Offshore Information for Area Contingency Planning

Gulf of Mexico

Offshore Worst Case Discharge Scenarios and Modeling

Southeast Louisiana ACP (New Orleans)

Technical Document #2
Appendix 2E

May 2022

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Section Number	Change Date	Name
1				
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1 Introduction

In 2019, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) sponsored a project in cooperation with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to improve the content of the coastal zone area contingency plans (ACPs) with respect to the information necessary to effectively plan for and respond to large oil spills from offshore oil and gas facilities. This collaboration between BSEE, USCG District Eight, resource trustees, state agencies, oil spill removal organizations (OSROs), and Area Committees resulted in a series of technical documents that provide offshore information for the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) on:

- Oil and Gas Infrastructure (GOM Technical Document #1)
- **Worst Case Discharge Scenarios (GOM Technical Document #2 and Appendices 2A-F)**
- Response Concept of Operations (GOM Technical Document #3)
- Response Strategies and BMPs (GOM Technical Document #4)
- Sensitive Species Profiles (GOM Technical Document #5).

These documents were developed specifically for incorporation by reference into the coastal zone ACPs and are hosted on the BSEE Oil Spill Preparedness Division's (OSPD) website.

The WCD scenario information in Technical Document #2 is organized into three main components: Section 2 contains a description of key modeling concepts and reference scales that are useful for understanding the oil spill trajectory data and figures that have been developed for each of the WCD scenarios. Section 3 contains a series of tables that collate and summarize key information regarding all of the WCD scenarios that were developed for the GOM. Appendices 2A – 2F contain specific, more detailed WCD scenario modeling data and trajectory figures for each of the ACP Planning Areas in the GOM. Appendix 2E contains the modeling information for two offshore WCD Scenarios located in the Southeast Louisiana ACP.

2 Energy XXI Platform J Storage Tank, Pipeline, and Well J-5 Blowout

2.1 Scenario Description

The Energy XXI Platform J Storage Tank, Pipeline, and Well J-5 Blowout WCD Scenario is a storage tank, pipeline, and surface well blowout with the following key parameters.

Table 1. Scenario Key Parameters.

Discharge Depth (m)	Distance from Shore (NM)	Oil Type	Spill Type	Instantaneous Release from Storage Tank + Pipeline	Discharge Duration (days)	Discharge Flowrate (bbl/day)	Total Oil Discharged (bbl)
Surface	7	Med-Light Crude API = 34	Storage Tank + Pipeline + Surface Well Blowout	144	30	124,054	3,721,764

2.2 Potential Oil Contact with the Environment and Resources at Risk

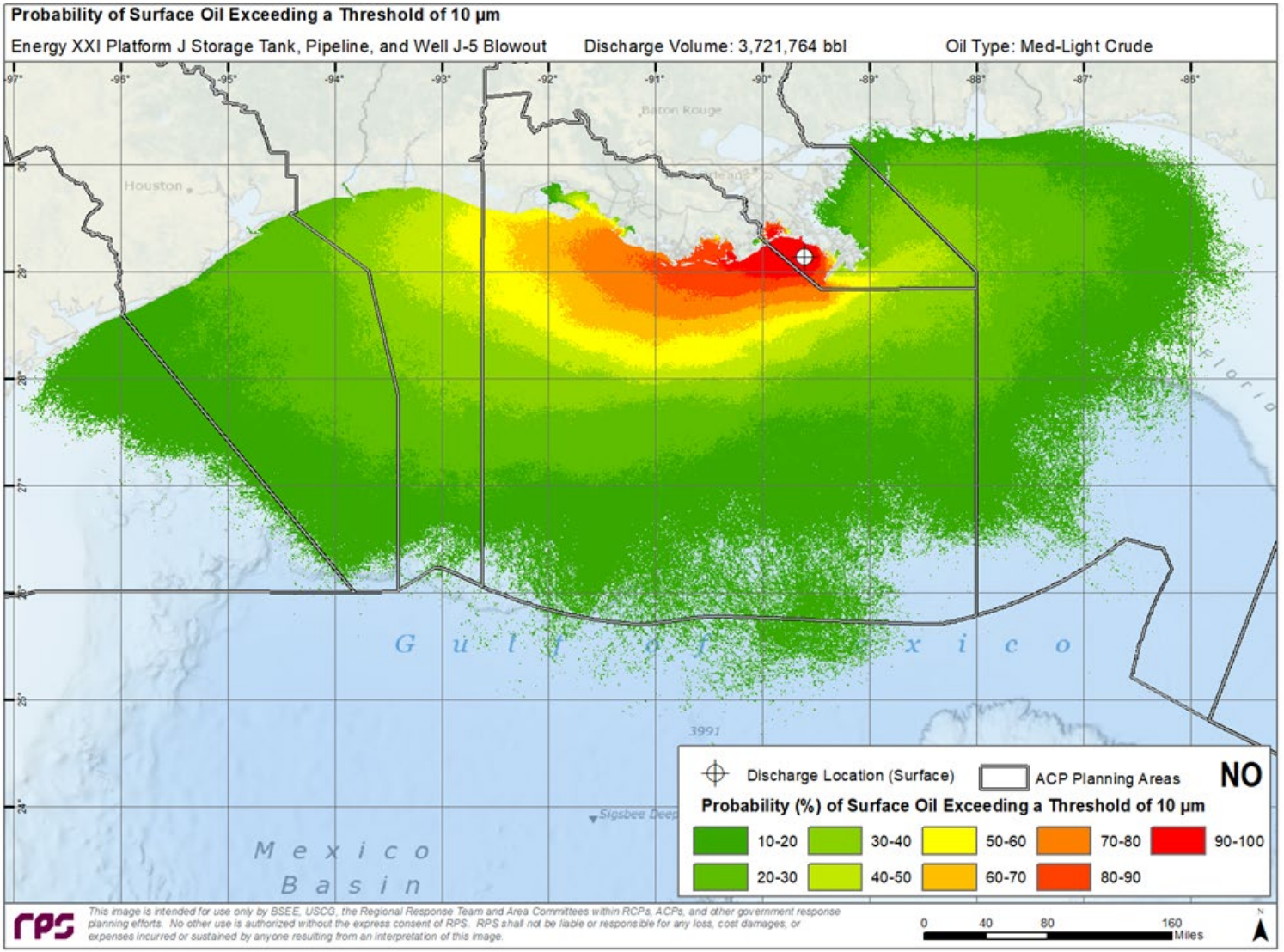


Figure 1. Probability Footprint for Oil on the Water Surface with Average Thickness greater than the Ecological Threshold of 10 µm.

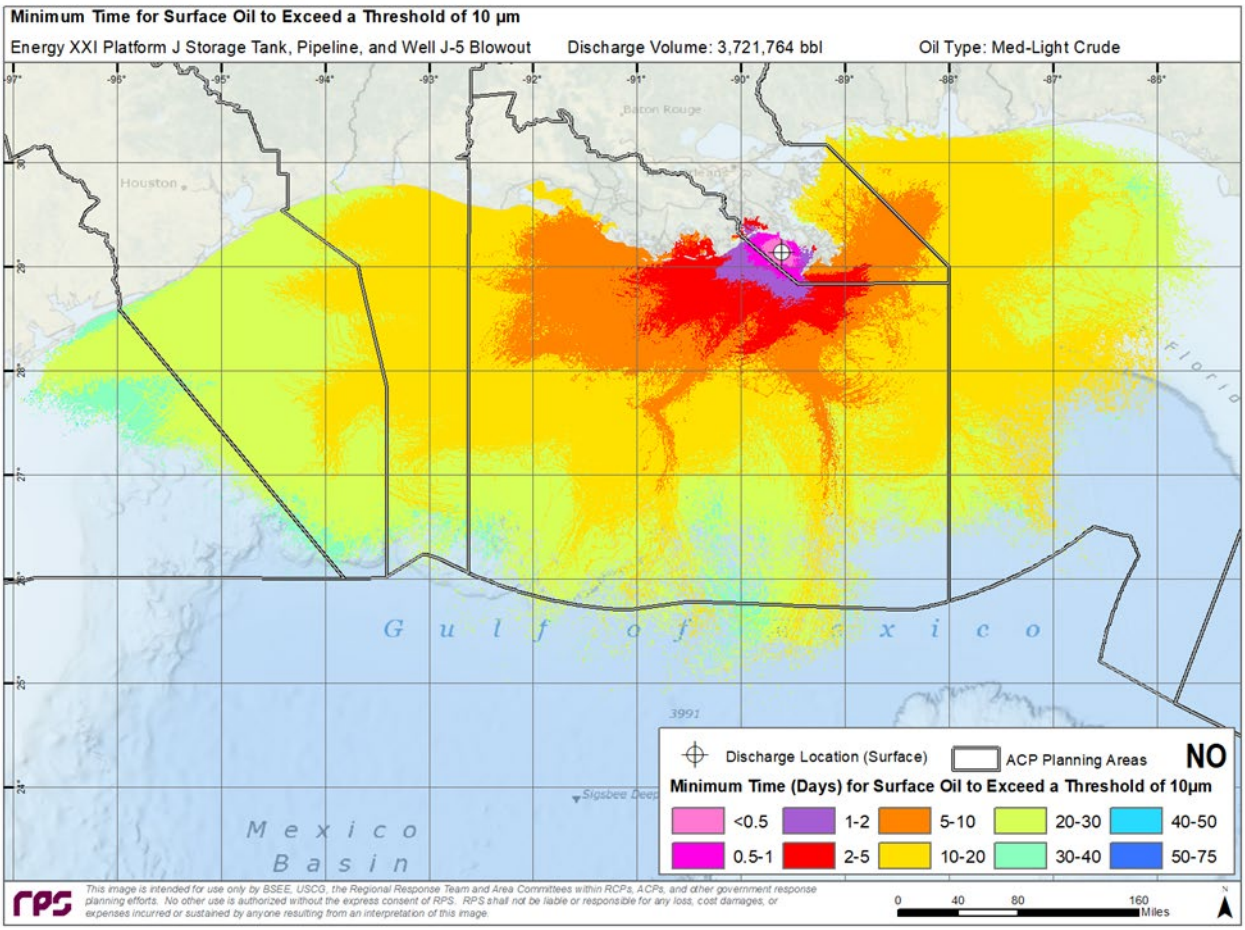


Figure 2. Minimum Time for Oil on the Water Surface with Average Thickness greater than the Ecological Threshold of 10 µm.

