



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

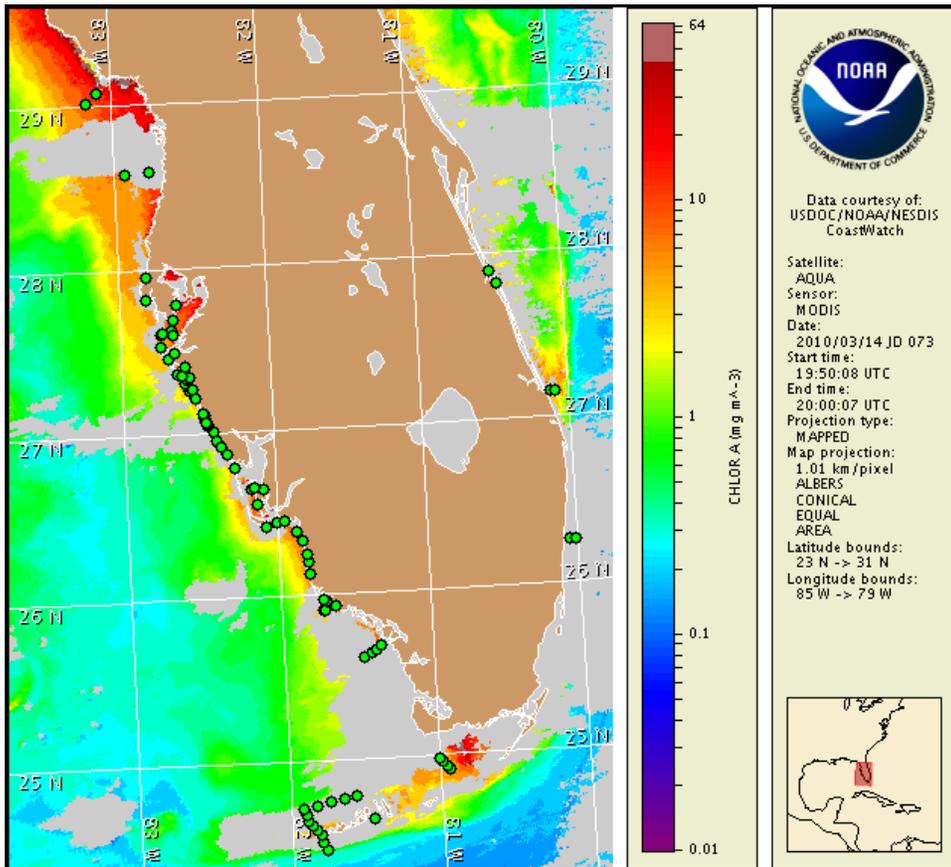
15 March 2010

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: March 8, 2010



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from March 8 to 10 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 21.

Analysis

There is currently no indication of a bloom in southwest Florida including the Florida Keys.

Samples taken alongshore Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, and northern Monroe counties all indicate that *Karenia brevis* is not present (SCHD 3/8; FWRI 3/8-10). In general, MODIS satellite imagery indicates that chlorophyll levels are elevated (1-6 $\mu\text{g/L}$) alongshore most of southwest Florida; however the elevated chlorophyll levels are most likely due to numerous other species of algae identified in the samples.

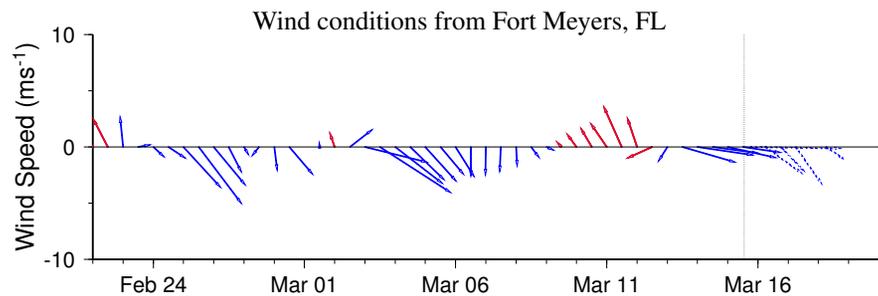
Additionally, samples taken from onshore and offshore the Florida Keys also indicate that *K. brevis* is not present (MML 3/8-9). Cloud cover onshore and offshore the Florida Keys makes it difficult to determine chlorophyll levels; however a previously identified small patch of elevated chlorophyll (approximately 1-2 $\mu\text{g/L}$) is still visible and is centered approximately 8 mi south of Marathon.

