

Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

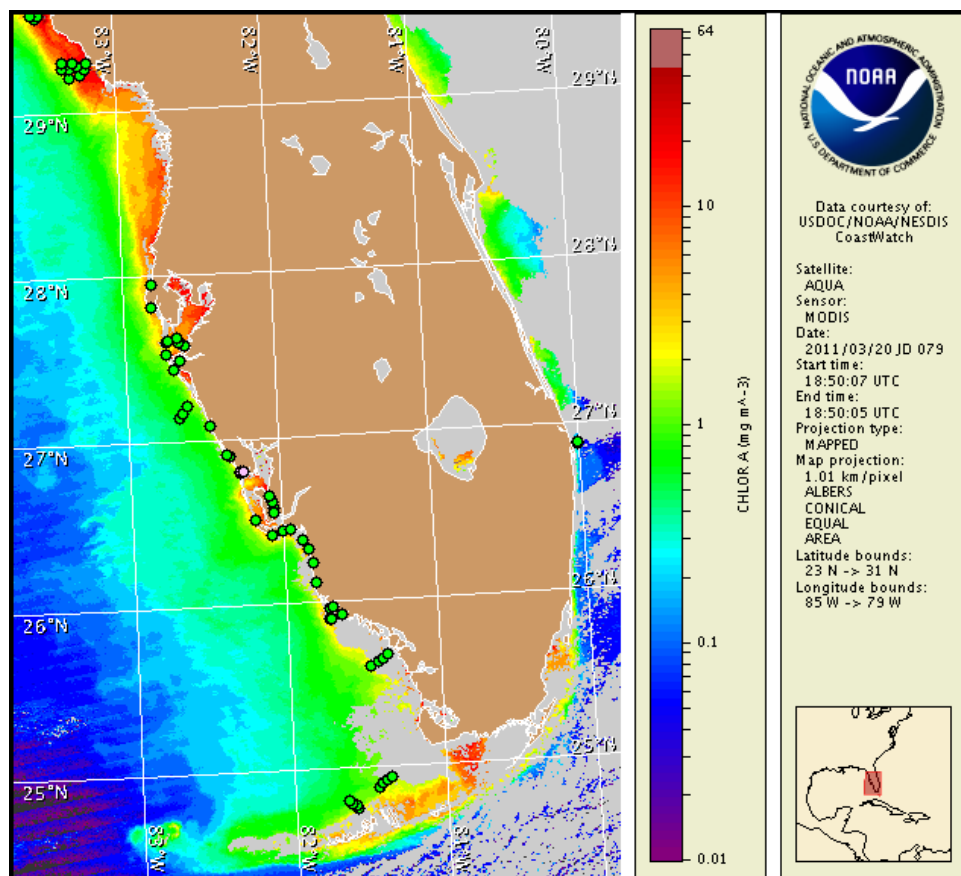
Monday, 21 March 2011

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: March 14, 2011



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from March 12 to 17 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 HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive:

<http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html>

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 27.

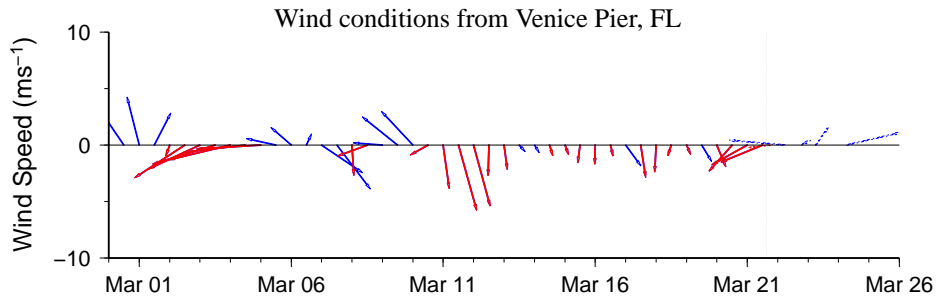
Analysis

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 southern Sarasota County, two samples in the Gasparilla Sound region of Charlotte County, and three samples offshore of Sarasota County (FWRI, MML, SCHD; 3/14-3/15). No additional *K. brevis* was identified in samples collected last week alongshore and offshore southwest Florida from Pinellas to central Monroe County and in the Florida Keys region (FWRI, MML, SCHD; 3/12-3/17).

Recent MODIS imagery shows that chlorophyll levels continue to appear slightly elevated (up to $4 \mu\text{g/L}$) alongshore Pinellas and Lee counties. Chlorophyll levels were consistently below $4 \mu\text{g/L}$ 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 along portions of southwest Florida.

