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## Loop Current In Gulf Could Be Good For Florida's Coast

The powerful Gulf of Mexico loop current could be helping, instead of harming the Sunshine State.

**Reporter:** Nate Harrington

**Email Address:** [nate.harrington@wctv.tv](mailto:nate.harrington@wctv.tv)

Even though more oil is leaking from the well than originally thought, it may not be bad news for Florida residents.

The powerful Gulf of Mexico loop current could be helping, instead of harming the Sunshine State.

For the last couple of weeks, experts at the Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies were worried about oil leaking into the loop current, a strong current that dominates water transport in the Gulf.

Now they are saying the loop current has changed, and could shift any more oil that leaks away from Florida's beaches.

Experts at COAPS believe the loop current is, for the lack of a better term, breaking apart.

Small eddies that form around the current have started to move south, while the broader scale dynamics of the main current shift north.

For the time being Florida may be spared, but another Gulf coast state may be under the gun.

"This whole part will probably separate from the loop current and this will become an anticyclonic eddy, very massive bubble of water that will start propagating slowly westward, toward Texas," says COAPS Research Scientist, Dmitry Dukhovskoy.

Dukhovskoy adds this is rare for the loop current to splinter off and form eddies that travel away from the main loop.

This is why scientists at COAPS didn't see this behavior coming in computer models as recent as a week ago.

The scientists at COAPS are still tracking the progress of the oil and says even with this new development, Florida should still be taking necessary steps to prepare for impacts near the coast.

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