TIME: 1400 CDT Sept 9, 2009
TO: NOAA SSC Mary Barber
FROM: NOAA Office of Response and Restoration
Emergency Response Division
Seattle, WA 98115
SUBJECT: SS Beaumont

Per your request, we have looked at trajectory implications of a potential release of a heavy fuel oil from the SS Beaumont.

The following estimates are based on the following information:

On 22 August, 2009, USCG MSU Port Arthur, TX investigated a small sheen off Sabine Pass, TX. Originally, a pipeline leak was suspected. However, the small persistent sheen caused the USCG to believe that a US liberty ship that sunk in the vicinity in 1971 is the source. The location of the ship is: 29° 34' 28.3"N--093° 49' 04.60"W.

Operations are planned for this Friday. The following trajectory forecasts are for 12 and 24 hours after a potential release that may occur during Friday, any time from about 10:00am to 4:00pm.

It is reported that maximum amount of fuel that may be on board is 500,000 gal. and that the largest individual tank is about 98,000 gal. of heavy fuel oil.

WEATHER:

Friday: Southeast winds 10 to 15 knots. Seas 1 to 3 feet. A chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Saturday: South winds 10 to 15 knots. Seas 1 to 3 feet. Showers and thunderstorms likely.

TRAJECTORY:

With the forecast winds from the south and southeast, we expect any released oil to be moved toward shore fairly quickly. There is also a coastal current to the west, so we expect any effected shoreline to be mostly to the west of the Sabine entrance, as indicated in the following maps.

With a heavy fuel oil, most of the oil will persist, so that the amount impacting the shoreline will be similar to the amount released.

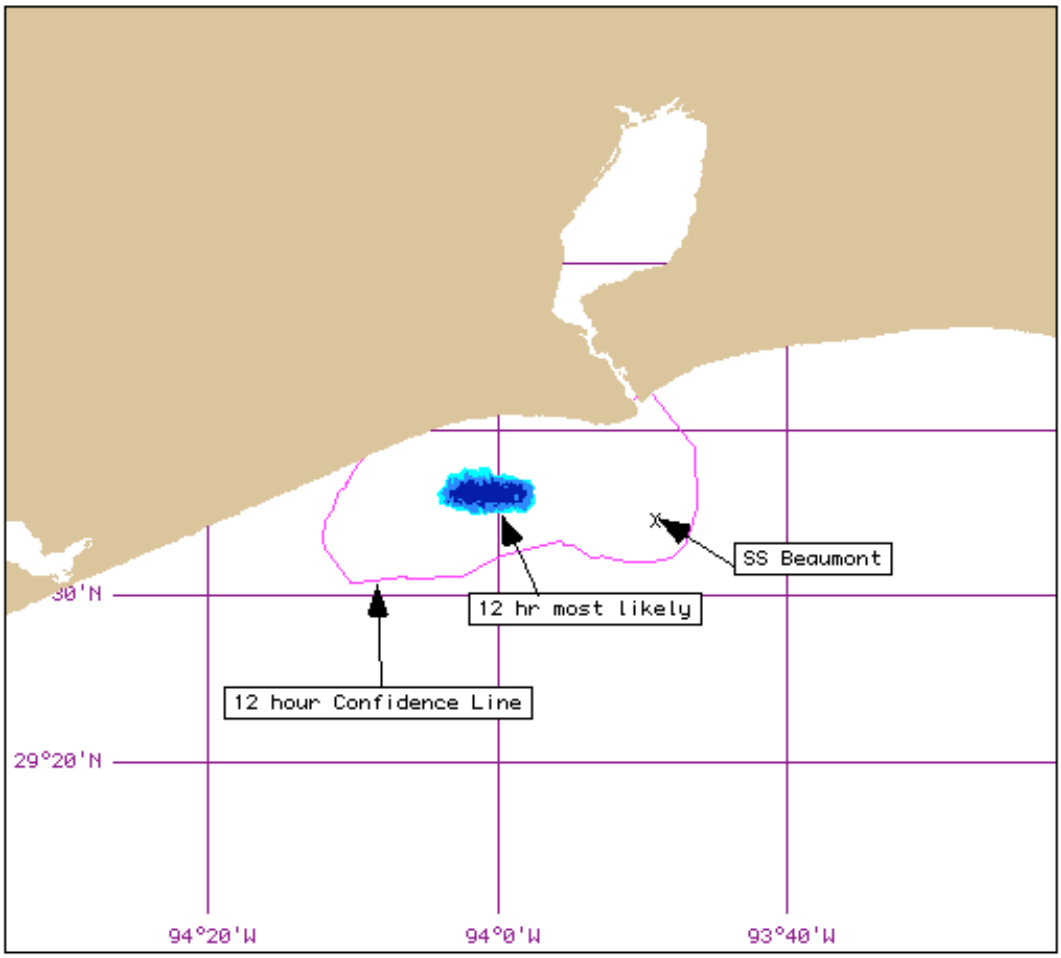
The trajectory will be similar regardless of the amount of oil released. However, if the released amount is large, the shoreline impacts may be substantial tar balls and patties spread out over the area affected. With a small release, the oil will likely have been broken up into more scattered and small tarballs before impacting the beach.

