

August 3rd | 2010

Ryan Chouest daily data transmission and report

Period covered: 2036hrs 08/02/2010 - 1146hrs 08/03/2010

108.937 - Nautical miles covered

Vessel science party:

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Cruise notes:

The *Ryan Chouest* vessel docked at Port Fourchon to receive laboratory items and a new sampling hose. The cruise continued at 1630hrs making for the 30 metre bathymetric contour off port Fourchon. On the way to the mark sensor were cleaned and adjusted. At the 30m bathymetric contour a planned vertical cast was aborted due to faults with the vertical cast pump. It was determined that the repair was possible but that there was a 24 hour wait before the epoxy was set. In order to make the most efficient use of time available the *Ryan Chouest* headed east towards the spill site to conduct a high resolution grid survey over a previously identified possible seep near the MC252 site (Figure 1).

Science results and preliminary interpretation:

Fluorometry results

The Chelsea and Trios sensors measured minimal levels of inferred hydrocarbons through the track travelled for the period shown in figures 2 and 3. The Contros sensor shows mid levels of inferred hydrocarbon concentration along the track, especially close to the Mississippi passes (Figure 4).

Surface Observations

Dolphin sightings reported at locations shown in Figure 1.

EK-60 Echosounder results

No echo sounder contacts were made over the period.

To establish if the possible seeps within the 8 x 8 mile survey box were related to previous drilling activities a the locations of all historical well locations were plotted versus the possible seep locations (Figure 5). The Figure shows that none of the possible seep features appear to correlate with the location of historical wells.

Planned route for cruise 11:

