Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

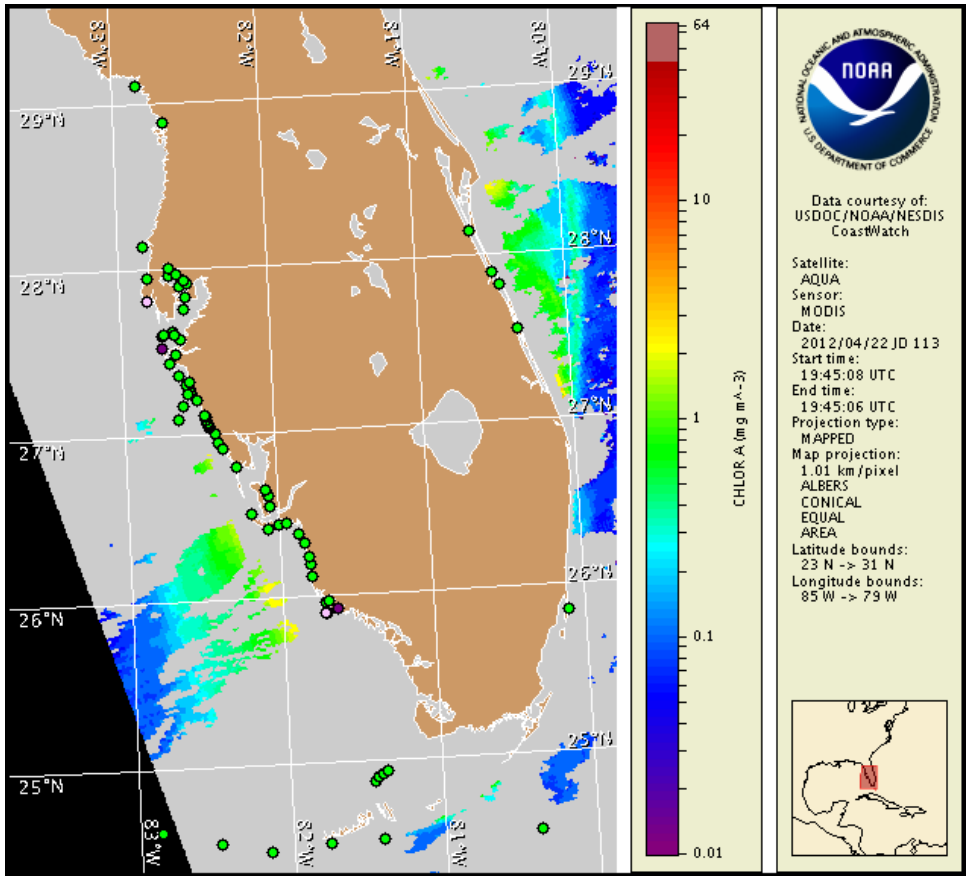
Monday, 23 April 2012

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Thursday, April 19, 2012



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from April 13 to 19 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

Conditions Report

A patchy harmful algal bloom persists in the Marco Island region of central Collier County and in the gulfside region of the Lower to Middle Florida Keys. Harmful algae has been identified in Manatee County. Patchy, very low impacts are possible in the Marco Island region of central Collier County and patchy, moderate impacts are possible in the gulfside region of the Lower to Middle Florida Keys today through Wednesday. No additional impacts are expected alongshore southwest Florida today through Wednesday, April 25.

Analysis

Southwest Florida: A patchy bloom of *Karenia brevis* persists in the Marco Island region of central Collier County. Recent samples (4/19) identified background concentrations of *K. brevis* at South Marco Beach. No additional samples were taken from alongshore the Marco Island region. Samples taken from alongshore northern Collier County, however, indicate that *K. brevis* is not present (CCPCPD, FWRI; 4/19). No new samples are available from alongshore Anna Maria Island in Manatee County where 'very low a' concentrations were identified last week (FWRI; 4/17). No additional *K. brevis* was detected along the coast of southwest Florida from Pinellas to Collier counties this week (CCPCPD, FWRI; 4/17-19). Continued sampling in Marco Island region and alongshore Manatee County is recommended. Additional sampling information can be obtained through FWRI at http://myfwc.com/research/redtide/events/status/statewide/.

