



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

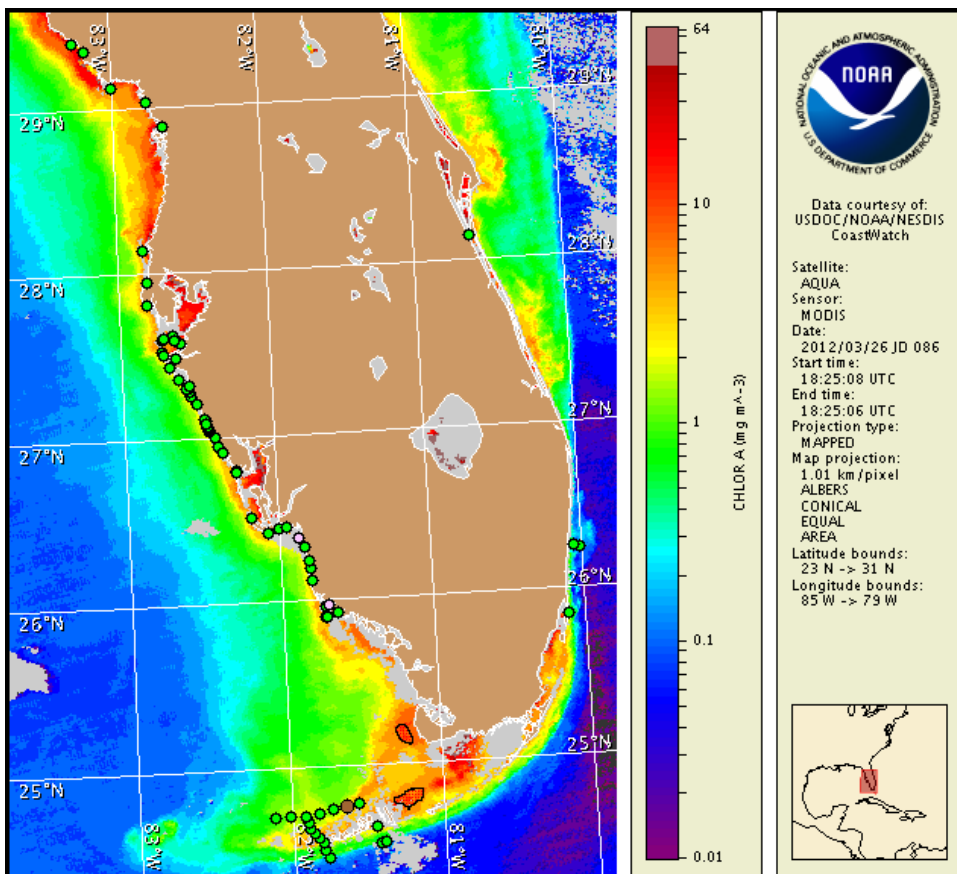
Thursday, 29 March 2012

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, March 26, 2012



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from March 19 to 27 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

A patchy harmful algal bloom has been identified offshore in the Gulf side region of the Lower Florida Keys, with patchy very low impacts possible today through Sunday. No additional impacts are expected alongshore southwest Florida today through Sunday, April 1.

Analysis

Southwest Florida: A harmful algal bloom was last identified on March 1-2 alongshore Monroe County from Pavilion Key to Cape Sable. Recent sample information is presently unavailable for the coastal Monroe County region.

MODIS imagery, although cloudy over the last several days (3/26 shown), suggests that the bloom may still be present offshore of Cape Sable, Monroe County and may have extended westward toward the Lower Keys and south to the Middle Keys (see below). The elevated chlorophyll feature ($\sim 6 \mu\text{g/L}$) west of Cape Sable persists but appears to have decreased in concentration overall. Samples collected alongshore from Pinellas to Charlotte counties indicate that *Karenia brevis* is not present (FWRI, SCHD; 3/21-27). Detailed sampling information can be obtained through FWRI at <http://myfwc.com/research/redtide/events/status/statewide/>.