Table 2. Oil Spill Stochastic Results – Predicted Shoreline Impacts.

Percentage of Simulations Reaching shore (%)	Percent volume of discharged oil reaching shore (%)		Time to Reach Shore (days)	
	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Average
100	30	17	0.5	2.0

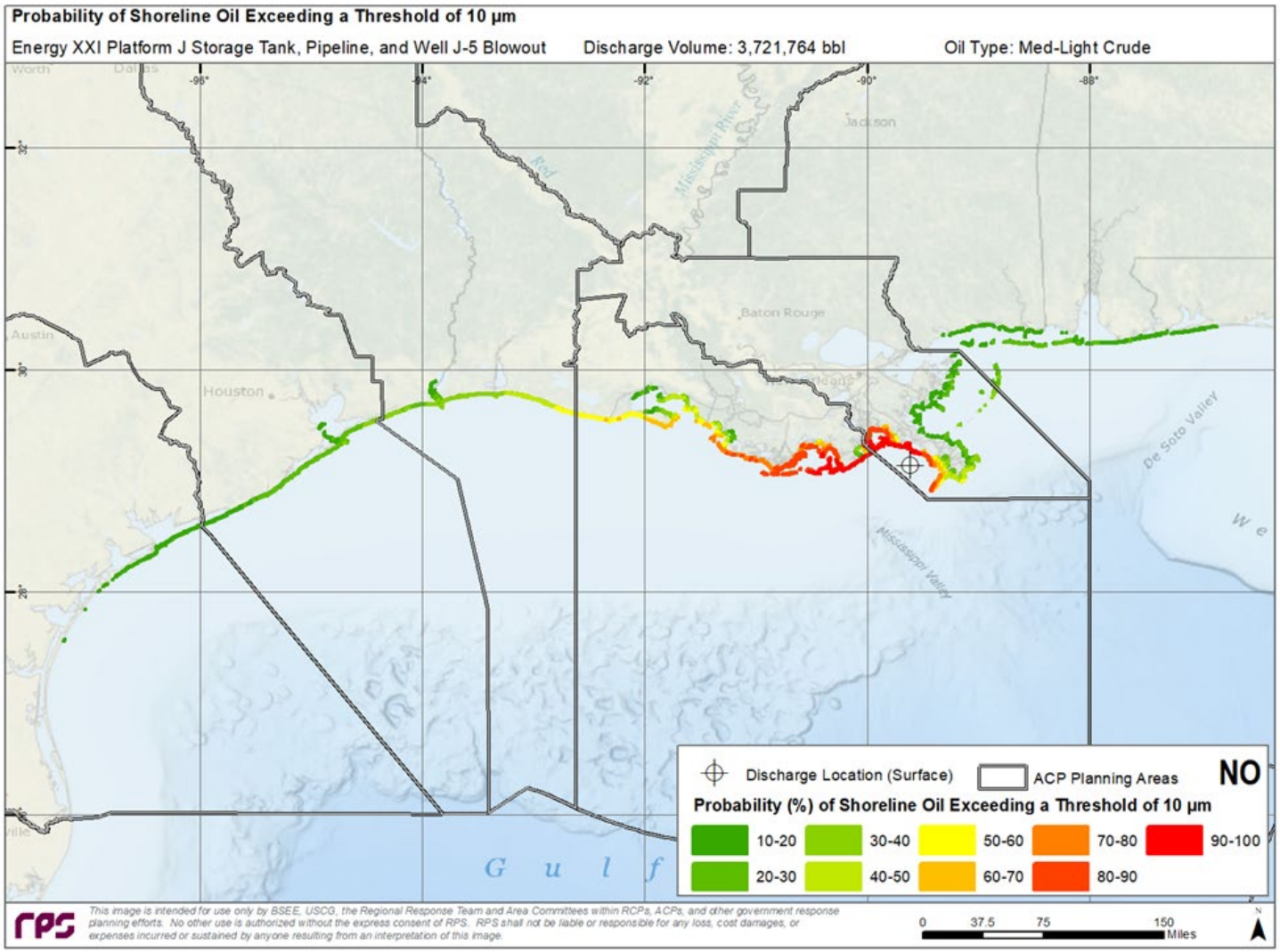


Figure 3. Probability Footprint for Oil on the Shoreline with Average Thickness greater than the Ecological Threshold of 10 µm.

This thickness of oil may appear on the shore as dark stain or film. 10 µm is a conservative ecological screening threshold for potential sublethal effects on fauna and birds on the shoreline.

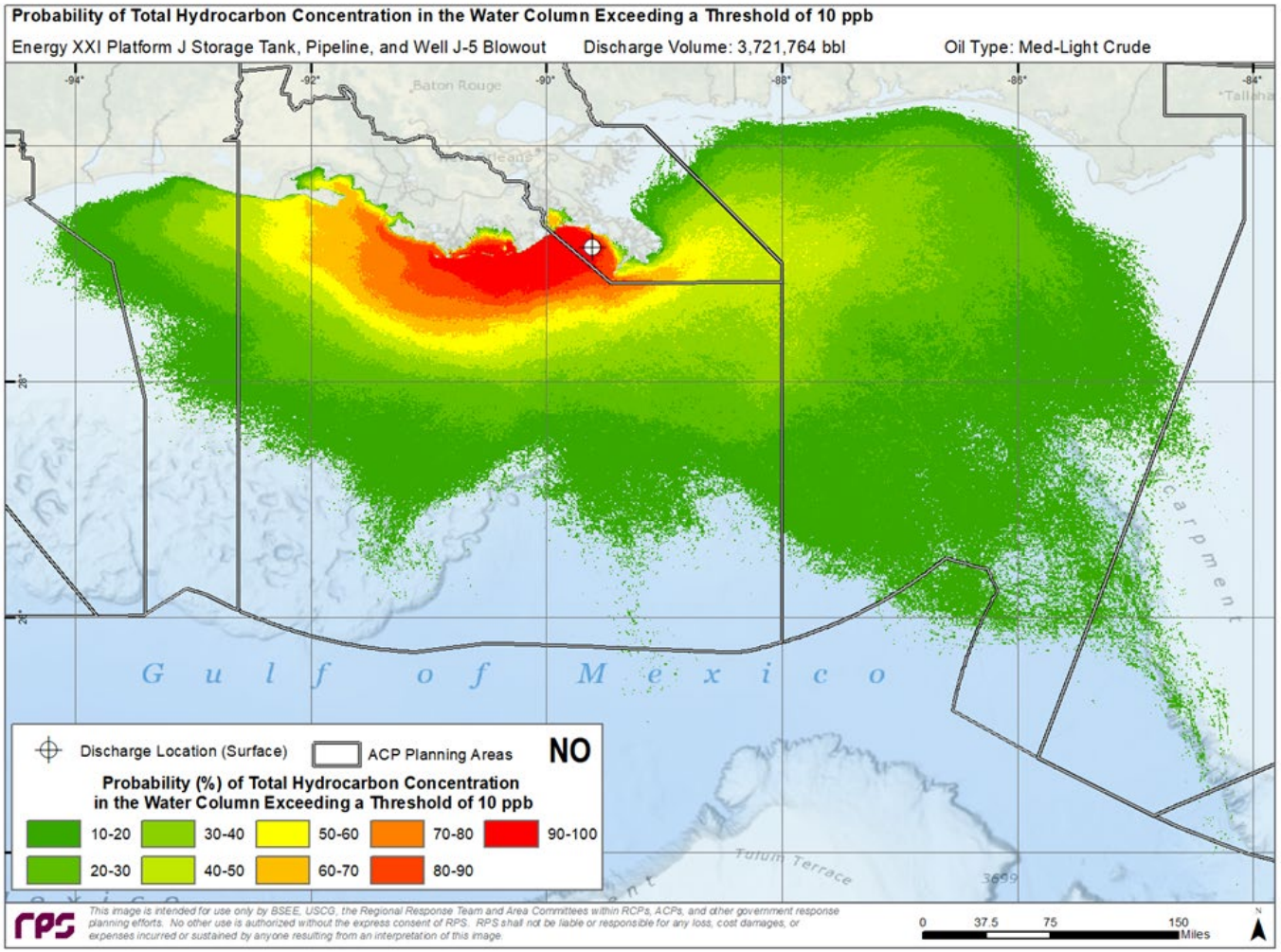


Figure 4. Probability Footprint for Total Hydrocarbon Concentration (THC) concentrations in the Water Column greater than the Ecological Threshold of 10 µg/L (~10 ppb). 10 ppb (µg/L) of whole oil (THC) corresponds to ~0.1 µg/L (~1 ppb) of dissolved Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) for fresh crude oils. This threshold can result in sublethal impacts to early life stages of fish and invertebrates in the upper ~20 meters of the water column if exposed to UV light.

The "worst case" deterministic simulation is a single oil trajectory run using the time period and ambient conditions that resulted in the greatest length of shoreline oiling. The simulation resulted in oiling in the following cumulative amounts:

- Oiled Surface Area Exceeding 0.04 µm (Socioeconomic Impact) = 123,676 mi^2
- Oiled Surface Area Exceeding 10 µm (Ecological Impact) = 10,344 mi^2
- Oiled Shoreline Exceeding 10 µm (Ecological Impact) = 1,383 mi
- Water Column Oil Exposure Exceeding 10 ppb Dissolved PAH (Ecological Impact) = 33,344 million m^3
- Time to Shore = 1.5 days

These impact values are calculated considering no response measures are taken to secure the source of the spill or to contain, remove, or disperse oil at the scene.

Table 3. Mass balance at the end of the worst case deterministic simulation (% of the total volume of oil discharged*).

Total Oil Discharged	Surface	Evaporated	Water Column	Sediment	Ashore	Degraded
3,721,764 bbl	0.1%	39.1%	8.6%	3.2%	18.2%	30.9%

*Important to note these values are not indicative of the maximum amount of oil in each compartment, but instead show the final amount of oil in each compartment.

