Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

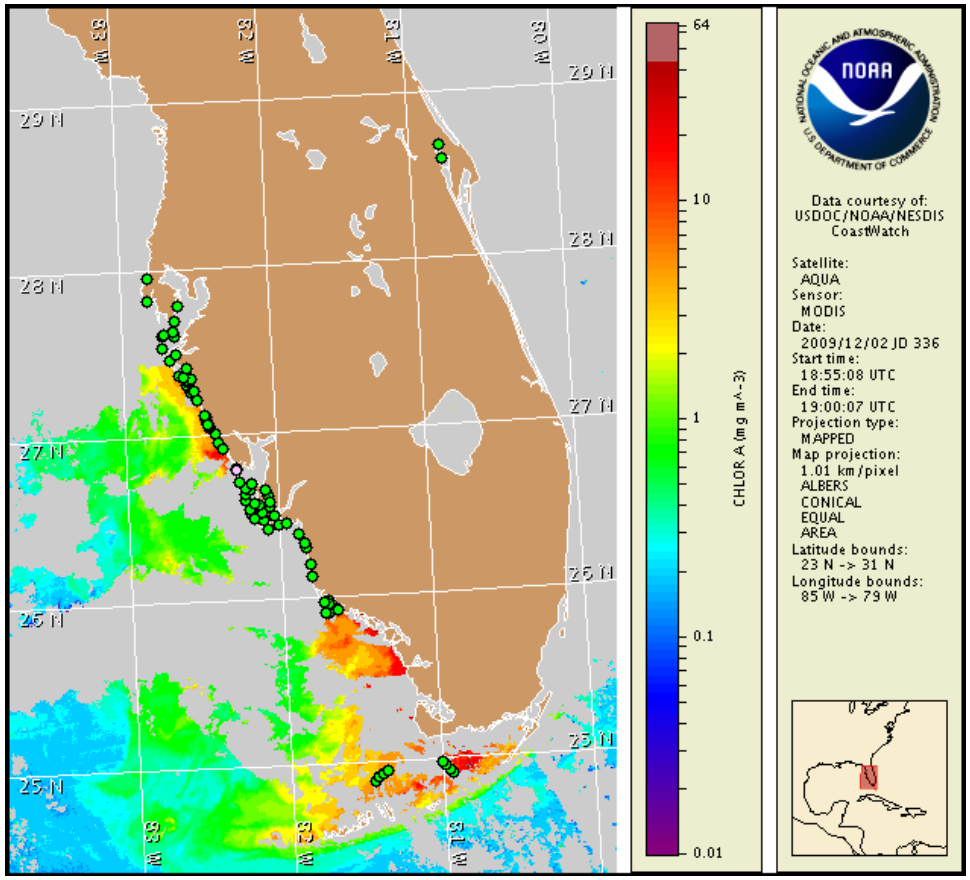
3 December 2009

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: November 30, 2009



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from November 23 to December 2 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

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom alongshore southwest Florida, including the Florida Keys. A harmful algal bloom was last identified offshore central Sarasota County on November 18. No impacts are expected alongshore southwest Florida today through Sunday, December 6.

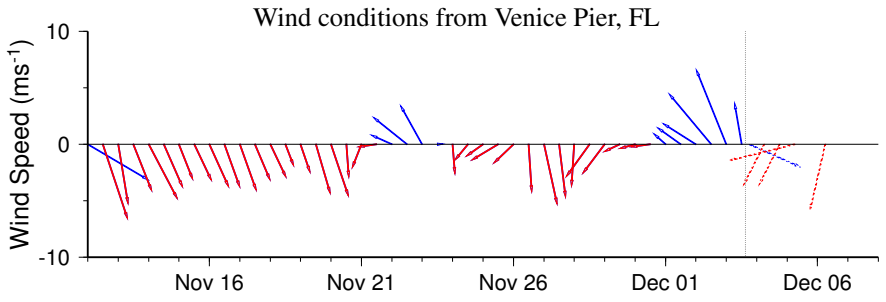
Analysis

Sample results continue to confirm that the harmful algal bloom previously reported alongshore Lee and Collier counties has dissipated. Sample taken alongshore Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Lee and Collier counties and offshore the Florida Keys indicate that *Karenia brevis* is not present (MML 11/23-30; FWRI, 11/10-12/2). One of two samples taken alongshore Charlotte County indicates background concentrations of *K. brevis* while the other indicates that *K. brevis* is not present (FWRI 12/1). Satellite imagery is obscured by clouds over most of southwest Florida except for the region alongshore Sarasota and Charlotte counties. Chlorophyll levels have dissipated alongshore Sarasota County where they were elevated to high and are now elevated (>3 μg/L). Alongshore Charlotte County, chlorophyll levels remain elevated to high (>8 μg/L).

