



## **NOAA Web Update May 19, 2010**

### **DEEPWATER HORIZON Incident**

**Situation: Wednesday 19 May** — The Joint Information Center (JIC) issued a press release stating that NOAA's latest observations indicate that a small portion of the oil slick has reached the Loop Current in the form of light to very light sheens. NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator Charles Henry answered press questions on loop current. He noted that in the time it would take for oil to travel to the vicinity of the Florida Straits, any oil would be highly weathered and both the natural process of evaporation and the application of chemical dispersants would reduce the oil volume significantly.

NOAA spill specialists continue to advise the U.S. Coast Guard on cleanup options as well as advising all affected federal, state and local partners on sensitive marine resources at risk in this area of the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA experts are conducting aerial surveys to update trajectory maps and visually track the movement of the spill.

Admiral Mary Landry noted that weather has aided spill cleanup in recent days, allowing for several controlled burns and collection of fairly high concentrations of oil-water mix. Admiral Landry closed the press conference on an optimistic note. "If top kill works we will demob," she says. "Let's all cross our fingers and say our prayers." She added that in any event, the unprecedented federal, state and local government and private sector response would continue to address the impacts of this spill of national significance on the people and environment of the Gulf.

BP is preparing for the top kill (shooting mud down the well to halt the spill) operation expected next week. The riser insertion pipe continues to produce oil to the surface.