Conditions Report
As of Thursday, a harmful algal bloom persisted in portions of Nueces and San Patricio Counties. Impacts are expected to be patchy low to moderate today in Nueces and San Patricio Counties and patchy moderate to high over the next couple of days. Dead fish were reported last week in Nueces and San Patricio Counties and along northern Padre Island. Dead fish smell, while unpleasant, does not produce the same respiratory irritation as red tide.

Analysis
Satellite imagery from October 21 indicates high chlorophyll patches from Matagorda Bay potentially extending south to the Mexican border (although imagery is obscured over the key areas of Corpus Christi/Aransas/northern Padre Island). The imagery shows a high chlorophyll feature (~3 ug/L) offshore of Padre Island between 26d52'N and 26d27'N. The feature near Matagorda would lead to reports of discolored water. As of yet, it does not obviously indicate harmful algae. The expected windshift tomorrow to east and SE winds will resolve whether Karenia is present (respiratory irritation, etc.). Dead fish were also seen in the general area of the feature off Padre Island in an overflight on Friday. Sampling of the offshore feature is recommended. The maximum transport of the bloom from the Corpus Christi area is expected to be about 35 kilometers south since Saturday.

-Lopez and Wynne

Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.
1. Data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive GeoEye approval via the CoastWatch Program.
Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for October 24, 2006 06Z with cell concentration sampling data from October 13-19 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). Cell count data from Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Department of State Health Services. For a key to the cell concentration descriptions, visit the FWRI web site: http://research.myfwc.com

Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).