



# Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

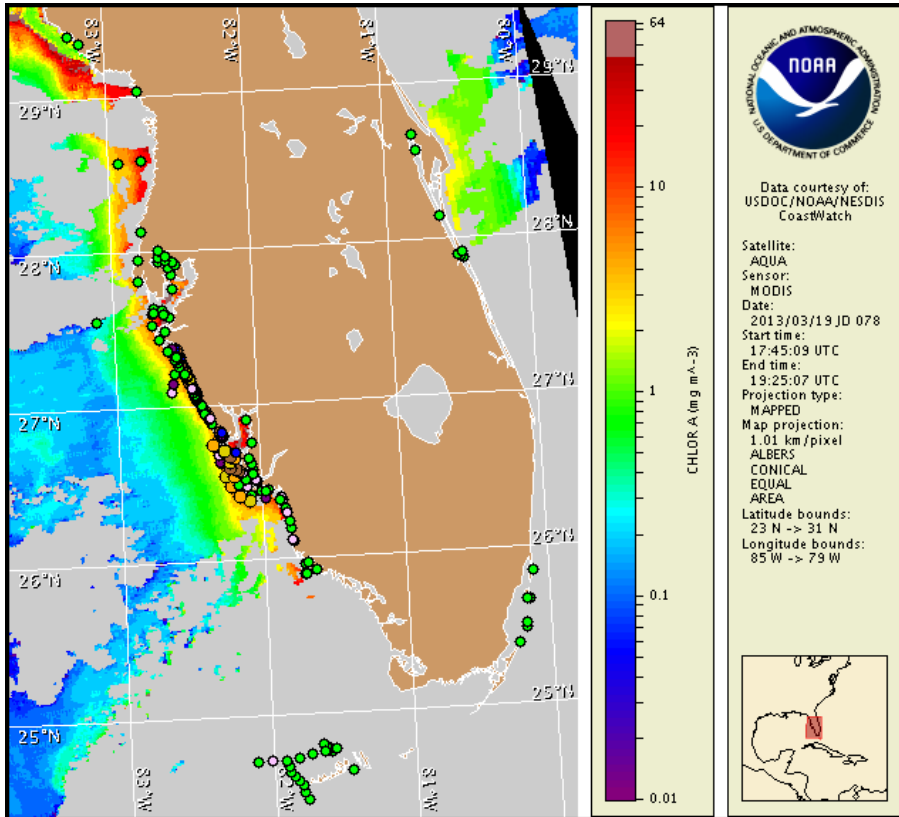
Thursday, 21 March 2013

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, March 18, 2013



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from March 11 to 20 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). Cell count data are provided by Florida FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. For a list of sample 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](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf)

Detailed sample information can be obtained through the Florida FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute at:

<http://myfwc.com/research/redtide/events/status/statewide/>

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit at: <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html>

## Conditions Report

Very low to medium concentrations of *Karenia brevis* (commonly known as Florida Red Tide) are present alongshore and offshore southwest Florida. In the bay regions of Sarasota County, patchy low respiratory impacts are possible today through Monday. Alongshore central Lee County, very low impacts are possible today and Monday, with moderate impacts possible Friday through Sunday. In the bay regions of Charlotte and Lee counties, patchy moderate respiratory impacts are possible today through Monday. No respiratory impacts are expected elsewhere alongshore southwest Florida, including the Florida Keys, today through Monday, March 25.

## Analysis

Alongshore and offshore southwest Florida from Sarasota to Collier counties, *Karenia brevis* concentrations range from not present to medium. Recent samples indicate background to very low concentrations along and offshore from Pinellas to Monroe counties, and background to medium in the bay regions of Sarasota, Charlotte and Lee counties (SCHD, FWRI, MML, CCPCD; 3/13-20).

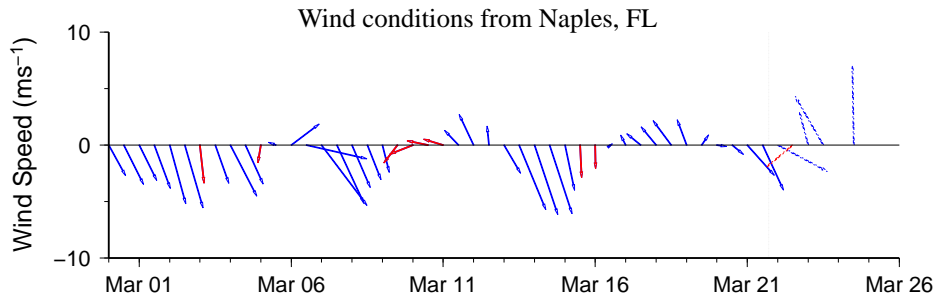
While imagery has been consistently cloudy limiting consecutive analysis, the image shown (3/19) indicates elevated chlorophyll alongshore from Sarasota to Charlotte counties (3-8  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), with higher chlorophyll extending alongshore of central Lee County (up to 10  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). The patch noted offshore of southern Collier and northern Monroe counties has also been consistently obscured by clouds.

Offshore winds alongshore southwest Florida today and Friday may decrease the potential for respiratory impacts, with stronger onshore winds on Saturday through Monday increasing potential impacts. Variable winds through Monday may continue dissipation of the remaining bloom alongshore southwest Florida.

