

Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

17 March 2008

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: March 10, 2008

Conditions Report

SW Florida: A harmful algal bloom has been identified in northern Monroe County. In northern Monroe County, patchy very low impacts are possible today through Wednesday and patchy low impacts are possible on Thursday. No other impacts are expected elsewhere in southwest Florida today through Thursday, March 20.

E Florida: There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom in east Florida. No impacts are expected today through Thursday, March 20.

Analysis

SW Florida: A harmful algal bloom has been identified in northern Monroe County, southwest of Pavilion Key. No new samples have been received from this region in the past 10 days. MODIS imagery has been partially obscured by clouds along the coast in southern Collier and Monroe Counties, limiting consecutive day analysis. However, a consistent patch of elevated chlorophyll is notable 2.2 miles offshore of Monroe County, from south of First Bay to nearly Ponce de Leon Bay, centered at 25°26'57"N, 81°15'59"W. Sampling is recommended. Northwest of the Florida Keys, results of three samples taken 3-15 nm northwest of Key West indicate 'not present' concentrations of *Karenia brevis* (MML 3/12).

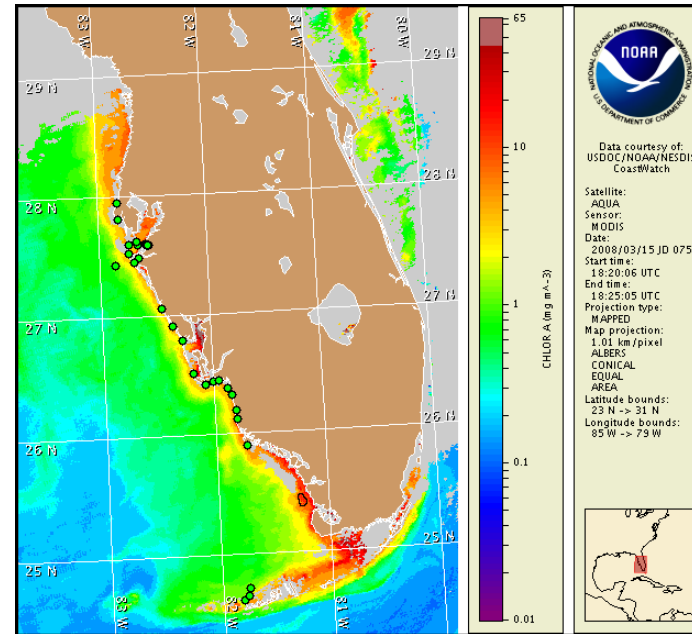
Sample results from onshore Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and northern Collier Counties indicate that *K. brevis* is not present and that numerous species of non-harmful algae are present at varying concentrations (FWRI, 3/12-13).

Please note that due to technical difficulties, SeaWiFS imagery is temporarily unavailable; MODIS imagery is displayed on pages 1 and 2 of this bulletin.

Fenstermacher, Urizar

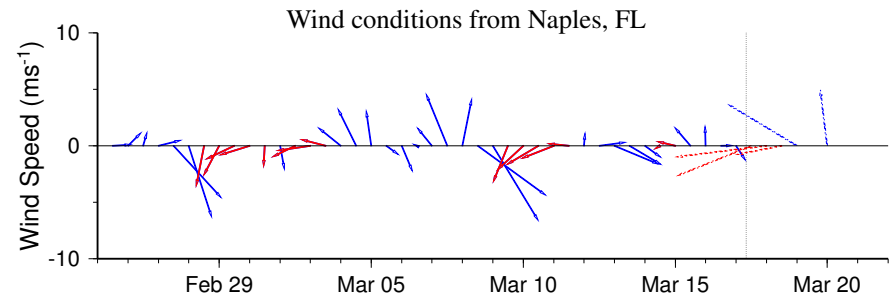
Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

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 with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from March 10 to 13 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

