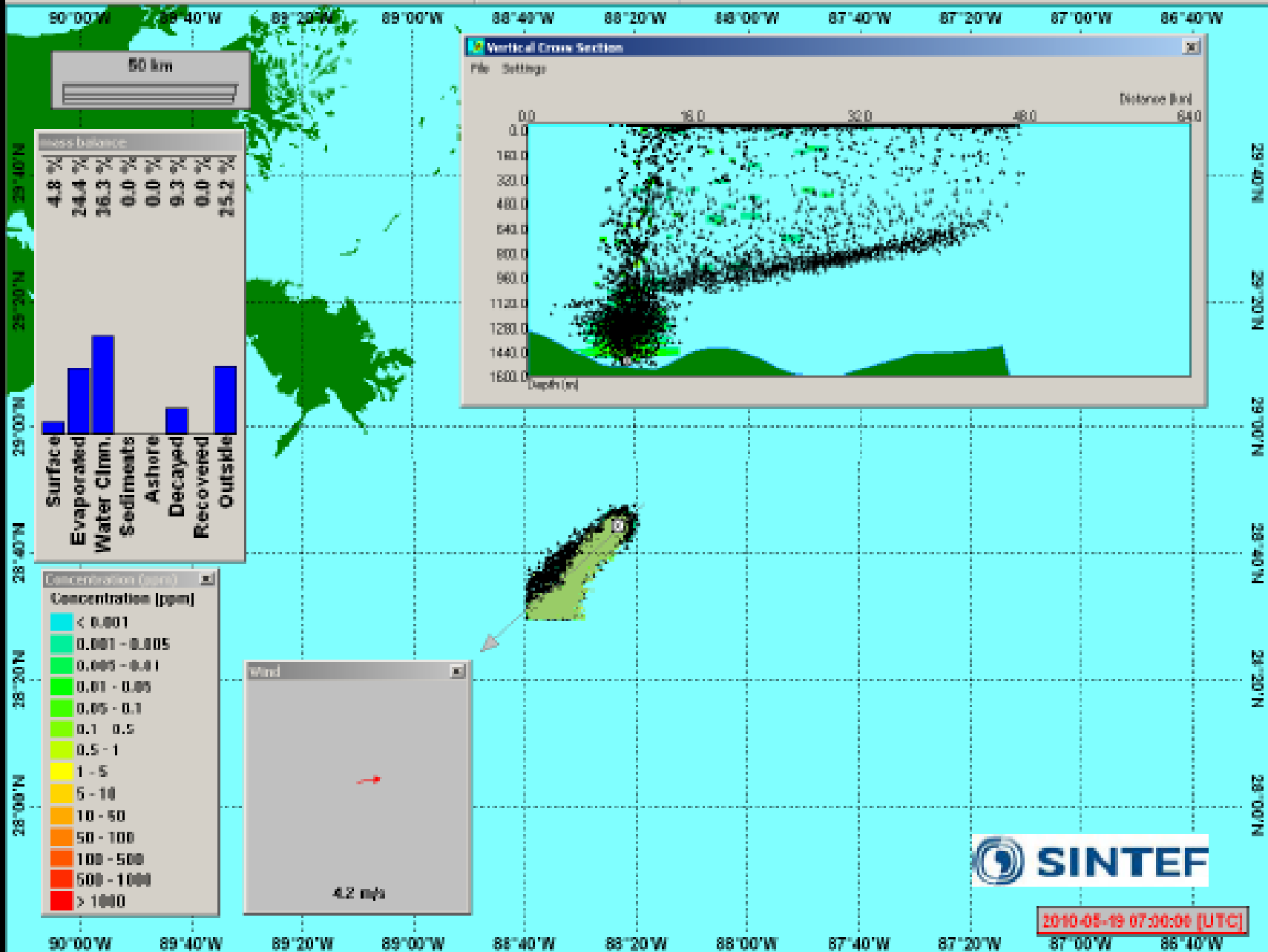
**20% dispersed case**

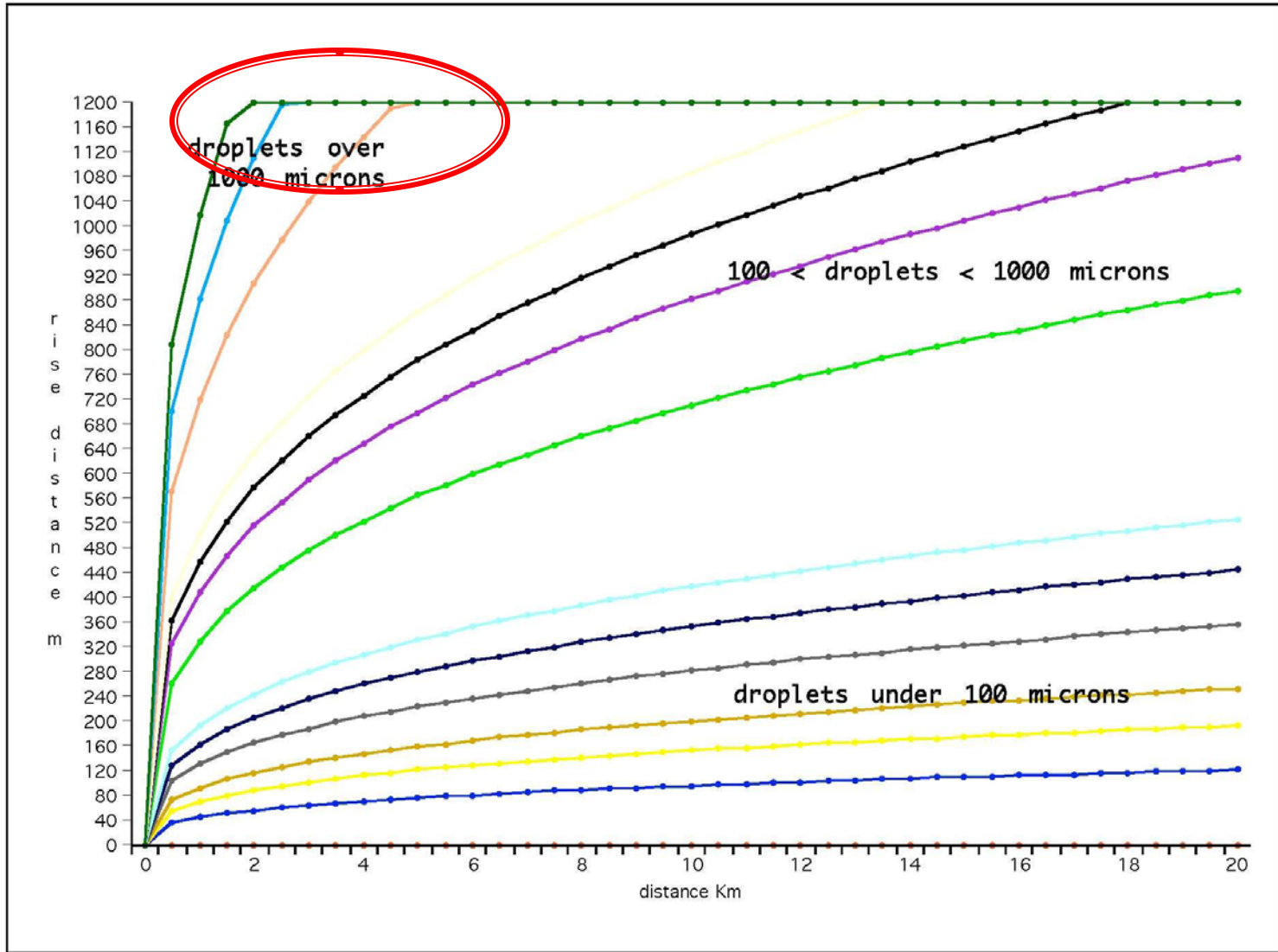


**70% dispersed case**

**CDOG  
modeling done  
in May**







# What are the daily steps?

Review model data (currents, wind)

Review observational data (currents, winds, oil distribution)

Put relevant information together in GNOME

Run model, review and distribute results

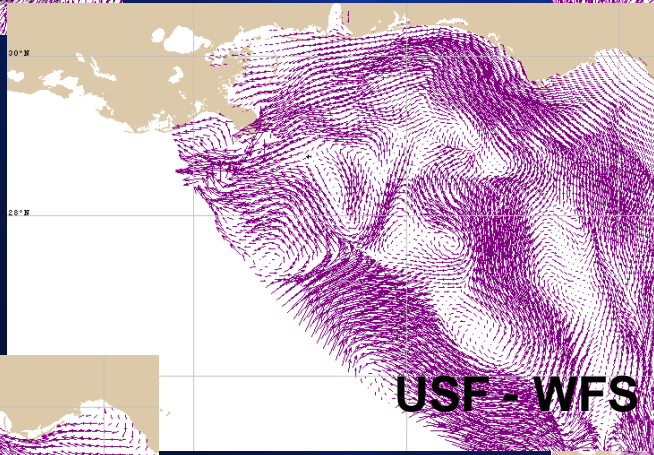
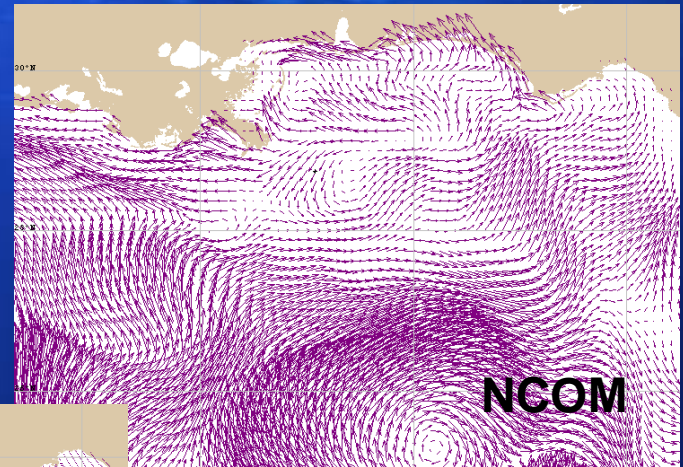
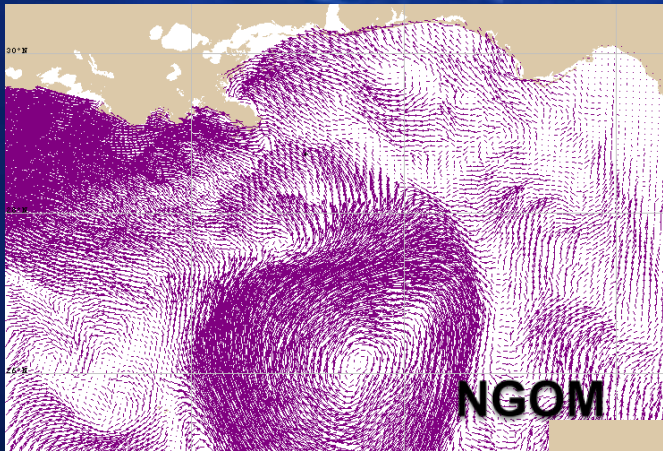
# Where do the modeled currents come from?

Several models are reviewed daily for both coastal and offshore areas

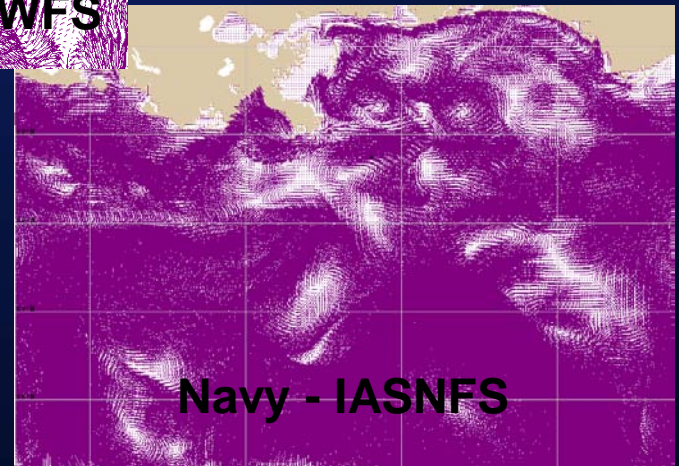
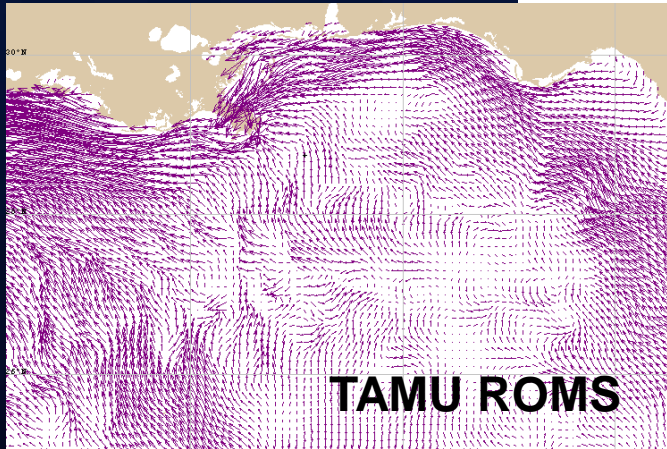
Each model is suited more for some circumstances than others (i.e., some do better on the shelf, some are better for offshore)

The model best suited for the conditions of the forecast period is selected as the primary current model for that day; the other models are used to help derive the “uncertainty” bound.

**\*\*What current models exist for the Arctic?**



SABGOM – Univ. of NC  
Navy Layered Ocean Model  
(NLOM)



# Where did the observed currents come from?

Moored ADCPs

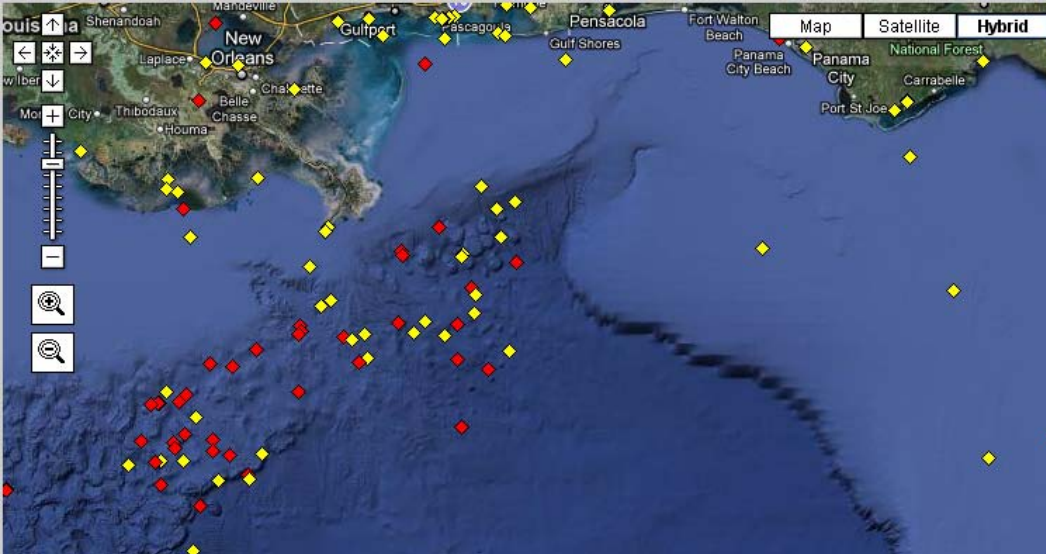
Fast Eddy2 Vessel

HF Radar (Alabama)

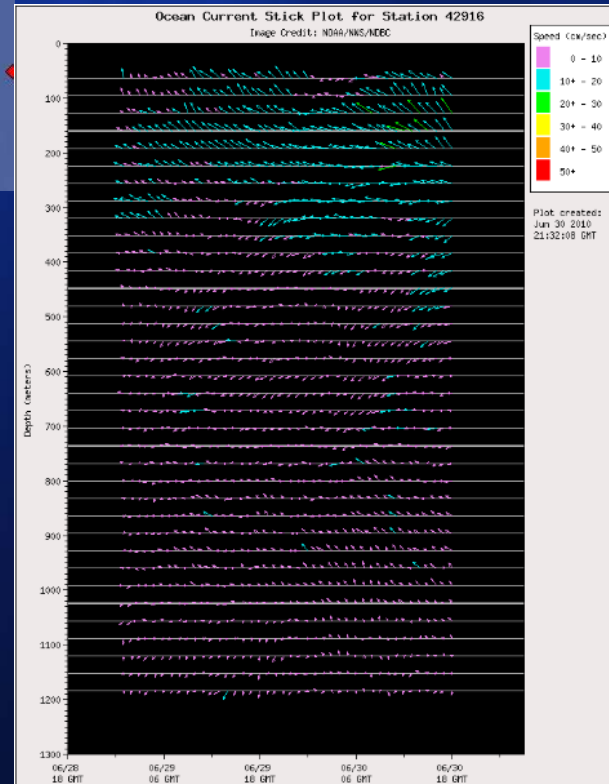
Satellite SSH and SST analysis

Drifters

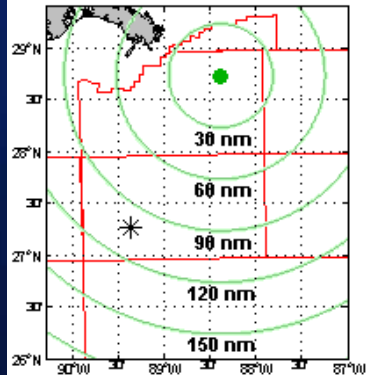
TABS Buoys



# Development Drill 3 Discoverer Enterprise (both BP)



MOORED ADCPs

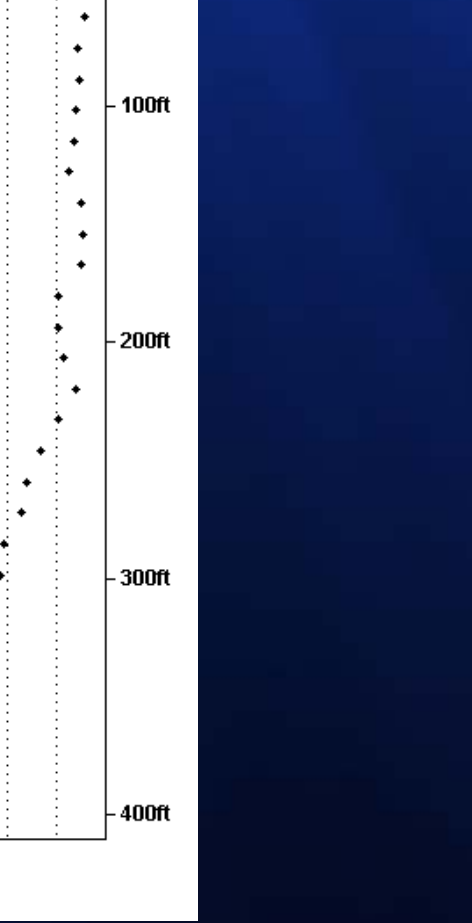
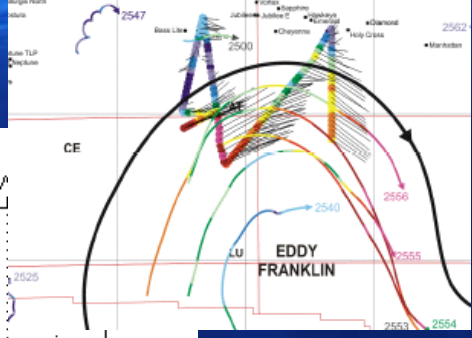
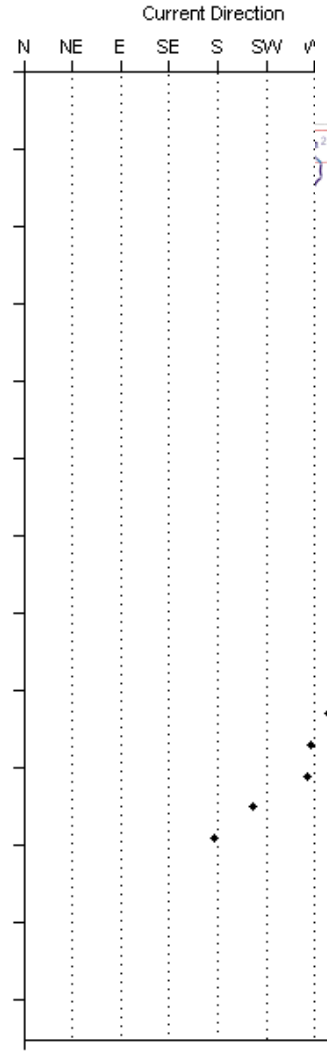
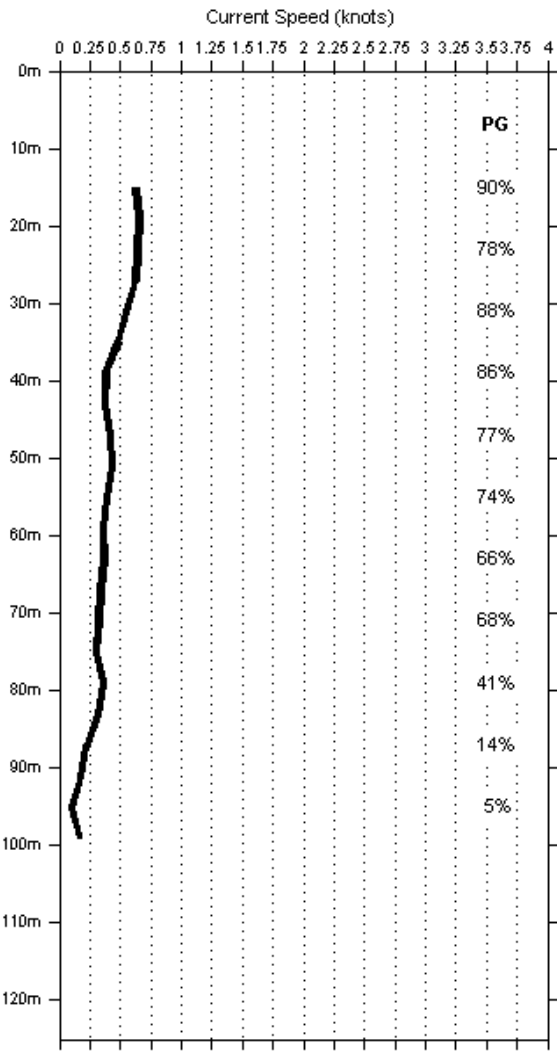


30-Jun-2010 15:01:28  
27.27N -89.38W

BP,  
FAST Eddy 2  
150 kHz ADCP

chart created: 30-Jun-2010 15:56:42

Horizon Marine, Inc.  
15 Creek Road  
Marion, MA 02738  
www.horizonmarine.com



FAST EDDY 2

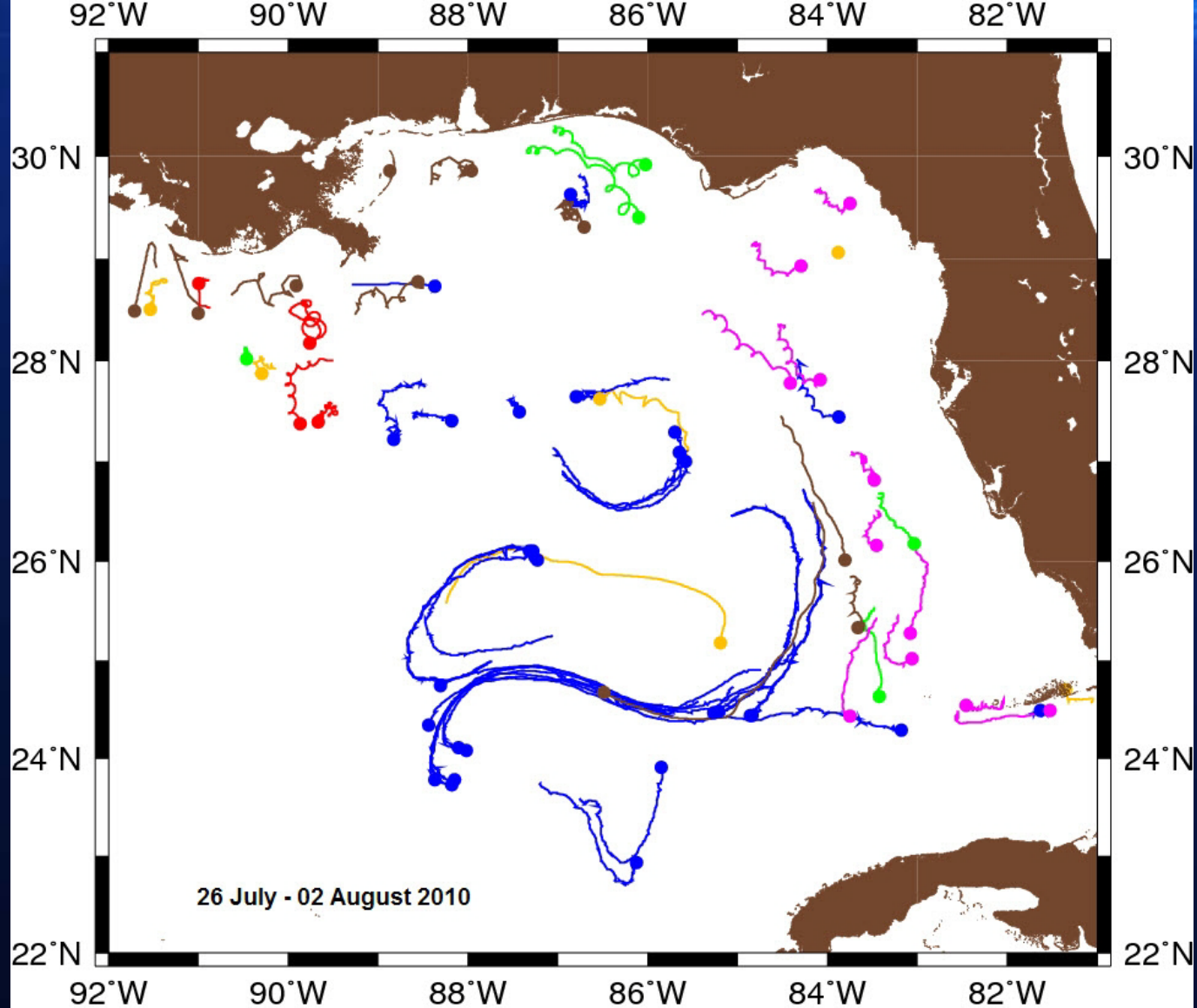
Funded by BP – vessel constantly transiting northern edge of Loop Current (Eddy Franklin)



