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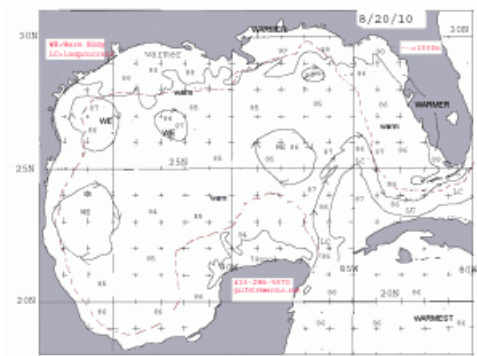
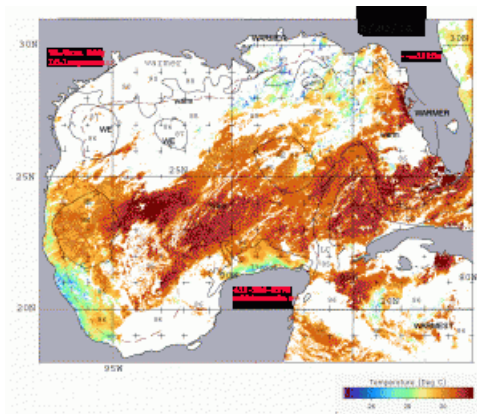
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Jenifer Clark's Gulf of Mexico Analysis

August 20, 2010

Jenifer Clark's Gulf of Mexico Analysis covers the area from 18N to 30N and 80W to 98W. Sea Surface Temperatures (SST's) are in degrees Fahrenheit. Analyses are derived from the NOAA polar orbiting thermal infrared satellite imagery. Abbreviations for the different water masses are the following: WE=Warm Eddy, LC= Loop Current. The Loop Current (LC) is a warm, rapidly moving current that enters the Gulf of Mexico between Yucatan and Cuba, makes a clockwise loop, and exits through the Florida Straits. Warm Eddies (WE) circulate clockwise and usually translate slowly to the West and Southwest. Arrows indicate direction of flow, not the maximum current location.

Due to near isothermal conditions, features are not clearly discernible. However, there is a lot of SST inversion around the LC. SST's in the LC are in the low to mid 80's. Sea heights outside the LC are depressed 25 cm. Current speeds are estimated at 2-4 knots in the LC. The LC moved to the Northeast. The LC has sea heights elevated 85 cm. The WE near 26N 93W has currents estimated at 2 knots. Sea heights are elevated 55 cm and it migrated to the Northwest. The WE observed near 27N 93W has currents estimated at 1/2-1 knot and sea heights are elevated 5 cm. It migrated to the Northeast. The WE near 29N 87W translated to the West. It is an aneurysm WE and has currents estimated at 1/2-1 knot. Sea heights are elevated 20 cm. The WE near 23N 96W traveled to the Southwest and has sea heights elevated 10 cm. Currents are estimated at 1/2-1 knot. The WE near 26N 93W translated to the Northwest and has sea heights elevated 5 cm. The WE near 27N 96W moved to the East. Sea temps in the WE's are in the mid 80's. Sea temps close to shore are near 90 in many places.



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