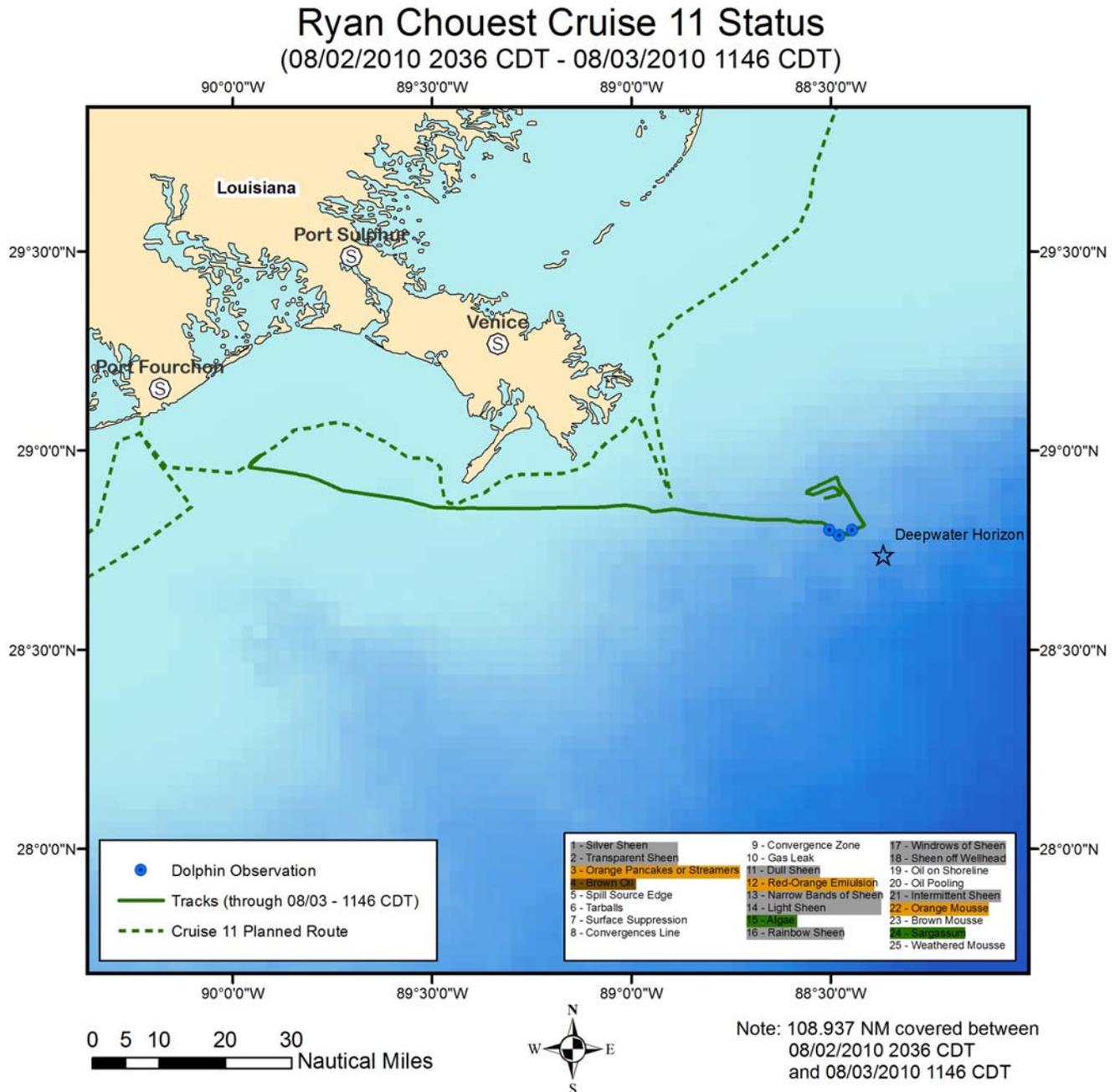


Figure 1: Planned route for cruise 11 versus the actual route plotted between 08/02/2010 – 08/03/2010.

