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Sediment plume of the Mississippi River as it disperses into the Gulf of Mexico, seaward of Southwest Pass. The lower river carries about 5 tons of suspended sediment per second, providing abundant sites for uptake and transport of contaminants. Recent data support a decrease in the lead burden of the river. See page 439. [Nenad Iricanin, Department of Oceanography and Ocean Engineering, Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne 32901]