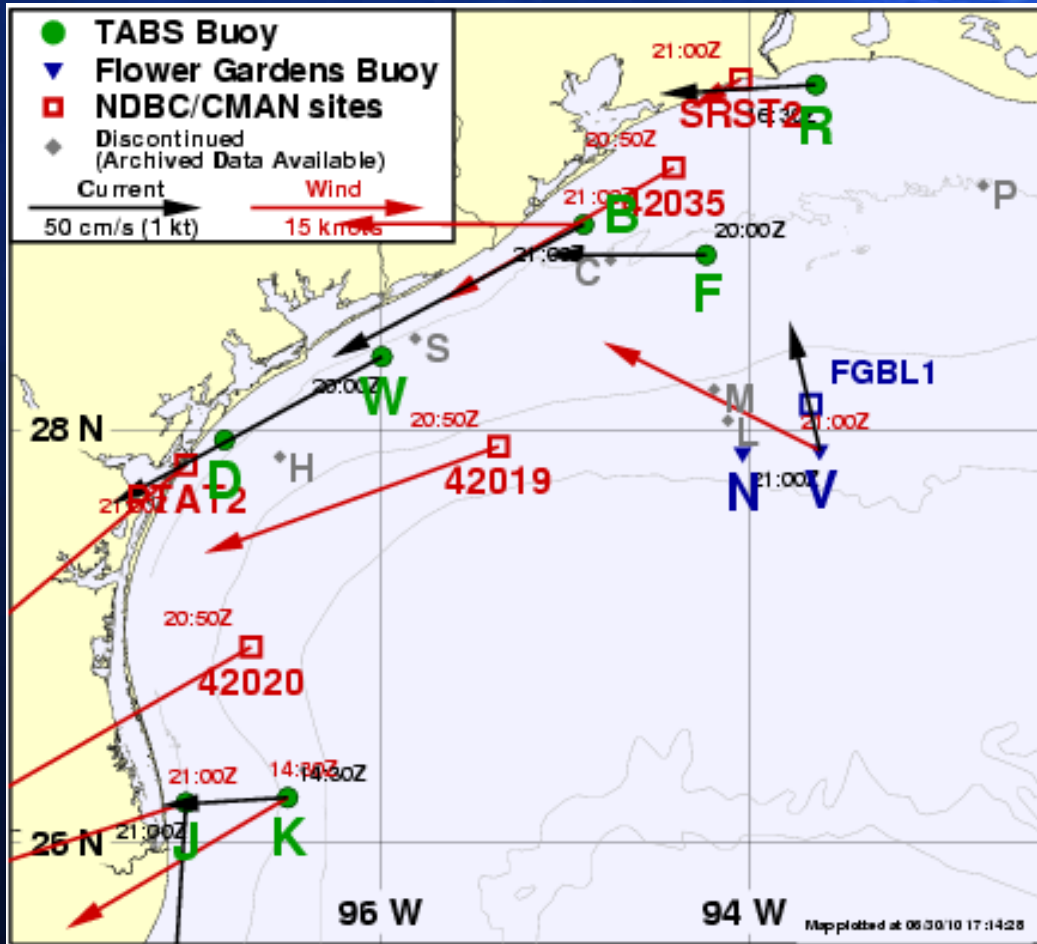


Surface Currents  
NOAA/IOOS

HF RADAR

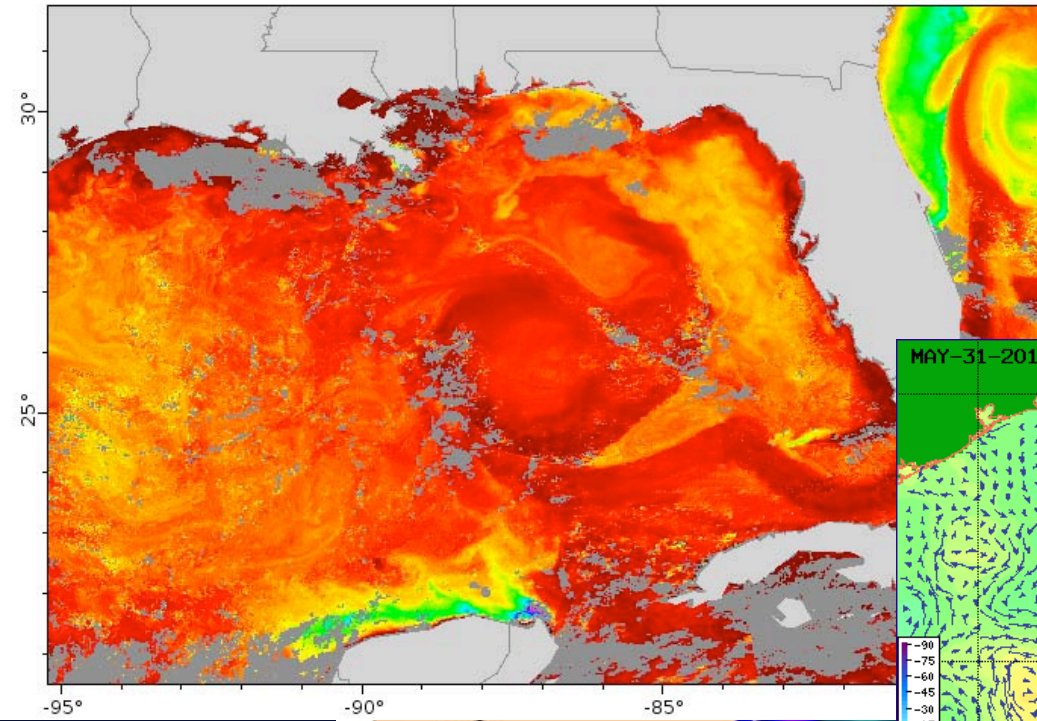


- source (number of drifters in GoMex)
- Naval Oceanographic Office (4)
  - Coast Guard (5)
  - Horizon Marine (6)
  - NOAA NEFSC (10)
  - University of South Florida (11)
  - NOAA AOML (28)

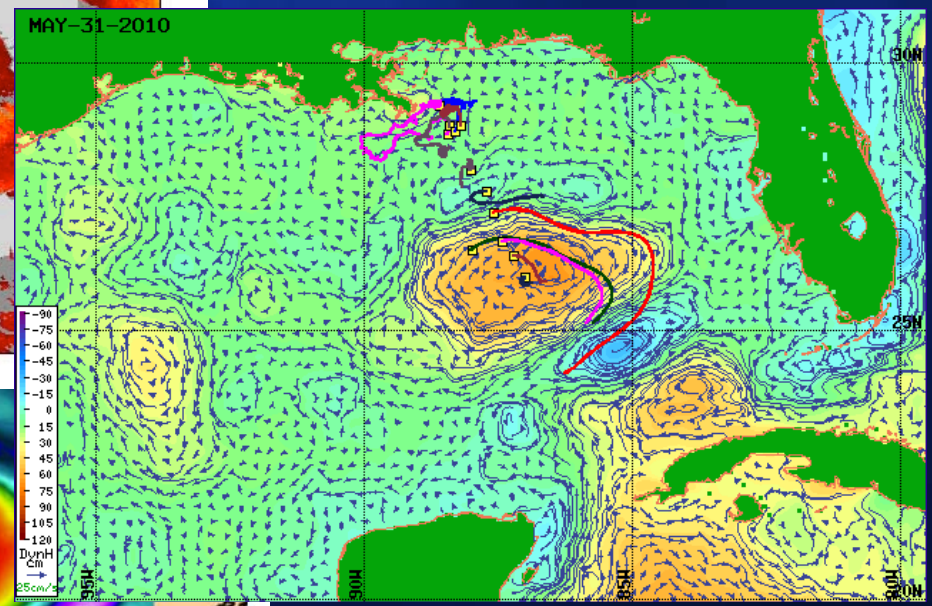


Array of offshore buoys maintained by TGLO, important for monitoring coastal flow off Texas (Buoy R)

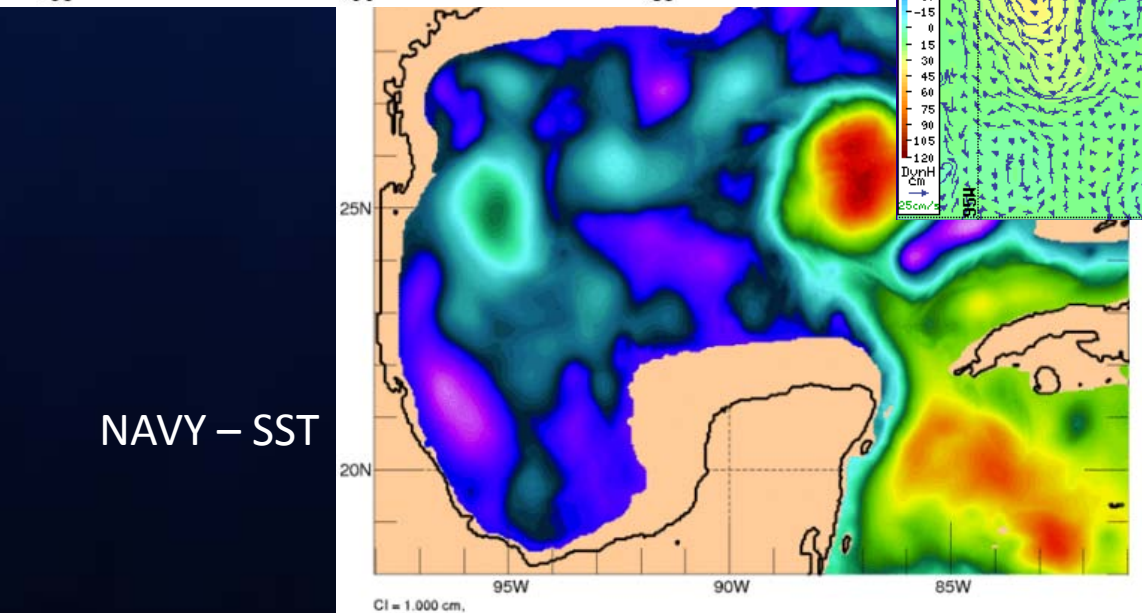
TABS BUOYS



Rutgers - SST

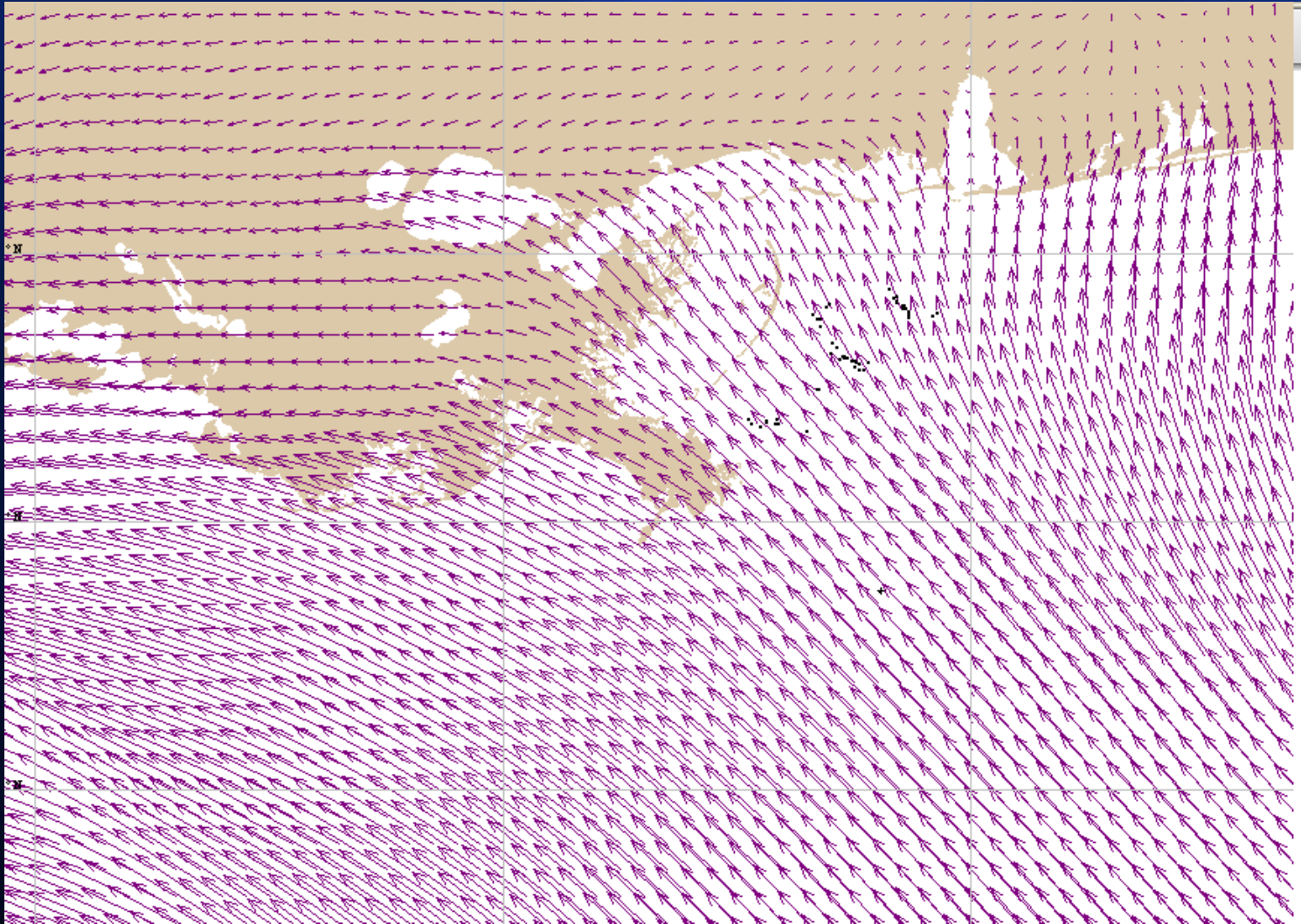


NOAA - SSH



NAVY - SST

# Winds – Modeled and Observed



# Oil Observations

NESDIS Analysis

Daily NOAA Overflights (Venice, Mobile, Clearwater, occasionally Houma)