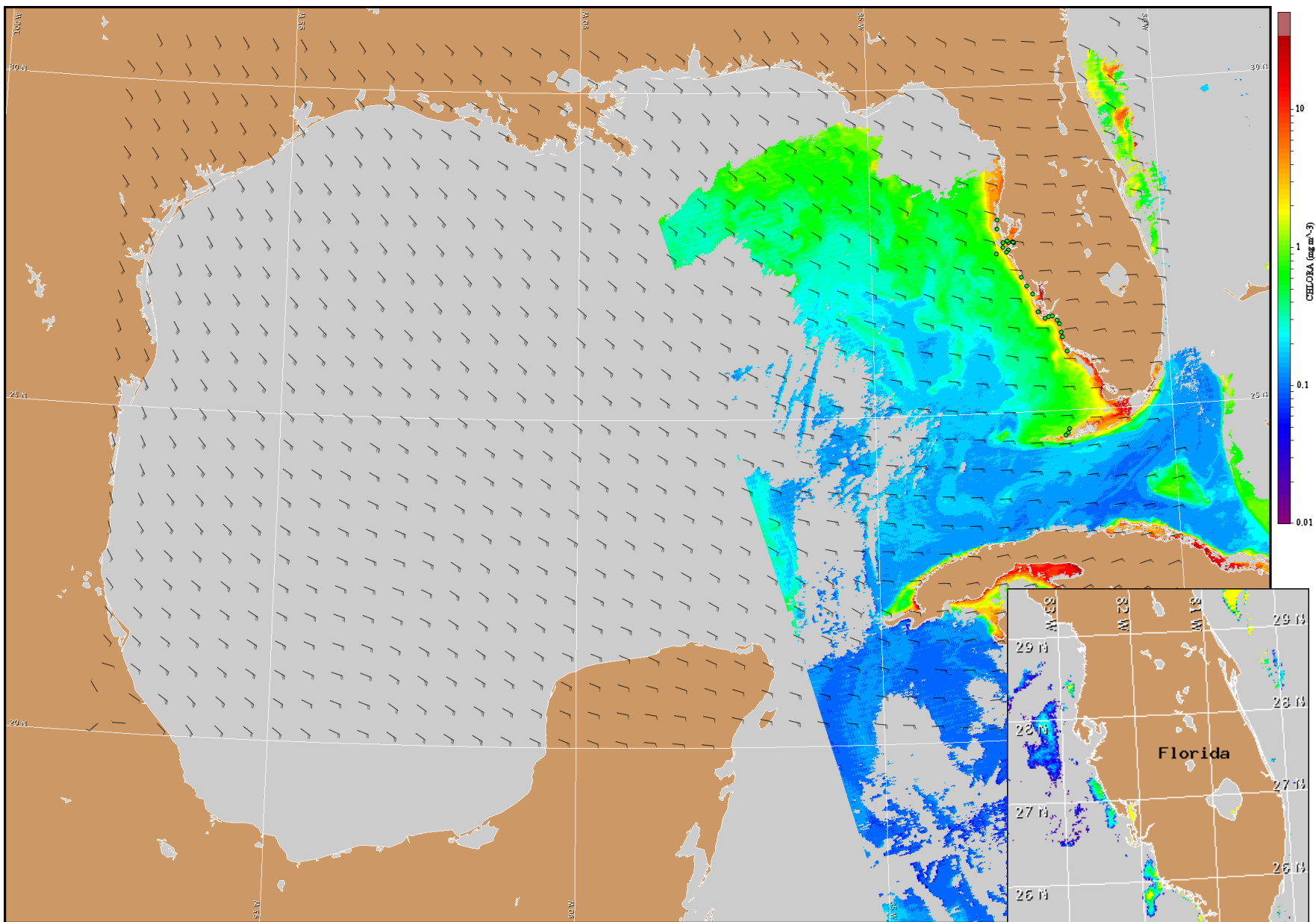
http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Easterlies today and Tuesday becoming southeasterlies Tuesday afternoon through Wednesday (10-20 kn; 5-10 m/s). North to westerlies on Thursday and northeast to easterlies on Thursday night and Friday (5-15 kn; 3-8 m/s).

Keys: Strong northeast to easterlies today (15-25 kn; 8-13 m/s). Strong east to southeasterlies Tuesday through Wednesday (20-25 kn; 10-13 m/s). Northeast to easterlies on Thursday and Friday (10-15 kn; 5-8 m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for March 18, 2008 06Z with Cell concentration sampling data from March 10 to 13 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

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

Wind conditions from Sand Key, FL

