Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin
Region: Southwest Florida
Thursday, 11 April 2013
NOAA National Ocean Service
NOAA National Weather Service
Last bulletin: Monday, April 8, 2013

Conditions Report
Background to medium concentrations of Karenia brevis (commonly known as Florida Red Tide) are present along- and offshore southwest Florida. In the bay regions of northern and central Lee County, patchy very low respiratory impacts are possible today through Monday. No respiratory impacts are expected elsewhere alongshore southwest Florida, including the Florida Keys, today through Monday, April 15.

Analysis
Recent sampling throughout southwest Florida continues to indicate that Karenia brevis concentrations are dissipating. Samples collected over the past week identified only one ‘background’ K. brevis concentration in Pinellas County (FWRI; 4/9). All other samples collected alongshore southwest Florida from Pinellas to Monroe counties, and offshore Lee County, indicate that K. brevis is not present (FWRI, MML, CCPCPD; 4/7-4/10). No recent samples have been received from offshore southern Lee County or within the San Carlos Bay region, where ‘low a’ to ‘medium’ K. brevis concentrations were identified on 4/2 (FWRI). Continued sampling in this region is recommended to confirm K. brevis dissipation. This region will continue to be monitored as information becomes available.

In recent MODIS Aqua imagery (4/10, shown left), elevated chlorophyll (2-6 µg/L) is visible alongshore southwest Florida from Sarasota to Monroe County. Imagery is obscured by clouds alongshore Pinellas, Manatee, and much of Collier County, limiting analysis in these regions. No distinct features are visible offshore southwest Florida at this time. Much of the imagery throughout the Florida Keys region is obscured by clouds; however, patches of elevated chlorophyll (3-8 µg/L) are visible on the bay side of the lower to middle Keys.

Variable winds forecasted today through Monday may reduce the potential for transport of K. brevis concentrations along the coast of southwest Florida.

Derner, Urizar
Wind conditions from Fort Meyers, FL

Wind conditions from Vaca Key, FL

Wind Analysis

**Southwest Florida:** Southeast winds (10-15kn, 5-8m/s) today becoming south (15-20kn, 8-10m/s) this afternoon through Friday. Southwest winds (10kn, 5m/s) Friday night. Northwest winds (10kn) Saturday becoming northeast to east winds (5-10kn, 3-5m/s) Saturday night. South winds (10-15kn) Sunday and Monday.

**Florida Keys:** Southeast winds (10-20kn, 5-10m/s) today. Southeast to south winds (10-15kn) Friday and Saturday. East to southeast winds (10-15kn) Saturday night through Monday.
Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for April 12, 2013 06Z with cell concentration sampling data from April 1 to 10 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

Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).