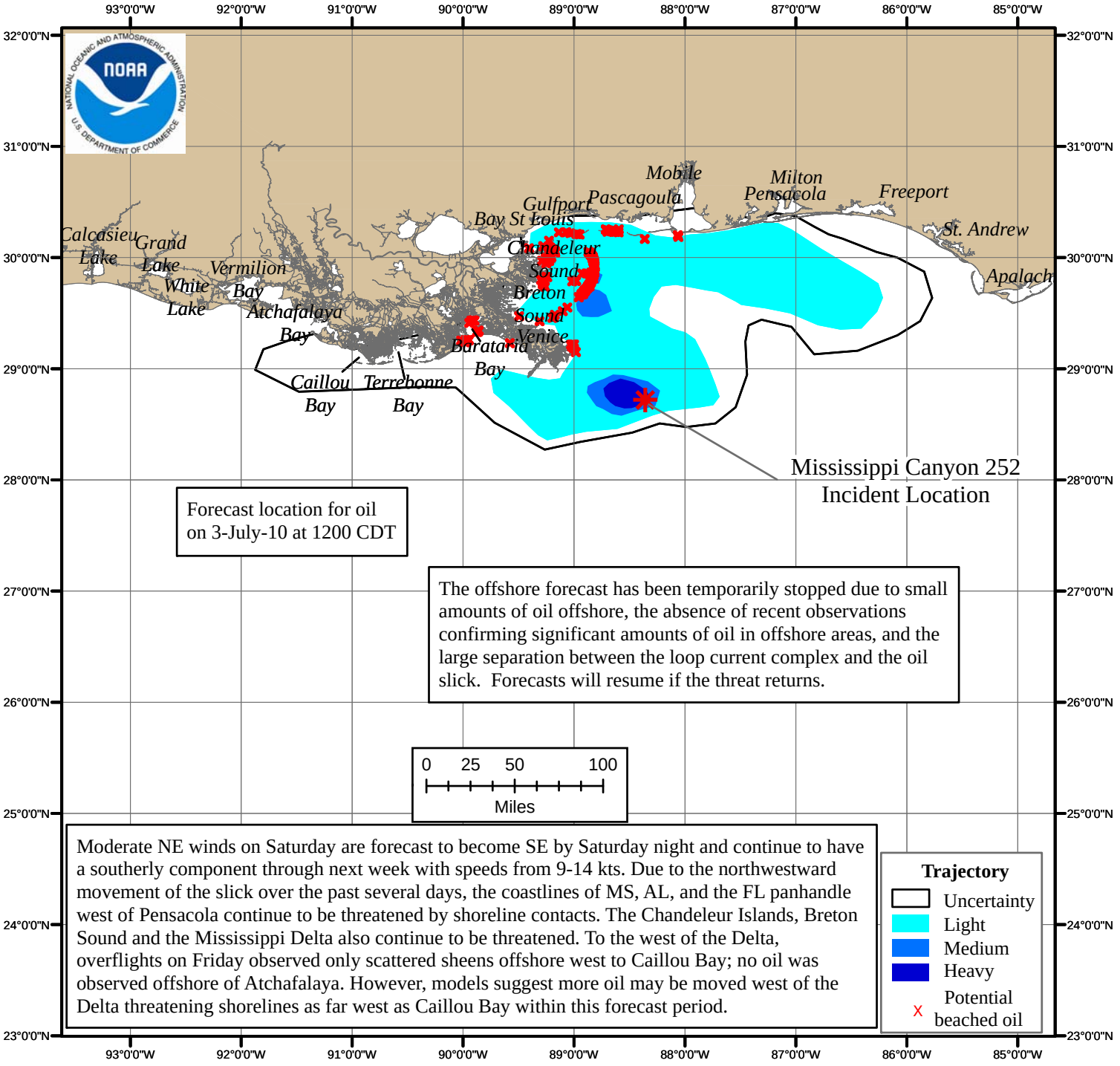
Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast Deepwater Horizon MC252

NOAA/NOS/OR&R

Nearshore

Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Saturday, 7/03/10
Date Prepared: 2100 CDT, Friday, 7/02/10

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Friday, July 2 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 Friday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and overflights. 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.

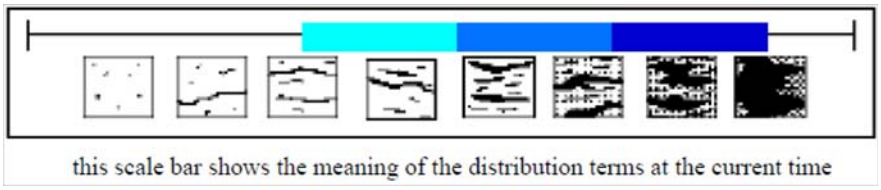


The offshore forecast has been temporarily stopped due to small amounts of oil offshore, the absence of recent observations confirming significant amounts of oil in offshore areas, and the large separation between the loop current complex and the oil slick. Forecasts will resume if the threat returns.

Moderate NE winds on Saturday are forecast to become SE by Saturday night and continue to have a southerly component through next week with speeds from 9-14 kts. Due to the northwestward movement of the slick over the past several days, the coastlines of MS, AL, and the FL panhandle west of Pensacola continue to be threatened by shoreline contacts. The Chandeleur Islands, Breton Sound and the Mississippi Delta also continue to be threatened. To the west of the Delta, overflights on Friday observed only scattered sheens offshore west to Caillou Bay; no oil was observed offshore of Atchafalaya. However, models suggest more oil may be moved west of the Delta threatening shorelines as far west as Caillou Bay within this forecast period.

Trajectory

- Uncertainty
- Light
- Medium
- Heavy
- X Potential beached oil



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

Next Forecast:
July 3rd PM