Conditions: Concentration of the harmful algae Karenia brevis was medium at South Marco Beach in Collier County on November 11. Impacts at the beach are expected to be very low through Thursday. Analysis doesn’t indicate harmful algae presence elsewhere in Florida.

Analysis: Samples from November 8-11 taken at Sarasota, Barefoot Beach, and Naples showed no presence of K. brevis while a sample at Sanibel showed presence of K. brevis and a sample at Marco Island showed medium concentration. Imagery shows a feature off of Cape Romano with chlorophyll over 13 µg/liter (82°5’W, 25°44’N). Samples from a research cruise in this area last week show medium to high levels of K. brevis. Northeast winds should push the bloom offshore, causing very low beach impact. These winds favor upwelling, which could cause the bloom to intensify. Samples indicate that the two small near-shore blooms north of 26°N are non-harmful, consisting mostly of diatoms. The bloom off of Cape Sable contains Rhizosolenia, and is non-harmful as well. Imagery shows very high chlorophyll counts south of Cape Sable, so reports of discolored water is likely.

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Southwest Florida: Winds have been from the northeast for the past couple of days, and are forecasted to remain northeasterly through Wednesday. Winds will be strong: 10 to 13 meters per second today, decreasing to 5 to 8 m/s on Wednesday.
Chlorophyll concentration from satellite and forecast winds for November 16, 2004 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from November 10, 2004 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Blooms shown in red (see p. 1 analysis and image for interpretation)