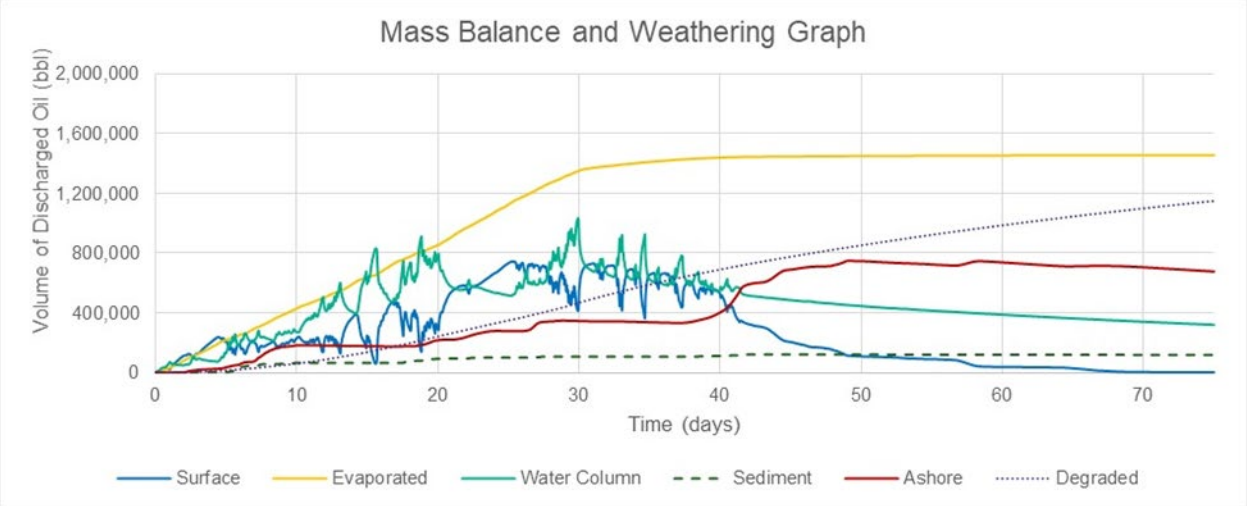


Figure 5. Mass Balance over Time for worst case deterministic simulation.

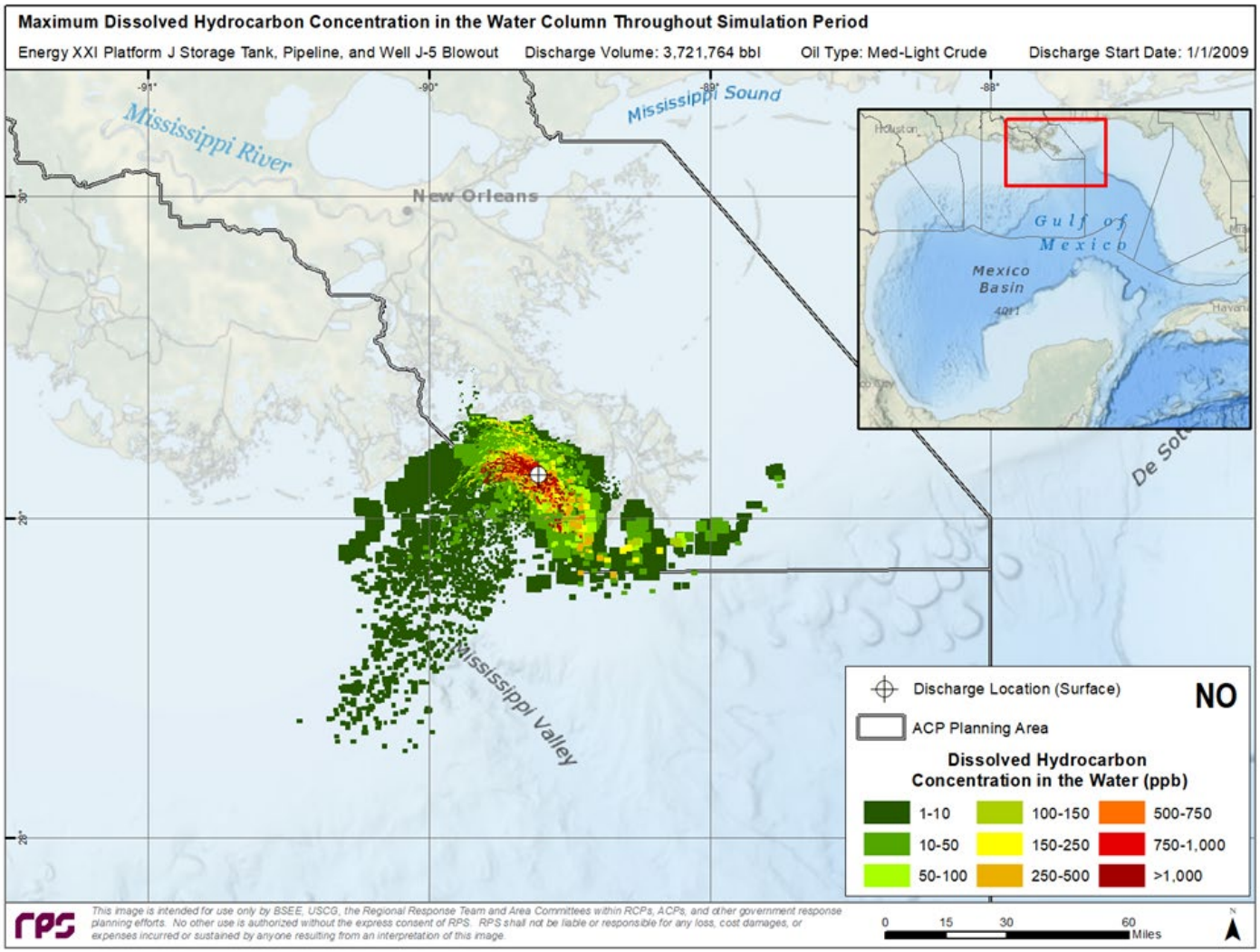


Figure 6. Cumulative Maximum Concentration of Dissolved Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) within the water column at any time during the worst case deterministic simulation period. Dissolved PAH concentrations greater than ~10 µg/L (~10 ppb) could affect plankton in the upper ~20 m and impart sublethal to lethal effects on other water column biota (adult, juvenile fish, and invertebrates).

2.3 Response Planning Information

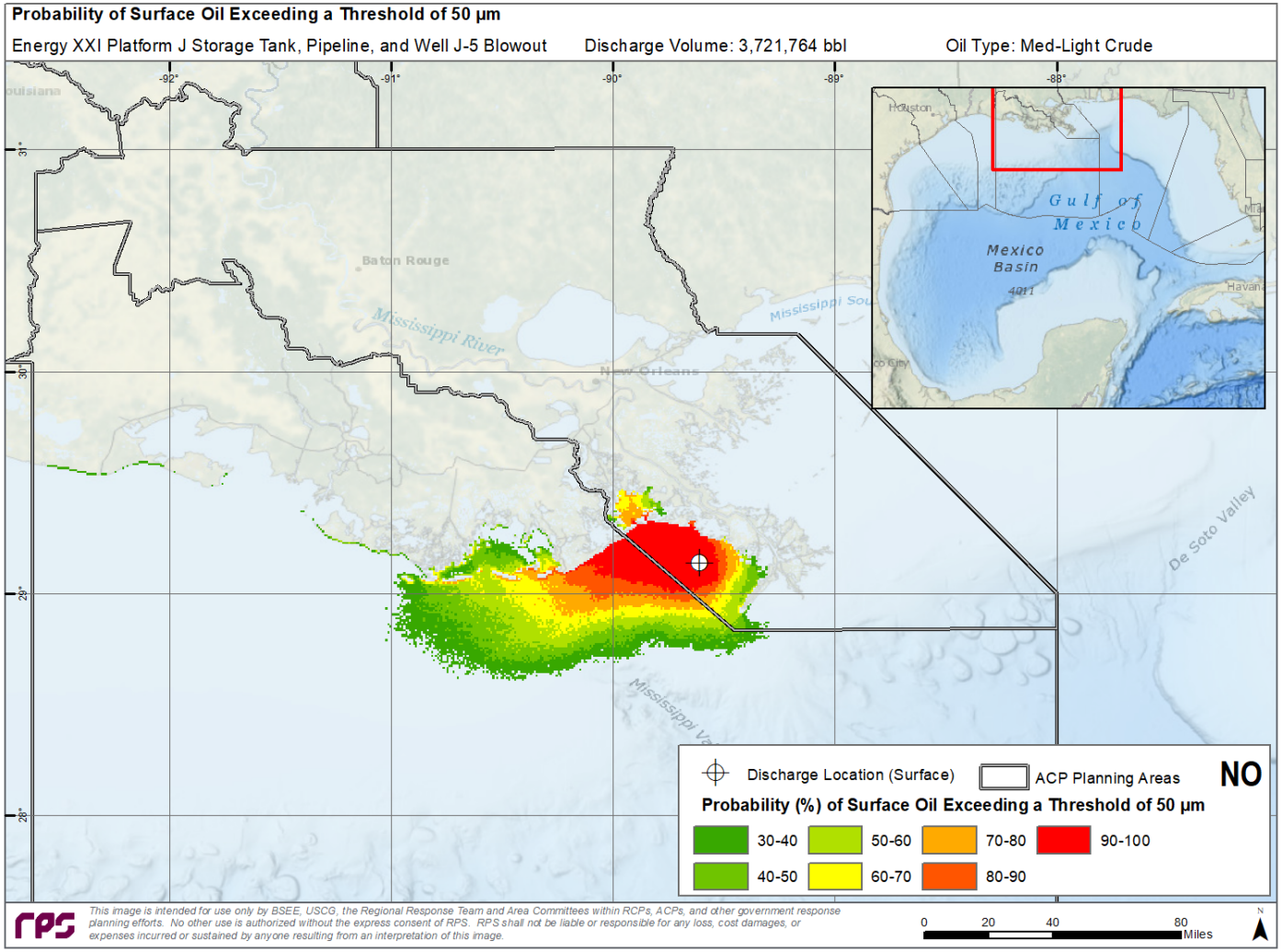


Figure 7. Probability Footprint for Surface Oil exposure greater than 50 µm. In this thickness range, oil will appear as a continuous to discontinuous patches of dark oil in quantities where high volume on-water mechanical recovery operations will be the most productive.