MODIS imagery continues to be fully or partially obscured by clouds along the coast of southwest Florida, preventing analysis. The Marco Island region of central Collier County will continue to be monitored.

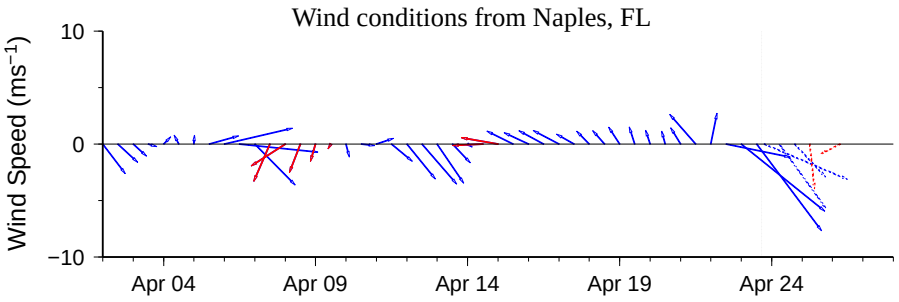
Florida Keys: A harmful algal bloom of *K. brevis* may persist north of the Lower to Middle Florida Keys where 'very low' to 'low b' *K. brevis* concentrations were identified offshore Sawyer and Oxfoot Keys earlier this month (MML; 4/9-10). Nearby, four samples collected late last week north of the Lower to Middle Keys (Harbor Key) indicate that *K. brevis* is not present (MML; 4/19).

Unfortunately, recent MODIS imagery in the Florida Keys region is predominantly obscured by clouds, also preventing analysis. This region will continue to be monitored.

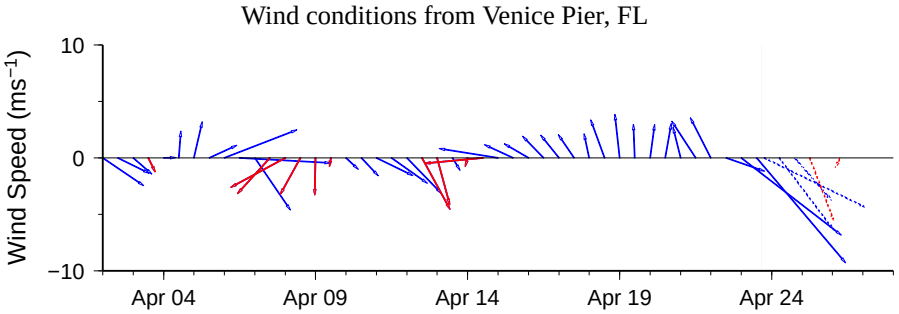
Forecasted strong winds will increase the potential for impacts alongshore the Marco Island region of central Collier County and in the Lower to Middle Florida Keys region today through Wednesday.

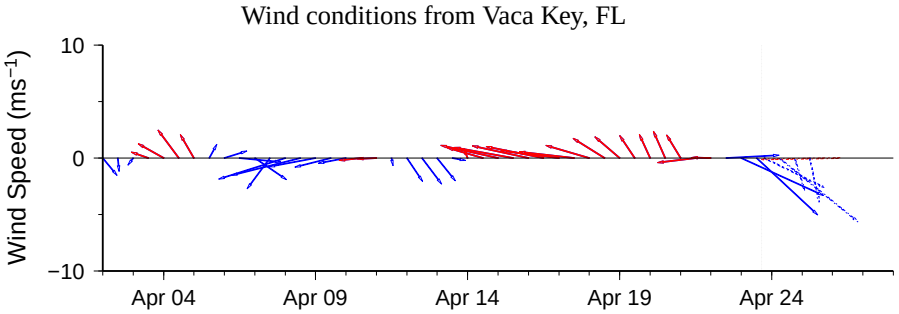
Urizar, Fenstermacher

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



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).



