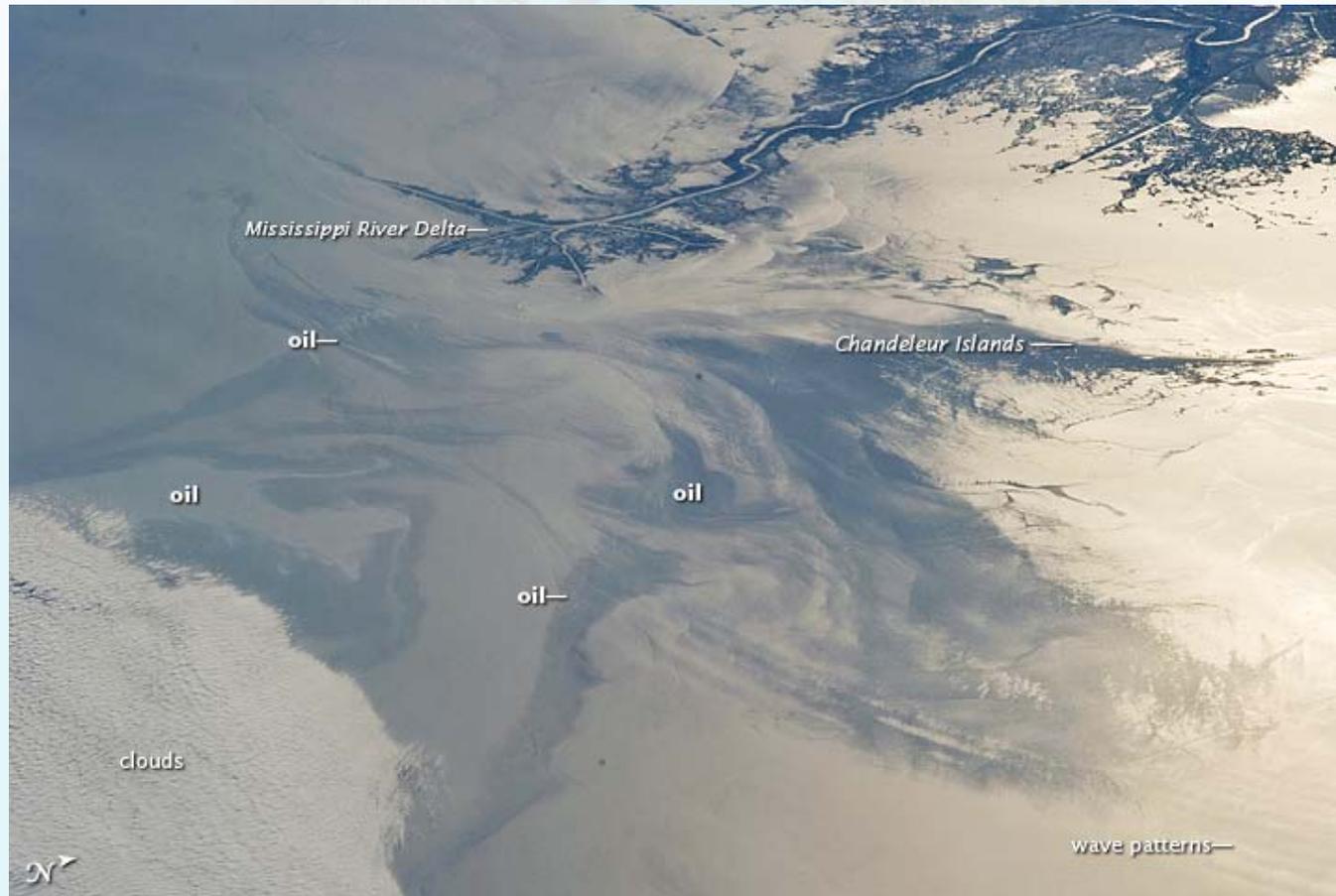


ISS Imagery of the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill (May 2010)



May 4, 2010

True-Color Image from the ISS (Space Station)

Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Observed From the International Space Station

The Mississippi River Delta and nearby coast appear dark in the sunglint from the ISS. Oil on the water smooths the surface texture, and the reflection of the Sun accentuates the difference between the smooth, oil-covered water (dark to light gray) and the rougher water of the ocean surface (colored silver to white). Wind and water currents patterns have modified the oil spill's original shape into streamers and elongated masses. Among the coastal ecosystems threatened by the spill are the Chandeleur Islands (image right center).