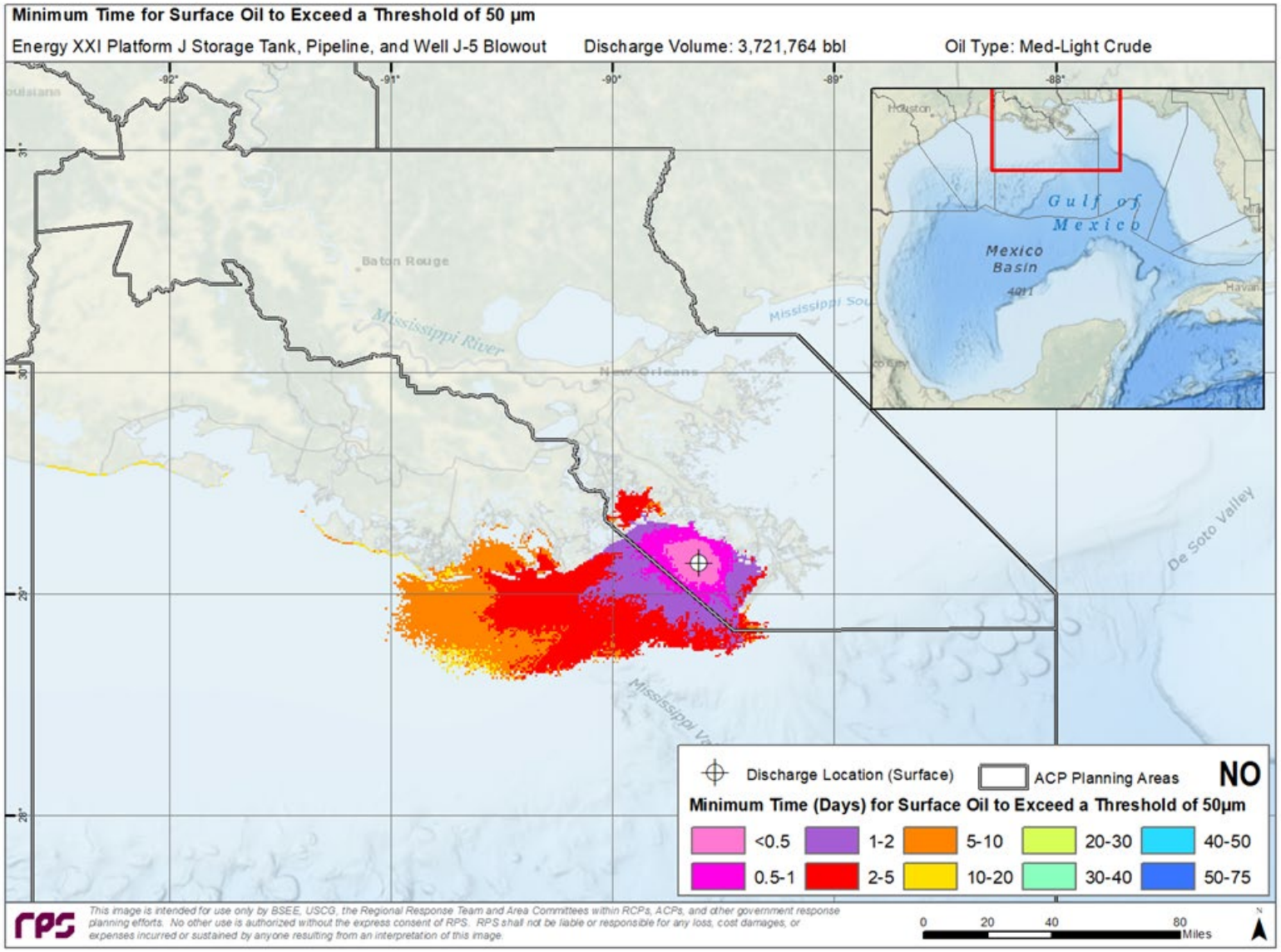


Figure 8. Minimum Travel Time for Surface Oil exposure greater than 50 µm.

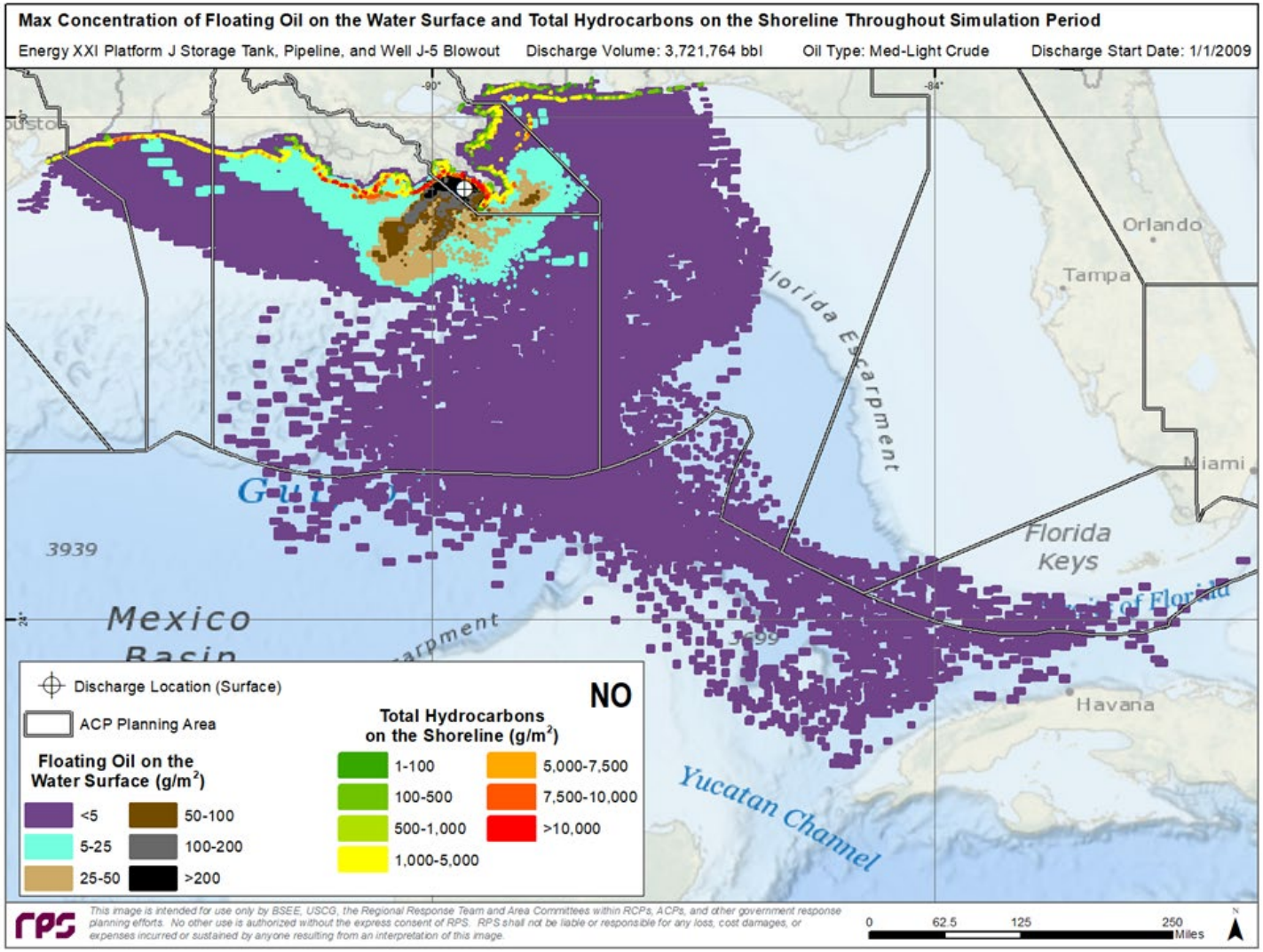


Figure 9. Cumulative Maximum Concentration of Floating Oil on the Water Surface and Total Hydrocarbons on the Shoreline at any time during the worst case deterministic simulation.

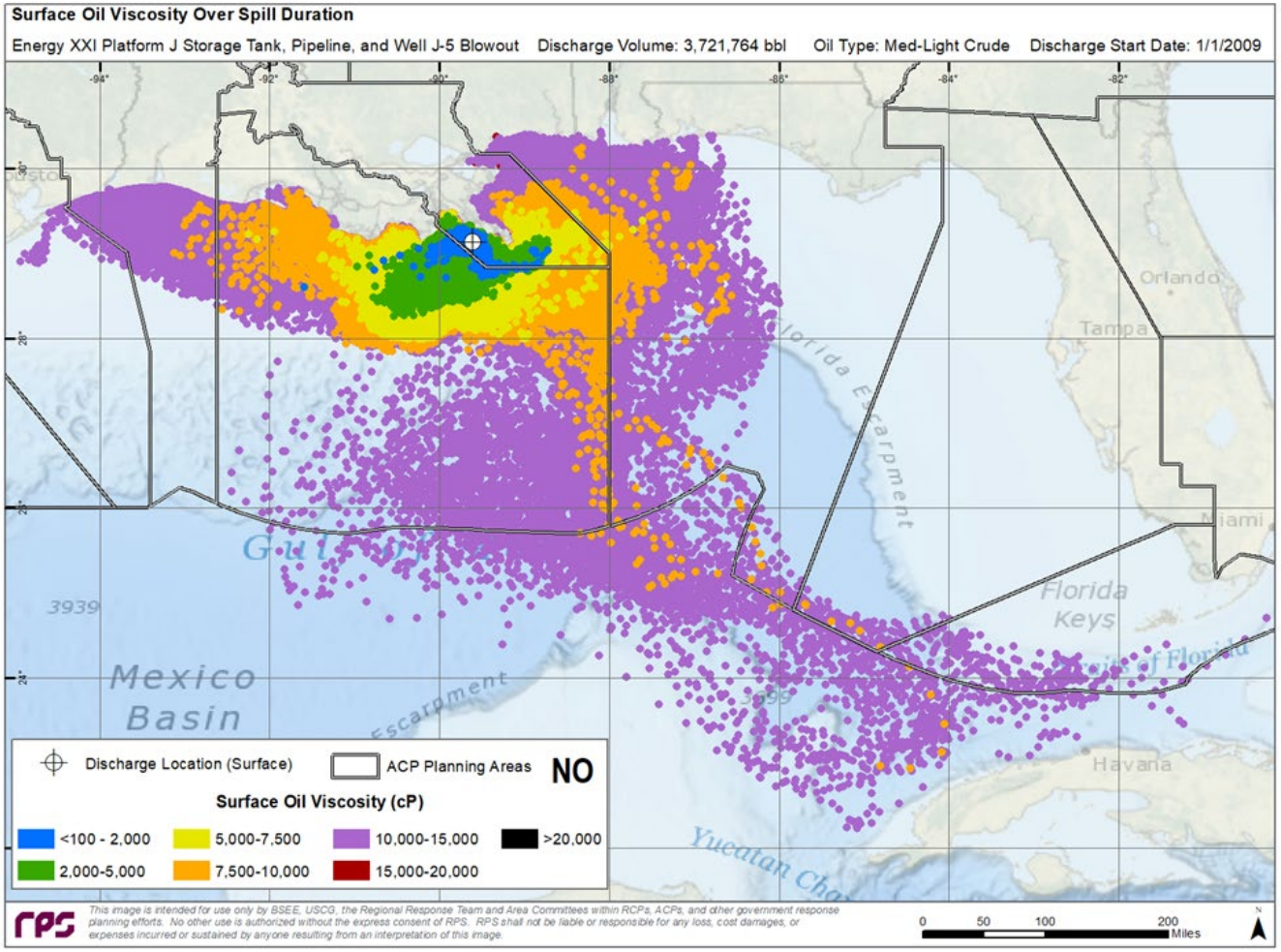


Figure 10. Cumulative footprint of exposure to surface floating oil greater than the minimum oil viscosity over a 75-day period for the worst case deterministic simulation. Viscosities greater than those mapped may be present at any location at any specific time in the simulation. This graphic provides a perspective of how oil viscosity may change as oil is transported away from the discharge site over time, and what areas may be amenable to dispersant operations where enough quantities of oil are present.