Imagery from the past couple of days indicates the continued southward transport of elevated (1-10 $\mu\text{g/L}$) to high (>10 $\mu\text{g/L}$) chlorophyll patches from the Big Bend region of Florida. Elevated chlorophyll in this region is common and not necessarily indicative of a harmful algal bloom. Continued southward transport of these patches from the Big Bend region is likely today through Friday.

Conditions are not favorable for bloom formation today through Friday, March 19.

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

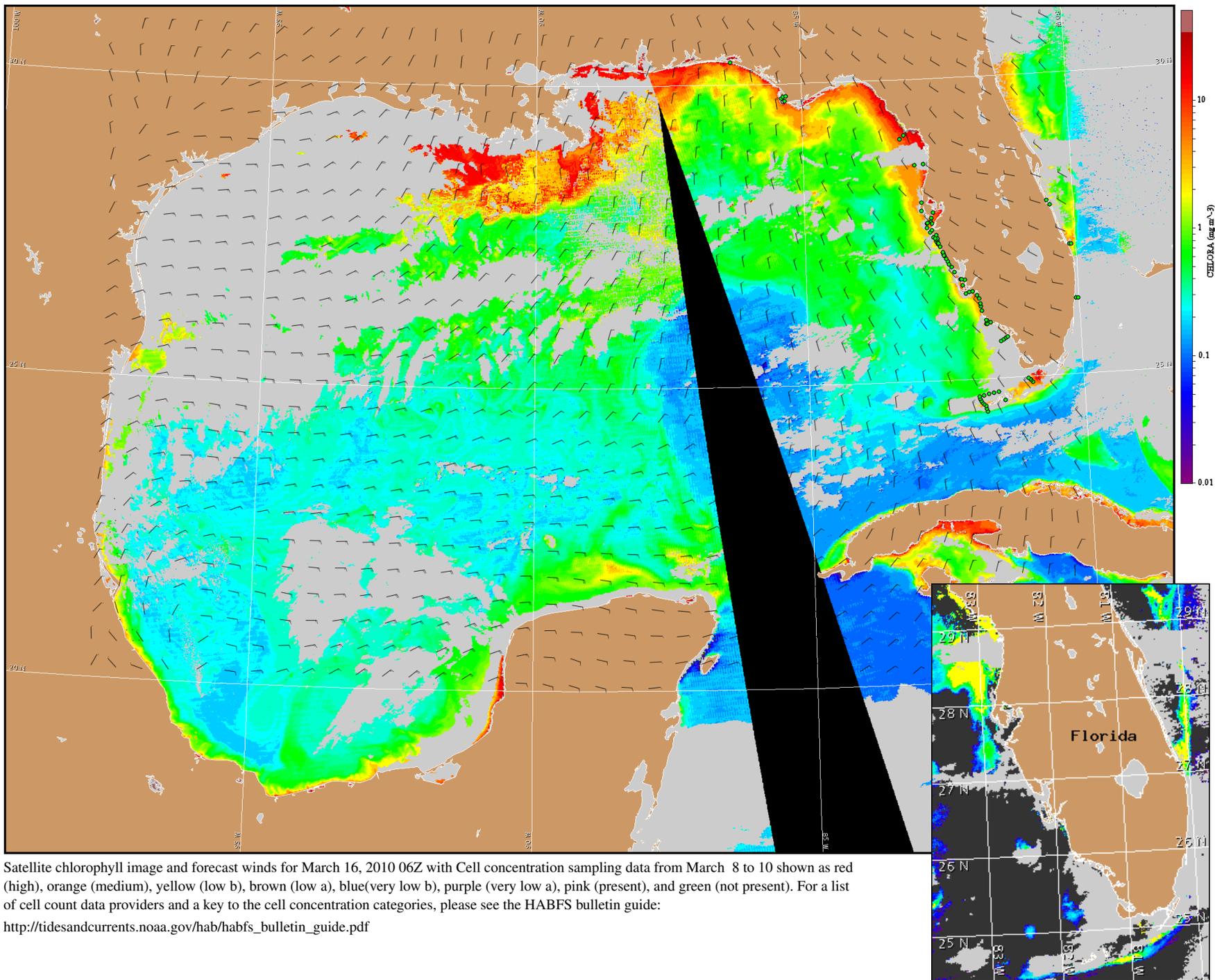
Urizar, Derner



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: Northwestern to northerly winds (10-20 kn, 8-10 m/s) today and Tuesday. Northwestern winds (5-15 kn, 3-8 m/s) Wednesday through Friday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for March 16, 2010 06Z with Cell concentration sampling data from March 8 to 10 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).