



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

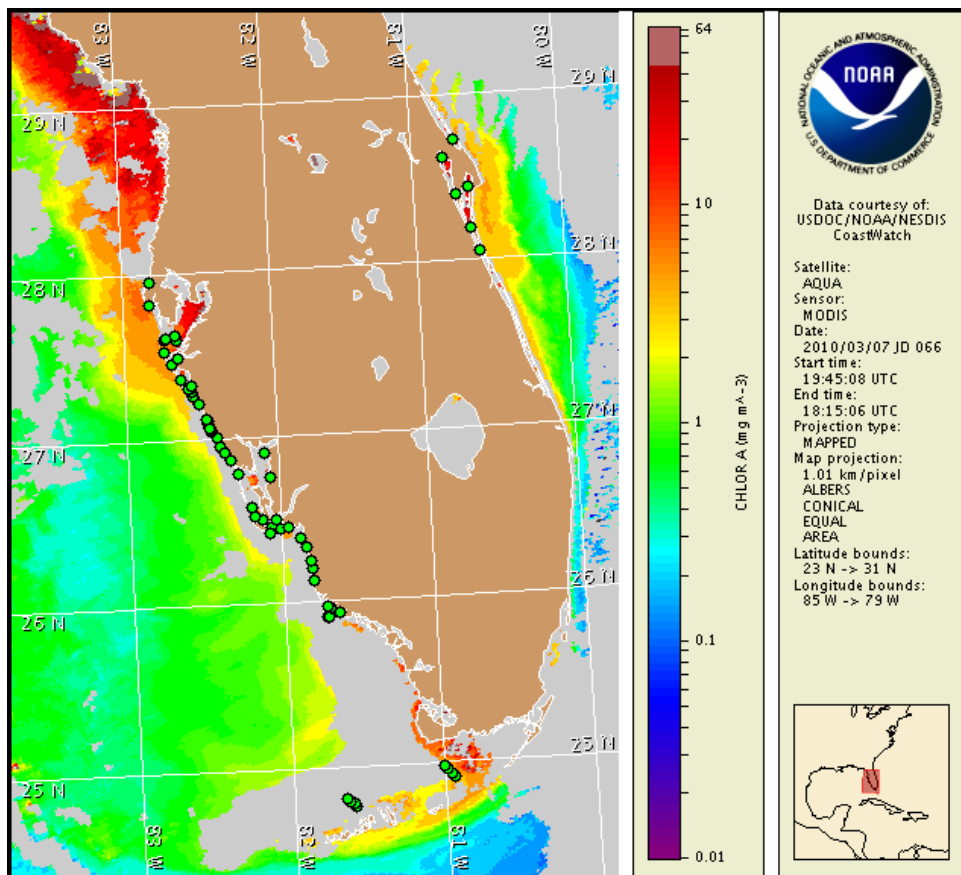
8 March 2010

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: March 4, 2010



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from February 27 to March 3 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. No impacts are expected alongshore southwest Florida today through Sunday, March 14.

Analysis

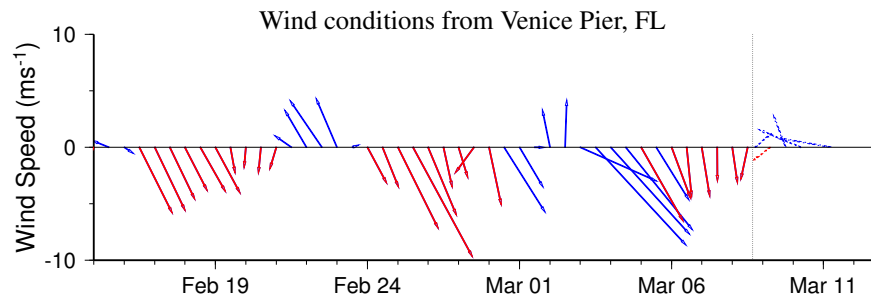
There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom alongshore southwest Florida or the Florida Keys. Recent samples in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Collier, and Monroe Counties, including the Florida Keys, indicate that *Karenia brevis* is not present (FWRI, 3/1-3). MODIS satellite imagery alongshore southwest Florida has been obscured by clouds over the past few days, limiting analysis. Slightly elevated chlorophyll levels offshore Pinellas and Manatee Counties are likely associated with southern transport from the Big Bend region; elevated chlorophyll in this region is common and not necessarily indicative of a harmful algal bloom.

Chlorophyll levels remain slightly elevated (~3 µg/L) in a narrow band offshore and south of the Florida Keys. Since recent samples indicate that *K. brevis* is not present (MML) and elevated chlorophyll features in this general region are common, it is unlikely that this band is associated with a harmful algal bloom.

