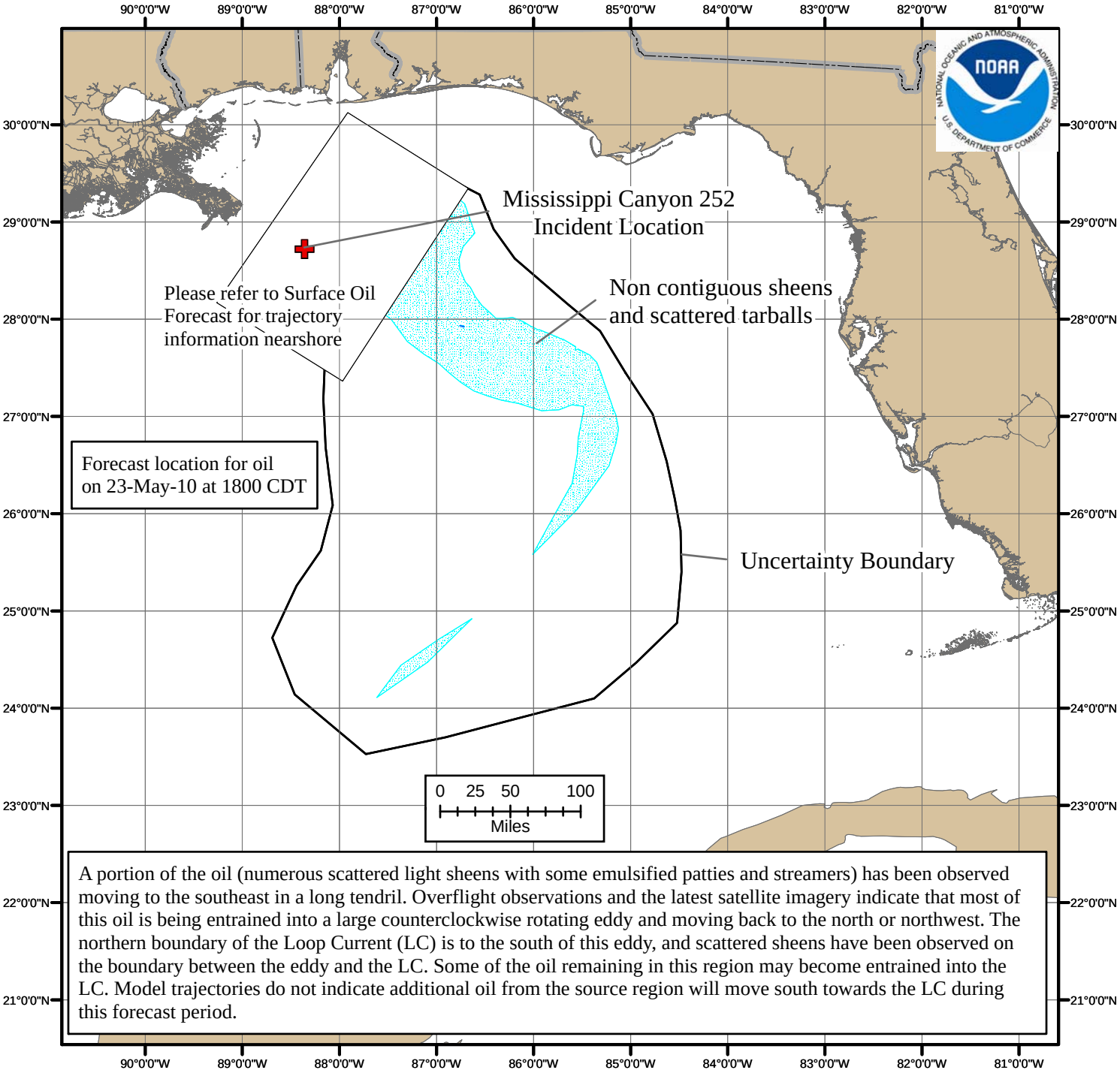
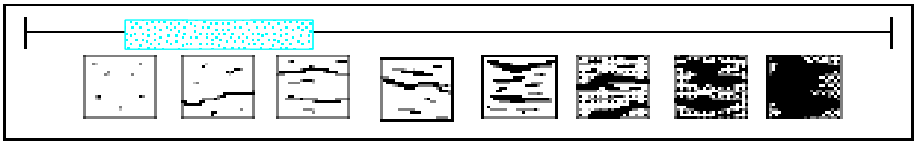
Offshore Surface Oil Forecast Mississippi Canyon 252

NOAA/NOS/OR&R
Estimate for: 1800 CDT, Sunday, 5/23/10
Date Prepared: 1900 CDT, Thursday, 5/20/10

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 Thursday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and observations from a morning overflight.



A portion of the oil (numerous scattered light sheens with some emulsified patties and streamers) has been observed moving to the southeast in a long tendril. Overflight observations and the latest satellite imagery indicate that most of this oil is 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. Some of the oil remaining in this region may become entrained into the LC. 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 22nd AM