Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

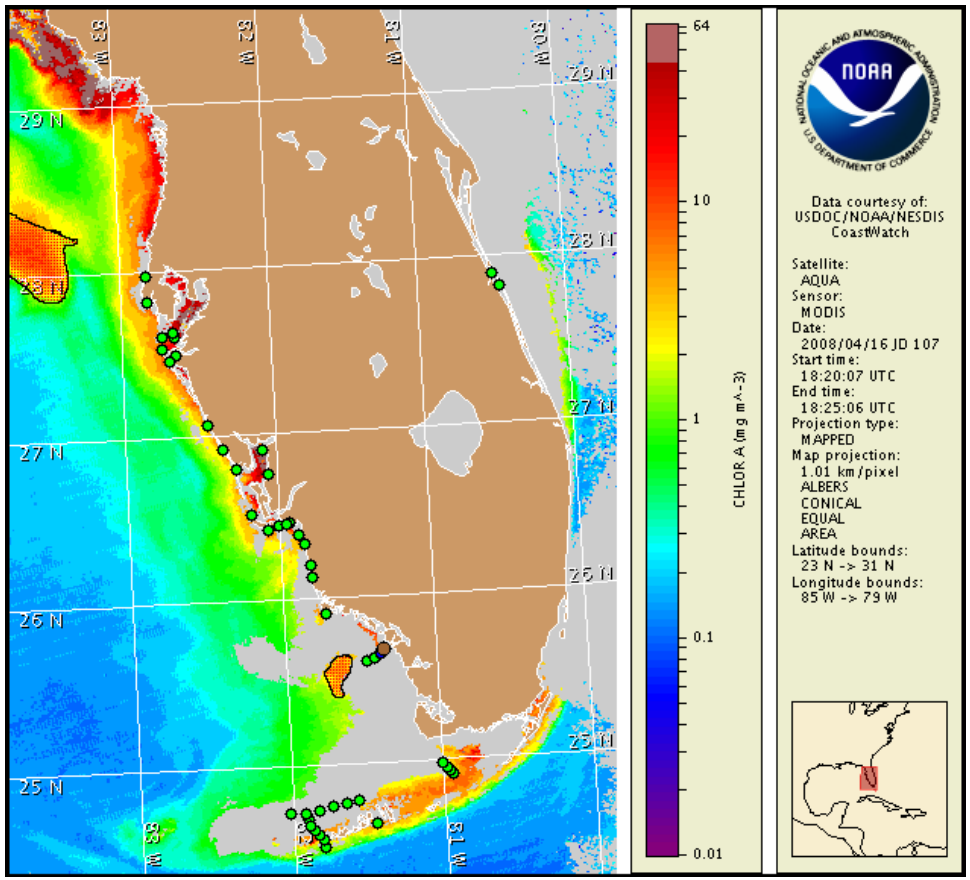
Region: South Florida

17 April 2008

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: April 14, 2008



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from April 7 to 15 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

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.

Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified in northern Monroe County. Patchy very low impacts are possible today through Monday. No additional impacts are expected elsewhere alongshore southwest Florida today through Sunday, April 20.

Analysis

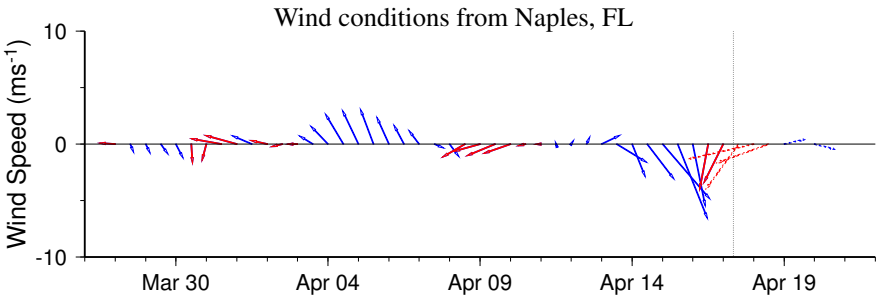
A harmful algal bloom persists in northern Monroe County (very low to low southwest of Pavilion Key). No *Karenia brevis* has been identified in central Collier County (Marco Island) this week where very low concentrations were previously identified (4/7, FWRI). Recent SeaWiFS and MODIS imagery is obscured by clouds alongshore Collier County and northern Monroe County. However, elevated chlorophyll features (~2μg/L and ~3-4μg/L, respectively) are presently visible offshore northern Collier County from 26°18'43''N, 81°59'37''W to 26°10'59''N, 81°57'37''W to 26°3'35''N, 82°3'29''W and offshore northern Monroe County with a central location of 25°33'7''N, 81°40'5''W. Sampling is recommended.

A large elevated chlorophyll feature (up to 10μg/L) is also presently visible approximately 30 miles offshore Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando and Citrus Counties from 27°50'38''N, 83°27'31''W to 28°48'54''N, 83°44'33''W (south-north axis) and from 28°11'43''N, 83°53'51''W to 28°14'28''N, 83°13'34''W (west-east axis). This feature has been visible in this general location for over 2 months and appears to have intensified significantly in the past week. Sampling is recommended.

