

Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

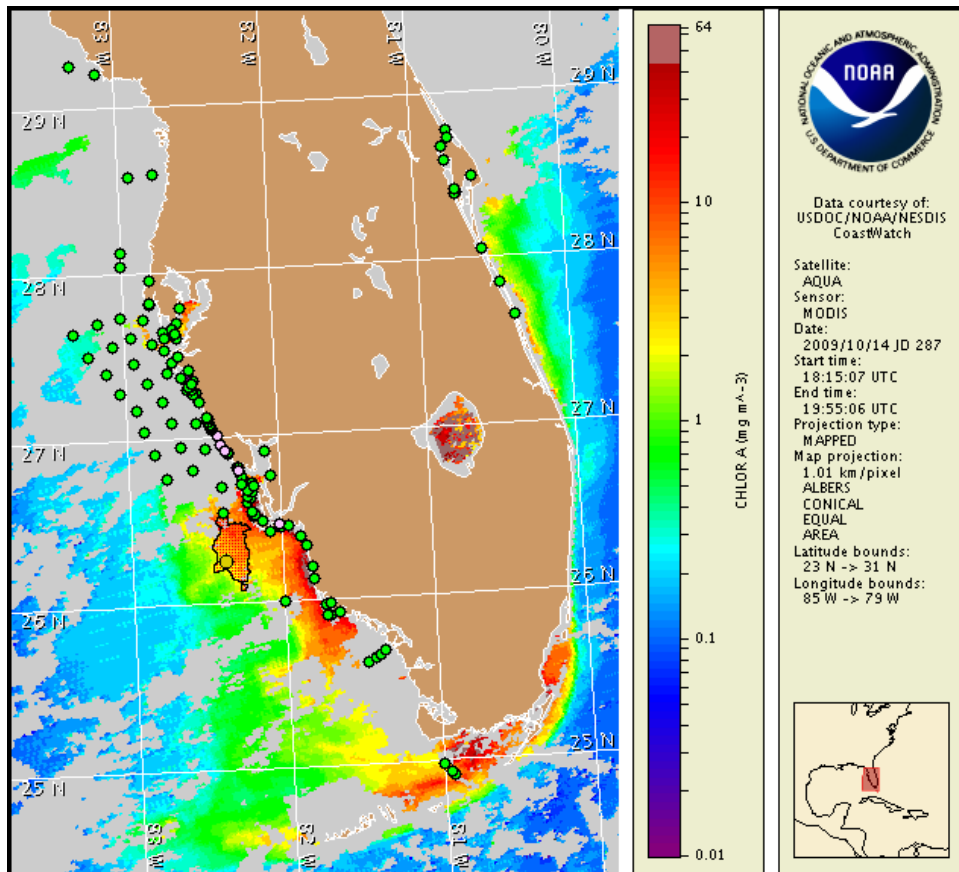
15 October 2009

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: October 13, 2009



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from October 5 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://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 at the coast in Pinellas and Sarasota Counties. No impacts are expected at the coast today through Sunday, October 18. Reports of discolored water have been received for Pinellas County over the past few days from a non-harmful bloom (*Trichodesmium erythraeum*).

Analysis

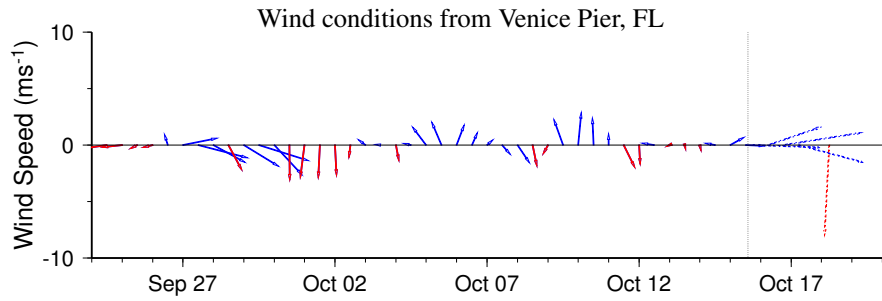
A harmful algal bloom due to *Karenia brevis* has been identified approximately 30 miles offshore Lee and northern Collier Counties (FWRI, 10/5-14). A Medium concentration has been identified 30 miles offshore northern Collier County (FWRI, 10/11, not shown). Background concentrations of *K. brevis* have been identified alongshore in Charlotte and Lee Counties (FWRI, 10/13). Over the past few days, *K. brevis* was not detected alongshore of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Sarasota, and Collier Counties and offshore of Pinellas County (FWRI, 10/10-13).

MODIS imagery is cloudy along Pinellas and Sarasota Counties limiting analysis. Imagery (10/13, not shown) indicates that chlorophyll remains high ($>10 \mu\text{g/L}$) alongshore Pinellas County likely due to non-harmful blooms of various algal species that continue to be detected alongshore southwest Florida. Imagery indicates a chlorophyll feature centered approximately 20 miles offshore of Lee and northern Collier Counties with patchy high levels of chlorophyll ($3-10 \mu\text{g/L}$). This chlorophyll feature is likely associated with the bloom identified offshore Lee and northern Collier Counties.