SS Beaumont **HAZMAT Trajectory Analysis**

Estimate for: 2200, 9/11/09

Prepared: 1226, 9/9/09 NOAA/HAZMAT (206) 526-4911

These estimates are based on the latest available information. Please refer to the trajectory analysis briefing and your Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) for more complete information. This output shows estimated distributions of heavy, light, and medium concentrations as well as an outer confidence line. The confidence line is based on potential errors in the pollutant transport processes.



This map represents the estimate for where oil would be about 12 hours after being released. The blue contours are our best estimate for the location of the oil, given the forecasts for the winds and currents. The purple line is the area in which there might be oil, given the uncertainty in the forecasts.

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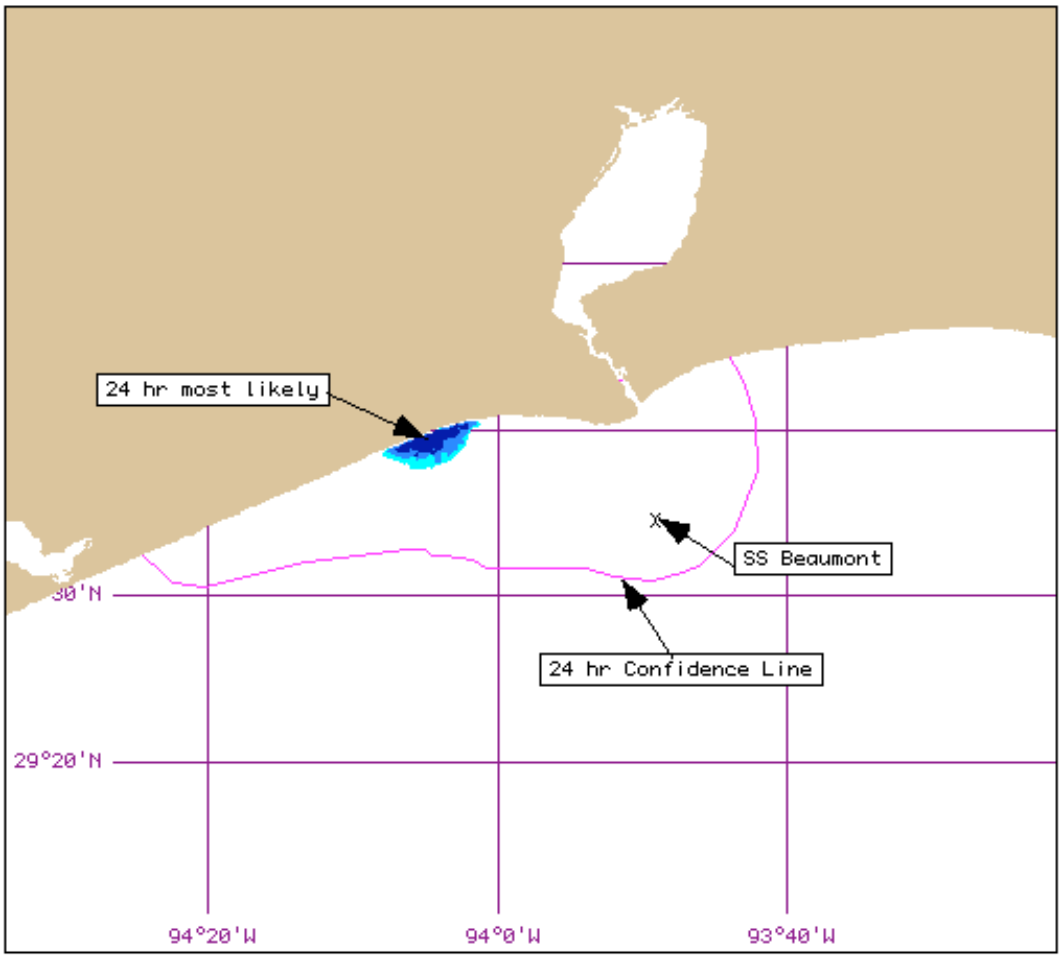

This map represents the estimate for where oil would be about 24 hours after being released. The blue contours are our best estimate for the location of the oil, given the forecasts for the winds and currents. The purple line is the area in which there might be oil, given the uncertainty in the forecasts.