



Brandi Todd

Scientific Support Coordinator
USCG D8

500 Poydras Street
Suite 1213
New Orleans, LA 70130-3319

Telephone : [REDACTED]
24/7 Emergency: [REDACTED]

Third Coast Midstream Pipeline Spill: Main Pass, LA



Incident Information

On 16-NOV-23 at 09:10, a pipeline leak was reported to the NRC. Report came from Third Coast Midstream. Sheen on water was observed around 0900.

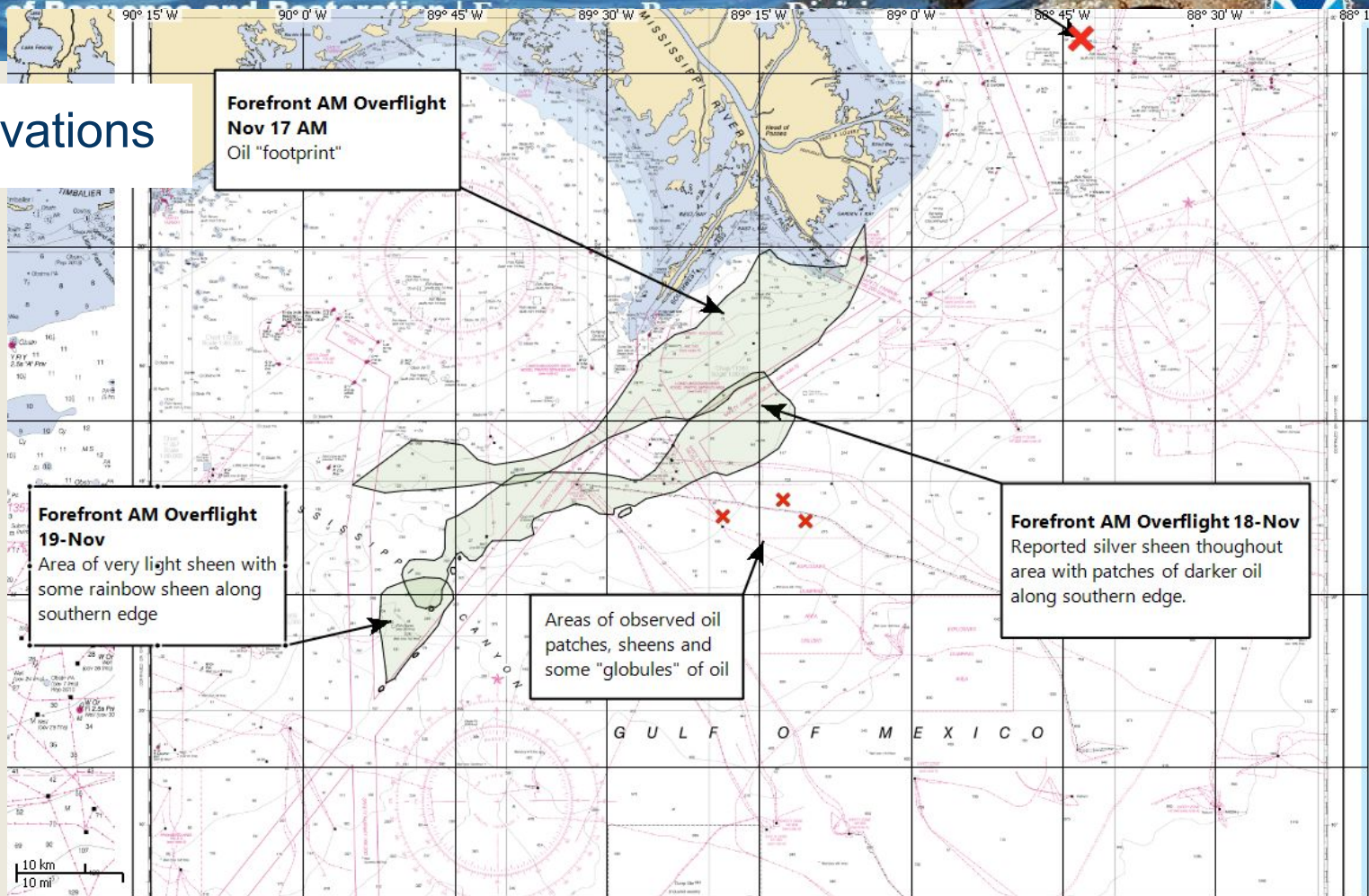
Current assumptions:

The release is reported to have started 11/15/2023 2100 and stopped at 11/16/2023 0600, with a total of ~27,000 bbl. Assumed release location: Latitude: [REDACTED] Longitude: [REDACTED]

Over the last few days, oil has been observed by overflights, satellites and vessels in the region from the source, moving to the southwest, around the bird's foot, and to the southwest of southwest pass.

Overflight this morning found streamers of sheen (some rainbow and metallic) 40-50 miles southwest of Southwest Pass. Also, response vessels observed tarballs and sheen 40 miles to the east of that location, about 30 miles south of South Pass.

Oil Observations





NOAA/NWS Point Forecast

Tonight	ESE wind 5 to 10 kt becoming SSE after midnight. A slight chance of showers after 3am. Seas 1 to 2 ft.
Monday	S wind 10 to 15 kt. A slight chance of showers. Seas 2 to 3 ft.
Monday Night	S wind around 15 kt, with gusts as high as 25 kt. A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after midnight. Seas 4 to 5 ft.
Tuesday	SW wind 10 to 15 kt becoming NNW in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 kt. Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before noon, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Seas 3 to 5 ft.
Tuesday Night	N wind 15 to 20 kt. A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Seas 3 to 4 ft.
Wednesday	N wind 15 to 20 kt. A chance of showers, mainly after noon. Seas 3 to 4 ft.
Wednesday Night	N wind 10 to 15 kt. A chance of showers. Seas 2 to 3 ft.
Thanksgiving Day	NE wind around 10 kt. A chance of showers. Seas around 2 ft.
Thursday Night	NE wind 10 to 15 kt. A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Seas around 2 ft.

ABOUT THIS FORECAST

Point Forecast: [REDACTED]

Last Update: 3:19 pm CST Nov 19, 2023

Forecast Valid: 7pm CST Nov 19, 2023-6pm CST Nov 26, 2023



Trajectory Analysis

With limited information about remaining floating oil, this analysis is initialized primarily with the overflight report from yesterday, and the overflight and on-water reports from this morning.

