Conditions Report

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom at the coast in southwest Florida. A harmful algal bloom was last identified offshore in the gulfside region of the lower Florida Keys on April 22. No impacts are expected at the coast in southwest Florida today through Wednesday, May 5.

Analysis

Florida Keys: A mixed *Karenia brevis* bloom likely remains in the gulfside region of the lower Florida Keys. No additional sample information is available north of the lower Keys where ‘very low b’ to ‘low a’ concentrations of *K. brevis* were identified approximately 2.3 to 3.5 miles north of Sawyer Key and the Content Keys on 4/19 (MML) and 4/22 (FWRI), respectively.

Recent satellite imagery in the Florida Keys continues to be obscured by clouds. However, small patches of the previously reported elevated to high chlorophyll feature (4-10 μg/L) remain partially visible east of the Content Keys (24°48′5″N 81°25′32″W) and east of the lower Keys region. Chlorophyll concentrations appear highest (up to 10 μg/L) northeast of the Horseshoe Keys at approximately 24°47′1″N 81°14′48″W. Elevated chlorophyll (3-5 μg/L) also remains partially visible at the western most edge of the lower Keys. Continued sampling throughout the lower Keys region is recommended.

Continued southeast winds are expected today through Wednesday north of the lower Keys. This may promote north to northwestward transport of the bloom.

Southwest Florida: There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom in southwest Florida. No *Karenia brevis* was detected in samples collected alongshore southwest Florida from Pinellas to Collier County last week (FWRI, MML, SCHD, CCPCPD; 4/26-29). An elevated chlorophyll feature (2-3 μg/L) became visible northwest of Cape Sable in Monroe County on 5/2 (shown left) centered at approximately 25°26′20″N 81°37′9″W. Although we will continue to monitor this feature, elevated chlorophyll features presently visible along and offshore of the southwest Florida coast are likely a result of mixed diatom blooms which continued to be identified at the coast last week (FWRI, 4/26-27). Harmful bloom formation is not expected through Wednesday, May 5.

SeaWiFS imagery is not currently being displayed on the bulletin. MODIS imagery is shown at left and on page 3.

-Fisher, Derner, Yang
Wind Analysis
Florida Keys (gulfside): Southeast winds today through Wednesday (10-15kn, 5-8m/s).

Southwest Florida: South winds today (10-15kn, 5-8m/s). Southwest winds Tuesday (15kn, 8m/s), shifting south Tuesday night (10kn, 5m/s). Southwest winds Wednesday (10kn, 5m/s), shifting southeast Wednesday night (5kn, 3m/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 May 4, 2010 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from April 23 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