Strong predominately southerly winds are not conducive for harmful algal bloom formation, today through Sunday, March 14.

Due to technical difficulties SeaWiFS imagery is currently unavailable for display.

-Fenstermacher, Urizar

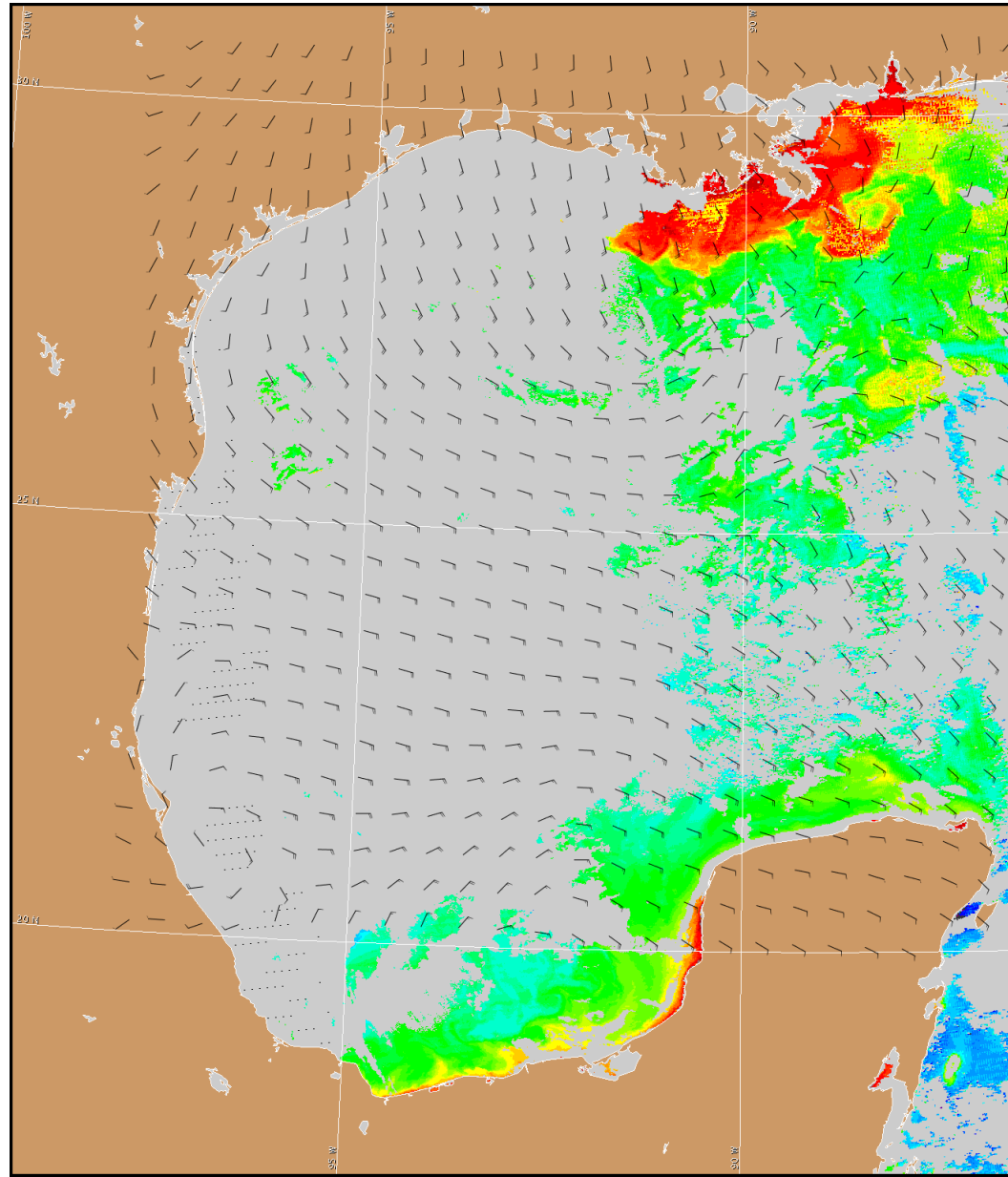


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.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

Wind Analysis

SW Florida: Easterlies today and southeasterlies through Wednesday (10-20 kn; 5-10 m/s). Southwest to southeasterlies on Thursday (5-10 kn; 3-5 m/s). Southwesterlies becoming northwesterlies on Friday afternoon (15 kn; 8 m/s).

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 March 9, 2010 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from February 2010. Cell concentration categories are shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and white (no data). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin at http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf