



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

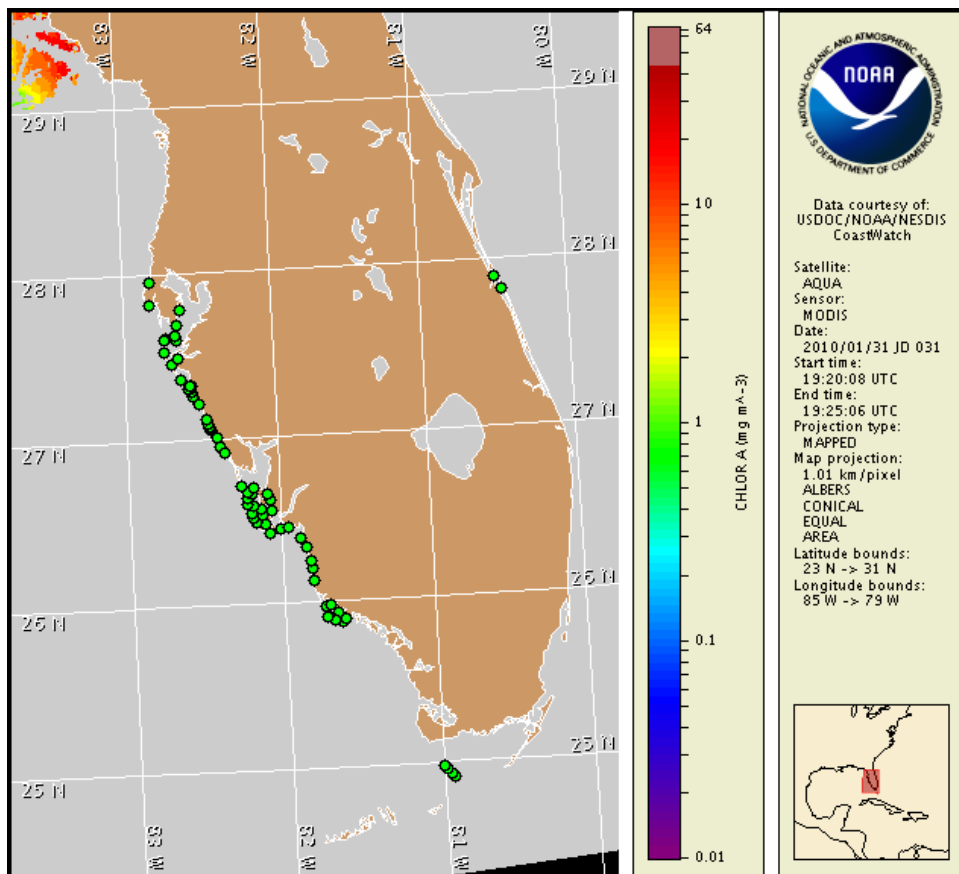
1 February 2010

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: January 28, 2010



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from January 22 to 29 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

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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 offshore in the gulfside region of the lower Florida Keys. Patchy very low impacts are possible today, with patchy, moderate impacts possible Tuesday and Wednesday. No impacts are expected elsewhere alongshore southwest Florida today through Wednesday, February 3.

Analysis

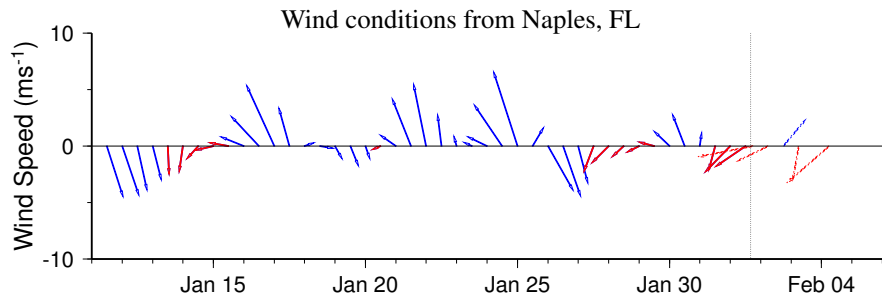
A harmful algal bloom has been confirmed north of the lower Florida Keys. Recent samples indicate the Collier County bloom may have dissipated at the coast. Background *Karenia brevis* concentrations were identified at Caxambas Pass (1/26) and at Clam Pass (1/25; FWRI). *K. brevis* was 'not present' at South Marco Beach in northern Collier County (FWRI, 1/25, 28). *K. brevis* concentrations ranging from 'very low a' to 'medium' were previously identified 3-10 miles north of the lower Florida Keys (MML, 1/18-20). Recent samples in the upper Florida Keys indicate *K. brevis* was 'not present.'