3 Chevron Drilling Hoffe Park Well Blowout

3.1 Scenario Description

The Chevron Drilling Hoffe Park WCD Scenario is a subsea well blowout with the following key parameters.

Table 4. Scenario Key Parameters.

Discharge Depth (m)	Distance from Shore (NM)	Oil Type	Spill Type	Discharge Duration (days)	Discharge Flowrate (bbl/day)	Total Oil Discharged (bbl)
1,223	42	Light Crude (38.2)	Subsea Well Blowout	30	465,709	13,971,270

3.2 Potential Oil Contact with the Environment and Resources at Risk

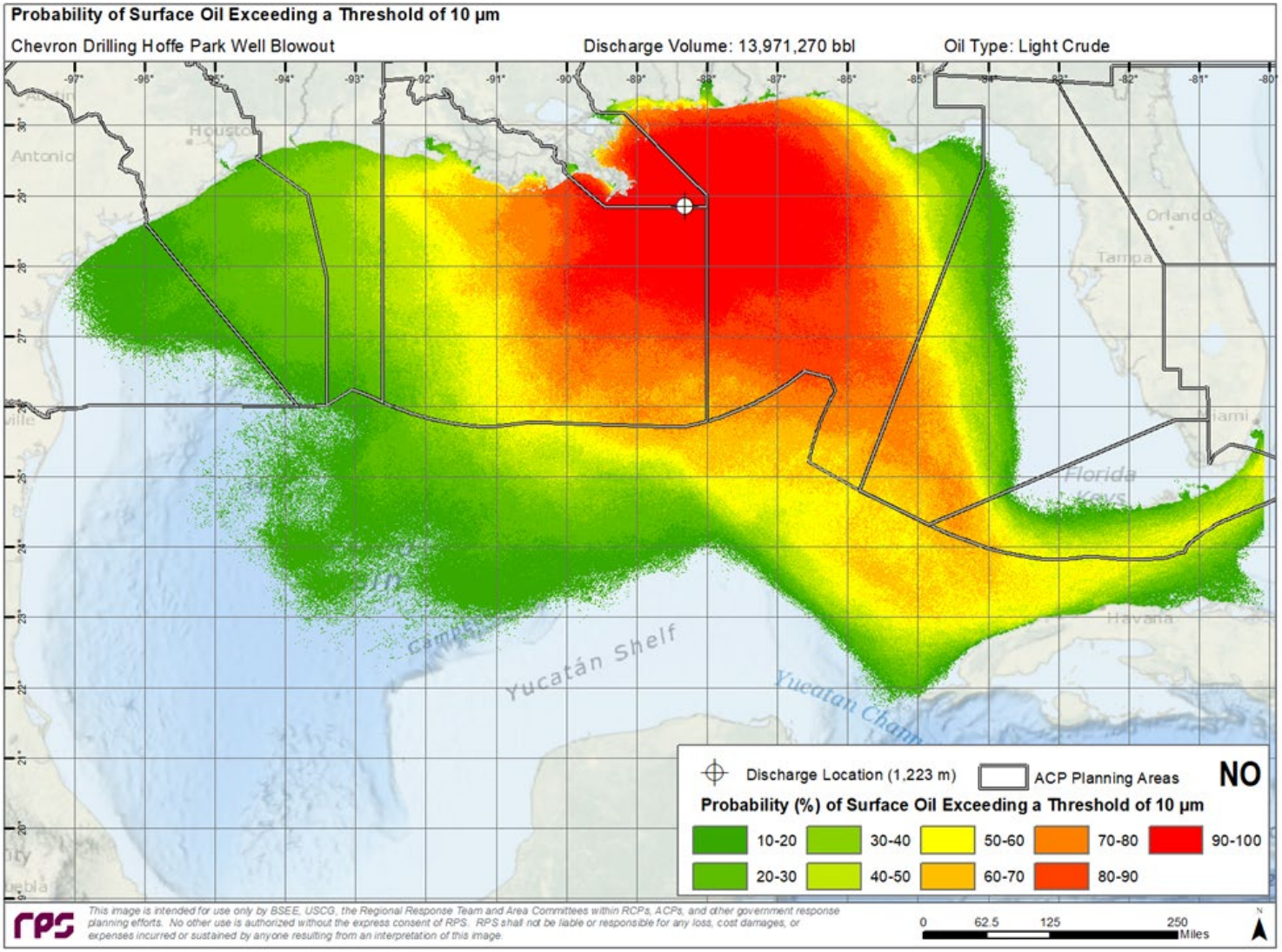


Figure 11. Probability Footprint for Oil on the Water Surface with Average Thickness greater than the Ecological Threshold of 10 µm.

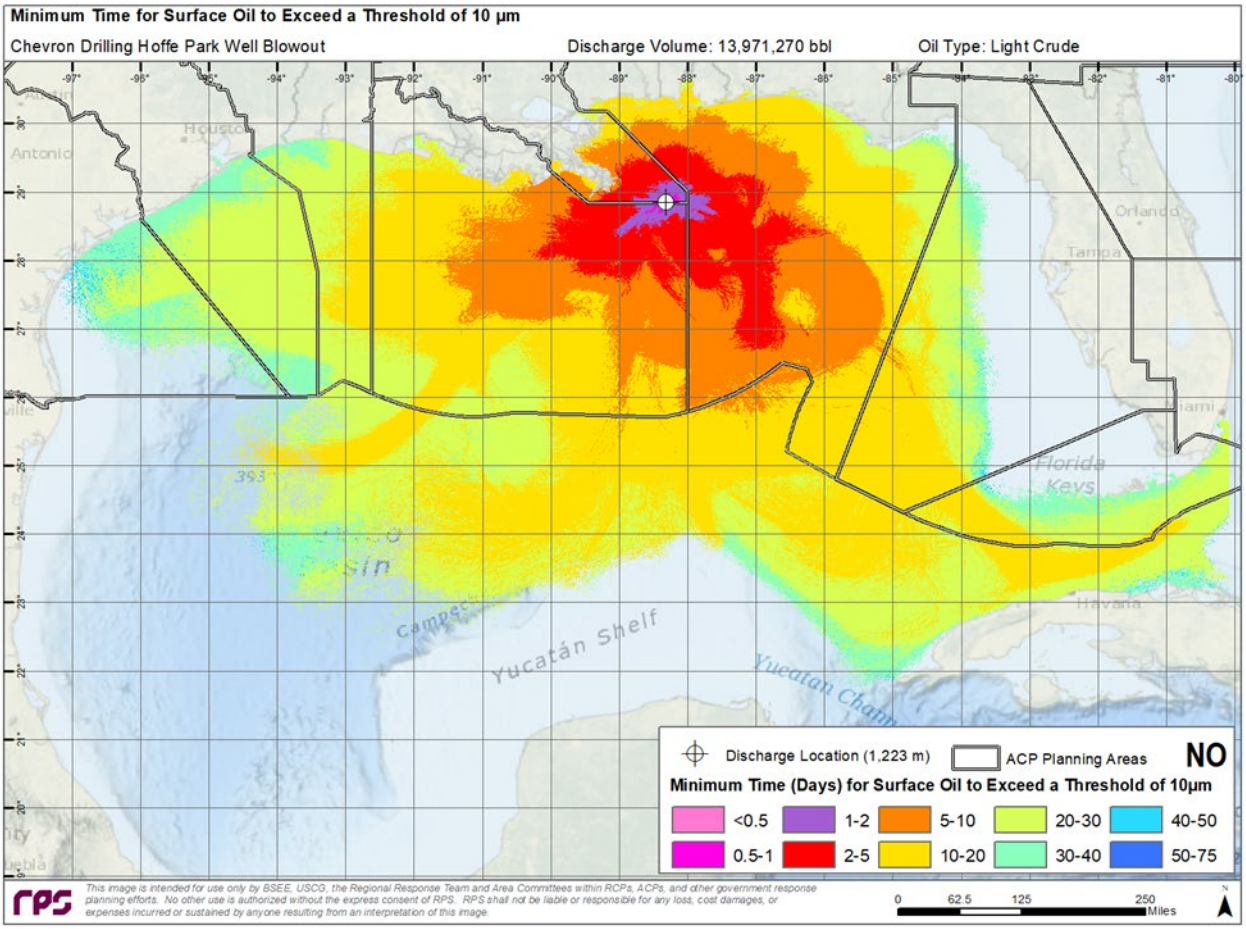


Figure 12. Minimum Travel Time for Oil on the Water Surface with Average Thickness greater than the Ecological Threshold of 10 µm.

Table 5. Oil Spill Stochastic Results – Predicted Shoreline Impacts.

