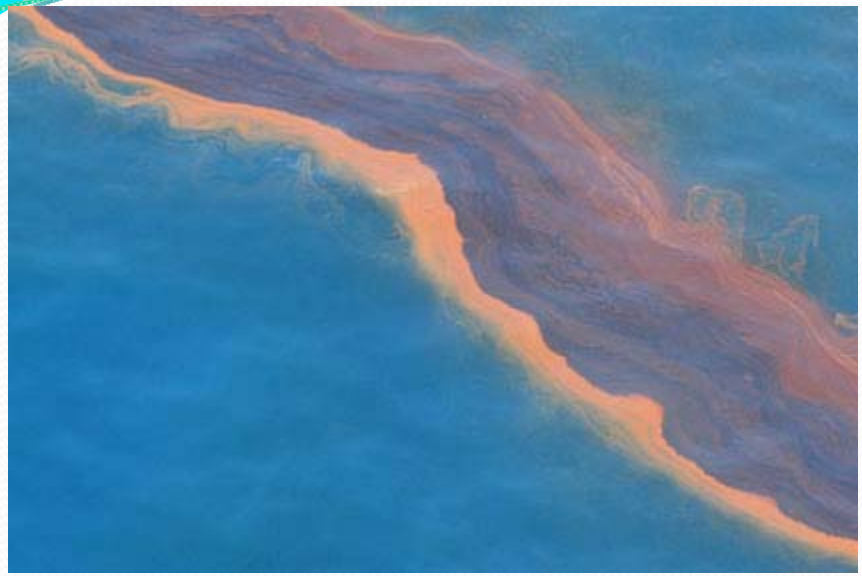
Overview of NOAA's Role in the DWH OIL SPILL