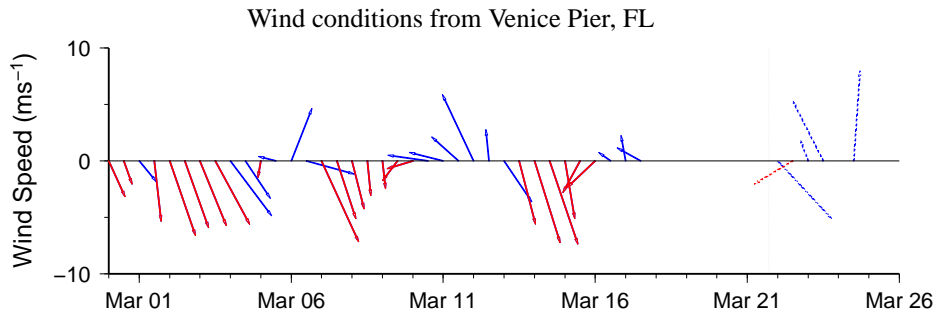
~Fenstermacher, Derner

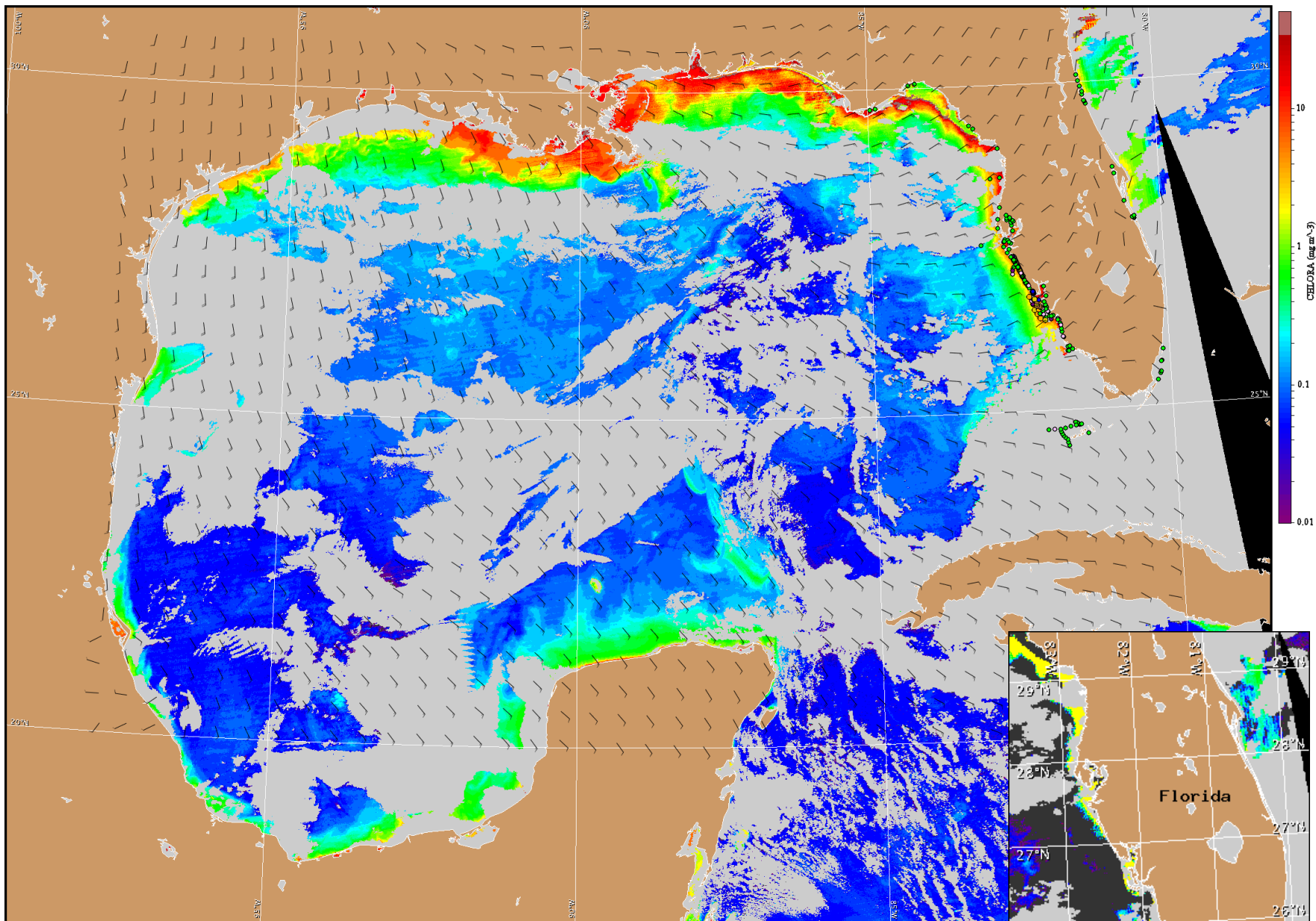
## Wind Analysis

Pinellas to Lee Counties: Strong north to northeasterlies today (5-20 kn; 3-10 m/s) and east to southeasterlies on Friday (10-20 kn; 5-10 m/s). Southerlies on Saturday and strong south to westerlies on Sunday (10-20 kn; 5-10 m/s). North to northwesterlies on Monday (15 kn; 8 m/s).



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 22, 2013 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from March 11 to 20 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). Cell count data are provided by Florida FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. For a list of sample 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).