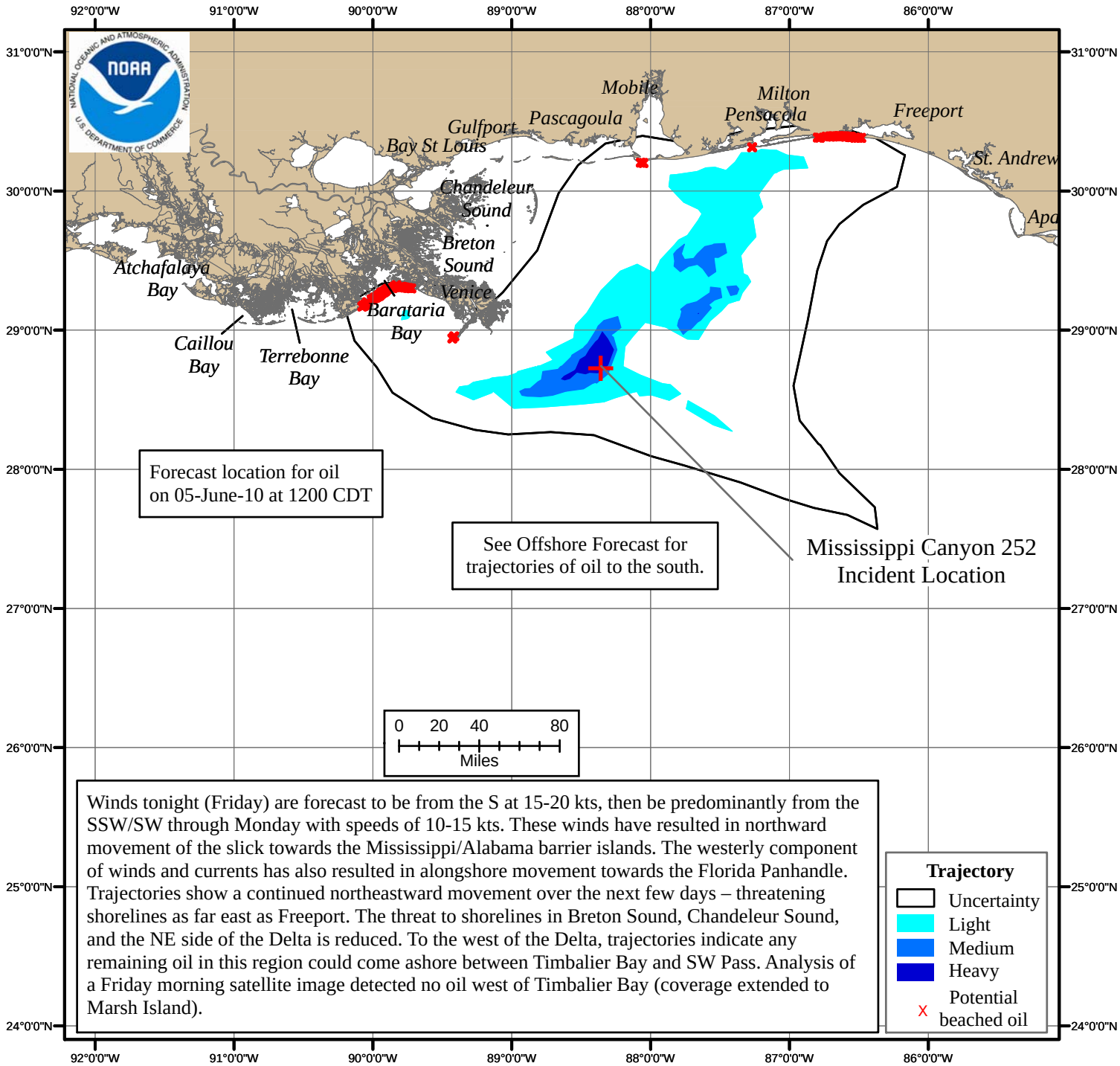
Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast Deepwater Horizon MC252

NOAA/NOS/OR&R

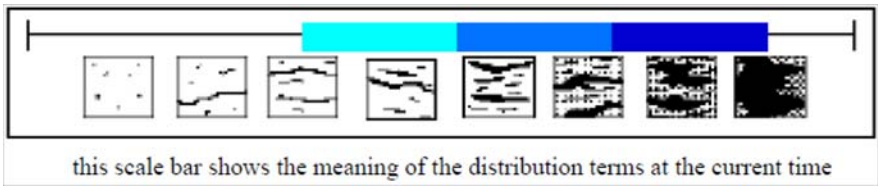
Nearshore

Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Saturday, 6/05/10
Date Prepared: 2100 CDT, Friday, 6/04/10

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Friday, June 4 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Thursday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and Friday 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.



Winds tonight (Friday) are forecast to be from the S at 15-20 kts, then be predominantly from the SSW/SW through Monday with speeds of 10-15 kts. These winds have resulted in northward movement of the slick towards the Mississippi/Alabama barrier islands. The westerly component of winds and currents has also resulted in alongshore movement towards the Florida Panhandle. Trajectories show a continued northeastward movement over the next few days – threatening shorelines as far east as Freeport. The threat to shorelines in Breton Sound, Chandeleur Sound, and the NE side of the Delta is reduced. To the west of the Delta, trajectories indicate any remaining oil in this region could come ashore between Timbalier Bay and SW Pass. Analysis of a Friday morning satellite image detected no oil west of Timbalier Bay (coverage extended to Marsh Island).



Next Forecast:
June 5th PM