



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

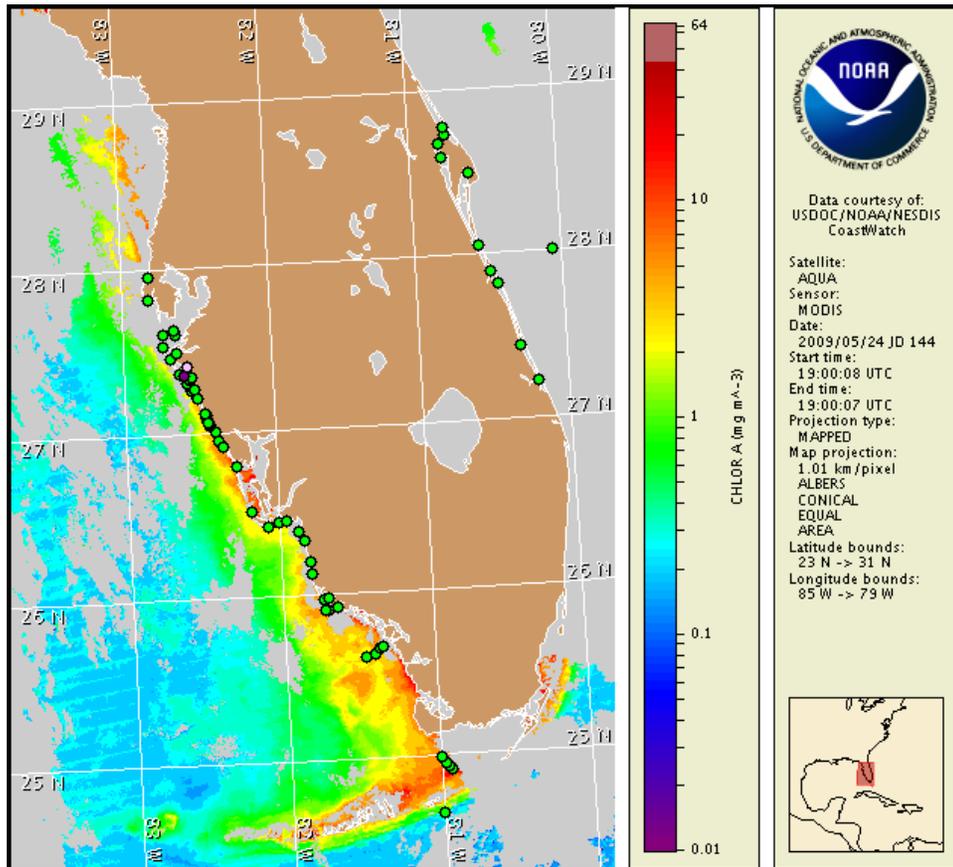
26 May 2009

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: May 22, 2009



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from May 16 to 20 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://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/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

Harmful algae have been identified in southern Sarasota Bay in northern Sarasota County. No impacts are expected today through Sunday in bay regions of southern Sarasota County. No impacts are expected elsewhere alongshore southwest Florida today through Sunday, May 31.

Analysis

There is currently no indication of a bloom in southwest Florida; however, harmful algae have been identified in Sarasota Bay in northern Sarasota County. Very low concentrations of *Karenia brevis* were found in a sample taken in southern Sarasota Bay and background concentrations were found in a sample taken in central Sarasota Bay in Manatee County (FWRI 5/20). Additional samples taken alongshore Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties and offshore the Florida Keys all indicate that *K. brevis* is not present (SCHD 5/18; MML 5/18-20; FWRI 5/18-20).

Recent MODIS satellite imagery (5/24) is cloudy at the coast making it difficult to determine if the elevated chlorophyll levels alongshore Collier and Monroe counties remain; however patches of elevated chlorophyll remain visible offshore. The first patch is offshore central Collier County and is located at 25°54'53"N 81°51'51"W (approximately 3-4 $\mu\text{g/L}$). The second patch is located at 25°27'14"N 81°32'53"W (approximately 4-5 $\mu\text{g/L}$); elevated chlorophyll features in this region during this time of year are not necessarily indicative of a harmful algal bloom.

The previously reported elevated to high chlorophyll levels alongshore northern Lee and Charlotte counties remain visible, extend as far north as Venice Beach in central Sarasota County, and range from 3 to 5 $\mu\text{g/L}$. The elevated chlorophyll patch offshore Sanibel Island has dissipated.

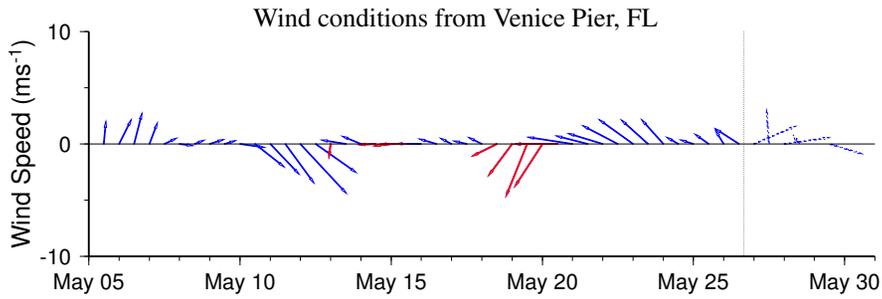
Harmful algal bloom formation alongshore southwest Florida is not expected today through Sunday, May 31.

Due to technical difficulties SeaWiFS imagery is presently unavailable. MODIS imagery has been used for bloom analysis and is displayed on this bulletin.