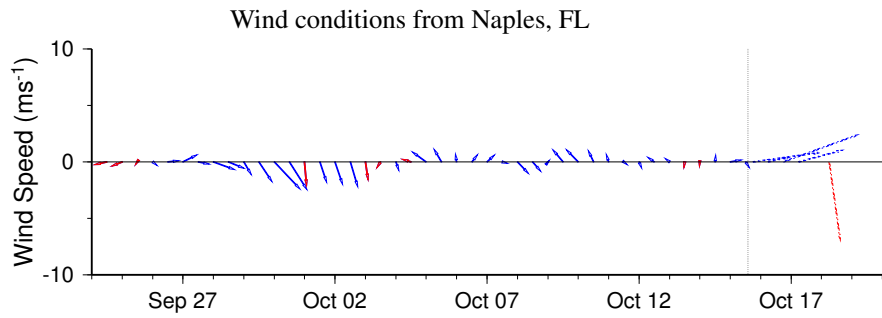
Due to strong north to westerly winds today through Saturday, the identified bloom may shift southeastward.

Due to technical difficulties SeaWiFS imagery is currently unavailable. MODIS imagery is displayed.

-Lindley, Fenstermacher

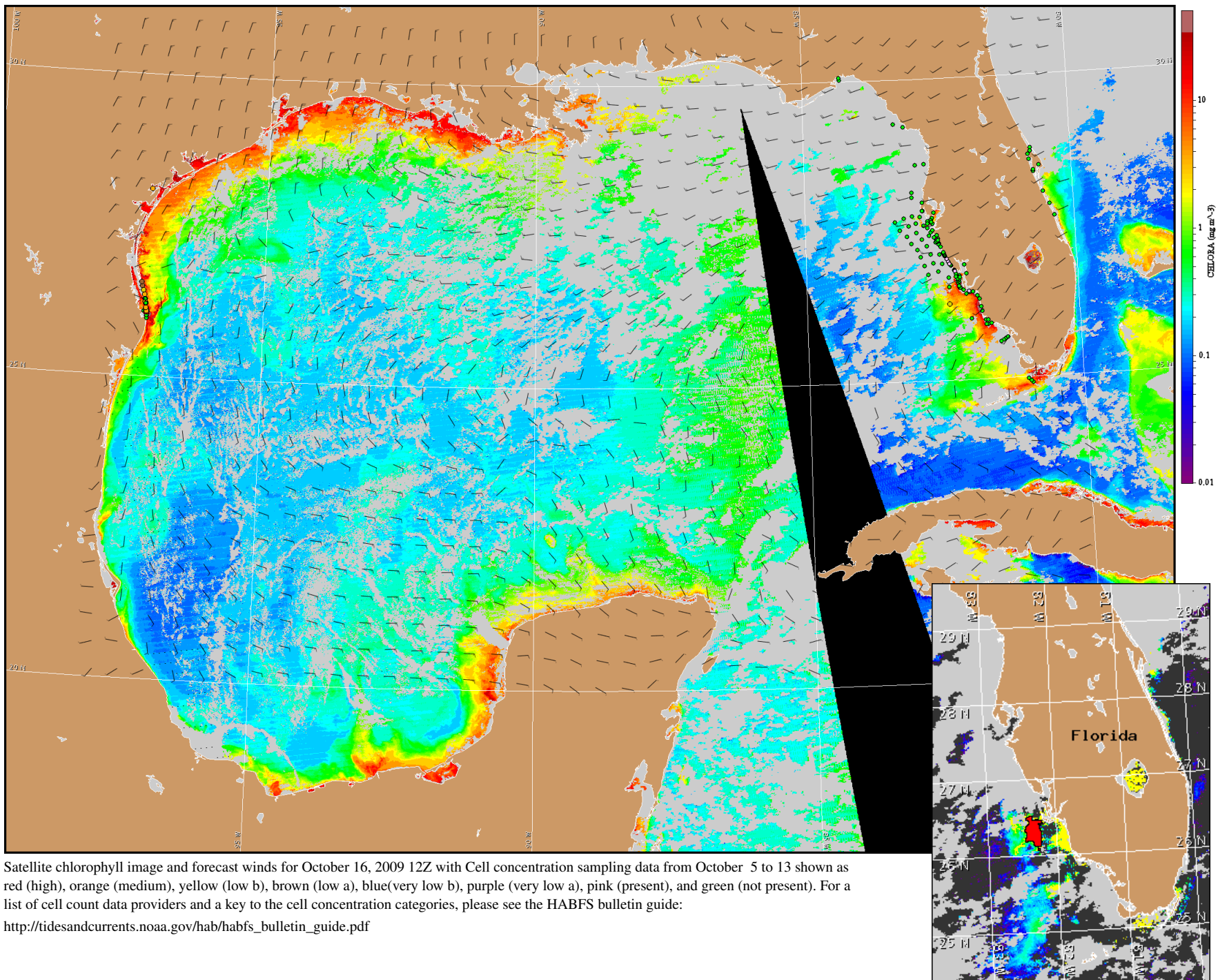


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.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



Wind Analysis

West winds today (10 kn, 5 m/s) becoming southwest tonight (10-15 kn, 5-8 m/s). West winds Friday and Friday night (15 kn, 8 m/s). Northwest and North winds on Saturday and Sunday (15- 20 kn, 8-10 m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for October 16, 2009 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from October 5 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:

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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).