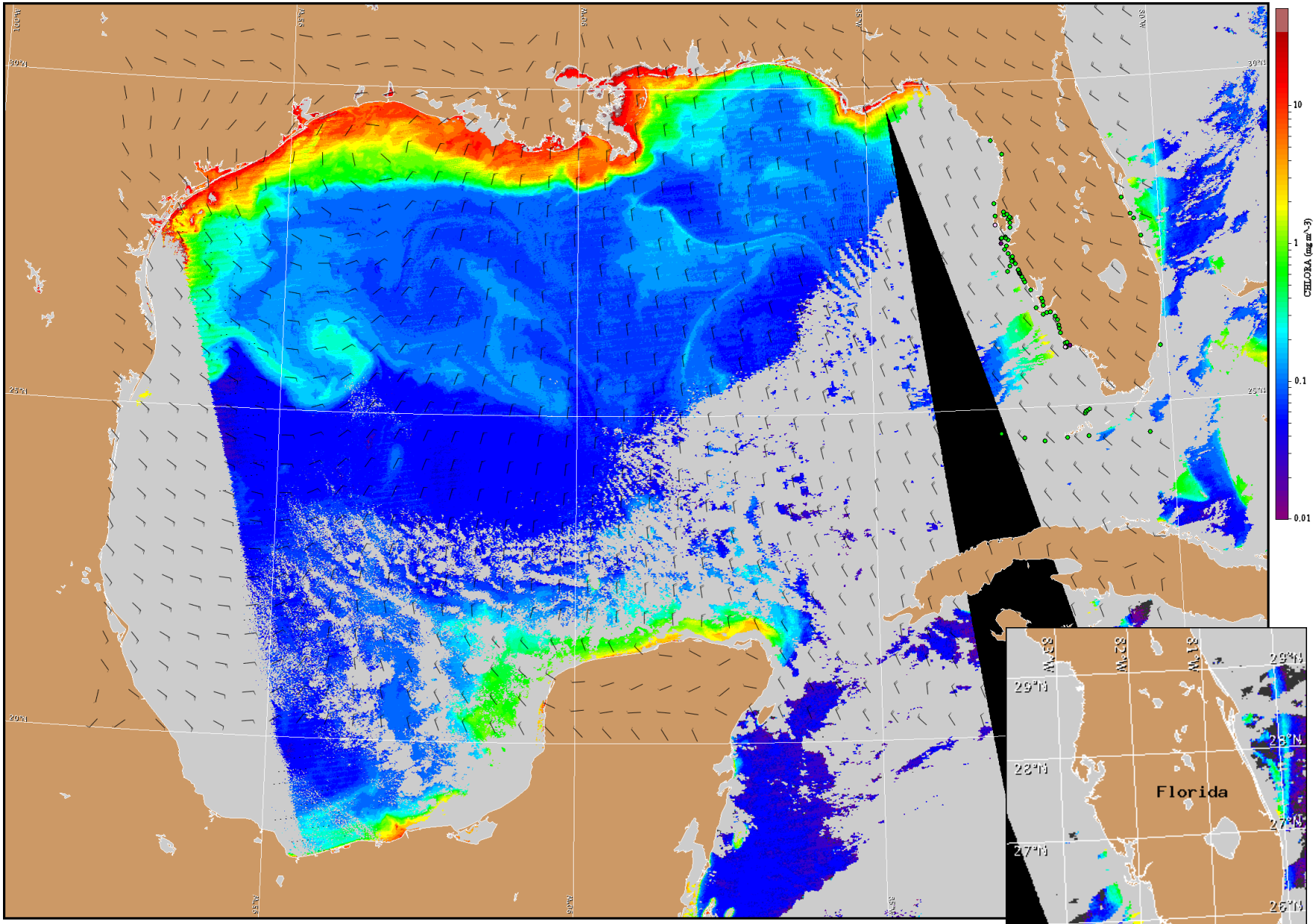


Wind Analysis

Collier to Monroe Counties: Northwesterly to northerly winds today (15-21 kn, 7-11 m/s) and Tuesday (8-15 kn, 4-8 m/s) and northerly to northeasterly winds Wednesday (6-9 kn, 3-5 m/s).

Florida Keys - Gulfside: Northwesterly winds today (20 kn). Northerly to northwesterly winds Tuesday (10-15 kn). Northeasterly to easterly winds Wednesday (10-15kn).

Pinellas to Lee Counties: Northwesterly to northerly winds today (20-25 kn, 10-13 m/s), Tuesday (10-15 kn, 5-8 m/s) and Wednesday (5-10 kn, 3-5 m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for April 24, 2012 06Z with cell concentration sampling data from April 13 to 19 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).