Antectodal information from other aerial observer overflights

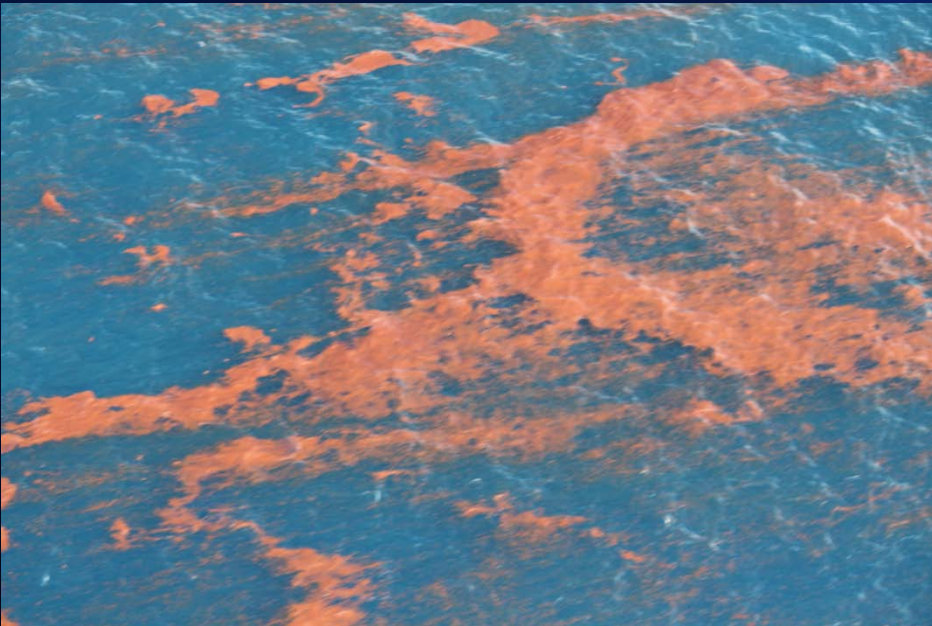
ASPECT reports

Dash-8 SLAR

Ocean Imaging flight data

Ship Observations (email)





# NESDIS

Analysis of images from several different satellites.

Analysts throw out anomalies that are inconsistent with observations or physical drivers. When requested, analysts provide input on areas where no anomalies are observed (i.e., Florida Shelf). Footprint surrounds anomolous area.

Cannot differentiate between what is “oil” and what is sheen. All will appear within the footprint. If oil does not sheen (i.e., tarballs or highly weathered patches) it will not show up.



# EXPERIMENTAL MARINE POLLUTION SURVEILLANCE REPORT






Analysis Provided by: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NOAA/NESDIS)

REPORT DATE: June 30, 2010  
 REPORT TIME: 1605Z (1105 CDT)  
 ANALYST: WARREN

DATA SOURCE: RADARSAT-1  
 MODE: ScanSAR, HH  
 RESOLUTION: 50 METER  
 IMAGE DATE/TIME: 6/30/2010 1200Z (0700 CDT)

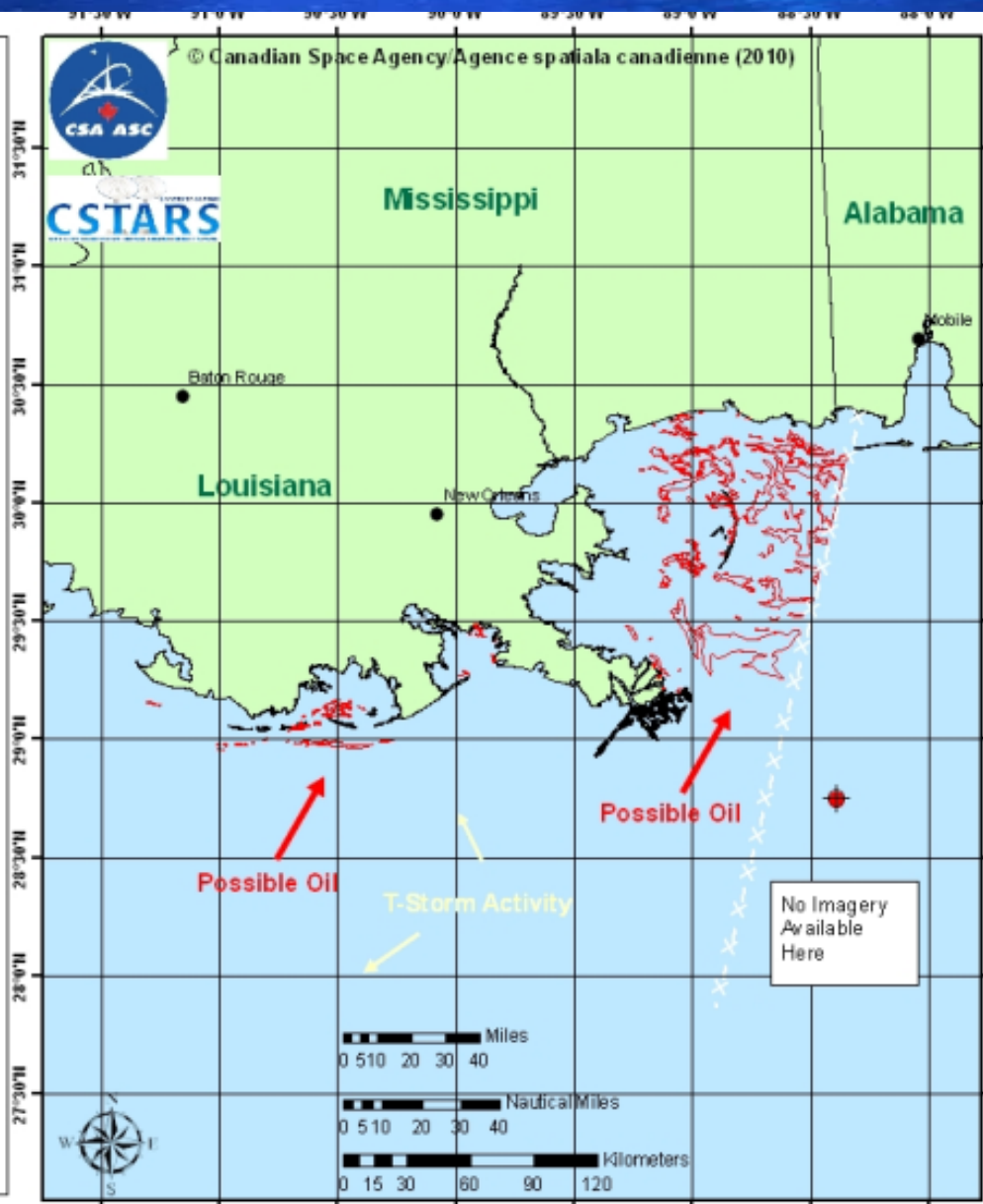
## Legend

-  Possible Oil
-  False-Positives (not oil)
-  Location of Deepwater Horizon Platform:  
[28°44'12" N / 88°23'14" W]

## REMARKS:

Oil was seen west of the Deepwater Horizon spill site in this radar image, with the majority of the oil in and around the Chandeleur and Mississippi Sounds. Oil in these locations has pushed further west and north since yesterday. Heavy rains and t-storms disrupted any ability for the satellite to detect oil around the Bird's Foot of LA and south of Barataria Bay. Some oil was analyzed in Barataria Bay and further to the west in Timbalier and Terrebonne Bays.

This is an experimental product of the Satellite Analysis Branch and not operationally maintained. We will do our best to make it available in a timely manner.



Also available at: [www.ssd.noaa.gov/PS/MPS/deepwater.html](http://www.ssd.noaa.gov/PS/MPS/deepwater.html)

# Next . . . .

All quality data go into the model

Analyst chooses best current model based on matching observational data, most other current models are also run and used as part of the “uncertainty”