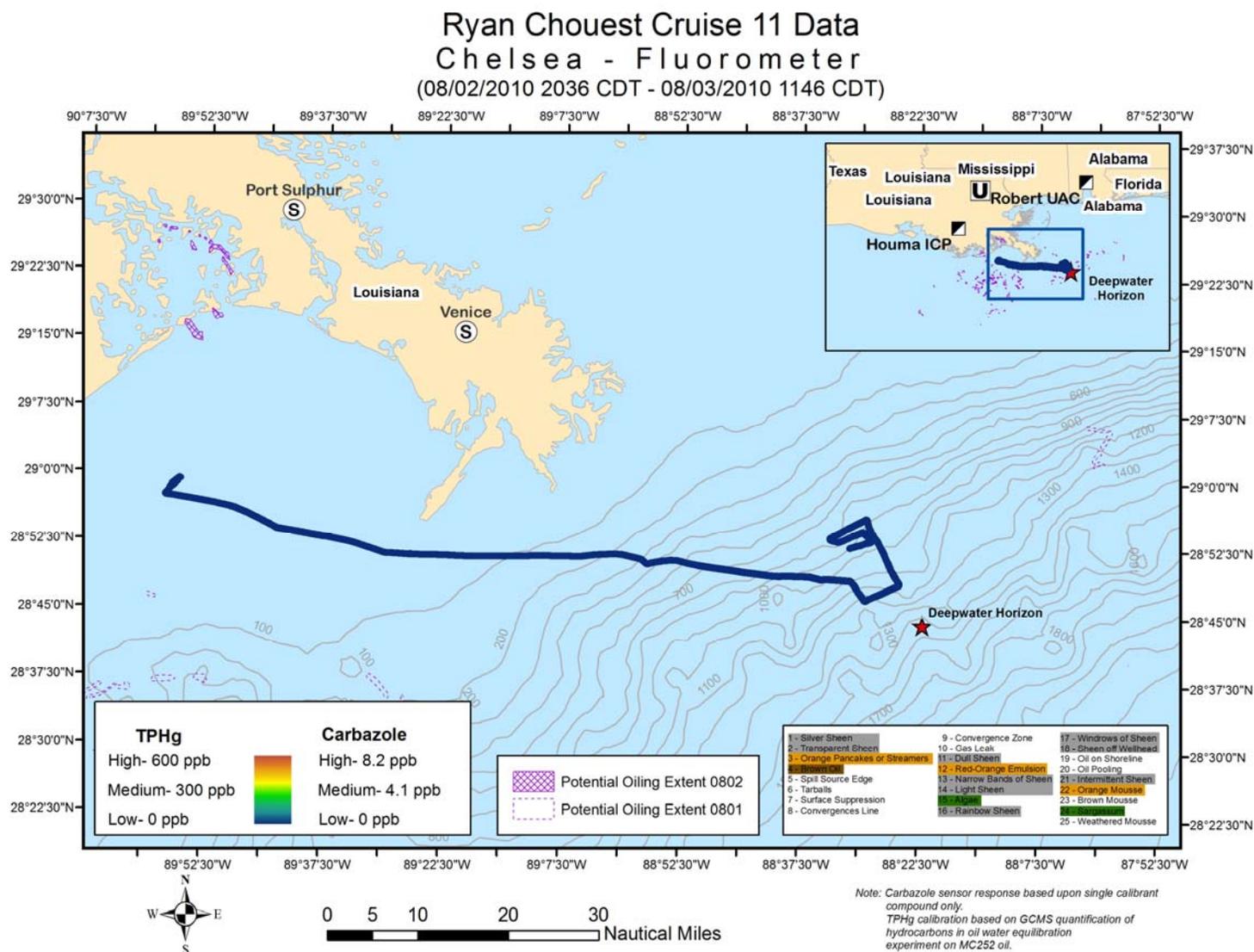


Figure 2. Chelsea fluorometer results plotted with location on cruise track 11. Breaks in data occur when either data quality is poor or the systems were turned off due to pump problems. Purple lines represent depth contours of 100 m intervals.