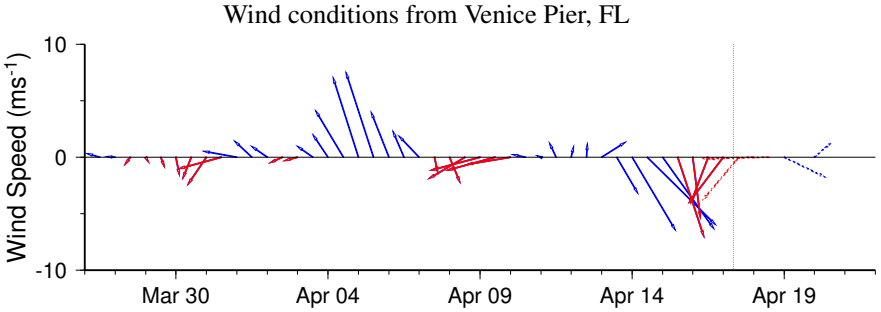
Northerly transport of features is possible this afternoon through Sunday in Collier and Monroe Counties. Conditions are favorable for bloom formation and intensification today through Sunday in Collier and Monroe County and today through tomorrow in Pinellas through Lee Counties.

Please note that due to past technical difficulties, SeaWiFS imagery is temporarily unavailable for display on this bulletin; MODIS imagery is shown on pages 1 and 3 of this bulletin.

~Fisher, Urizar



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.

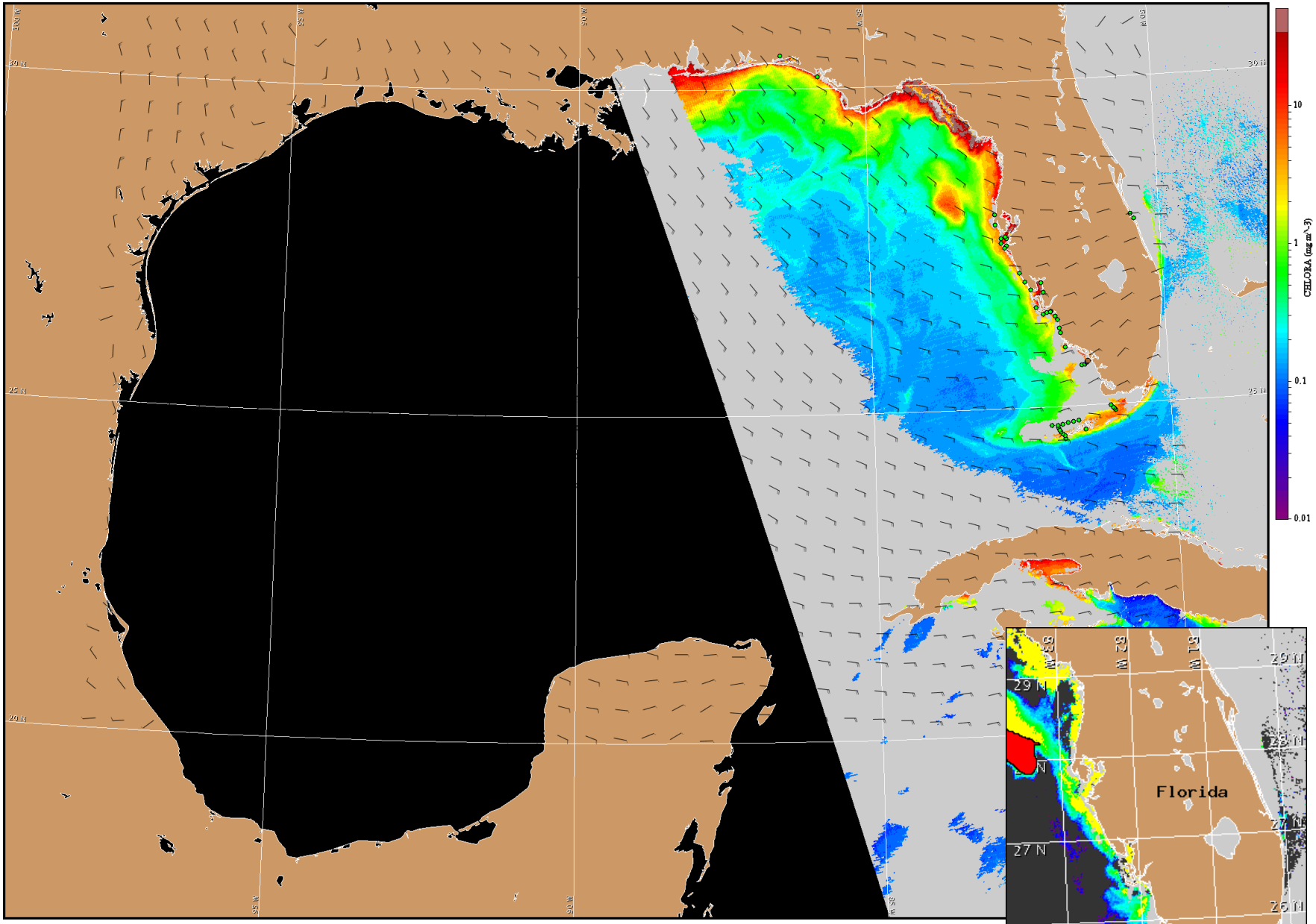


Wind Analysis

Collier and Monroe Counties: Northeast winds today (10-15kn, 5-8m/s), shifting easterly this afternoon through Friday. Southeast winds Saturday and Sunday (5-10kn, 3-5m/s). Continued southeast winds expected Monday.

Pinellas to Lee Counties: Northeast winds becoming onshore today (10kn, 5m/s). East winds tonight (10-15kn, 5-8m/s). East winds Friday becoming northwest, then variable on Friday night (10kn). South winds Saturday (10kn). West winds Sunday (10kn). Variable winds expected Monday.

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA CoastWatch bulletin archive: http://coastwatch.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins_ns.htm



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for April 18, 2008 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from April 7 to 15 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

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