Conditions Report

Background to very low concentrations of Karenia brevis (commonly known as Florida Red Tide) are present along- and offshore southwest Florida. In the bay regions of 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 May 6.

Analysis

Recent sampling throughout southwest Florida continues to indicate that Karenia brevis concentrations persist alongshore, offshore and in the bays of central and southern Lee County. Samples collected in the Pine Island Sound region of Lee County indicate K. brevis concentrations still range between 'not present' and 'very low a' (FWRI; 4/24, 4/30). Samples collected from Pinellas and Sarasota counties indicated 'not present' to 'background' concentrations while all other samples indicate 'not present' alongshore southwest Florida (FWRI; 4/25-30).

Imagery has been intermittently cloudy alongshore of southwest Florida limiting time series analysis. Elevated chlorophyll remains in April 29 imagery (shown) extending alongshore Charlotte and Lee counties (2-7 µg/L). However, anomalously high patches of elevated chlorophyll appear to have decreased in intensity and extent in April 30 imagery (not shown), now slightly offshore of Charlotte and Lee counties (2-5 µg/L), northern Monroe County (<2 µg/L) and the Florida Keys (2-4 µg/L). We will continue to monitor these features.

Predominately northerly winds this week may transport remaining patches of offshore K. brevis concentrations southward.

Fenstermacher, Kavanaugh
Wind analysis

SWFL: South to southeasterlies today and Friday (10 kn; 5 m/s). North to northeasterlies on Friday night and north to northwesterlies on Saturday (5-15 kn; 3-8 m/s). Northwesterlies on Saturday night and northwest to westerlies on Monday (15 kn; 8 m/s).
Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for May 3, 2013 06Z with points representing cell concentration sampling data from April 22 to 30: 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 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (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).