A harmful algal bloom has been identified from Mustang Island to South Padre Island. Low impacts are expected through Friday along this stretch of coast, followed by moderate impacts Saturday and Sunday.

Analysis
Although imagery is obscured by clouds along the Texas coast, state sampling and overflight data indicate that the K. brevis bloom extends from Mustang Island to South Padre Island. Imagery also indicates that it may extend way offshore. Strong offshore winds may reduce impacts at the coast through Friday. Medium onshore winds are expected again Saturday through Sunday and could reintroduce the impacts at the coast. Transport is expected to be southward, and therefore should prevent expansion of the bloom further northward.

-Tomlinson, Lopez

Wind conditions from Port Aransas, TX

Wind Analysis
Strong north to northwesterly winds (20-25 knots) and high seas are expected through Friday morning. Winds and seas are expected to diminish over the weekend, with easterly winds on Saturday followed by southeasterly winds Saturday night through Sunday. Wind speeds around 10 knots knots are expected over the weekend.
Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for October 23, 2009 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from October 12 to 21 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

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