Buck Sutter

June 14, 2010



Immediate Science Actions

- Scientific support to the IC
- Collection of a broad suite of samples to assess baseline environmental conditions and studies to measure injuries of trust resources (water, sediment, biota, human use)
- Assess the Safety of Seafood and inform appropriate closures of federal waters
- Evaluate dispersant and oil related to seafood safety – conduct baseline contaminant studies
- Calculate oil flow from the DWH site to estimate total release of oil
- Conduct aerial surveys of protected species distribution and abundance
- Measure distribution and magnitude of subsurface dispersed oil and dispersant through acoustics, fluorescence studies, water sampling and other technologies using NOAA Research Vessels and partners, including IOOS
- Track surface oil and dispersant fate and transport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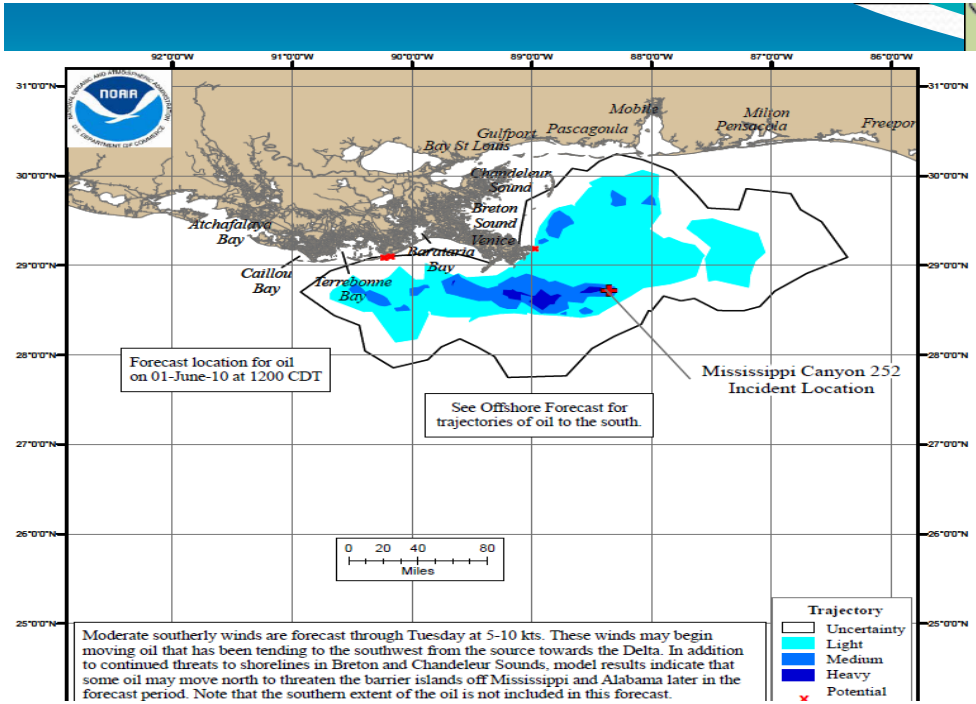
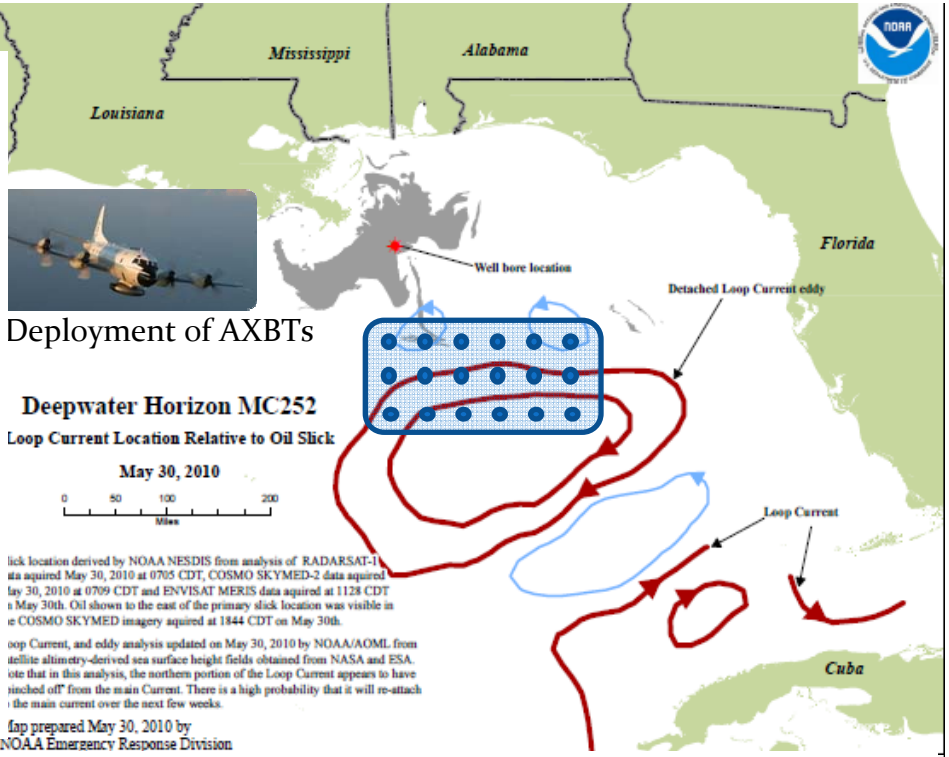
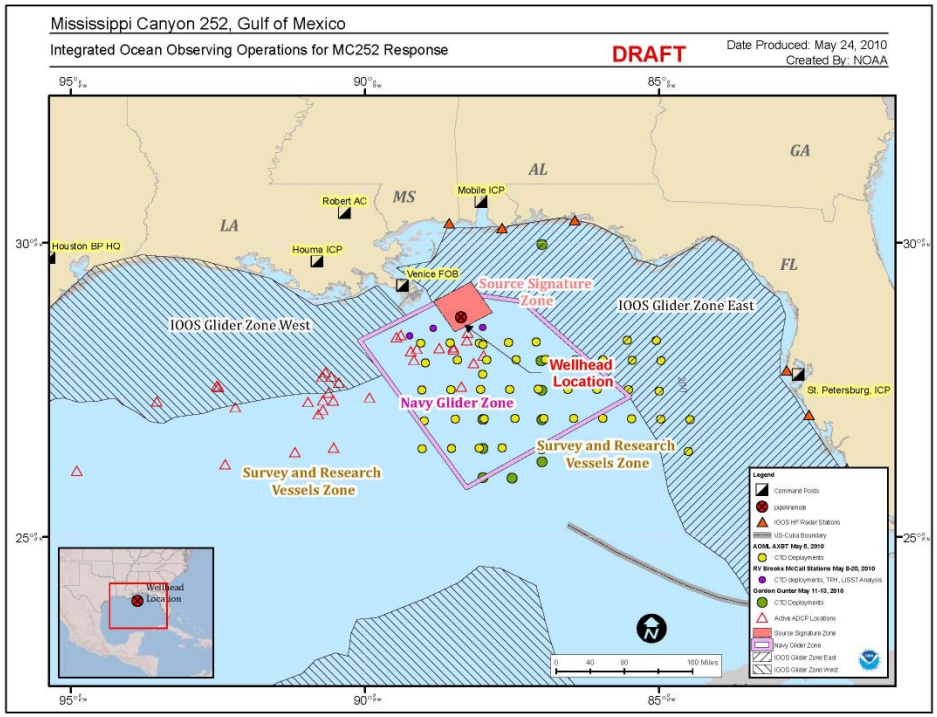
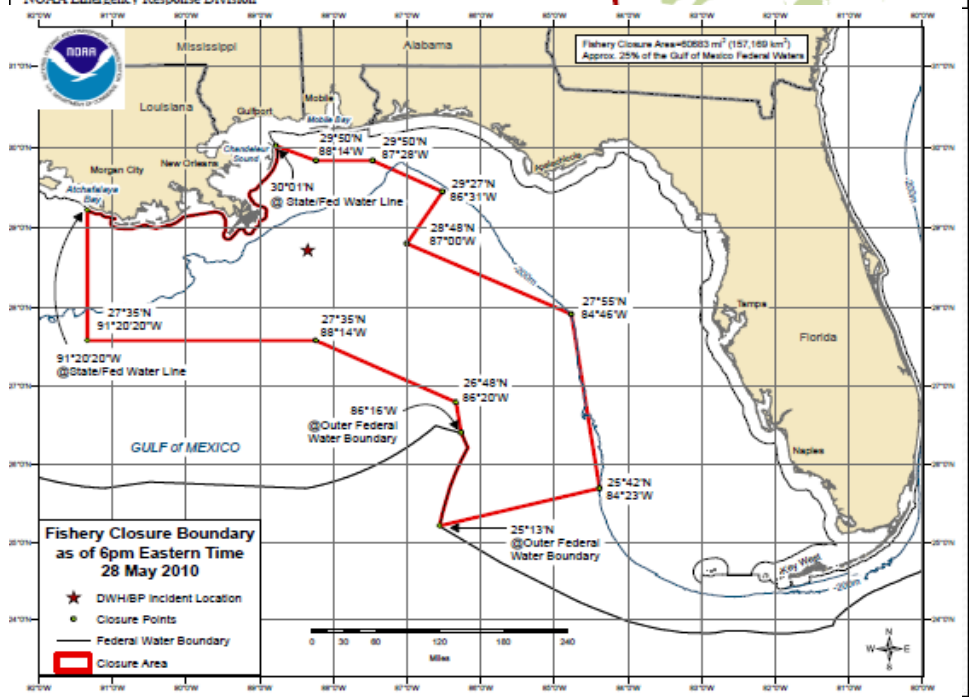