Percentage of Simulations Reaching shore (%)	Percent volume of discharged oil reaching shore (%)		Time to Reach Shore (days)	
	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Average
100	15	5	4.4	14.1

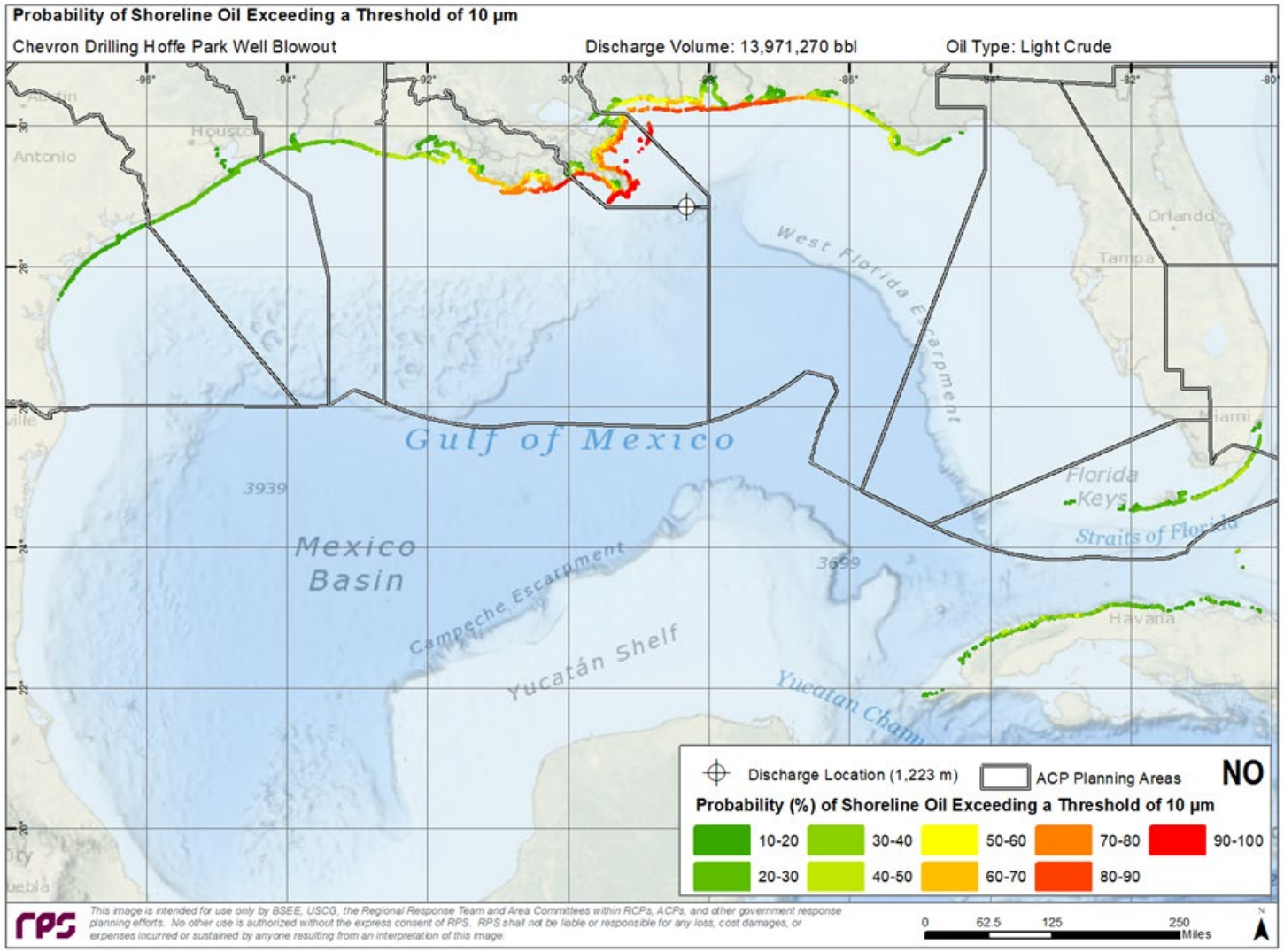


Figure 13. Probability Footprint for Oil on the Shoreline with Average Thickness greater than the Ecological Threshold of 10 µm.

This thickness of oil may appear on the shore as dark stain or film. 10 µm is a conservative ecological screening threshold for potential sublethal effects on fauna and birds on the shoreline.

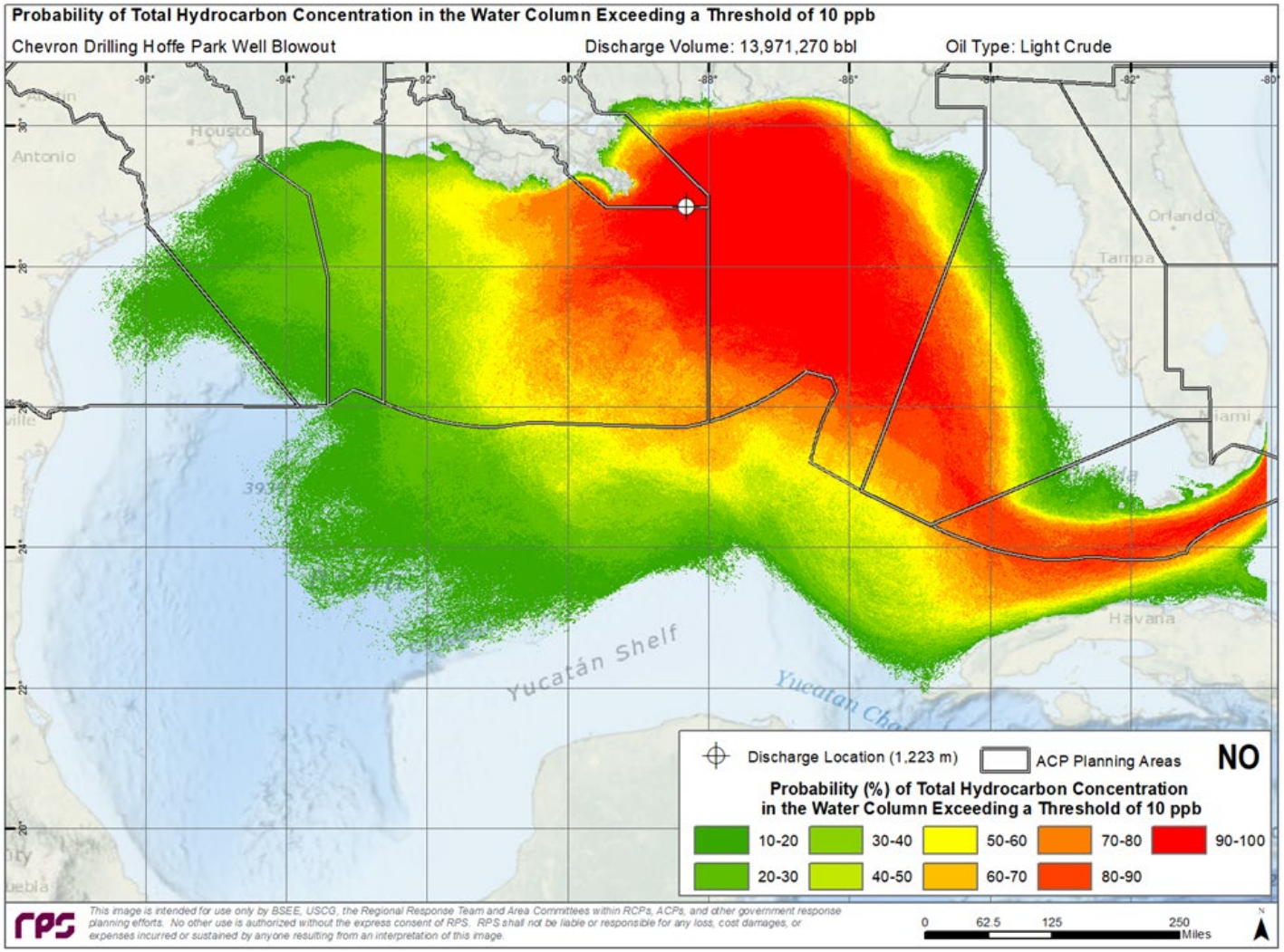


Figure 14. Probability Footprint for Total Hydrocarbon Concentration (THC) concentrations in the Water Column greater than the Ecological Threshold of 10 µg/L (~10 ppb). 10 ppb (µg/L) of whole oil (THC) corresponds to ~0.1 µg/L (~1 ppb) of dissolved Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) for fresh crude oils. This threshold can result in sublethal impacts to early life stages of fish and invertebrates in the upper ~20 meters of the water column if exposed to UV light.

The "worst case" deterministic simulation is a single oil trajectory run using the time period and ambient conditions that resulted in the greatest length of shoreline oiling. The simulation resulted in oiling in the following cumulative amounts:

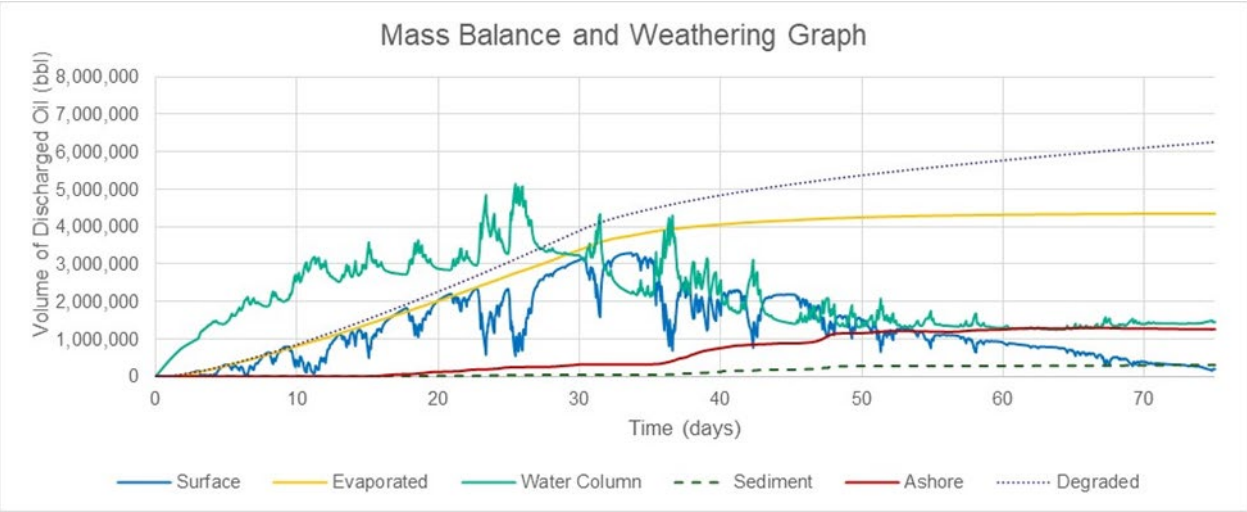
- Oiled Surface Area Exceeding 0.04 µm (Socioeconomic Impact) = 301,496 mi^2
- Oiled Surface Area Exceeding 10 µm (Ecological Impact) = 29,079 mi^2
- Oiled Shoreline Exceeding 10 µm (Ecological Impact) = 2,189 mi
- Water Column Oil Exposure Exceeding 10 ppb Dissolved PAH (Ecological Impact) = 204,320 million m^3
- Time to Shore = 14.9 days

These impact values are calculated considering no response measures are taken to secure the source of the spill or to contain, remove, or disperse oil at the scene.

