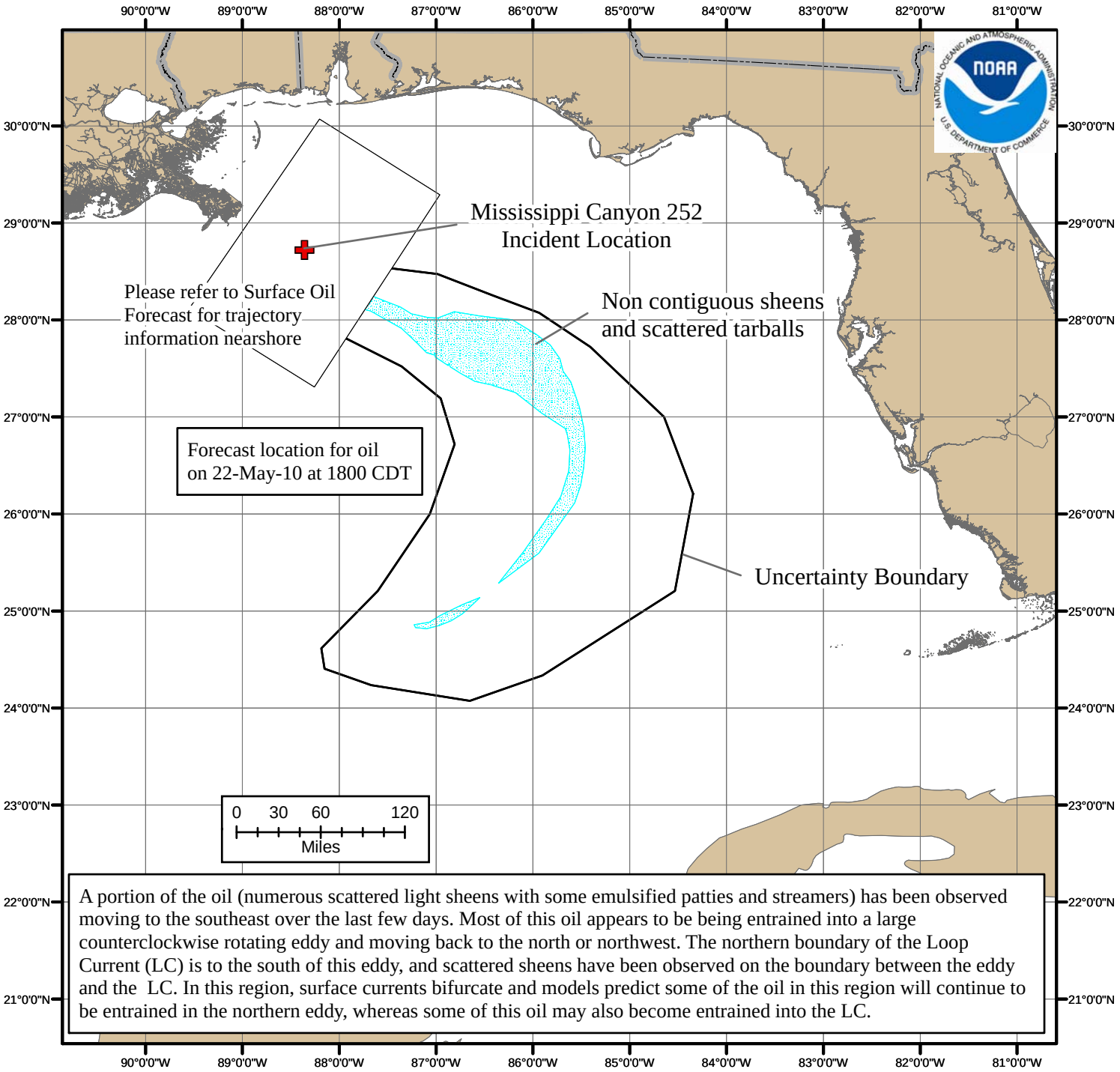
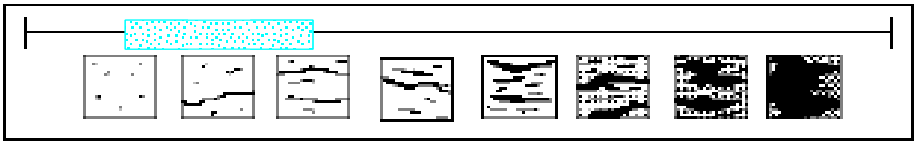
Offshore Surface Oil Forecast Mississippi Canyon 252

NOAA/NOS/OR&R
Estimate for: 1800 CDT, Saturday, 5/22/10
Date Prepared: 1800 CDT, Wednesday, 5/19/10

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. Gulf wide winds were obtained from the gridded NCEP product. The model was initialized from Tuesday AM satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and overflight observations from a Wednesday afternoon.



A portion of the oil (numerous scattered light sheens with some emulsified patties and streamers) has been observed moving to the southeast over the last few days. Most of this oil appears to be being entrained into a large counterclockwise rotating eddy and moving back to the north or northwest. The northern boundary of the Loop Current (LC) is to the south of this eddy, and scattered sheens have been observed on the boundary between the eddy and the LC. In this region, surface currents bifurcate and models predict some of the oil in this region will continue to be entrained in the northern eddy, whereas some of this oil may also become entrained into the LC.



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

Next Forecast:
May 21st AM