

TIME: 1400 CDT July 24, 2009

TO: NOAA SSC Charlie Henry

FROM: NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, Emergency Response Division Seattle, WA

SUBJECT: Mystery Tarballs, South Padre Island Beaches

For additional information, please contact Chris Barker,
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Per your request, we have developed a hindcast for the oil found on South Padre Island the morning of July 22.

This analysis is based on wind observations from two locations and the NWS NAM model, current observations from the TABS Buoy system and the TGLO / Texas A&M Gulf of Mexico current model. The winds were fairly steady from the S to SE over the last 5 days. This has pushed a fairly strong upcoast current as well. The result is that we expect the oil came from the South and offshore a bit, depending on how long ago it was released.

The polygons represent the regions that the oil most likely floated from after one (green), three (yellow) or five (red) days.

