Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

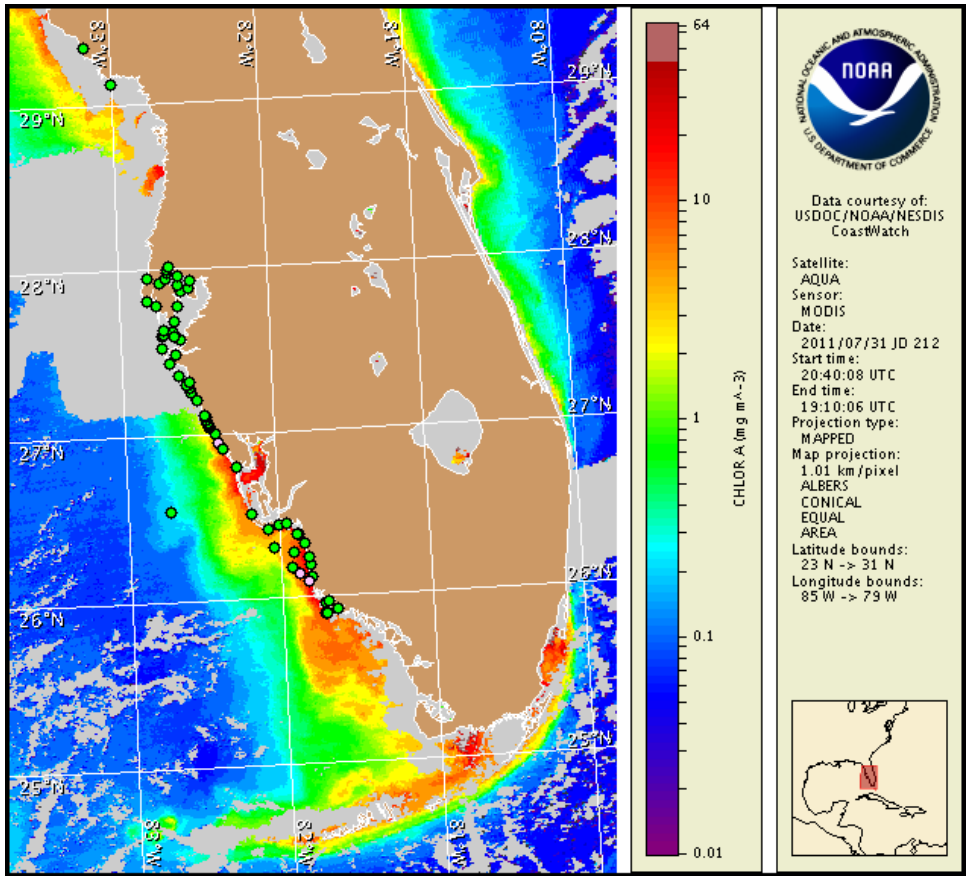
Monday, 01 August 2011

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, July 18, 2011



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from July 23 to 28 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

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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 *Karenia brevis* bloom at the coast in southwest Florida, including the Florida Keys. No respiratory impacts are expected alongshore southwest Florida today through Sunday, August 7.

Discolored water and dead fish have been reported alongshore northern Collier County (7/25). These reports are associated with blooms of non-toxic algae and resulting low dissolved oxygen levels in the water. These non-toxic algae do not produce respiratory irritation impacts associated with the Florida red tide caused by *Karenia brevis*. The Collier County Pollution Control & Prevention Department recommends that people exercise caution when going to the beach as there are stressed and dying animals in the surf zone that could cause injury if they were to be stepped on.

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 alongshore of Sarasota and offshore of Collier counties (SCHD, 7/25; FWRI, 7/28). *K. brevis* was not detected alongshore of Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties (FWRI, MML, SCHD, CCPCPD; 7/25-29).

Recent MODIS imagery continues to show a band of elevated to high chlorophyll alongshore from Pinellas County to Monroe counties, extending offshore in patches from Charlotte to Monroe counties. These features are likely the result of the non-toxic algal blooms that have been reported along the coast (FWRI, 7/25-29).

Discolored water and dead fish continue to be reported alongshore of Collier County due to blooms of non-toxic algae (CCPCPD, 7/25).

Lee County Health Department has lifted warnings to avoid contact with the Caloosahatchee River and other freshwater systems due to the presence of potentially harmful Cyanobacteria concentrations; however continues to advise individuals to use caution before utilizing these waters (LCHD; 7/26).

Harmful algal bloom formation is not expected at the coast through Sunday, August 7.

