

WEATHER SATELLITE VIEW OF OIL SPILL

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On 3 June 1979, an oil well blew out in Mexico's Bay of Campeche. Efforts to cap the well were unsuccessful and the oil spurted into the Gulf of Mexico for months. As of October more than 2.5 million barrels of oil were discharged.

difficult time spotting oil spills because of sensor resolution, spectral interval, sun angles, or oil/water contrast etc.

However, on 30 June 1979 in the late afternoon, conditions were just right and the oil slick was photographed by the GOES-EAST visual sensor (Fig. 1).

Meteorological satellites have a

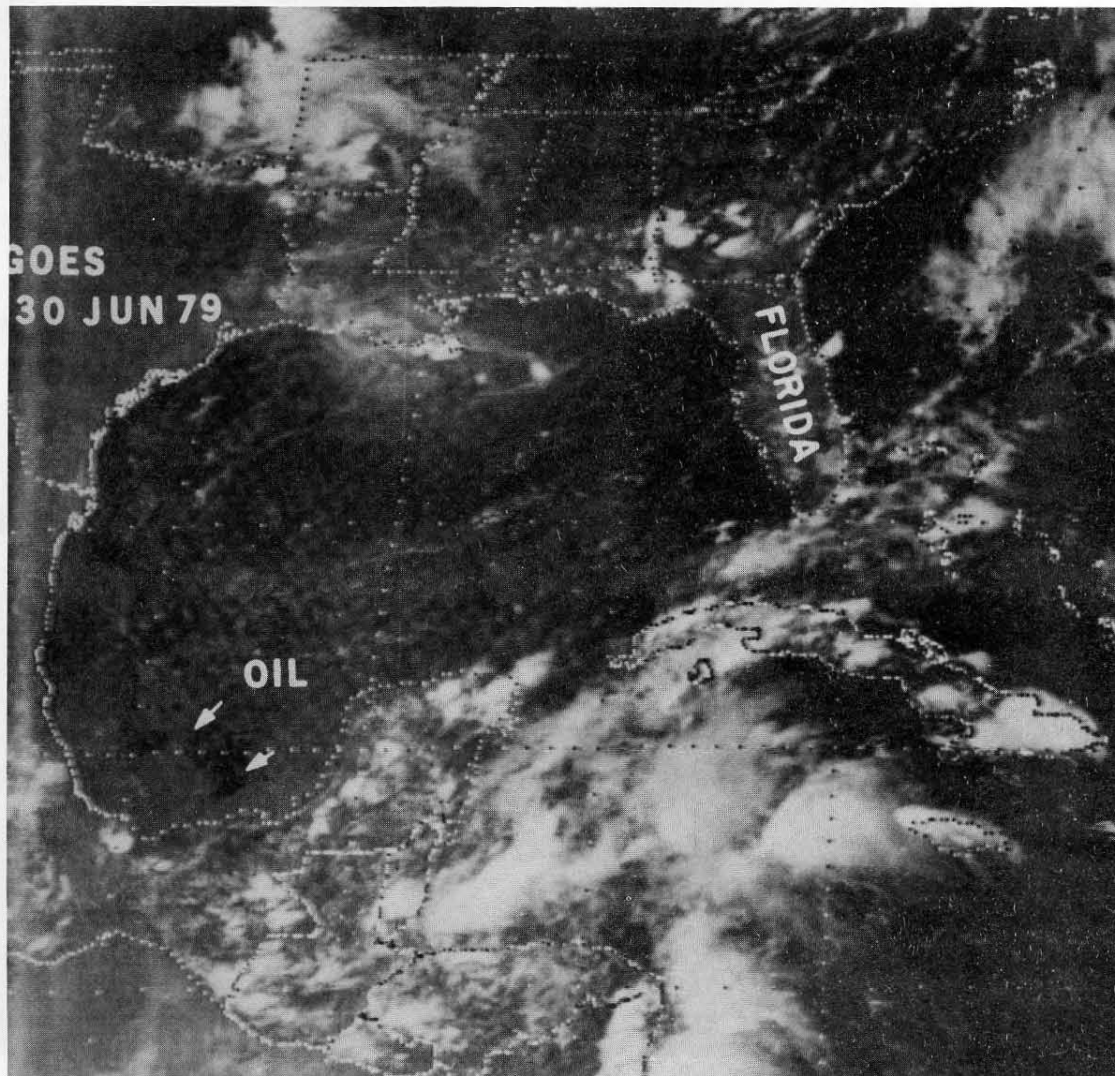


Fig. 1. Late-afternoon 22,000 mile high GOES-EAST visual photo showing oil slick in Bay of Campeche.