



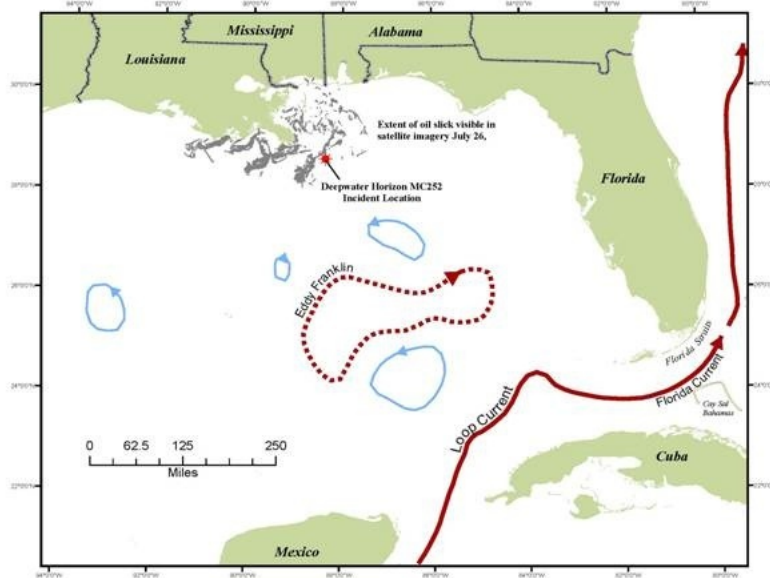
BP's Deepwater Horizon - Oil to Stay Put; Dispersant Questions - and Open Thread

Posted by [Gail the Actuary](#) on August 1, 2010 - 10:20am

Topic: [Environment/Sustainability](#)

Tags: [deepwater horizon](#), [oil spill](#) [[list all tags](#)]

Last week, NOAA released a [new study](#) showing that the dispersed oil was not likely to travel far.



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According to the report:

Overflights in the past week have found only scattered patches of light sheen near the Mississippi Delta – an indication that aggressive efforts to capture and disperse the oil have been effective and that the remaining oil is naturally dispersing and biodegrading.

Around May 24, a large loop current eddy, called Eddy Franklin, started to “pinch off” and detach, from the loop current. For a number of weeks, Eddy Franklin and the loop current showed varying levels of connectivity. The eddy is now clearly disconnected from the loop current and will likely migrate to the west over the next few months. As of

July 25, 2010, Eddy Franklin was more than 100 miles from the nearest surface oil associated with the Deepwater Horizon/BP source.

There is no clear way for oil to be transported to Southern Florida, the Florida Keys or along the East Coast of the United States unless the loop current fully reforms with Eddy Franklin, or moves northward, neither of which is likely to happen for several months. At that point, essentially all of the remaining surface oil will have dissipated.

There is also emerging discussion regarding the use of dispersant. [Congressman Markey released documents](#) raising question whether the amount of dispersant BP used was actually higher than the 1.8 million gallons reported by BP.

On June 16, Markey notes, BP told the Coast Guard that its use of Corexit had never exceeded 3,365 gallons in any recent day. Yet e-mails to Congress told a different story. In fighting the Gulf oil spill on June 12 and 13, the e-mails noted, BP used 14,305 gallons 36,000 gallons respectively.

Coast Guard officials insist that they carried out the EPA's directive faithfully. In a press briefing Saturday, retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, who is leading the federal relief effort, and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said they had reduced BP's use of dispersant on the surface by 72 percent.

At this point, BP and the Coast Guard have not had a chance to respond, so it is not clear whether there is anything to the allegations.



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