Recent imagery is cloudy and limits bloom analysis. However, MODIS imagery from 1/28 indicates that the elevated chlorophyll features associated with the bloom at Collier County may have dissipated. A high chlorophyll feature is still present at the gulf side of the lower Florida Keys stretching to the Florida Bay and south to approximately 6 miles south of the eastern lower and middle Florida Keys. Elevated chlorophyll features in the Florida Bay region are not necessarily indicative of harmful algae presence.

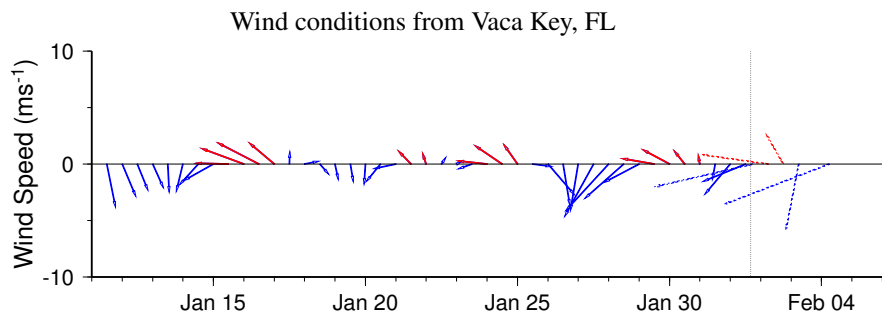
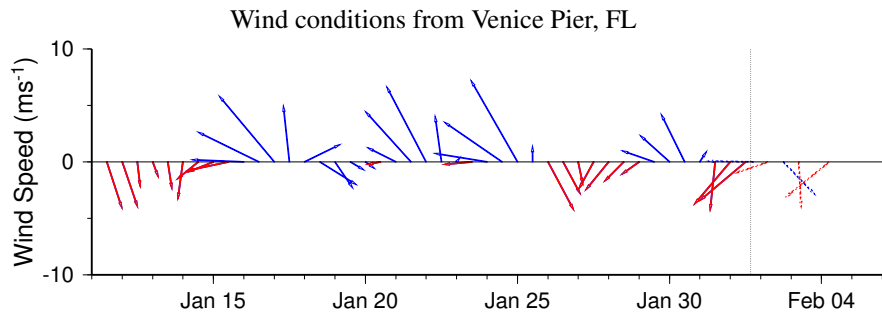
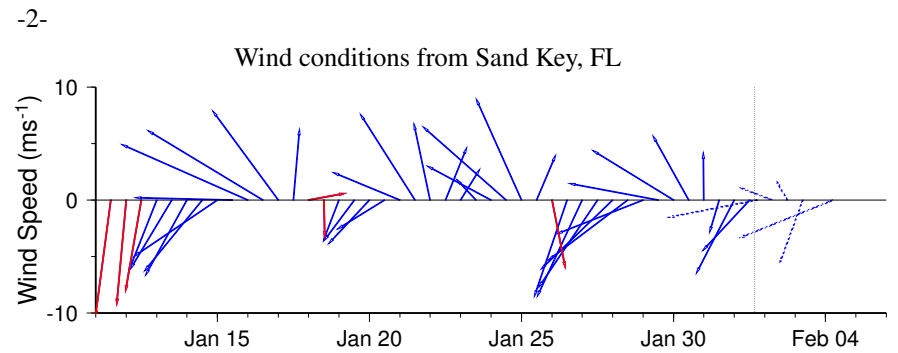
Variable winds forecasted for the Collier County region are favorable for continued bloom dissipation. Variable winds forecasted for the Florida Keys region suggest that transport of the blooms will be minimized.

Due to technical difficulties SeaWiFS imagery is currently unavailable for display. MODIS imagery is shown on this bulletin.