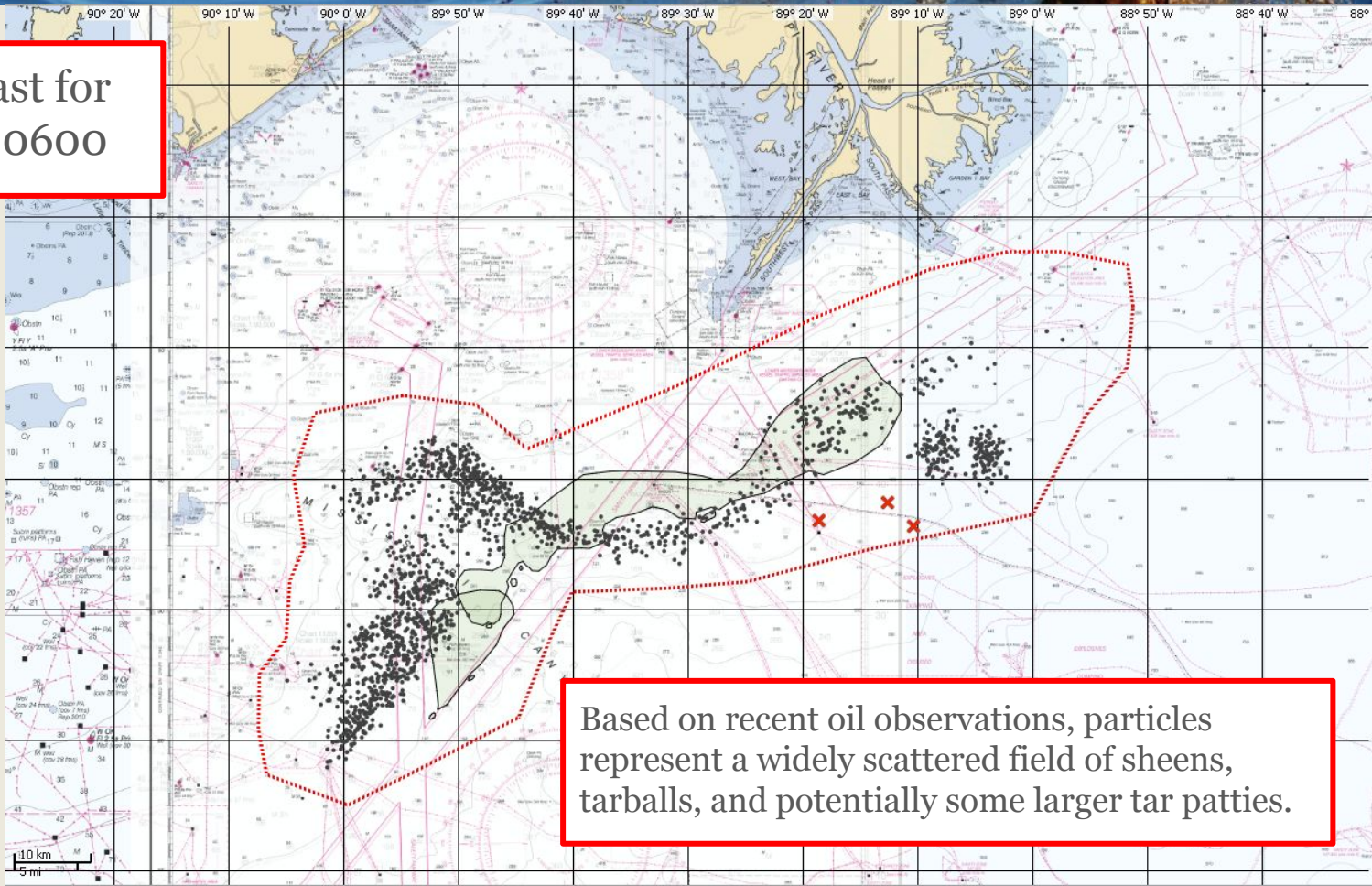
The currents are not as strong as those closer to shore so the winds will have a more noticeable effect on the region of observed oil. With southerly winds expected for Monday and Tuesday, remaining patches of floating oil will be moved north, towards the Bird's Foot Delta. There is some chance of shoreline impacts around South Pass early morning Tuesday. However, the more weathered tarballs and patties will be moved less with the wind, so shoreline impacts are more likely to be from any remaining sheens and scattered tarballs.

From Tuesday evening onward, winds are expected to shift to be from the north, moving any remaining floating oil offshore. The strong winds expected Tuesday and Wednesday will likely dissipate any remaining sheens, leaving scattered tarballs and patties that will be hard to observe from the air.

Maps on the following slides shows the trajectory forecast for Monday and Tuesday Nov 20-21.