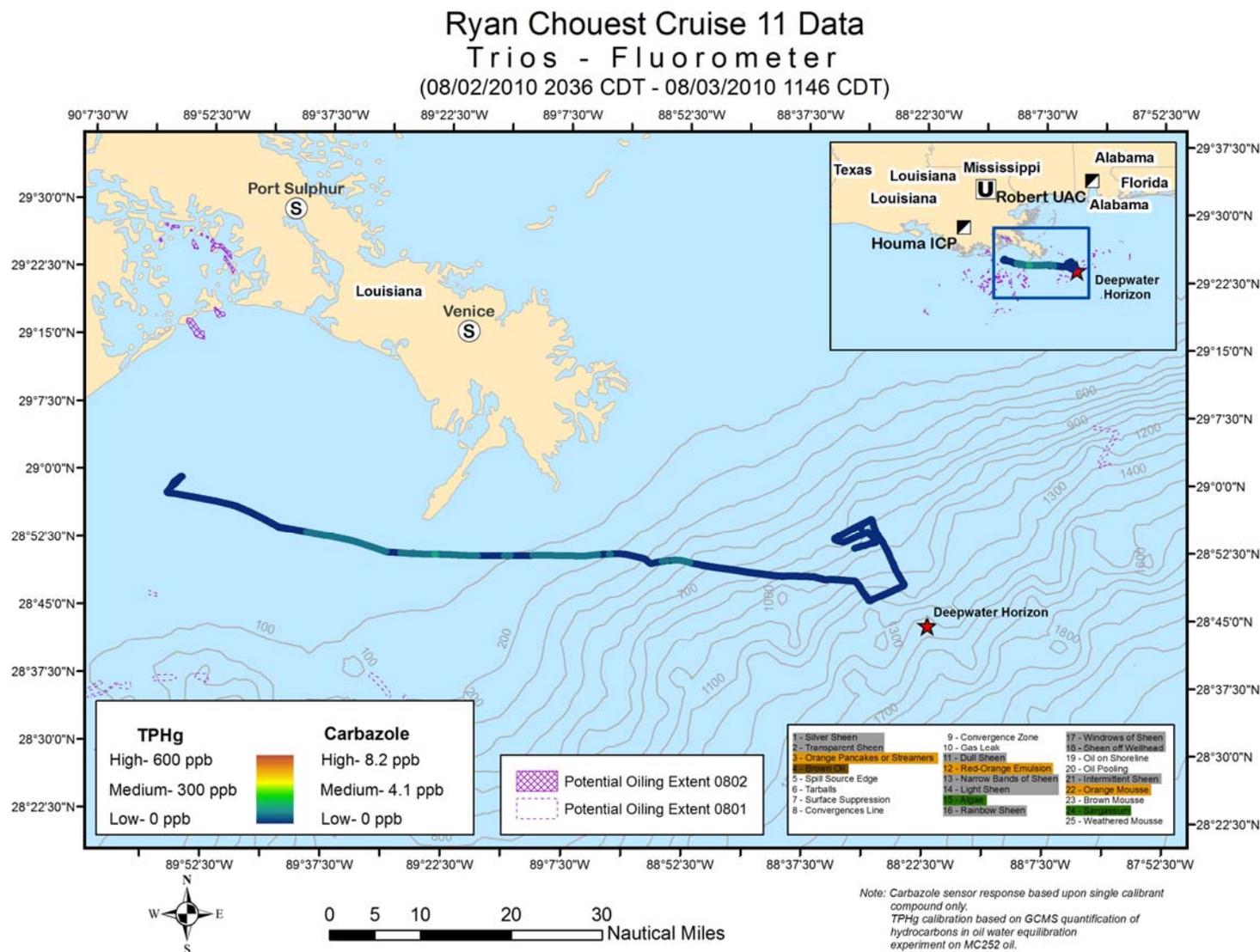


Figure 3. Trios fluorometer results plotted with location on cruise track 11. Breaks in data occur when either data quality is poor or the systems were turned off due to pump problems. Purple lines represent depth contours of 100 m intervals.