Forecasted winds are variable this week. Bloom formation is unlikely through Friday, March 25.

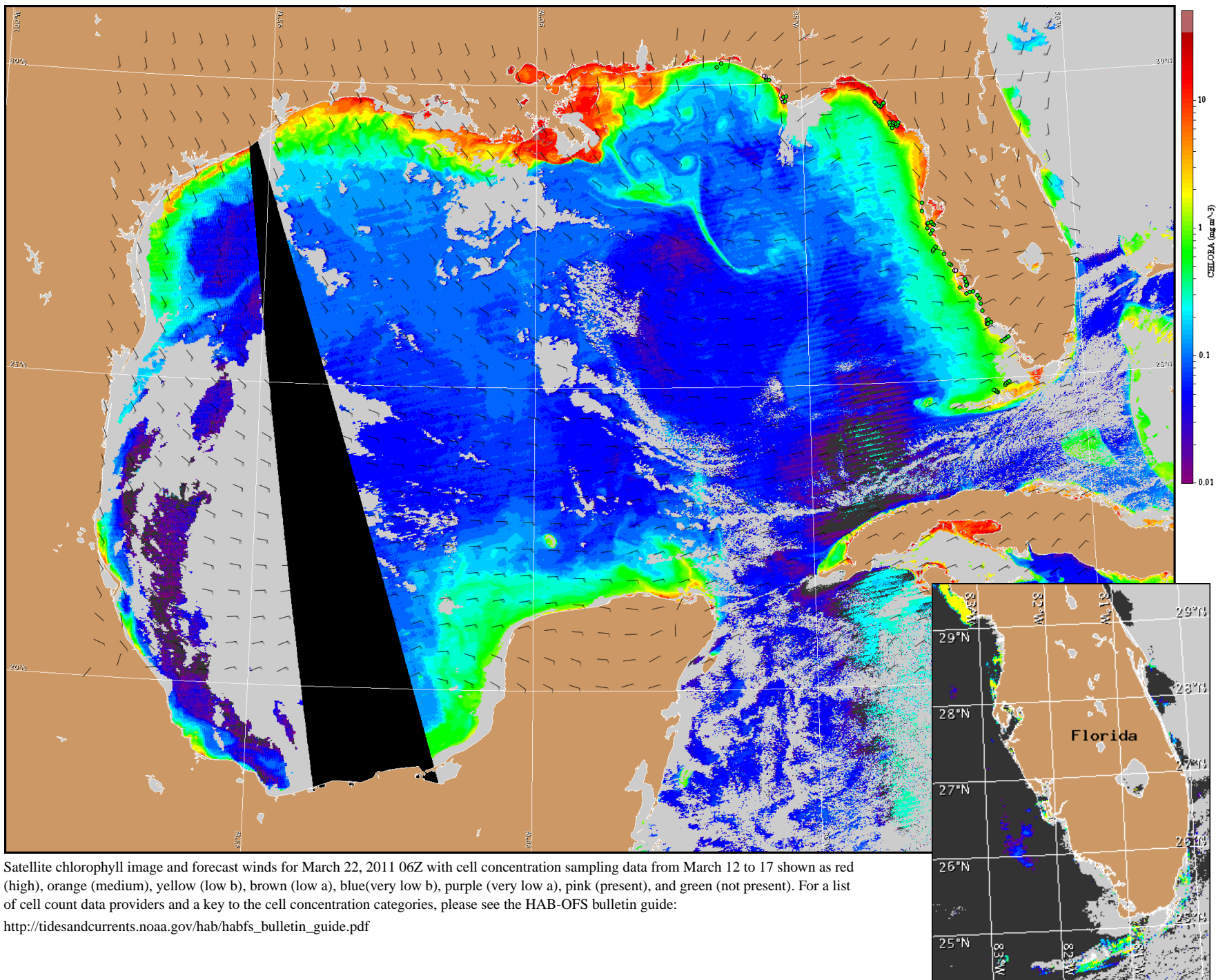
-Yang, Fisher



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: East winds (10kn, 5m/s) today becoming northwest in the afternoon. North winds (10kn) tonight, shifting southeast overnight. Southeast winds (10kn) Tuesday becoming west in the afternoon. Northwest winds (10kn) Tuesday evening becoming southeast (5kn) overnight. Southwest winds (10-15kn, 5-8m/s) Wednesday. South winds (10kn) Wednesday night. Southwest winds (15kn) Thursday. North winds (10kn) Thursday night. West winds (5kn) Friday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for March 22, 2011 06Z with cell concentration sampling data from March 12 to 17 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 HAB-OFS 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).