~Fenstermacher, Urízar



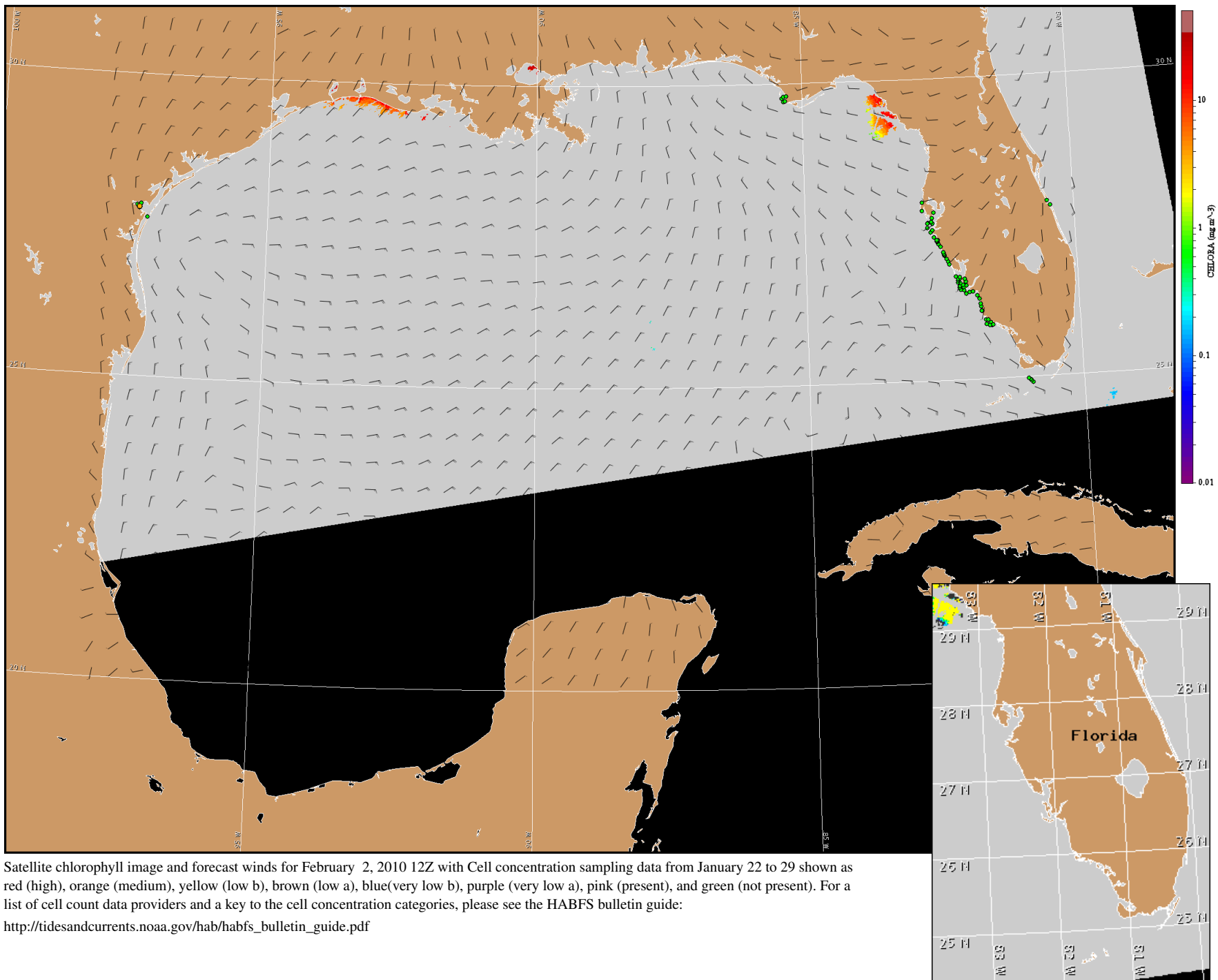
Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.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



Wind Analysis

SW Florida: Easterlies today and northwest to northeasterlies Tuesday and Wednesday (10-15 kn; 5-8 m/s). Easterlies on Wednesday night and Thursday morning (10-15 kn; 5-8 m/s).

FL Keys (gulfside): East to southeasterlies today (10-15 kn; 5-8 m/s). Southerlies becoming northwesterlies on Tuesday (10-15 kn; 5-8 m/s). Northwest to northeasterlies on Tuesday night and Wednesday (15 kn; 8 m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for February 2, 2010 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from January 22 to 29 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).