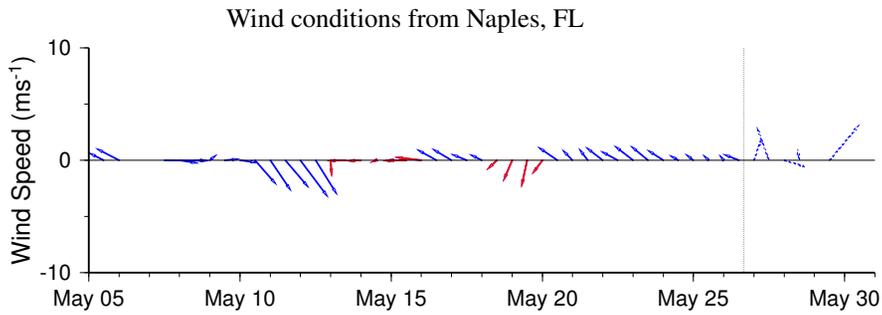
Urizar, Fisher

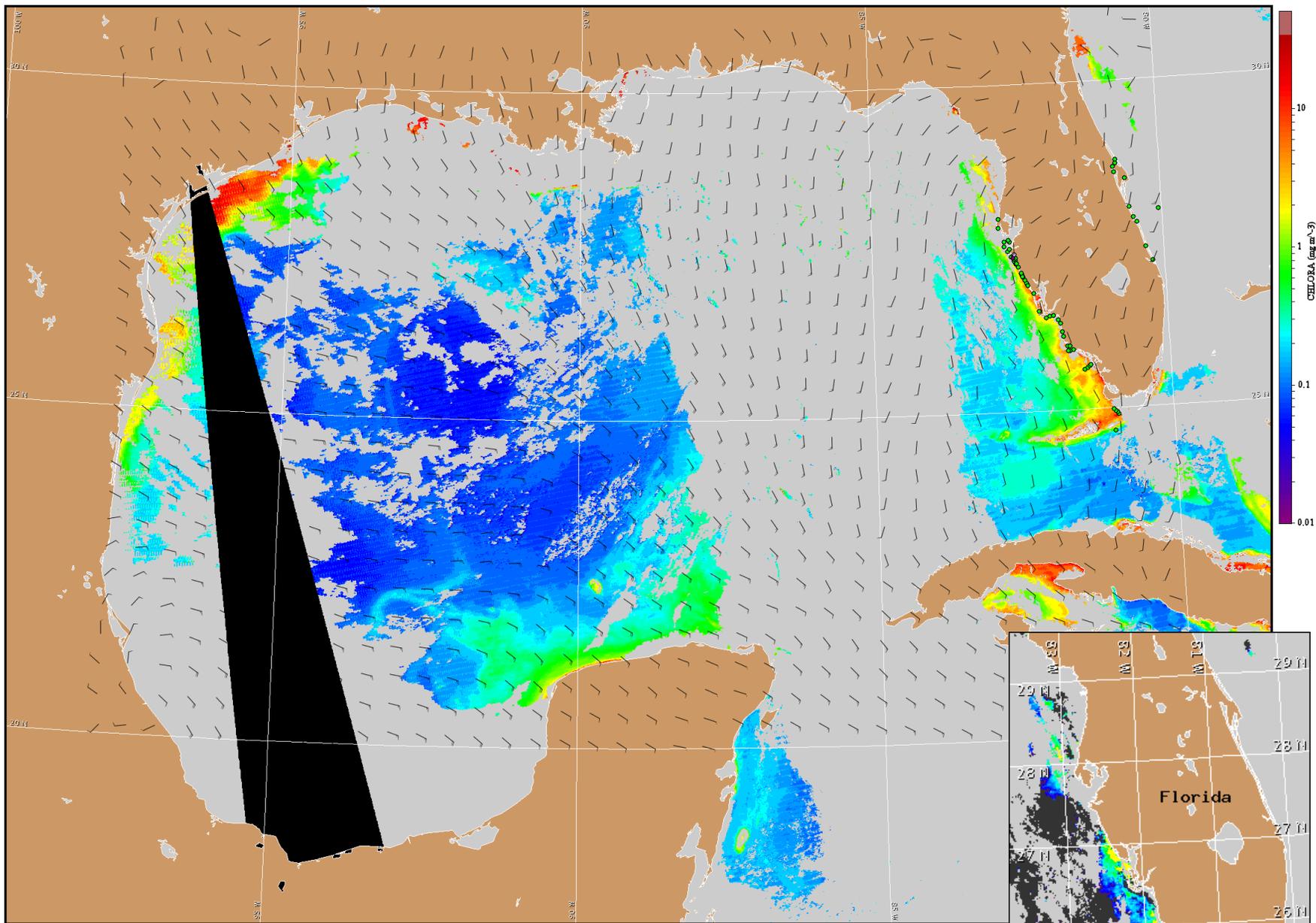
Wind Analysis

Southwest Florida: Southwesterly to southerly winds today (10 kn, 5 m/s). Southwesterly winds (10-15 kn, 5-8 m/s) Wednesday through Thursday. Westerly winds (10-15 kn) Friday through Saturday.



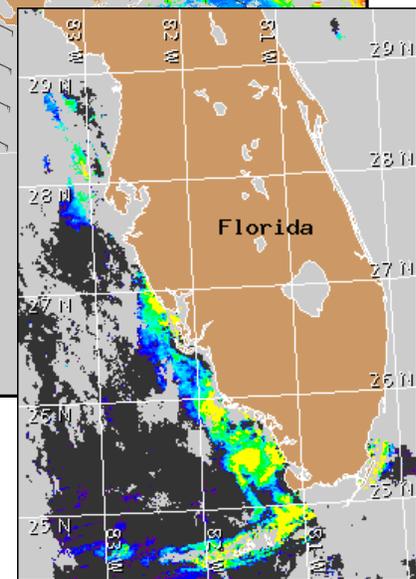
Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).





Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for May 27, 2009 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from May 16 to 20 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:

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