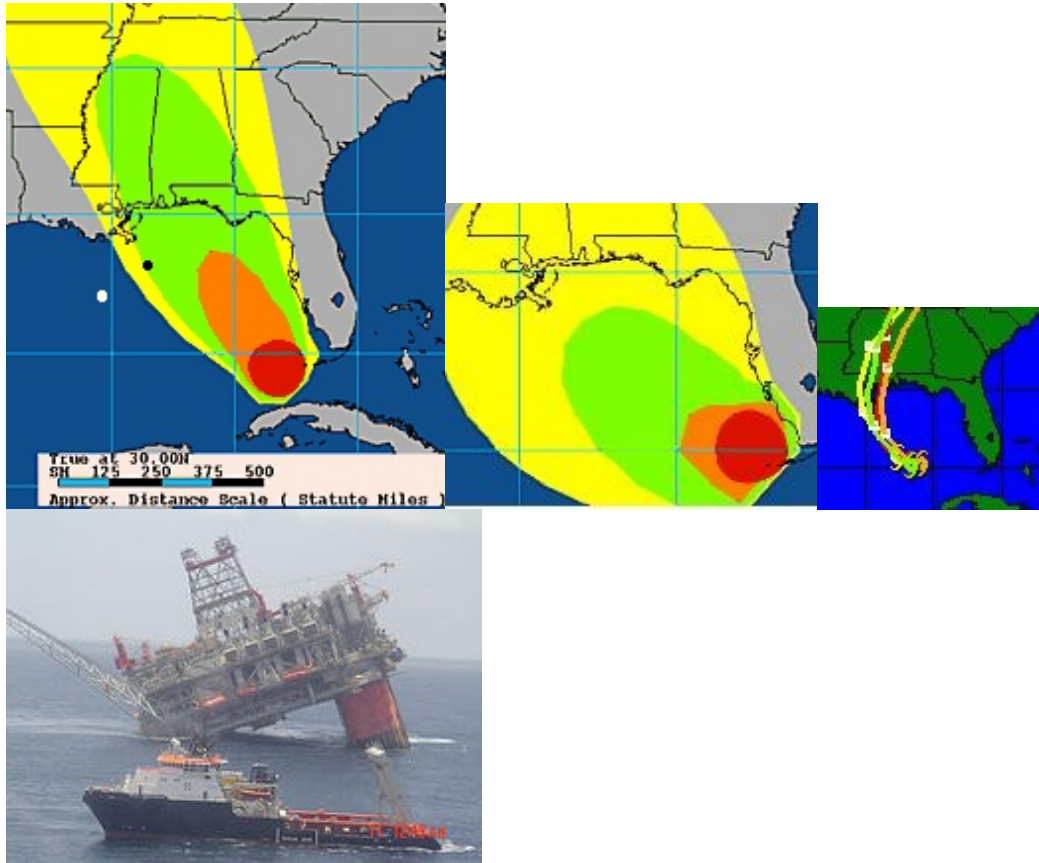




## Hurricane Katrina and Thunder Horse/Gulf Oil Production (Katrina now potentially a Cat 4?)

Posted by [Prof. Goose](#) on August 26, 2005 - 11:24am

Topic: [Supply/Production](#)



**Update [2005-8-27 0:15:36 by Prof. Goose]:** This information is somewhat dated, look to the post above this for the most current information.

**[editor's note, by Prof. Goose]** This is a modified repost of [an article HO did on 9 JUL about Dennis and Gulf oil production](#), (and then [here's a story of what happened to Thunder Horse](#)), so we could get a map up of oil platforms in relation to Katrina's whereabouts...her path looks to be slightly east of Dennis' (Dennis' path is the first pic...(The black dot on the edge of the green and yellow zones south of New Orleans, in the first map represents the Thunder Horse platform which is scheduled to ramp up until it is producing 250,000 bd of oil at a water depth of about 6,000 ft.), Katrina's probability swath is the second picture, Katrina's current models are the third, TH listing is the fourth) at this time, but it's early days on path prediction as you can see from the pic.

HO may get to post something on these developments today, but I wanted to get this information up.

**Update [2005-8-26 11:16:36 by Prof. Goose]:** Weather porn for you from the latest advisory (found at noaa.gov via peakoil.com):

GIVEN THE RAPID IMPROVEMENT IN THE INNER CORE STRUCTURE AND THE SHARP PRESSURE DROP...RAPID INTENSIFICATION SEEMS LIKELY FOR THE NEXT 12 HOURS OR SO. AFTERWARDS...STEADY INTENSIFICATION TO NEAR CATEGORY FOUR STRENGTH BY 72 HOURS APPEARS TO BE IN ORDER GIVEN THE VERY WARM GULF WATERS BENEATH THE HURRICANE AND THE VERTICAL SHEAR FORECAST TO DECREASE TO LESS THAN 10 KT BY 48 HOURS.

As the path of [Hurricane Katrina](#) becomes clearer it is interesting to contrast this with the location of the major new fields that are currently being developed in the Gulf. A detailed map of their location can be found at [Rigzone](#) but for the sake of simple reference I have put a couple of dots on the map that I took from the NOAA site showing the projected path for Dennis.

The black dot on the edge of the green and yellow zones south of New Orleans, represents the [Thunder Horse platform](#) which is scheduled to ramp up until it is producing 250,000 bd of oil at a water depth of about 6,000 ft.

The white dot further out and in the blue zone nearer the left side, represents the [Mad Dog](#) development that will ramp up to 100,000 bd; the [Holstein](#) development that will also produce, at peak, around 100,000 bd of oil; and the [Atlantis field](#) that will begin production next year and will ramp up to around 200,000 bd in all.

Put together these projects have the potential of around 650,000 bd, but as can be seen, they are sitting in an uncomfortable spot relative to the tracks of the hurricanes.

And with the hurricane season showing the promise of being worse than usual, this has the potential not just to threaten completion of these projects, but also in the years to come posing some threat to their continued ability to reach the target levels required in the times of the year that will be most critical (from now through the end of the year). As J has pointed out before, there is only a certain amount of repair capacity available, and if the storms keep coming, this will diminish overall the supply that we will increasingly need.

Technorati Tags: [peak oil](#), [oil](#), [Katrina](#), [Thunder Horse](#).



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](#).