



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

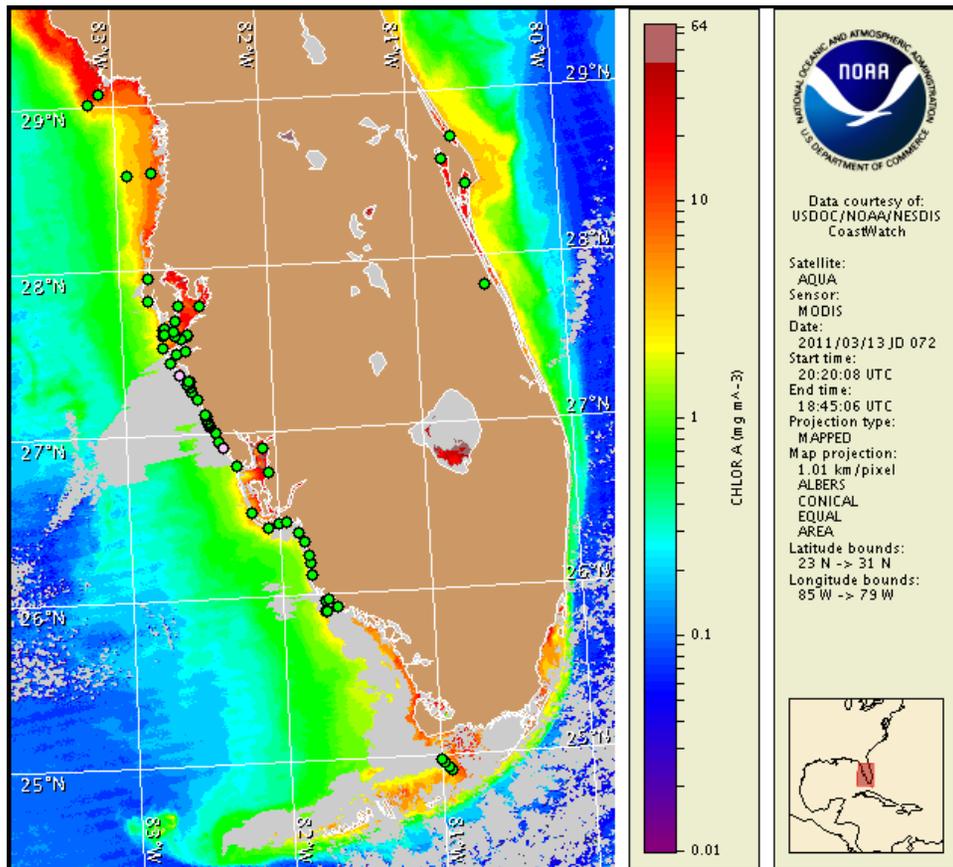
14 March 2011

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: March 7, 2011



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from March 4 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 at the coast in southwest Florida, including the Florida Keys. No impacts are expected alongshore southwest Florida today through Sunday, March 20.

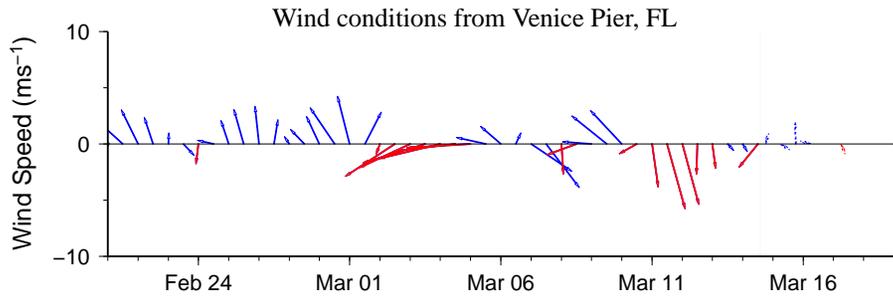
Analysis

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom in southwest Florida, including the Florida Keys. Background concentrations of *Karenia brevis* were identified last week in a single sample collected alongshore Charlotte County and in two Sarasota County samples collected alongshore and in the Sarasota Bay system (3/7-3/8; FWRI, MML, SCHD). No additional *K. brevis* was identified last week alongshore southwest Florida from Pinellas to central Collier County and in the Florida Keys region (3/7-3/11; FWRI, MML, SCHD).

Recent MODIS imagery is obscured by clouds at the coast in many southwest Florida counties; however, chlorophyll levels continue to appear slightly elevated (up to $3 \mu\text{g/L}$) alongshore Pinellas and northern Lee counties where skies are clear. Chlorophyll levels were consistently below $3 \mu\text{g/L}$ along the southwest Florida coast from Pinellas to Collier County in MODIS imagery last week. Elevated chlorophyll at the coast is likely the result of non-toxic algal blooms that continue to be reported by FWRI in several counties along southwest Florida.

