As many of you are aware, the Deepwater Horizon Rig located at approximately 88°19'W & 28°45'N experienced a catastrophic series of explosions on board and ultimately sunk last Thursday April 22, 2010. As a result of this, the remnants of the rig and the oil well have been releasing oil, which has now resulted in the growing oil slick depicted in translucent red/pink on the included ROFFS™ image.

We have continued to study a series of satellite imagery consisting of high resolution visible RGB (NASA Terra and Aqua MODIS), infrared sst° (NOAA 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, MetOpA, and NASA Terra and Aqua MODIS), and ocean color/chlorophyll imagery (NASA Terra and Aqua and MERIS) on a daily basis to determine the location and the spread of the resulting oil slick.

Today it appears that this oil slick has spread as far eastward as 87°12'W & 28°50'-29°02'N south of the De Soto Canyon and east of the Double Nipple with a thin portion of it occurring as close as 20 miles east of South Pass, LA. This whole zone is a highly populated area with such fish as tuna, dolphin, wahoo, marlin, snapper, grouper, and sharks, as well as, turtles and birds. Also note that we are currently in the peak spawning season for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (threatened species) that are in this area now. What we have seen and shown from the satellite imagery seems to agree very well with the Coast Guard over-flight map (also included) from Wednesday April 28, 2010. Please keep in mind that although this spill appears to be growing in size that the majority of it may only be as thick as a coat of paint. The currents shown are based on sequential image analysis and will change as a function of the local and regional winds and circulations. The arrows shown on the ROFFS™ map indicate the direction of the surface flow of the water and are not current vectors. These arrows do not indicate the speed of the current.

While the winds currently in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico are light (less than 10 knots); however, winds are forecasted to shift and blow from the southeast at 15-25 knots over the next several days. It remains to be seen how this will affect the distribution and spread of this oil slick. This is likely to push some of the oil towards the Louisiana coast and perhaps Alabama, Mississippi, and the Florida Panhandle. We anticipate that some of the oil will be pulled into the Loop Current and Gulf Stream system and be transported towards the Florida Keys, east coast of Florida, and further north along with the Gulf Stream. For more information on this event please visit http://www.roffs.com/deepwaterhorizon.html or contact ROFFS™ at (800) 677-7633 or via email at fish7@roffs.com.