Conditions Report

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of Karenia brevis (Texas red tide) at the coast in Texas. No impacts are expected alongshore Texas today through Sunday, April 1. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) continues to monitor waters impacted by recent blooms of the harmful algae Karenia brevis (red tide) for safe shellfish harvesting. For information on area shellfish closures, contact DSHS.

Analysis

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of Karenia brevis at the coast in Texas. No new reports of Dinophysis have been received from Port Aransas or elsewhere along the Texas coast since very low concentrations were identified by the Imaging FlowCytobot, located at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute pier in Port Aransas, over two weeks ago (TAMU). In recent MODIS imagery (3/25; shown left), elevated to high chlorophyll (4-20 µg/L) is visible stretching along- and offshore from Sabine Pass to the Padre Island National Seashore. Very high patches (>20 µg/L) are also visible along- and offshore the Sabine Pass and Freeport to East Matagorda Bay regions, and alongshore the Padre Island National Seashore region. Elevated chlorophyll is not indicative of the presence of K. brevis; it is most likely due to the resuspension of benthic chlorophyll and sediments along the coast. Forecast models based on predicted near-surface currents indicate a potential maximum transport of 30km north from the Port Aransas region from March 25 to 29.

Derner, Kavanaugh

Wind conditions from Port Aransas-Coast, TX

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

Port Aransas: Southeast wind (5-15kn, 3-8m/s) today through Friday.
Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).