Elevated chlorophyll features that were visible alongshore southern Pinellas, Manatee, Charlotte, northern Lee and Collier counties appear to have dissipated.

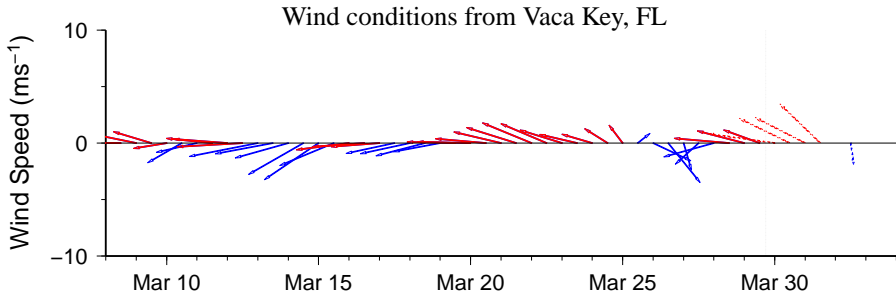
Florida Keys: Recent samples south of Looe Key indicate *K. brevis* is not present on the ocean side of the Keys (3/25, MML). MODIS imagery has been cloudy over the last several days and limits analysis. Imagery from 3/26 (shown) indicates the patchy features north of the Lower Keys may be slightly dissipating. A patchy elevated feature is still present ($\sim 3-6 \mu\text{g/L}$), extending from offshore of Cape Sable to ~7 miles north of the National Key Deer Refuge (Centerpoint: $24^{\circ}51'6.21''\text{N}$, $81^{\circ}31'22.36''\text{W}$). A distinctive band of elevated to high chlorophyll (~ 4 to $>10 \mu\text{g/L}$) is also visible ~4-5 miles north of the Middle Keys. The patchy features may maintain location through Sunday. Continued sampling is recommended.