Table 6. Mass balance at the end of the worst case deterministic simulation (% of the total volume of oil discharged*).

Total Oil Discharged	Surface	Evaporated	Water Column	Sediment	Ashore	Degraded
13,971,270 bbl	1.4%	31.1%	10.4%	2.2%	9%	44.8%

*Important to note these values are not indicative of the maximum amount of oil in each compartment, but instead show the final amount of oil in each compartment.



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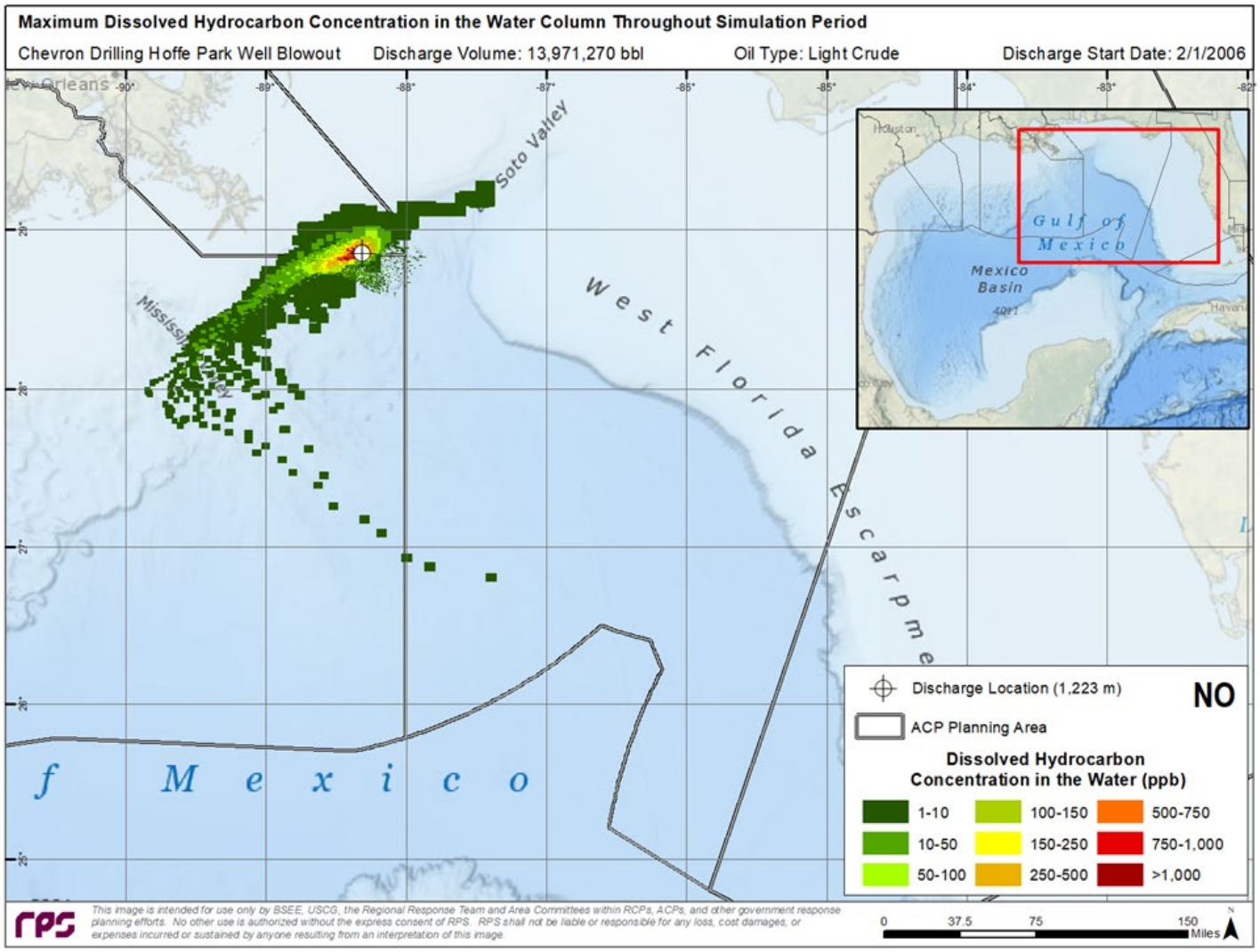
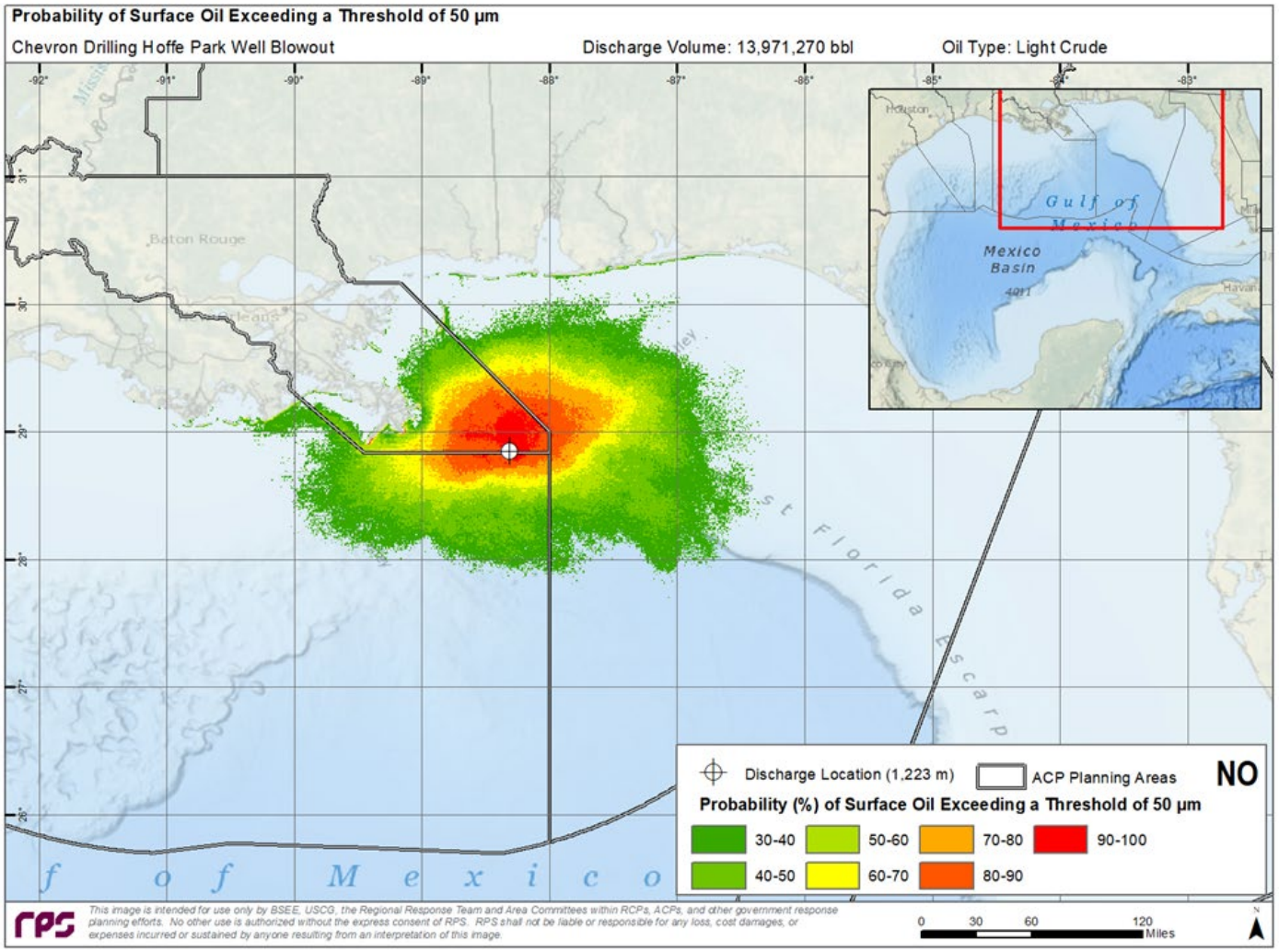


Figure 16. Cumulative Maximum Concentration of Dissolved Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) within the water column at any time during the worst case deterministic simulation period. Dissolved PAH concentrations greater than ~10 µg/L (~10 ppb) could affect plankton in the upper ~20 m and impart sublethal to lethal effects on other water column biota (adult, juvenile fish, and invertebrates).