Model is run, results are put into distributable standard format

# Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast

NOAA/NOS/OR&R

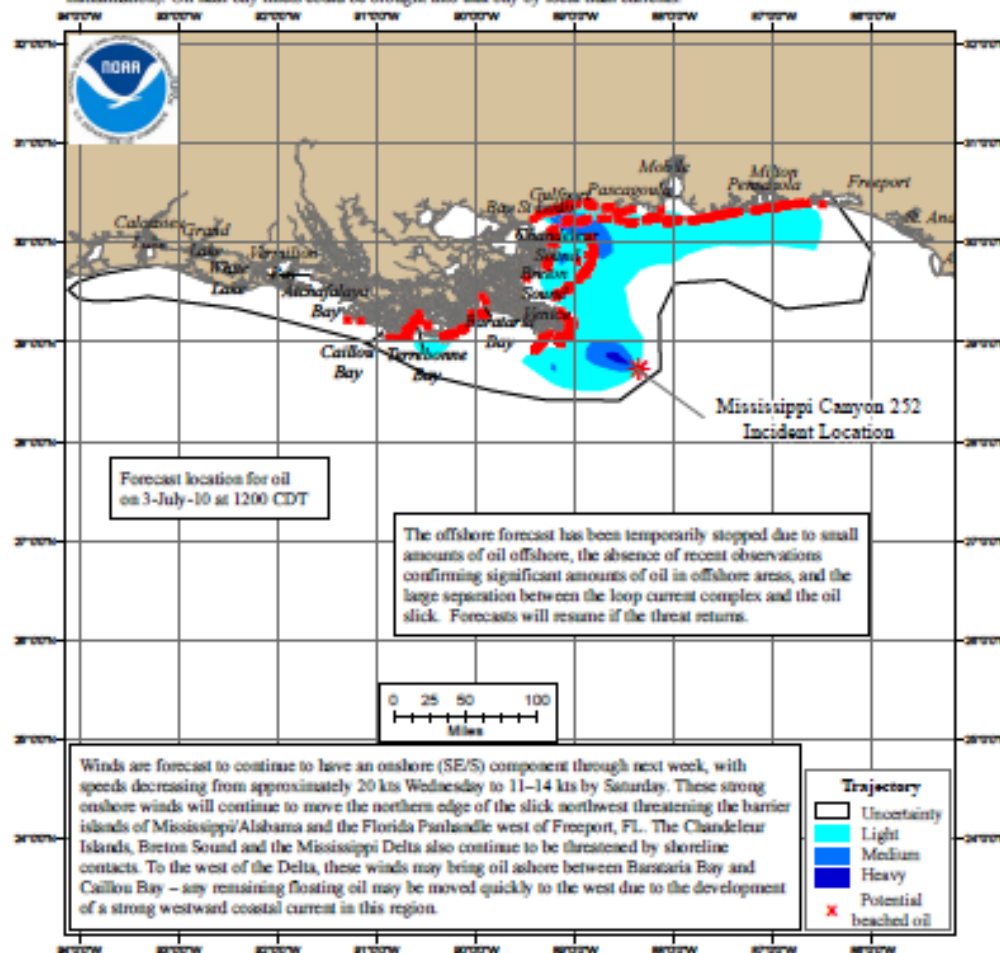
Nearshore

## Deepwater Horizon MC252

Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Saturday, 7/03/10

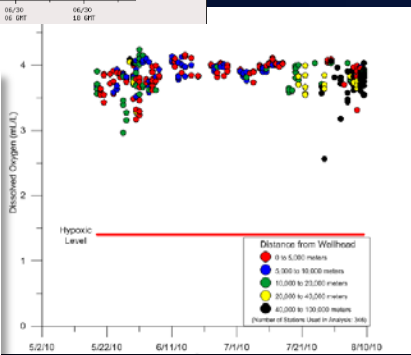
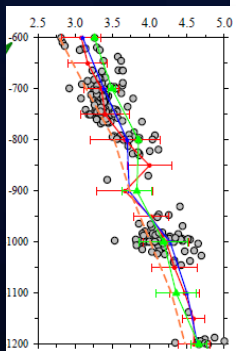
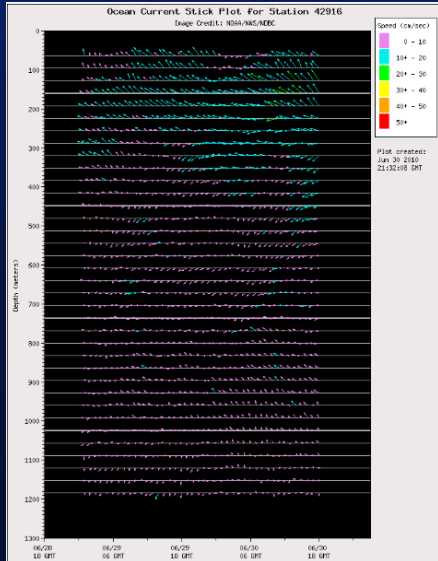
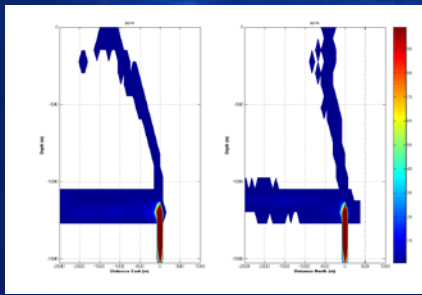
Date Prepared: 2100 CDT, Wednesday, 6/30/10

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Wednesday, June 30 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, TGLO/TAMU, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Tuesday-Wednesday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and Wednesday overflight observations. The leading edge may contain tapholls 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.



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

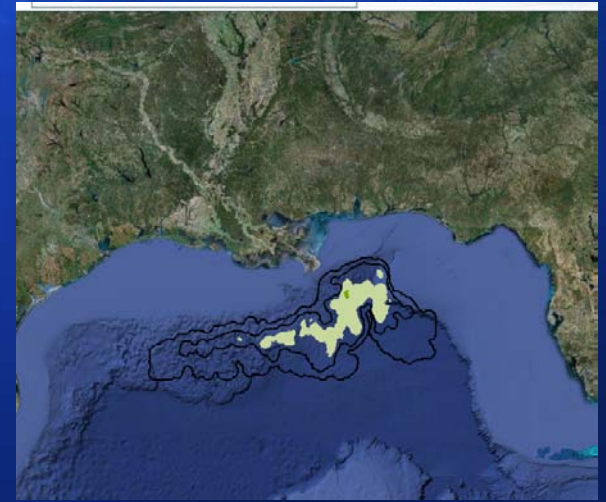
Next Forecast:  
July 1st PM



Modeling

Forecasting

Observations



**Which of these pieces are in place in the Arctic?  
How reliable are they? How accessible are  
they?**

Current models

Wind models and obs

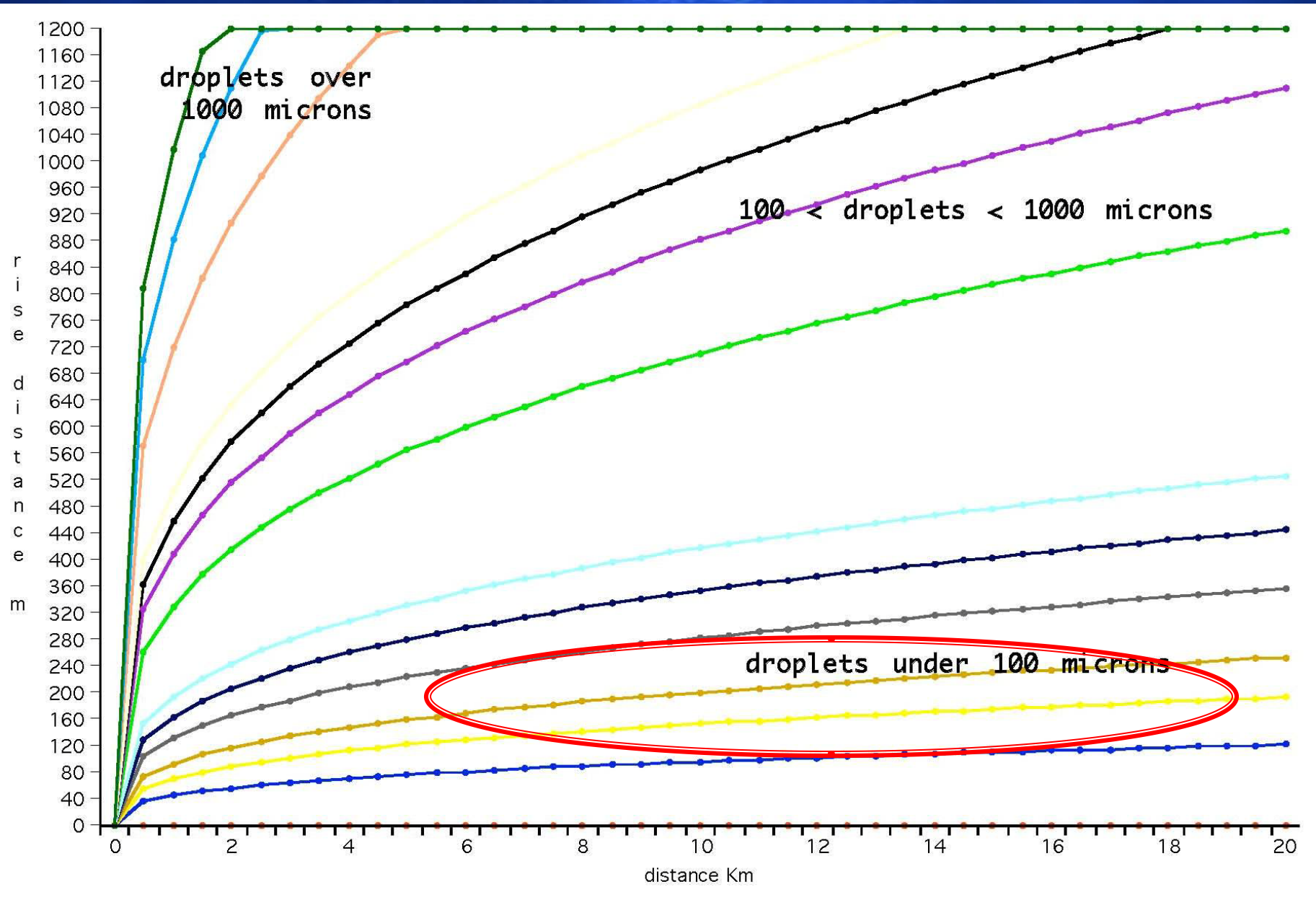
*Ice models/obs (type, coverage, forecast movement)*

Moored ADCPs

HF Radar

Quick-deploy vessels with current profiling and other  
oceanographic equipment

Satellite imagery (interference with ice returns?)



# Key zones in the Gulf of Mexico (Jochens *et al* 2005)

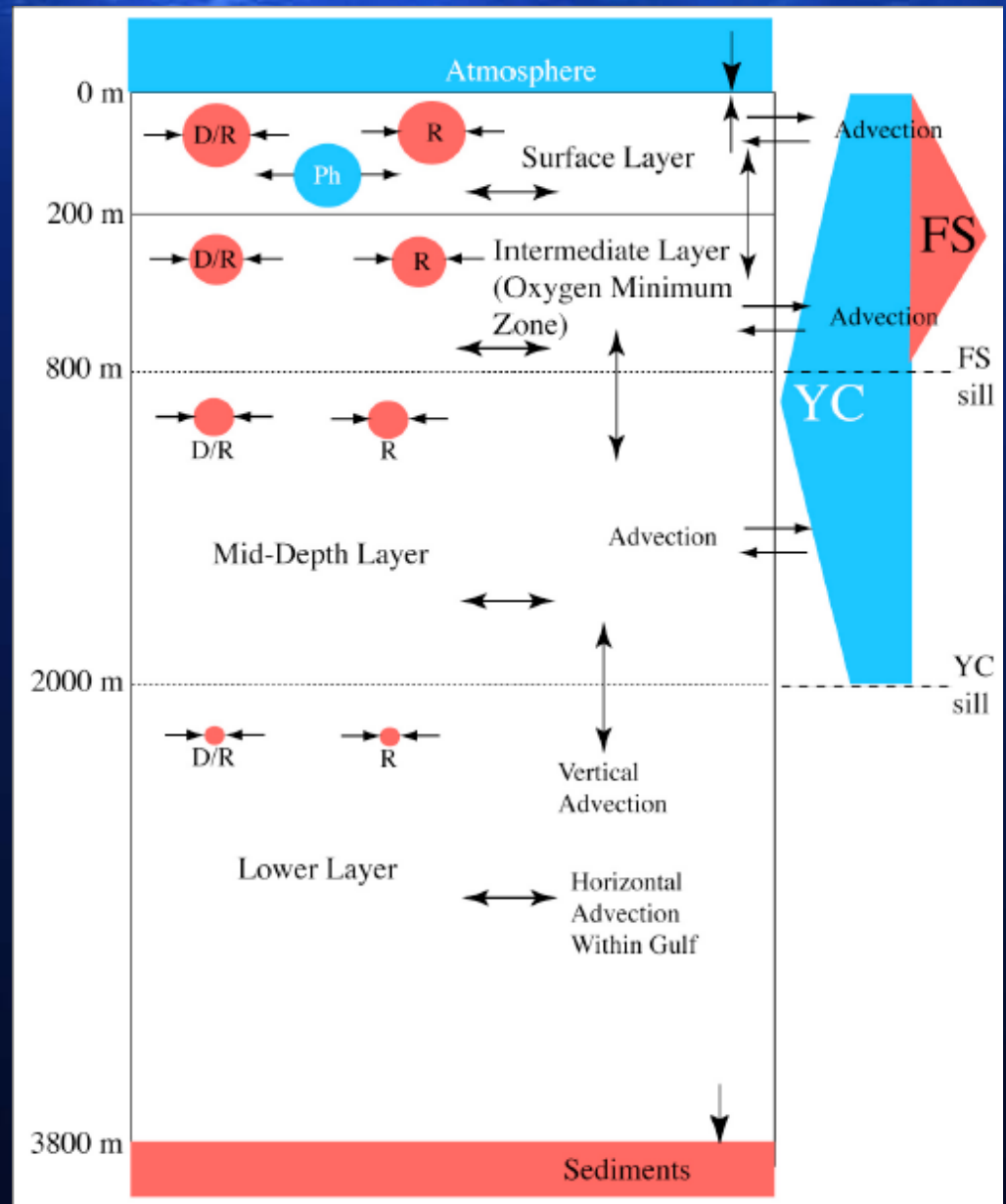
FS = Florida Straits

YC = Yucatan Channel

D/R = Decay and remineralization

R=Respiration

Ph = Photosynthesis



The well is located in  
**Antarctic Intermediate Water (AAIW).**



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image © 2010 TerraMetrics  
Image USDA Farm Service Agency  
Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe