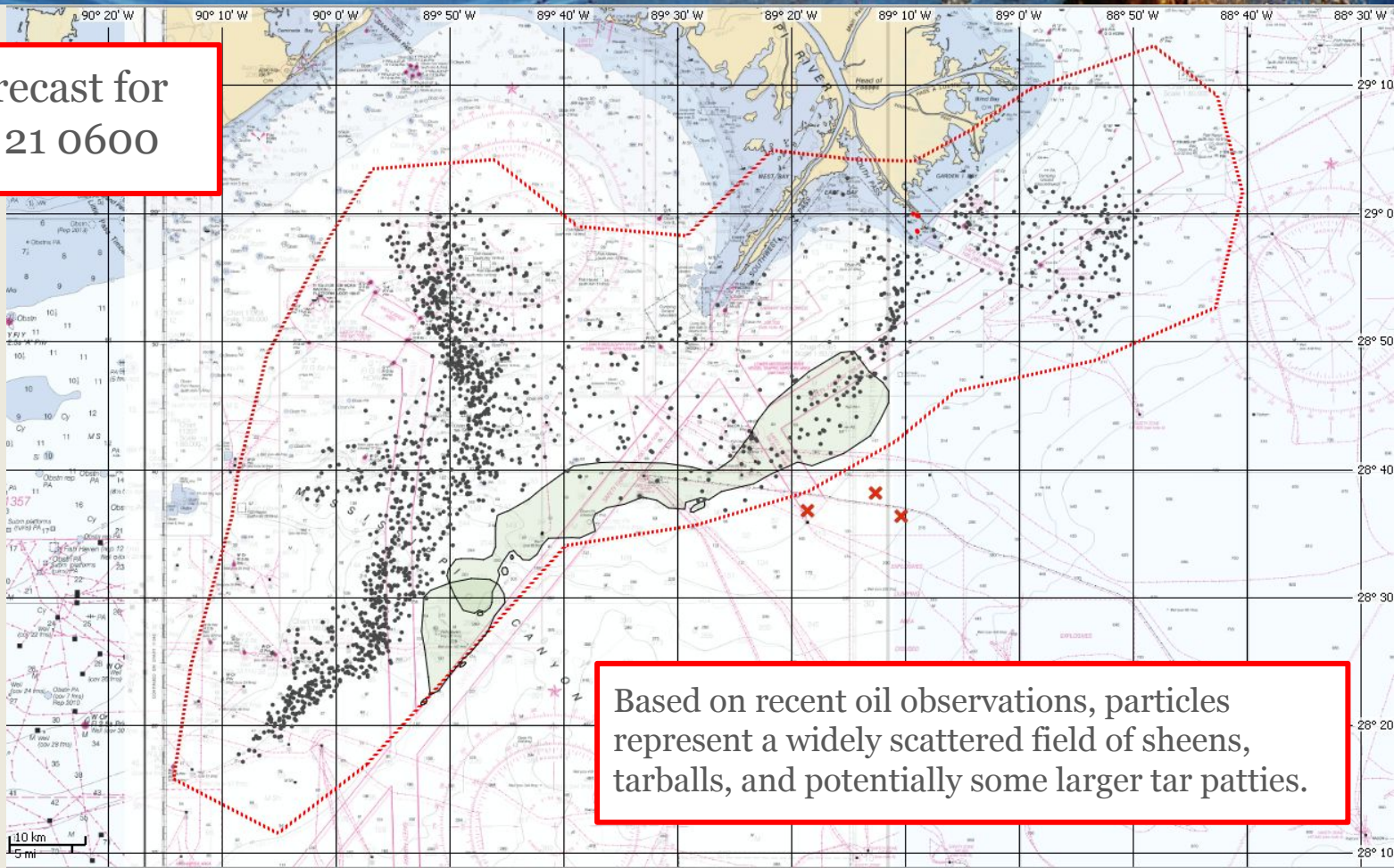
Trajectory Forecast for Monday, Nov 20 0600



Based on recent oil observations, particles represent a widely scattered field of sheens, tarballs, and potentially some larger tar patties.



Trajectory Forecast for
Tuesday, Nov 21 0600



Based on recent oil observations, particles represent a widely scattered field of sheens, tarballs, and potentially some larger tar patties.



Trajectory Metadata

- Model times
 - Start: 0900 11/19/2023
 - End: 0600 11/21/2023 (end of available ocean current model data)
- Initialization:
 - Observations:
 - Polygons provided from Forefront/NOAA overflights Nov 18 and 19
 - Ship observations for skimming operations and NOAA research cruise
- Winds
 - Point winds from NDBC #PSTL1 from model start to 1600 11/19/2023
 - Gridded winds from NCEP GFS 1/4 degree model from then onward
- Currents
 - American Seas (AMSEAS) Navy Coastal Ocean Model
 - COOPS NGOFS2 used for uncertainty analysis