Forecasted winds are variable this week. Bloom formation is unlikely through Friday, March 18.

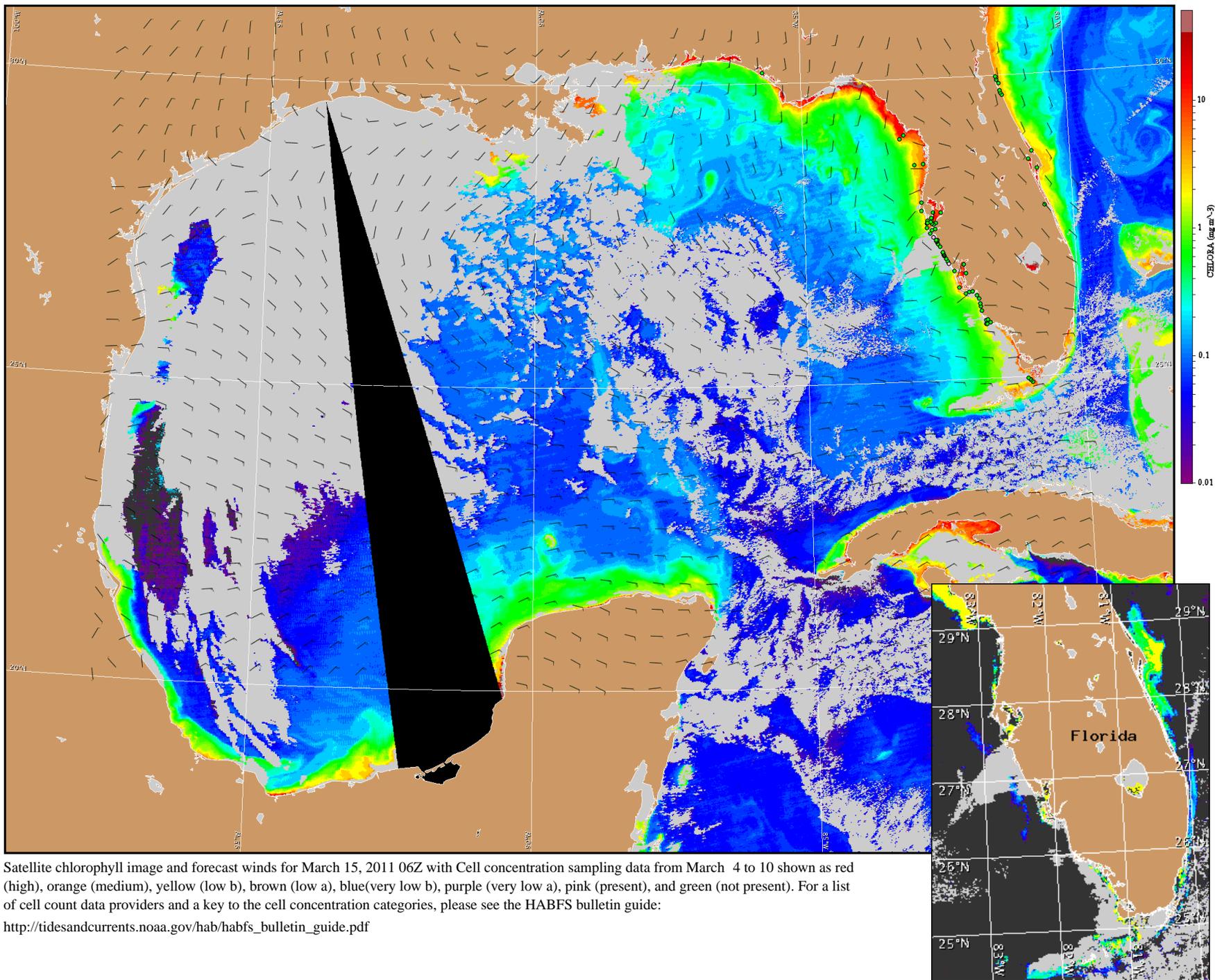
-Fisher, Yang



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: Southeast winds today (10kn, 5m/s) becoming west this afternoon. Northwest winds tonight (5-10kn, 3-5m/s), shifting east. South winds Tuesday (10kn, 5m/s), becoming west in the afternoon. Northeast winds Tuesday night (5kn, 3m/s). East winds Wednesday (5-10kn) becoming northwest by Wednesday afternoon. Northeast winds Wednesday night (5-10kn). North winds Thursday (5-10kn). Northwest winds Friday (10kn).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for March 15, 2011 06Z with Cell concentration sampling data from March 4 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).