

NOAA Web Update June 3, 2010

DEEPWATER HORIZON Incident



Situation: Thursday 03 June —

Response:

BPs cut-and-cap approach to contain the oil leaking from the MC 252 Blow Out Preventer (BOP) has met with mixed success. On Wednesday, a diamond-tipped saw became stuck in the pipe. Today, BP was able to slice through the remaining pipe with giant shears. The giant sheer cut is jagged which means the cap may not fit as tightly as officials hoped. Engineers are moving forward with placing the cap over the cut pipe. Once a riser attaches the cap to the surface, we will have a better sense of how much oil can be siphoned off. BP engineers expect that some oil will continue to leak into the Gulf around the cap flange and believe they will have a better sense of effectiveness within 12-24 hours. At this point, the best chance of completely stopping the flow will come when the two relief wells are completed in August.

Trajectories:

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration's (OR&R) modeling team continues to generate daily trajectories for the nearshore and offshore surface oil. Overflights are also conducted on a daily basis (weather permitting) to provide field verification of model trajectories. Onshore winds are expected to continue moving oil toward shorelines in Alabama, Mississippi, and as far east as Freeport, Florida. Threat to shorelines in Breton Sounds, Chandeleur Sound, and the NE side of the Mississippi Delta continue to decrease, while threats to shorelines west of the Delta between Timbalier Bay and Southwest Pass increase.

Offshore, satellite imagery analysis continues to show narrow bands of oil to the SE and ESE of the main slick. An overflight to the region on June 2 observed one narrow semi-contiguous band of colorless sheen stretching approximately 60 miles. Trajectories suggest these sheens will continue to be entrained in a large clockwise eddy (Eddy Franklin) that has pinched off the main Loop Current. South of approximately 26 degrees N, only scattered transparent sheens were observed in conjunction with patches of seaweed. If this sheen persists or has tarballs associated with it, there is potential for some of it to become entrained into the Loop Current and move toward the Florida Straits.

Assessment:

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) 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.