



NOAA Web Update May 22, 2010

DEEPWATER HORIZON Incident

Situation: Saturday 22 May — 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 oceanographers continue to release updated trajectory maps showing the predicted trajectory of the oil slick.

Several overflights were conducted today to help researchers forecast the trajectory of the oil spill over the next 72 hours. On one flight, a significant amount of oil was observed to the southeast of the Chandeleur Islands.

Winds are currently from the south to southeast, and are predicted to remain so through Sunday. At this time, no strong winds are predicted that would affect operations, such as skimming or controlled burning.

NOAA's Damage Assessment Remediation and Restoration Program is conducting a [Natural Resource Damage Assessment](#). The focus currently is to assemble existing data on resources and their habitats and collect baseline (pre-spill impact) data. Data on oiled resources and habitats are also being collected.

Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles (as of May 21, 2010):

- Three oiled turtles were captured during the dedicated sea turtle on-water surveys this past week: two small Kemp's Ridley and a larger sub-adult Loggerhead. All three turtles were returned to shore and transported to the Audubon Aquarium where they are undergoing de-oiling and care.
- The total number of sea turtle strandings documented since 30 April within the "designated spill area" is 187 (176 dead and 11 alive, of which two died in rehab). None of the stranded turtles documented to date have had visible evidence of external oil.
- There have been 18 dead dolphins confirmed since April 30 within the designated spill area, none of which have had visible external or internal signs of oiling.