Updated sample results are not available for offshore Sarasota County where 'low a' concentrations of *Karenia brevis* were identified on 11/18 (MML).

Due to technical difficulties SeaWiFs imagery is currently unavailable. MODIS imagery is displayed on this bulletin.

Urízar, Derner

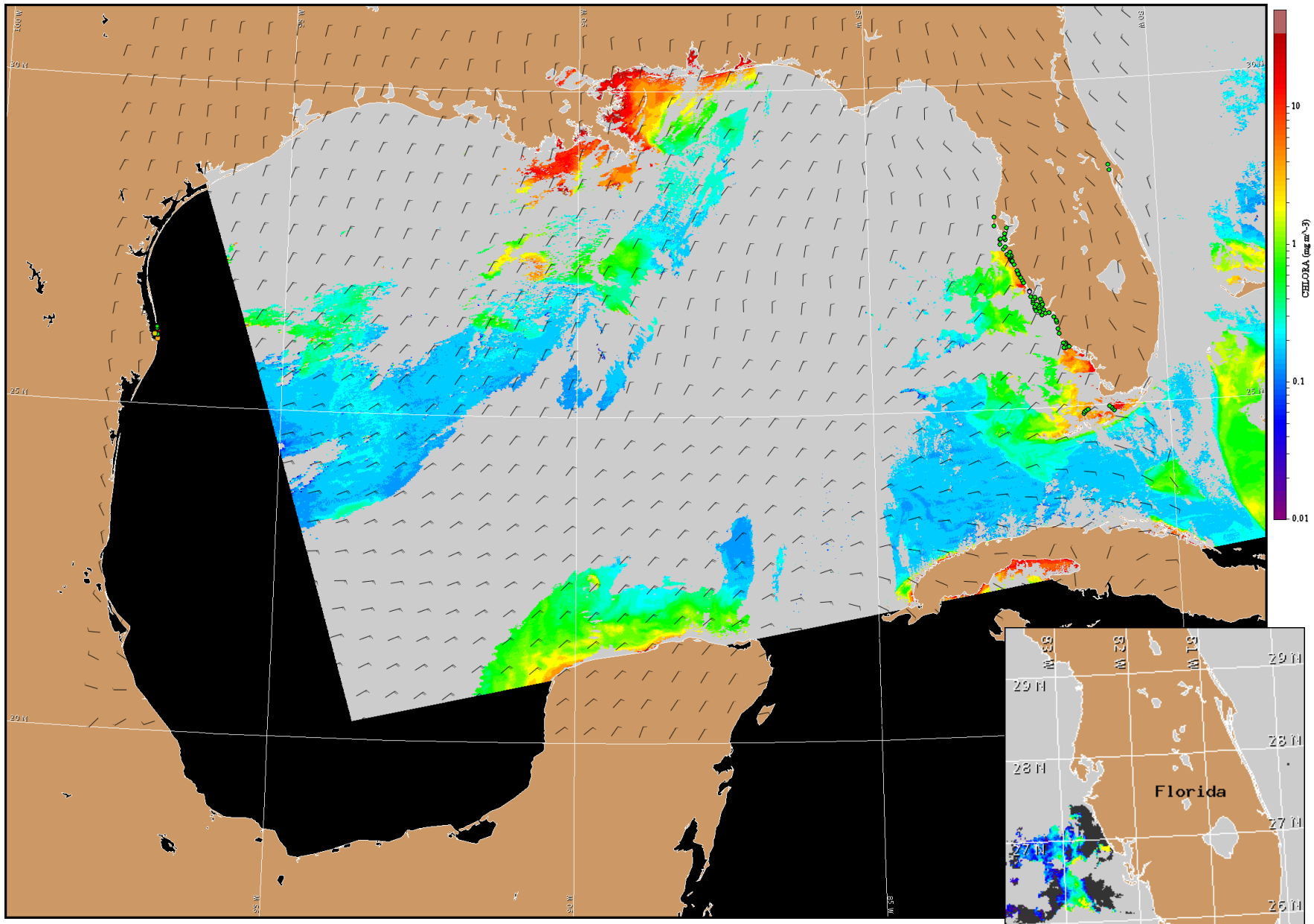


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.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

Wind Analysis

Southwest Florida: Northwesterly to northeasterly winds (10 kn, 5 m/s) today. Easterly to northeasterly winds (15-20 kn, 8-10 m/s) Friday. Southwesterly to northerly winds (20 kn, 10 m/s) Saturday. Northeasterly winds (10-15 kn, 5-8 m/s) Sunday.

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 December 4, 2009 06Z with Cell concentration sampling data from November 23 to December 2 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

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