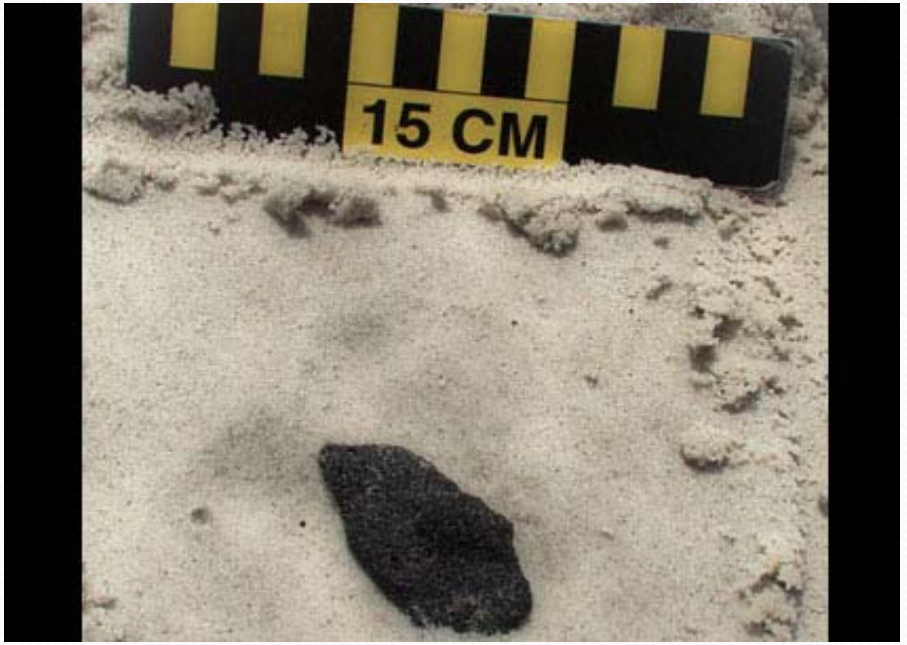
Deployment of AXBTs





Near-Term Science Actions

- Continued assessment of shoreline oil impacts and support for scientifically appropriate clean-up actions.
- Additional human dimensions studies to understand the impact of the event on coastal communities
- Continued surveys to assess the magnitude, characteristics, fate, transport and near-term effects of subsurface dispersed oil
- Longitudinal surveys of potential oil and dispersants in seafood species in closed and open areas
- Identification and initiation of studies to quantify natural resource injuries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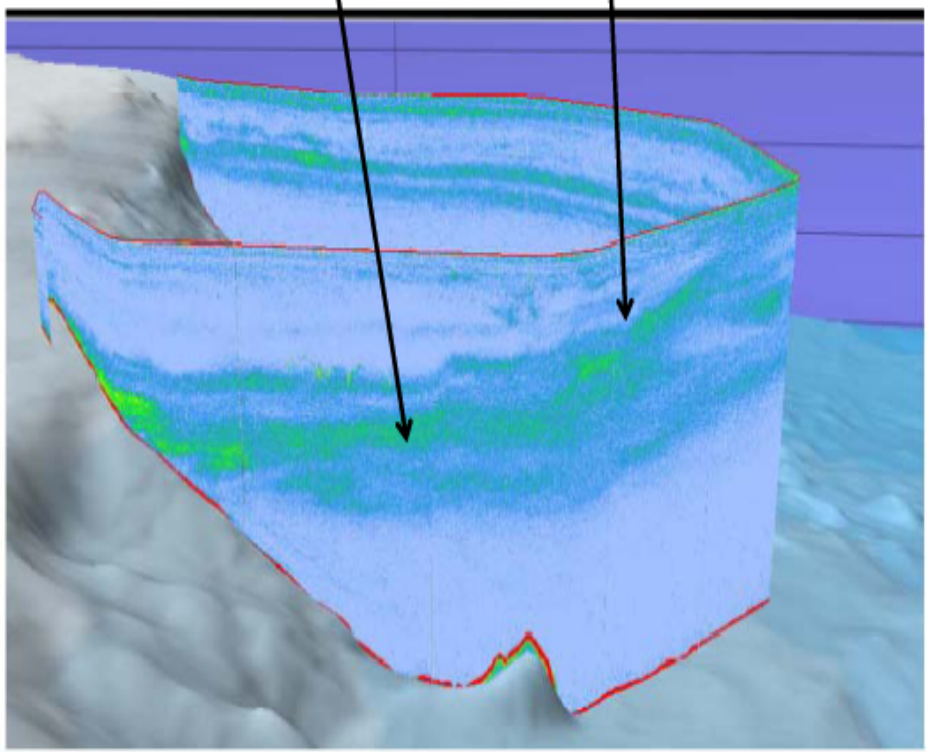
Is this the Deep Scattering Layer (DSL)?

Sunrise



Long-Term Science Actions

- Ecosystem-level Impacts of the spill
  - Impacts of the spill on productivity, nutrient cycling and species composition near and off-shore habitats
  - Impacts of the spill on productivity, nutrient cycling and species composition in marshes
- Development and implementation of ecosystem-level restoration opportunities for the Northern Gulf of Mexico
- Mid to long term socio-economic impacts of the spill on coastal Gulf Coast States