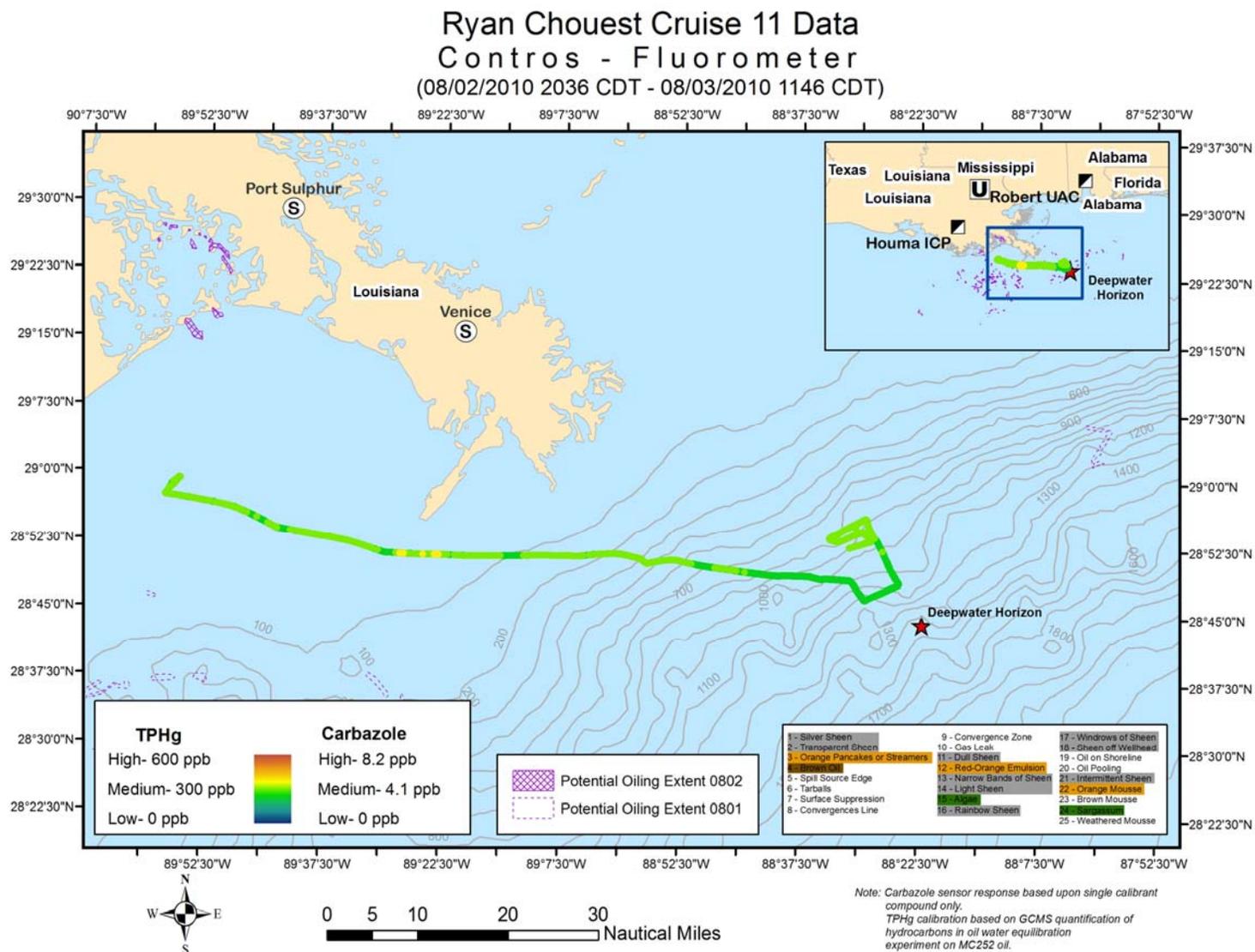


Figure 4. Contros fluorometer results plotted with location on cruise track 11. Breaks in data occur when either data quality is poor or the systems were turned off due to pump problems. Purple lines represent depth contours of 100 m intervals.