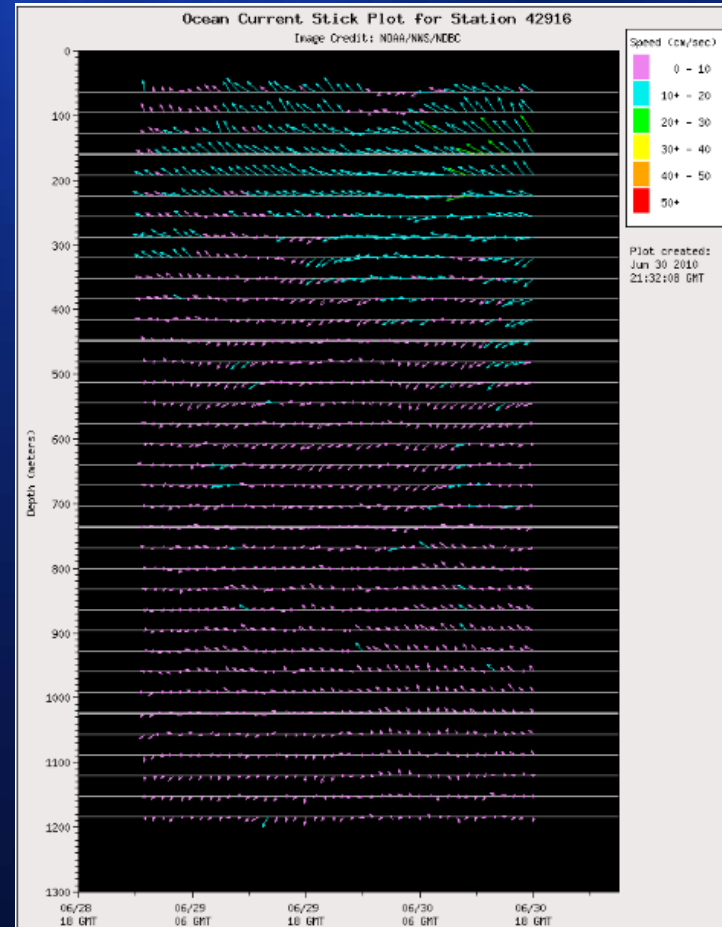
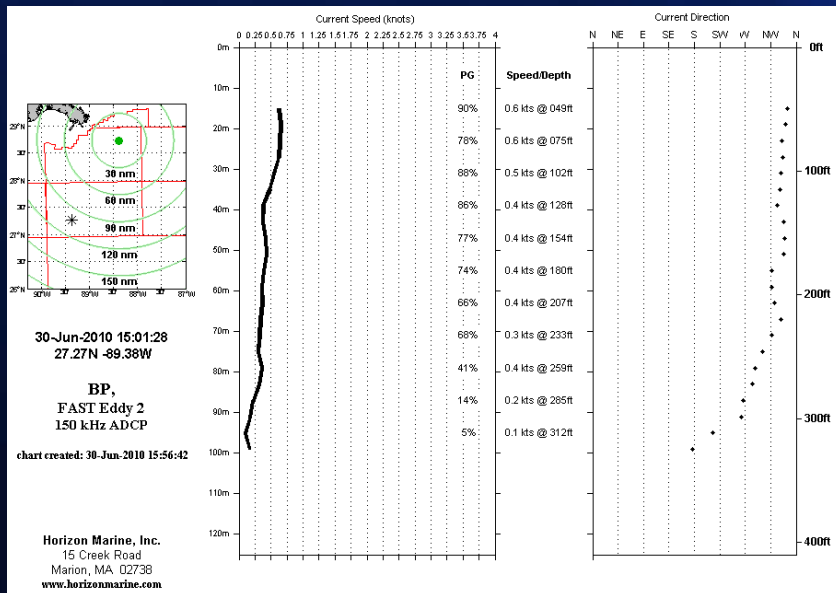
©2009 Google

19°30'45.14" N 59°49'08.05" W elev -14963 ft

Eye alt 2092.22 mi



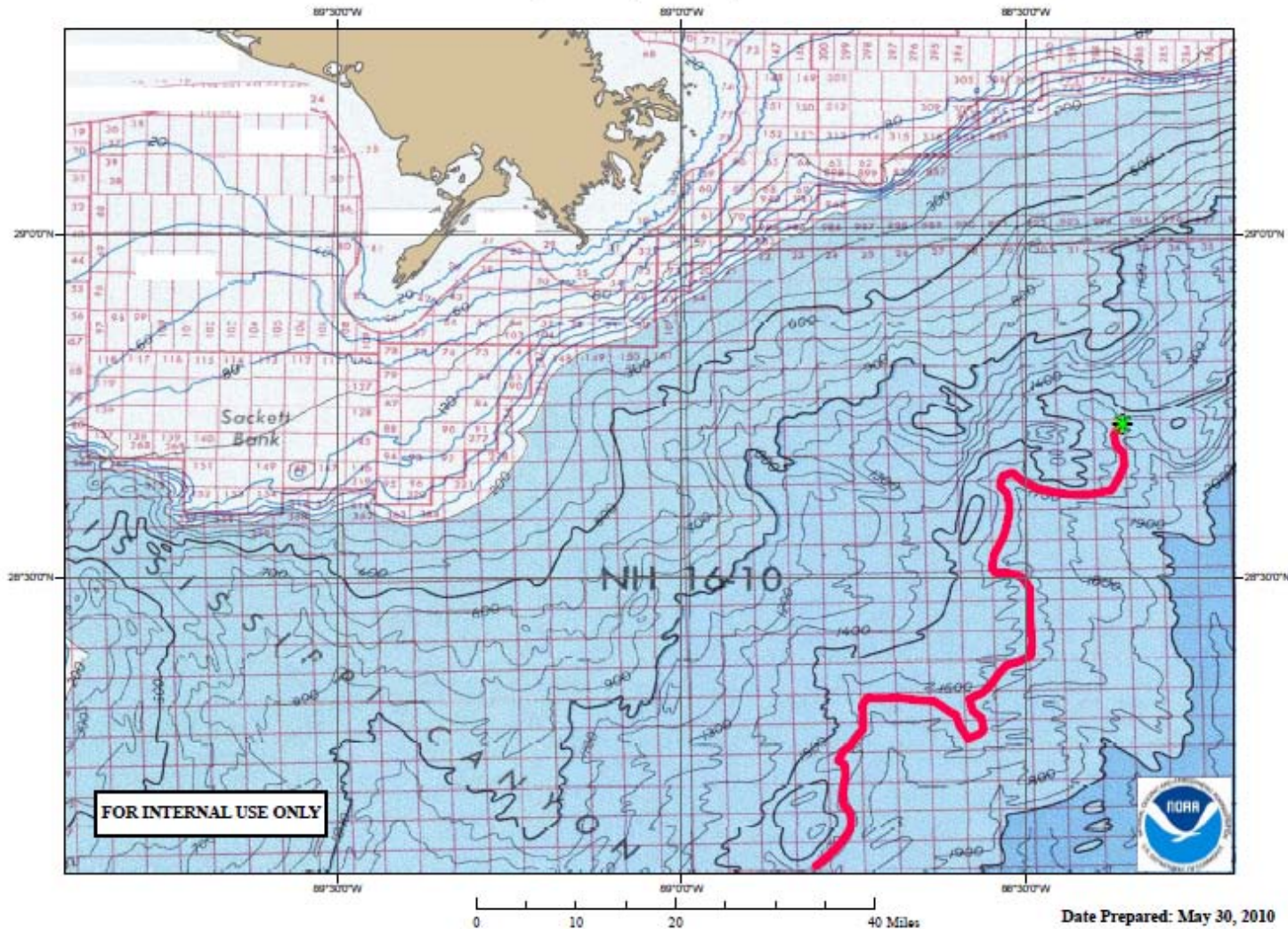
# How Did the Water Move?



NGOM: NOAA Gulf of Mexico Model

# Assuming simple isopycnal flow

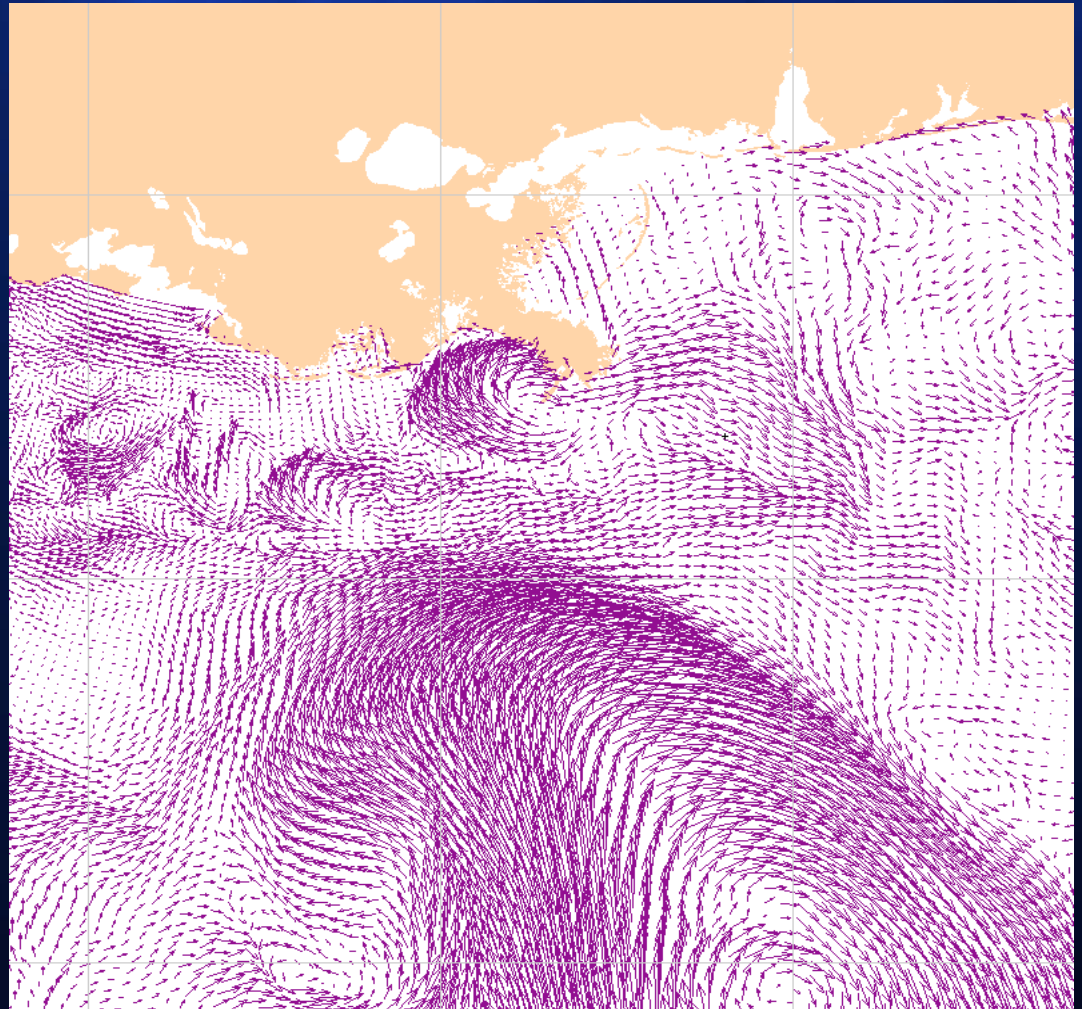
**Estimated Path of Oil Dispersed to < 100 microns**  
(as of May 30, 2010)

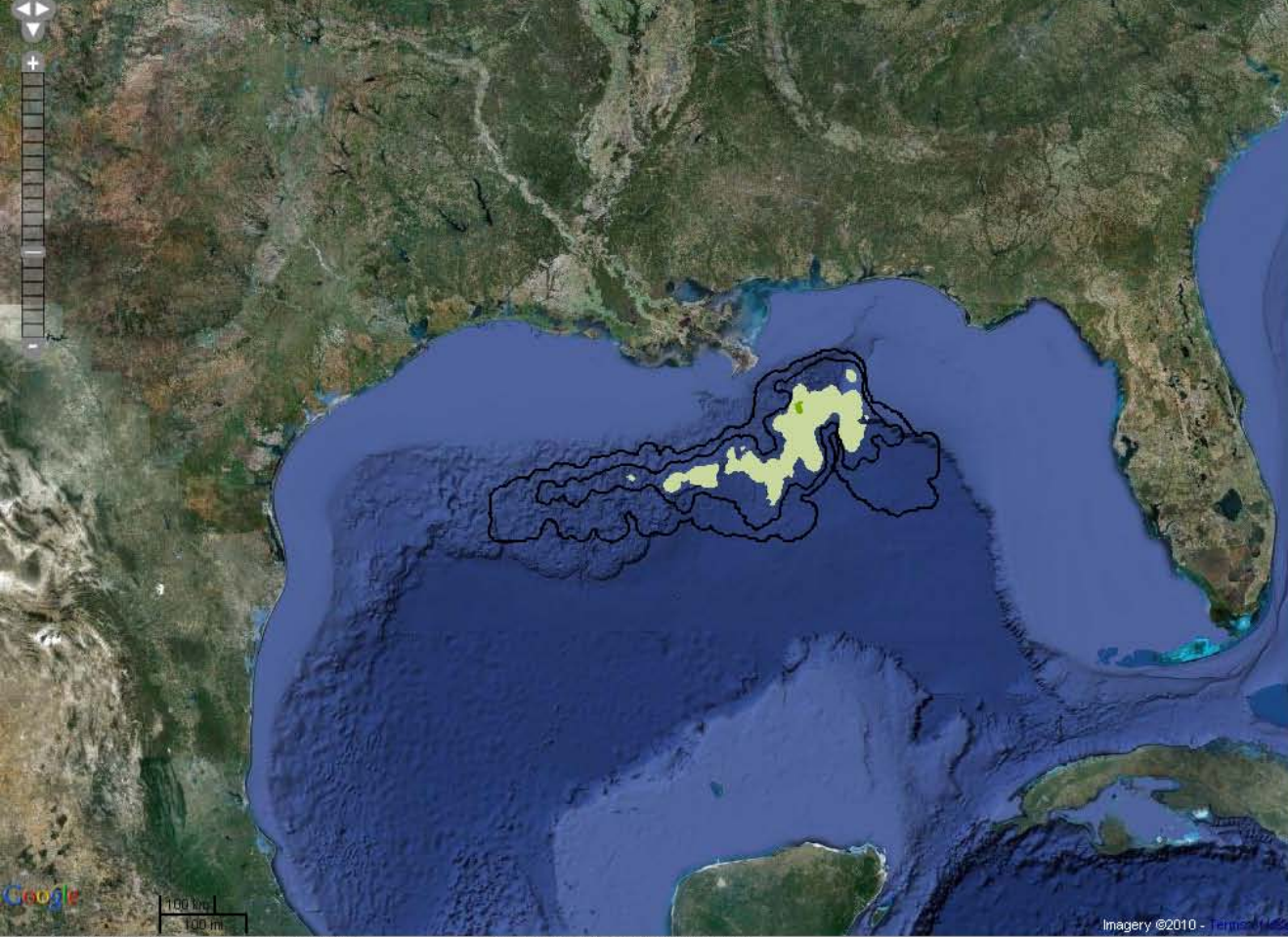


# Subsurface Current Models

NOAA: NGOM – used in operational forecasts, but needed corrections to the barotropic fields