~Fenstermacher, Derner

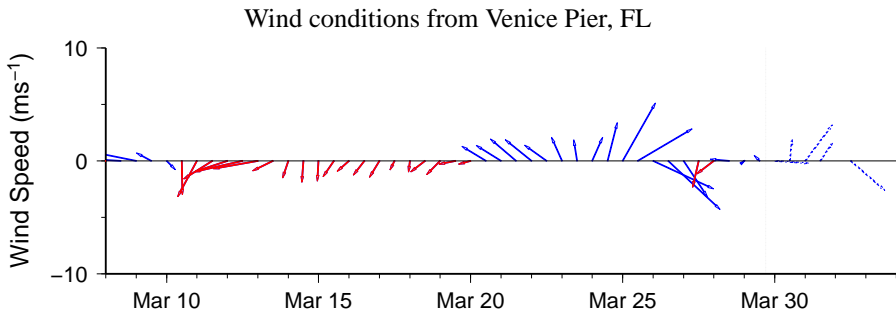
Wind Analysis

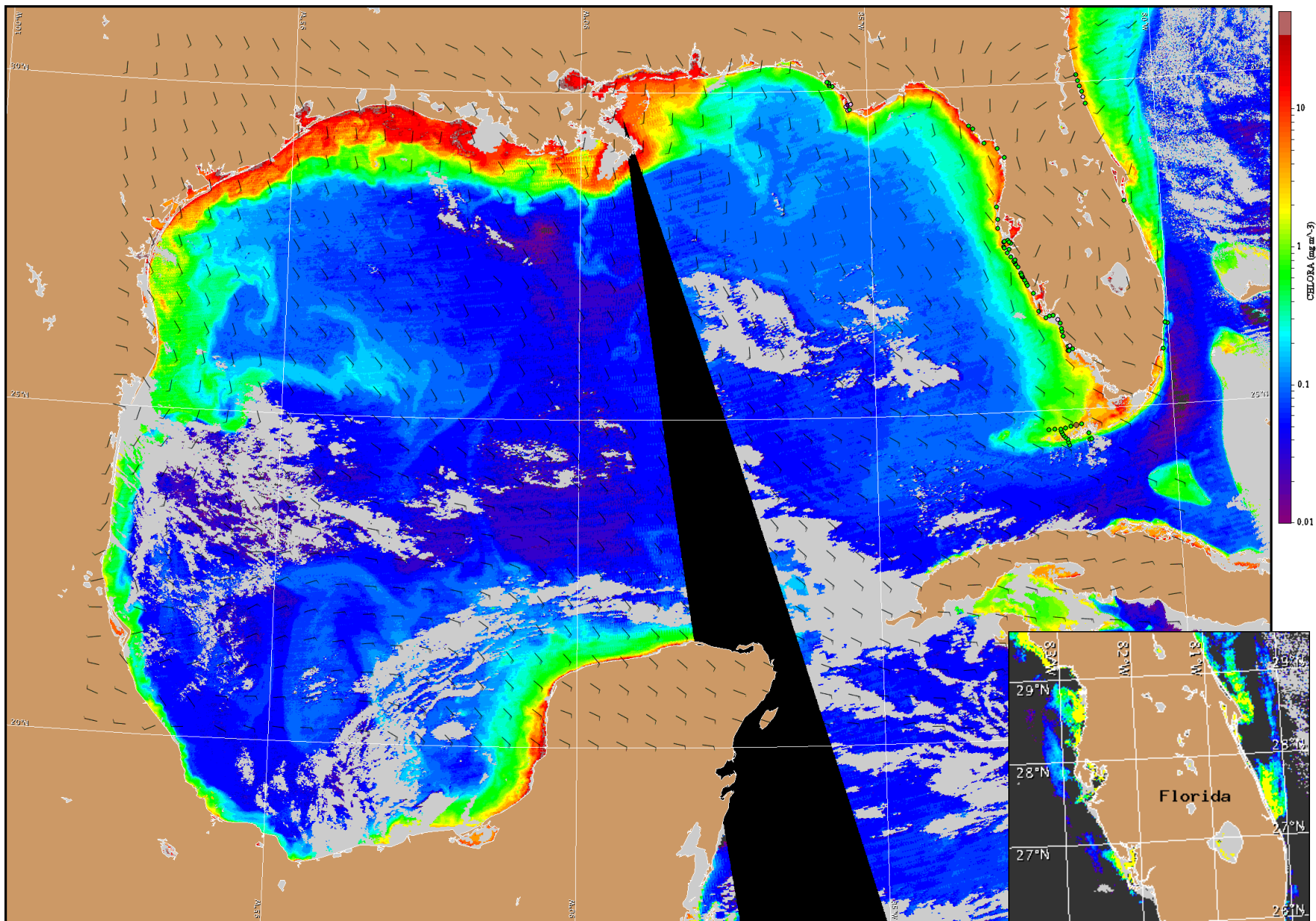
Cape Sable & FL Keys: East to southeasterlies today through Saturday (10-15 kn; 5-8 m/s). Southeast to southerlies on Sunday (10 kn; 5 m/s).

SWFL Tampa Region: Variable winds today (5-10 kn; 3-5 m/s). Southwesterly winds on Friday & westerly winds on Saturday and Sunday (10 kn), with northwesterly winds on Sunday night (5 kn).



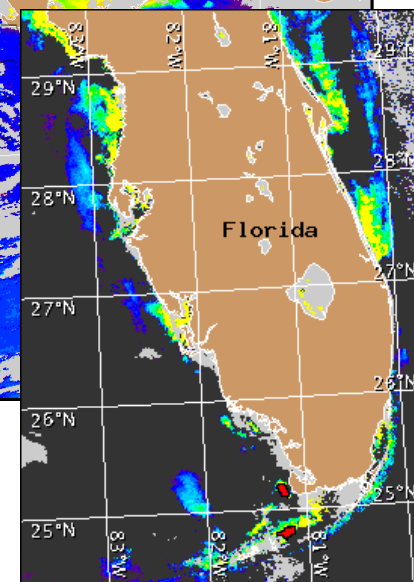
Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.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





Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for March 30, 2012 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from March 19 to 27 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).