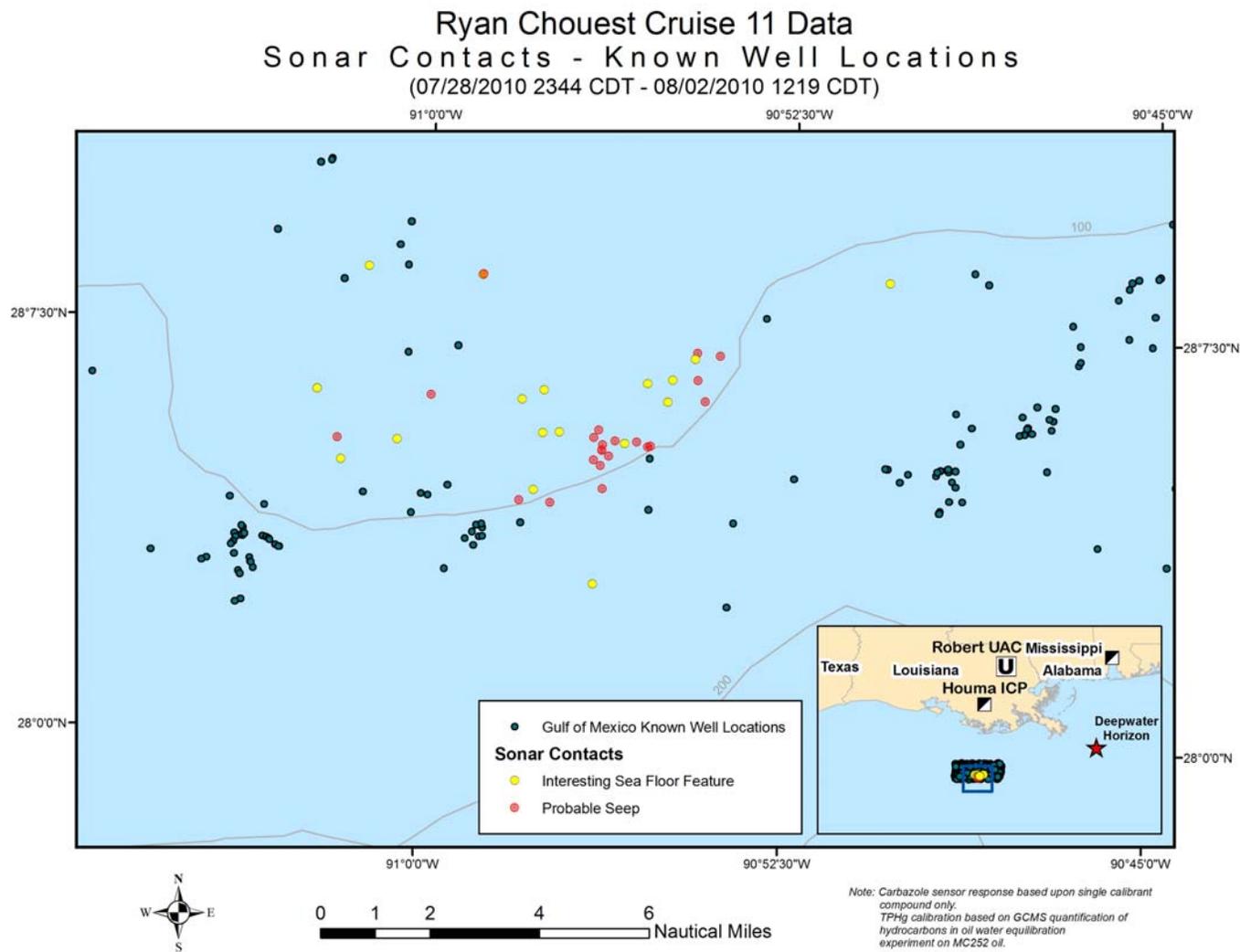


Figure 5. Plot of known well locations within proximity of echosounder contacts.

Science Operations:

Fluorometer measurements were logged for the majority of the period and observations of sea-surface conditions were made throughout. The EK-60 echo sounder is continuously collecting data to evaluate the seabed and water column for possible seeps.

Problems/operational issues:

The vertical cast pump problems related to a short circuit in the spliced lead which had been worked over time. We found the fault quickly and re-spliced the cable however to make the joint water tight the splice needs to be set in resin which takes 24 hours. The cable is now repaired and the new food grade vertical cast sampling hose has been prepared for use. We await suitable sampling targets to attempt a vertical cast.

Planned activities for next 24 hours:

The *Ryan Chouest* will finalise the high resolution survey over the current potential site tonight moving to another identified site in the morning where a similar survey will be performed. After which we will resume our costal 30m transect survey route, along the gulf coastlines of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and west Florida as originally planned.

Selected Photos:

No photographs were taken over the cruise period.

Full Crew List:

William A. Smith	MASTER	Brian Corley	Mate
Craig Lyons	ENG	Patrick Cousin	A/B
Mark Harmon	A/B	Arthur Triggs	O/S
Elijah Benjamin	O/S	Patric Anderson	QMED
Kile Blunt	OS/Cook	Roderick Baker	OS/Cook
Tosin Majekodunmi	BP	Curtis Walker	Entrix
Andrew Ross	CSIRO	David Fuentes	CSIRO
Emma Crooke	CSIRO	Asrar Talukder	CSIRO
Quinn Guidrey	C&C	Kelly Bates	C&C
Jen Carlson	C&C	Mathew Baham	C&C
Joseph Watson	C&C	Jay Ridgeway	C&C
Josh Chauffe	C-Port	Larry Luke	C-Port