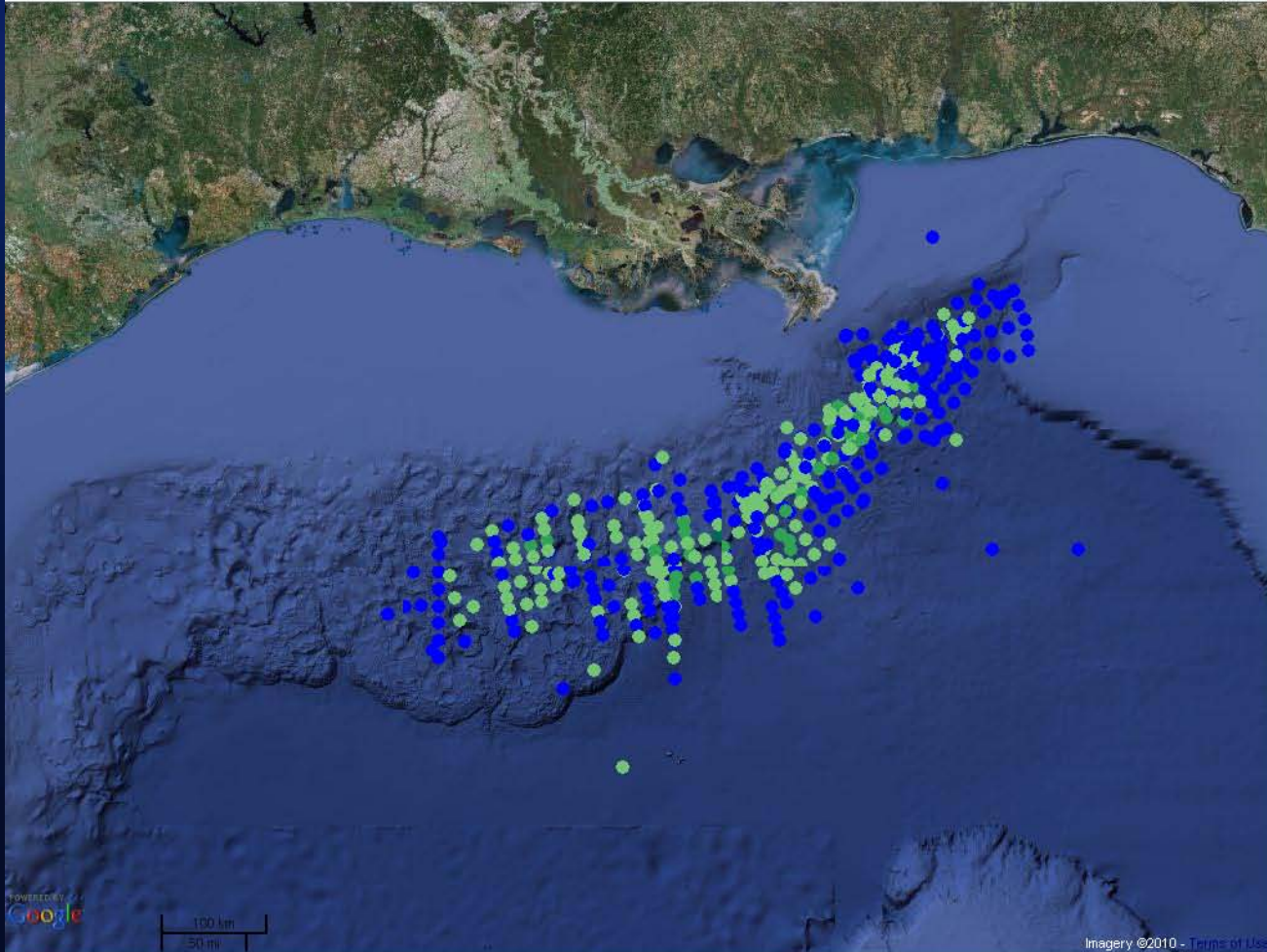
SABGOM – being used in an NSF Rapid grant project for hindcast.





### Deepwater Horizon MC 252 Incident

- Potential Subsurface Oxygen Depression 10-Sept-29
- possible
  - likely
  - most likely



Deepwater Horizon MC 252 Incident

Cumulative Preliminary Subsurface DO Data (03-Aug-10 to 30-Sep-10)

- Background Level
- Weak, Very Weak (> 0 - 0.5 mg/l Below Background)
- Moderate (> 0.5 - 1 mg/l Below Background)
- Strong (> 1mg/l Below Background)
- Hypoxia
- Very Weak
- Weak

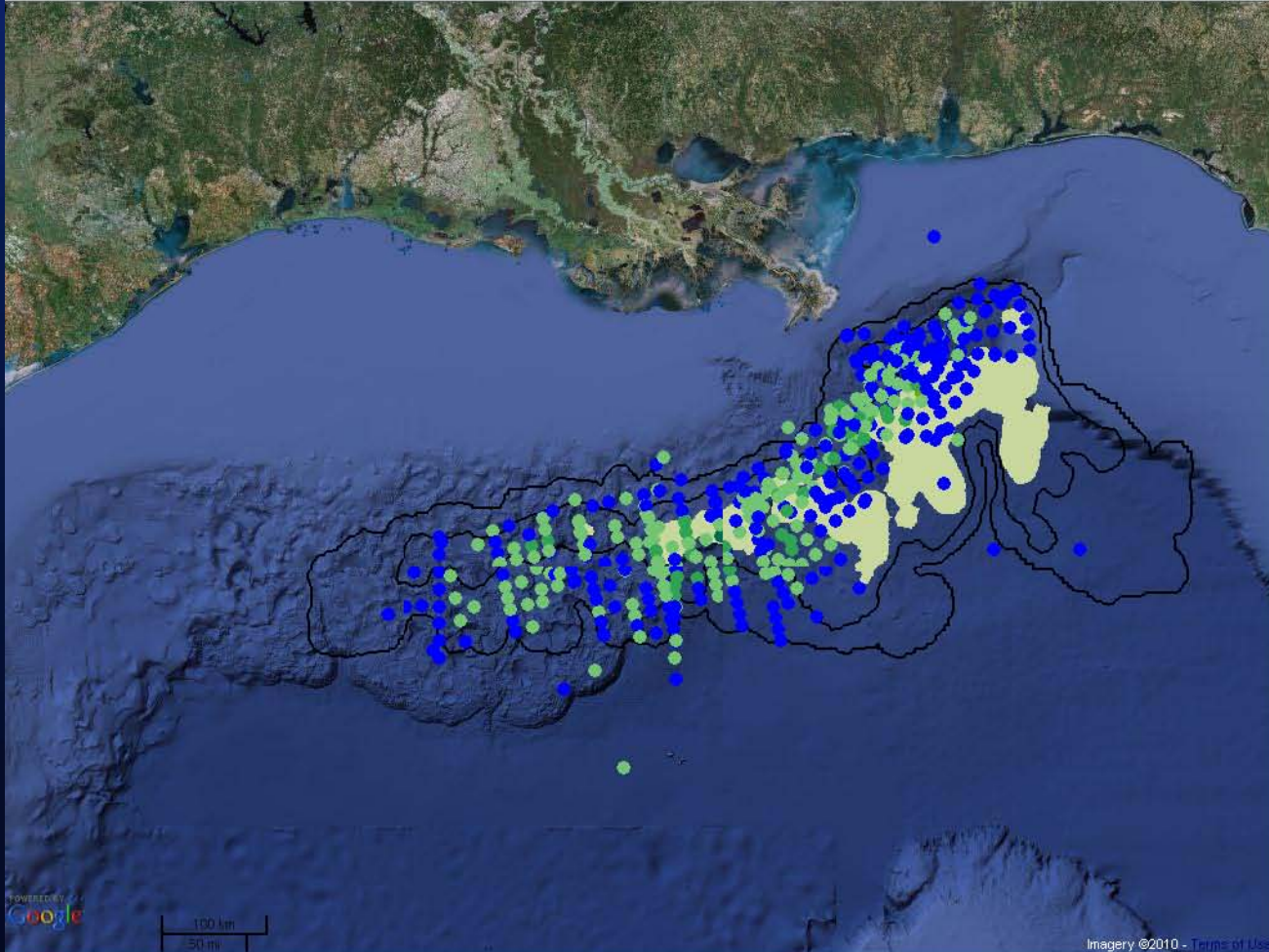
Imagery ©2010 - Google

Imagery ©2010 - Terms of Use

Scale: 1: 3M    Zoom Level: 7    Location: 26.01593°,-88.54980°

US DOC | NOAA | NDS | NOAA Office of Response & Restoration  
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Coastal Response Research Center  
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**Deepwater Horizon MC 252 Incident**

**Potential Subsurface Oxygen Depression 10-Sept-30**

- ∨ possible
- light green likely
- dark green most likely

---

**Cumulative Preliminary Subsurface DO Data (03-Aug-10 to 30-Sep-10)**

- blue Background Level
- light green Weak, Very Weak (> 0 - 0.5 mg/l Below Background)
- medium green Moderate (> 0.5 - 1 mg/l Below Background)
- dark green Strong (> 1mg/l Below Background)
- red Hypoxia
- Very Weak
- Weak

Scale: 1: 3M    Zoom Level: 7    Location: 28.30438°,-85.18799°

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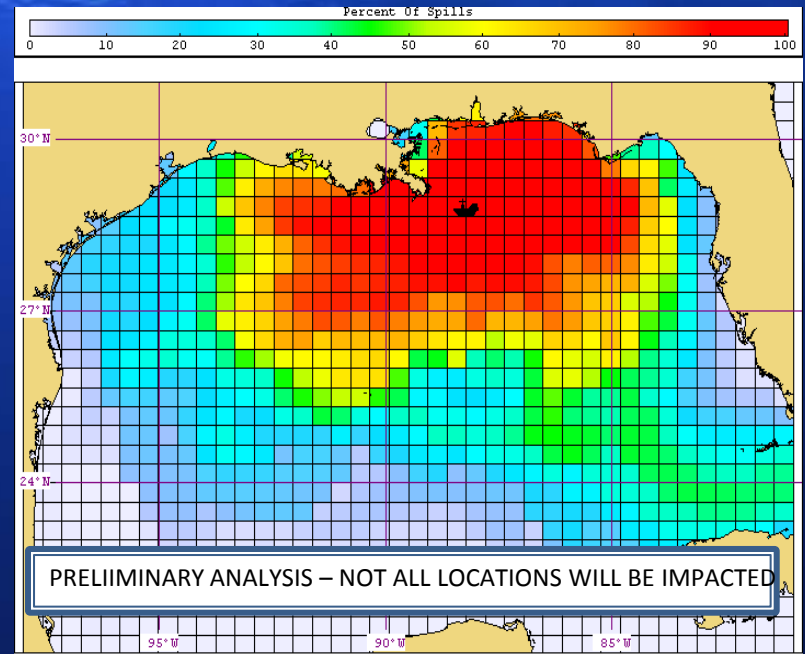
# Statistical Analysis – Where could the oil go based on historical data?

Trajectory Analysis Planner (TAP) – essentially the NOAA tactical model (GNOME) run 500 times

Scenario based – scenarios started within a 15 year climatological history of winds and currents

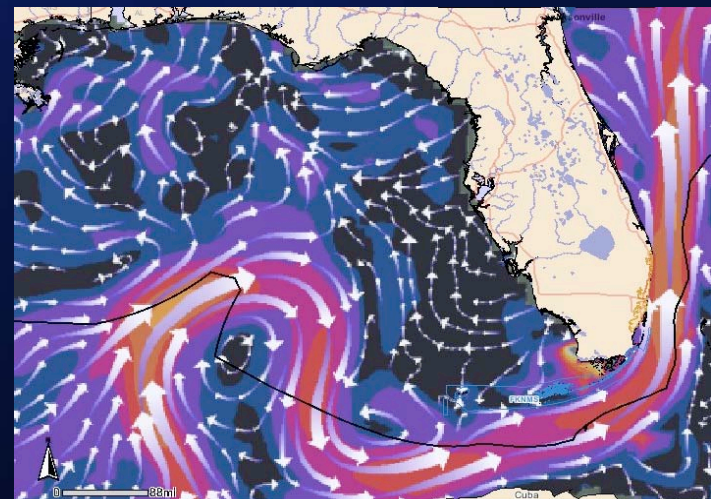
Scenario distribution, time of travel and relative volume kept track of and summarized to generate statistics

Percentages indicate number of scenarios from incident location that impact shoreline areas based on historical winds and currents. Not ALL areas will be impacted, only one scenario will be the final one, statistics are based on 500 scenarios



120 Impact Probability  
(assumes 90 day release)

Gulf of Mexico currents are very dynamic, the Eastern Gulf of Mexico is impacted by the Loop Current. While the Loop Current remained south of incident area, oil getting into the Loop Current could transit long distances quickly.