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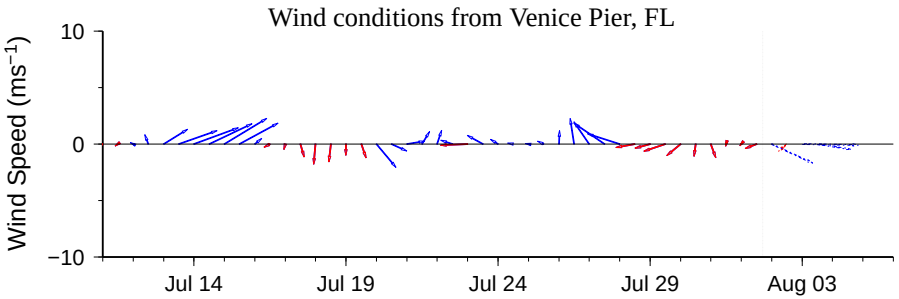
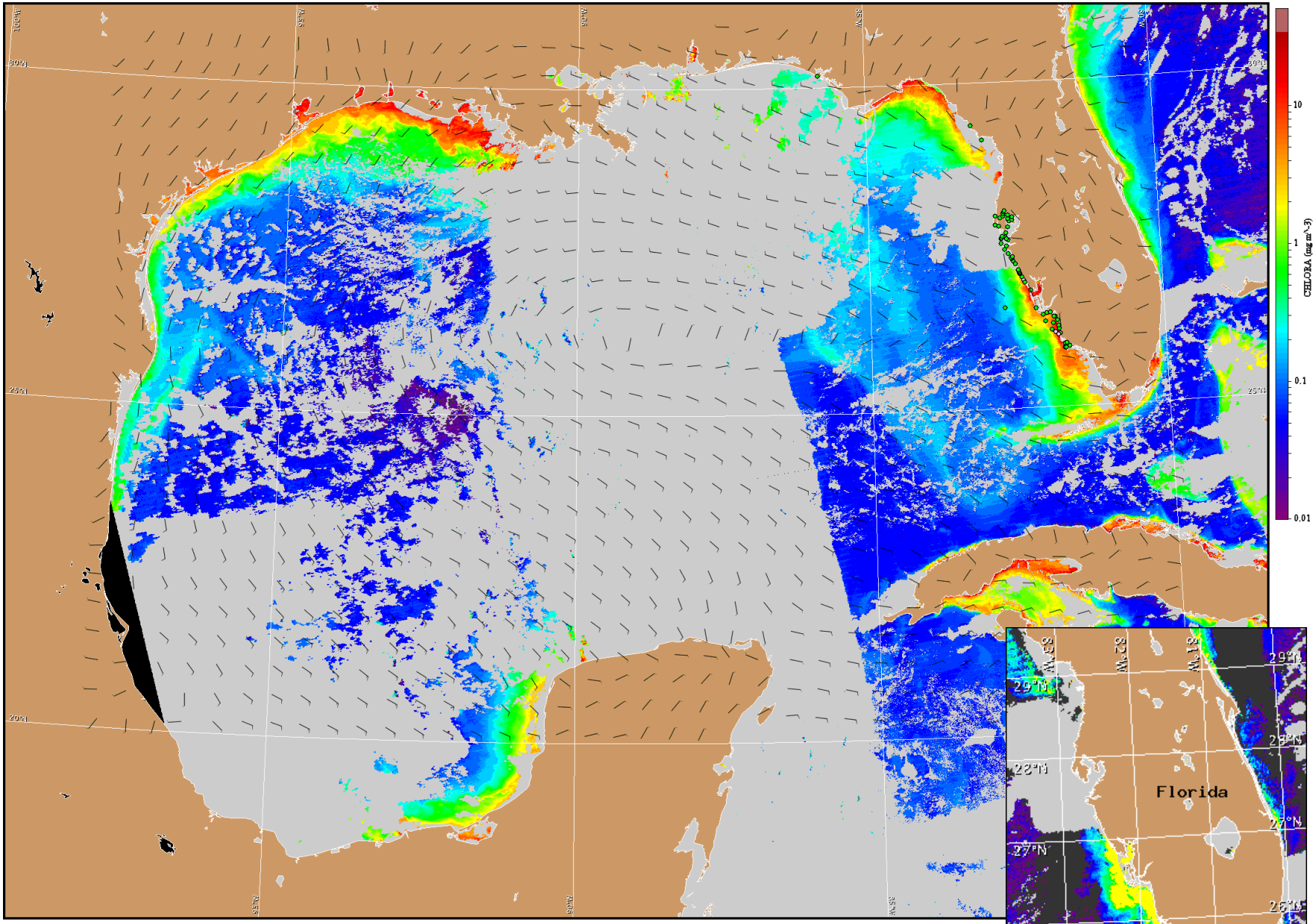


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.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

Wind Analysis

SWFL: Northwest to westerly winds today through Wednesday (5-10 kn; 3-5 m/s). Southeast to westerly winds Thursday and Friday (5-10 kn).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for August 2, 2011 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from July 23 to 28 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).