3.3 Response Planning Information



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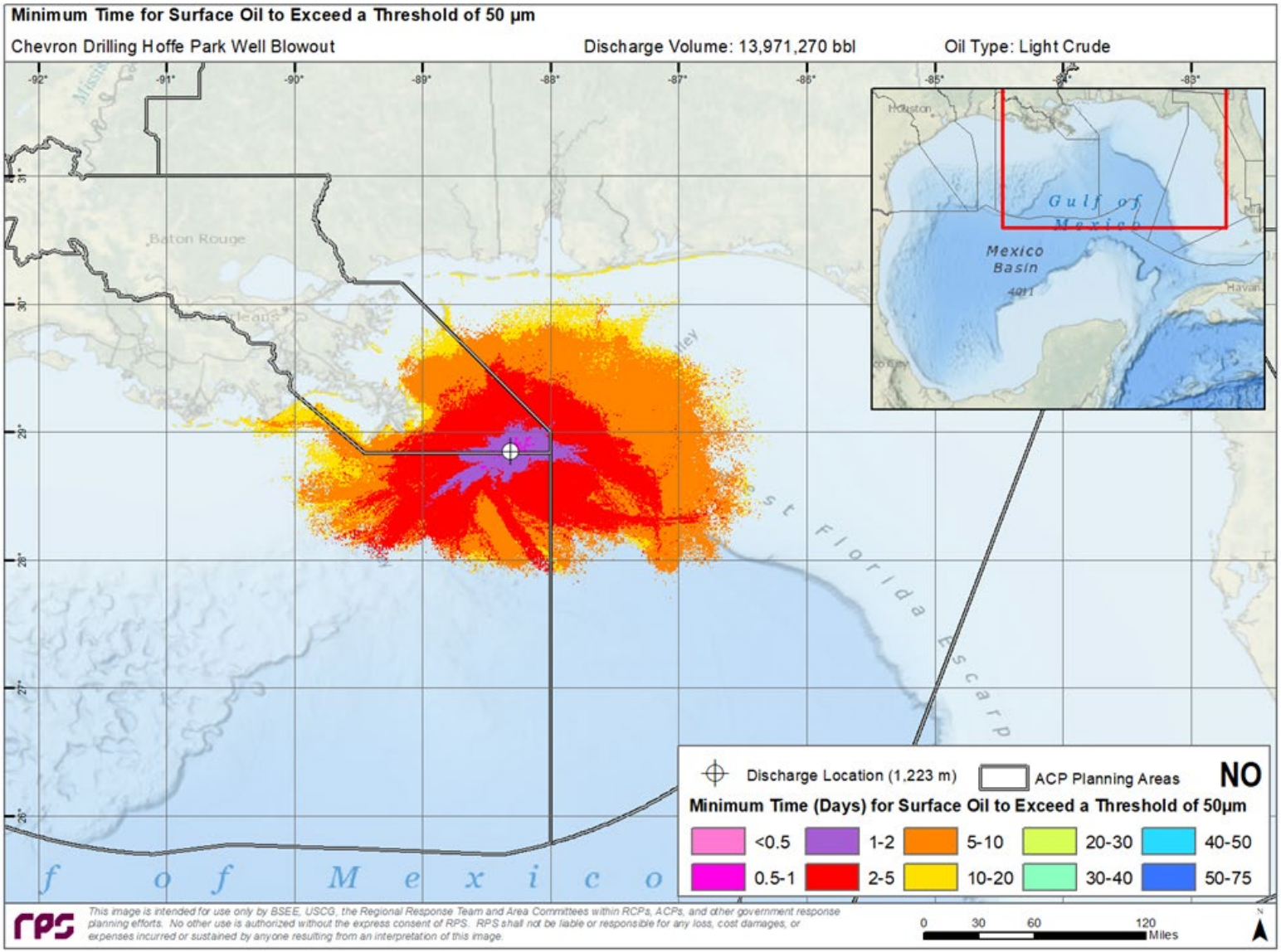
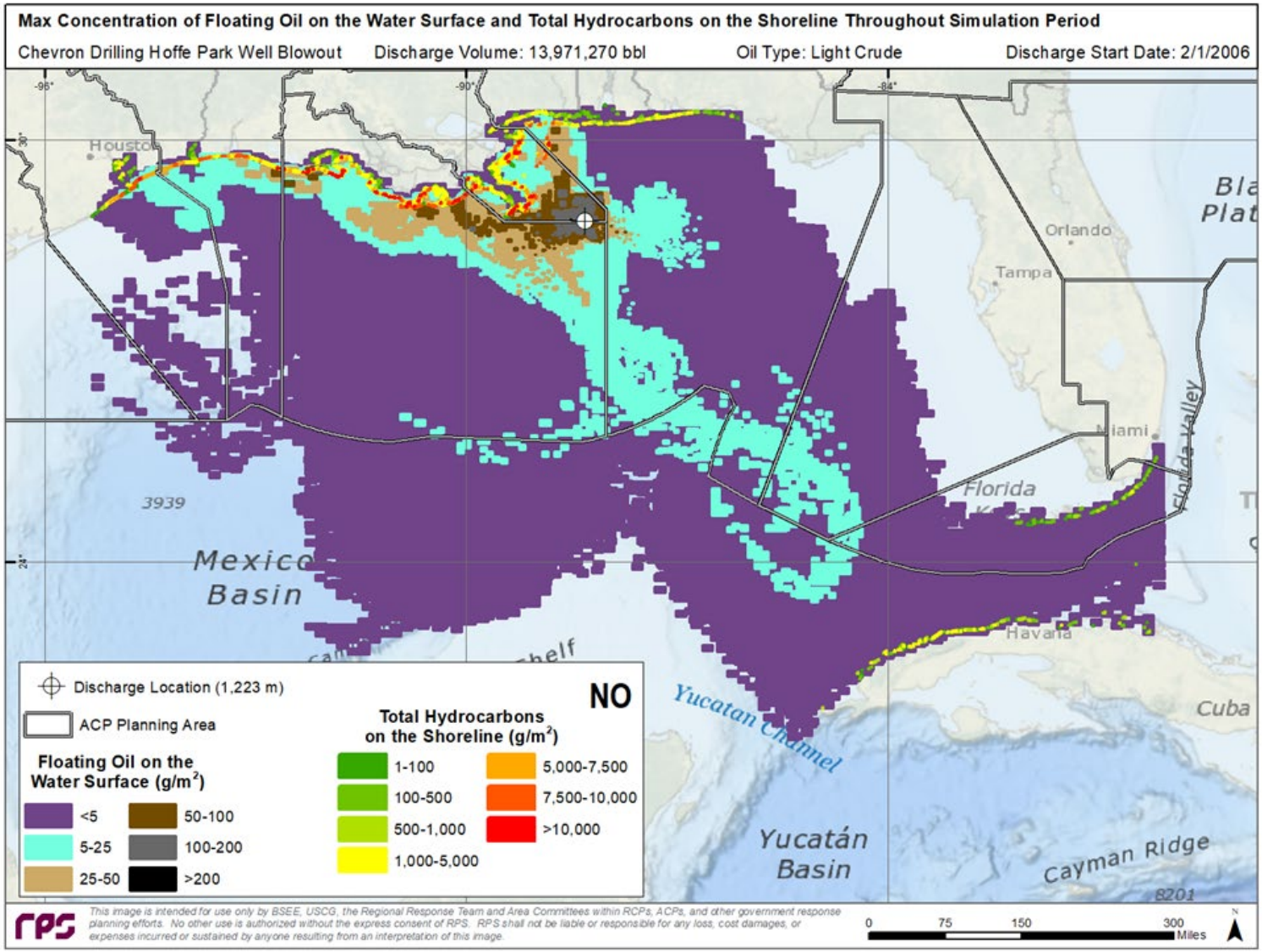


Figure 18. Minimum Travel Time for Surface Oil exposure greater than 50 µm.



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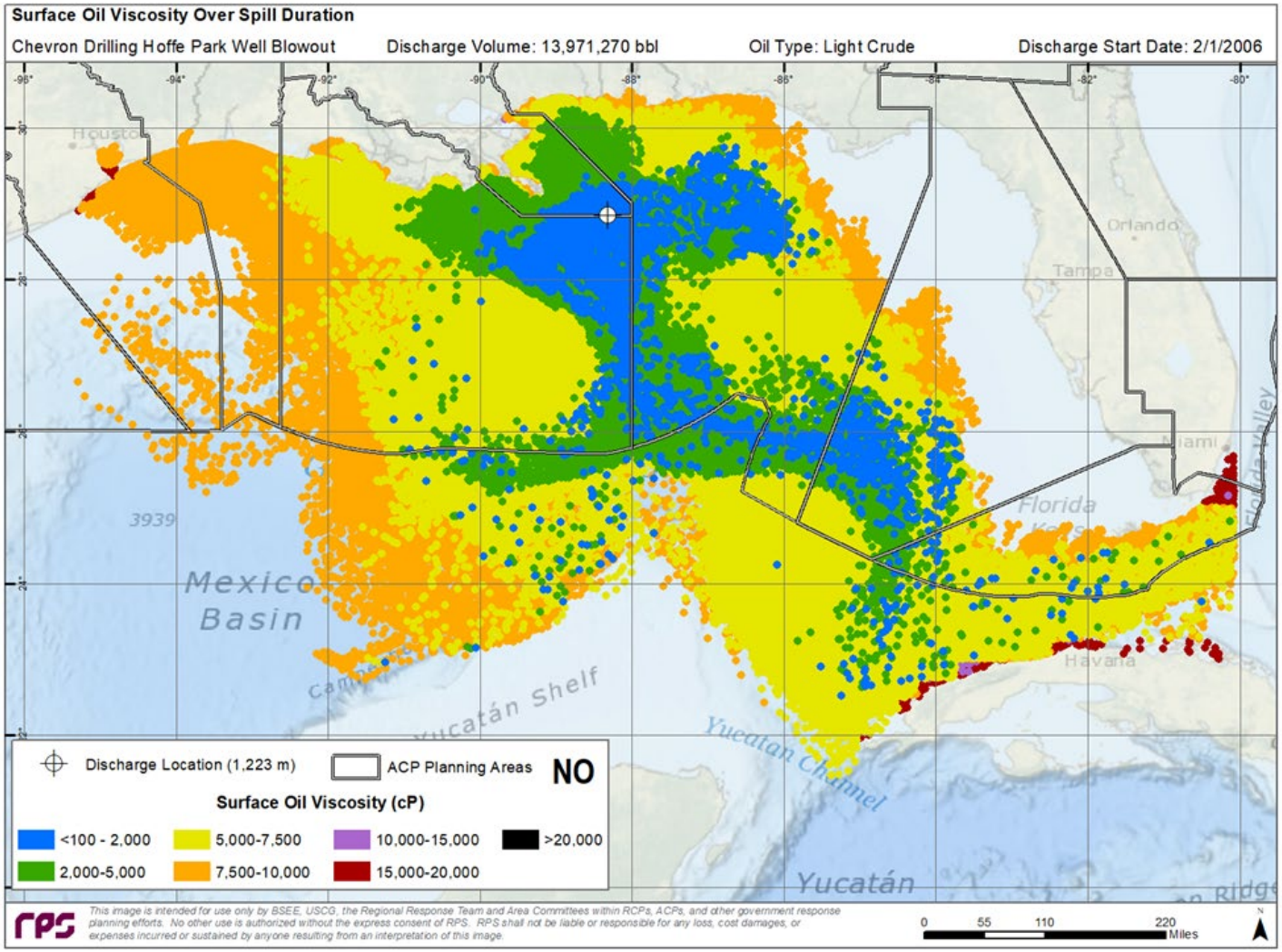

Figure 20. Cumulative footprint of exposure to surface floating oil greater than the minimum oil viscosity over a 75-day period for the worst case deterministic simulation. Viscosities greater than those mapped may be present at any location at any specific time in the simulation. This graphic provides a perspective of how oil viscosity may change as oil is transported away from the discharge site over time and what areas may be amenable to dispersant operations where enough quantities of oil are present.