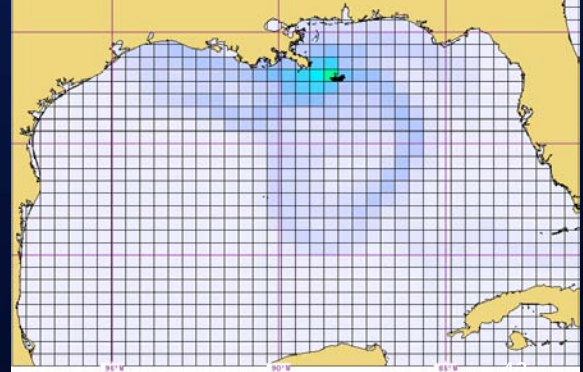
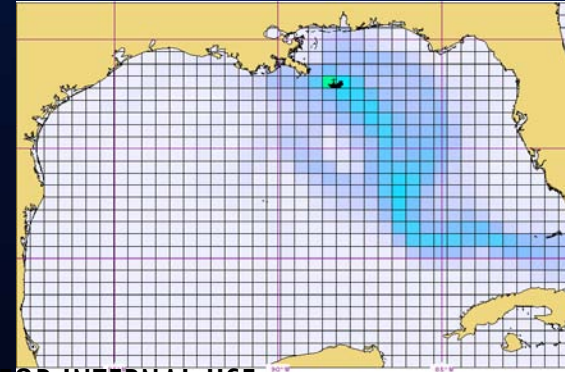
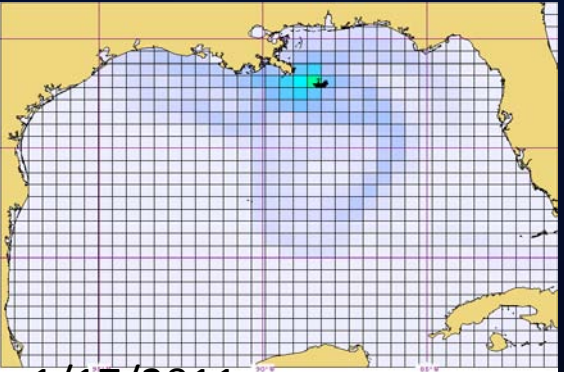
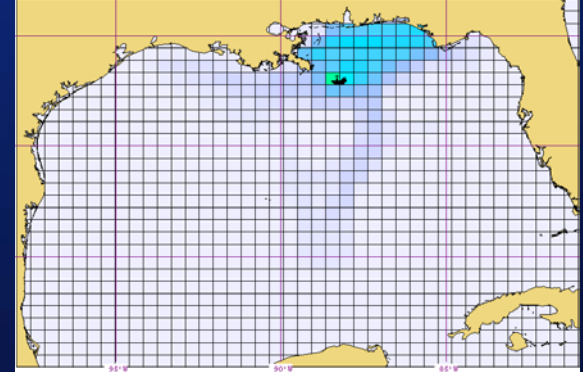
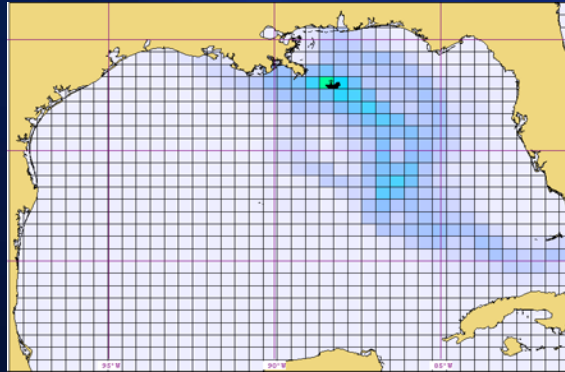
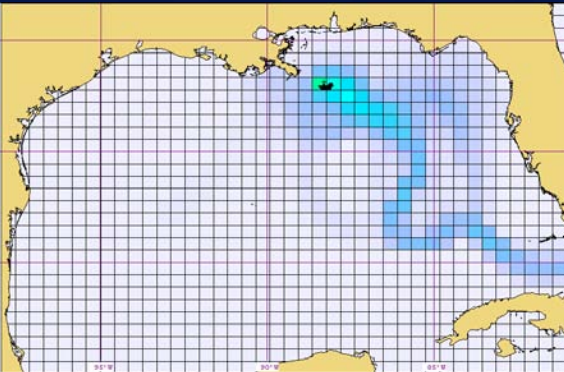
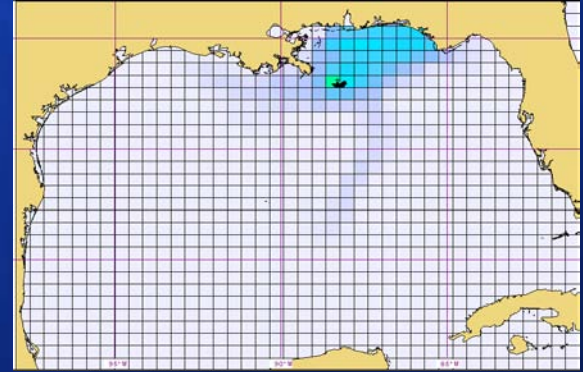
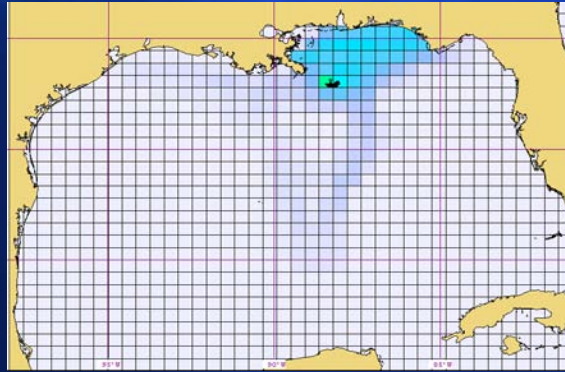
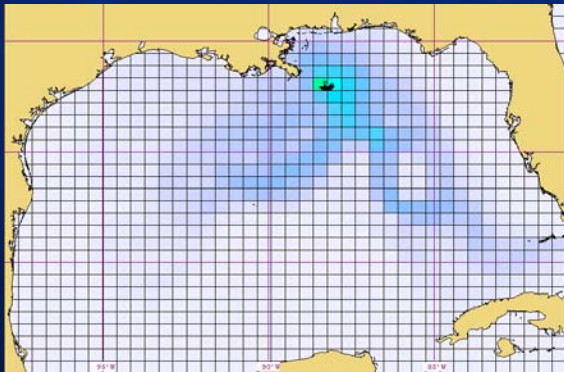
# Model Setup

Analysis of several different current and wind data sources (NOAA (NGOM), Navy (IANSF, NCOM), MMS, NASA (Leo Oey))

Preliminary runs with three different sets of data

Model review of data/approach – Texas A&M, MMS, NOAA, Navy, Scripps, TGLO, BP

Final data set selected, runs completed



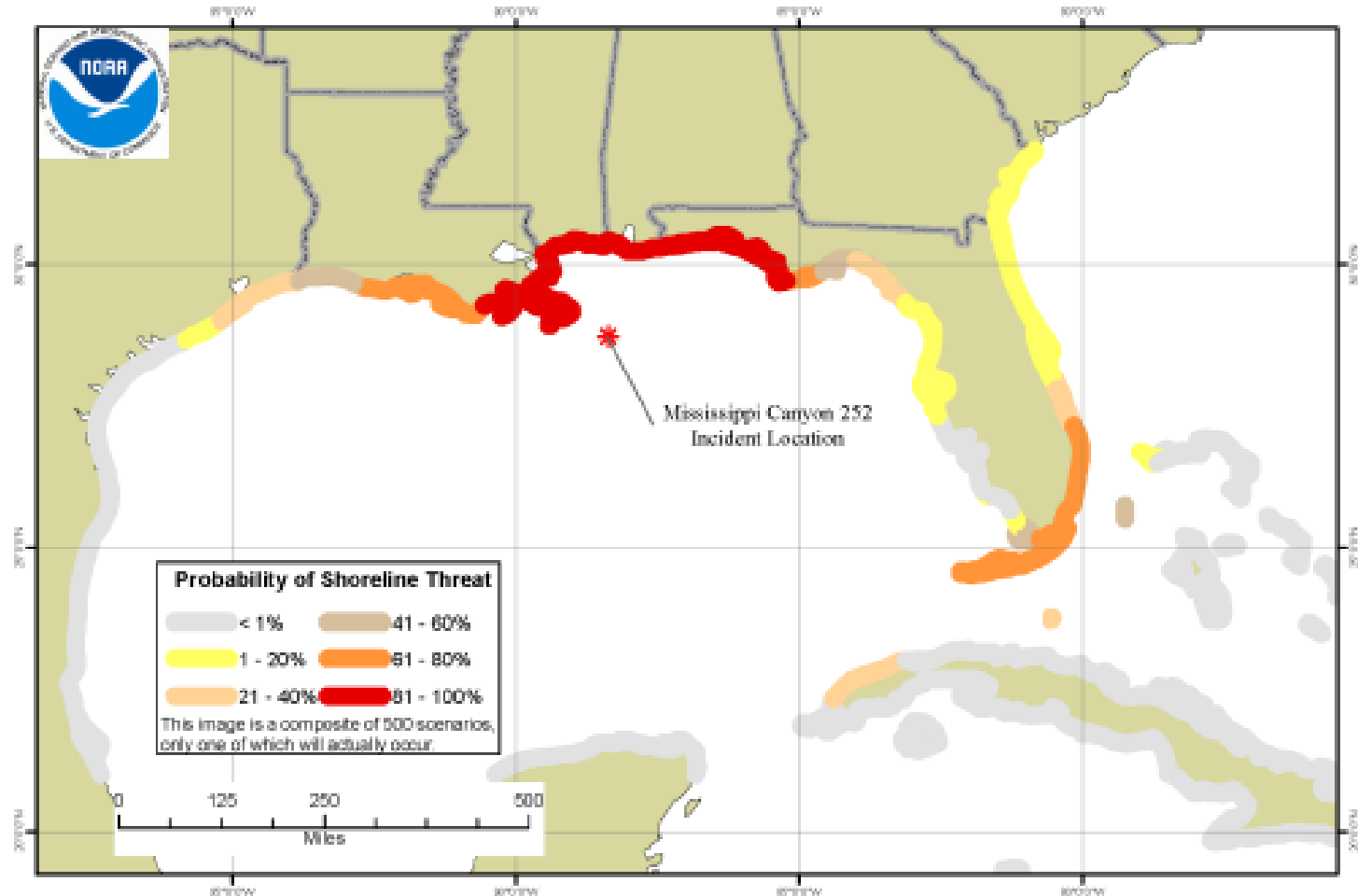
1/17/2011

FOR INTERNAL USE  
Example Individual Scenarios

# Probability of Shoreline Threat Deepwater Horizon MC252

Long Term Analysis  
Release Date: 4/22/10

Estimate for: 120 Days (cumulative)  
assumption of 90 day release with  
a release rate of 33,000 barrels/day



# Overview of Modeling Activities to Support Response

Tactical (72 hour) forecasts - surface

5 day outlook/2-week forecast

Operations 48 hour forecast - subsurface

Statistical Analysis

## Considerations for Success

Coordination of observations and forecasting/modeling

Planning/Engagement prior to incident

## Continuing Challenges

Data and model assimilation/integration

Deep blowout dynamics/droplet size distribution

Understanding and communicating uncertainty

# Questions?

- [www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com](http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com)
- [www.restorethegulf.gov](http://www.restorethegulf.gov)
- [www.geoplatform.gov/gulfresponse](http://www.geoplatform.gov/gulfresponse)
- [www.noaa.gov/sciencemissions/bpoilspill.html](http://www.noaa.gov/sciencemissions/bpoilspill.html)
- [www.response.restoration.noaa.gov](http://www.response.restoration.noaa.gov)
- [www.Deepwaterhorizon.noaa.gov](http://www.Deepwaterhorizon.noaa.gov)
- [www.epa.gov/bpspill](http://www.epa.gov/bpspill)
- [www.boemre.gov/DeepwaterHorizon.htm](http://www.boemre.gov/DeepwaterHorizon.htm)
- [debbie.payton@noaa.gov](mailto:debbie.payton@noaa.gov) or (206) 526-6320

