Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

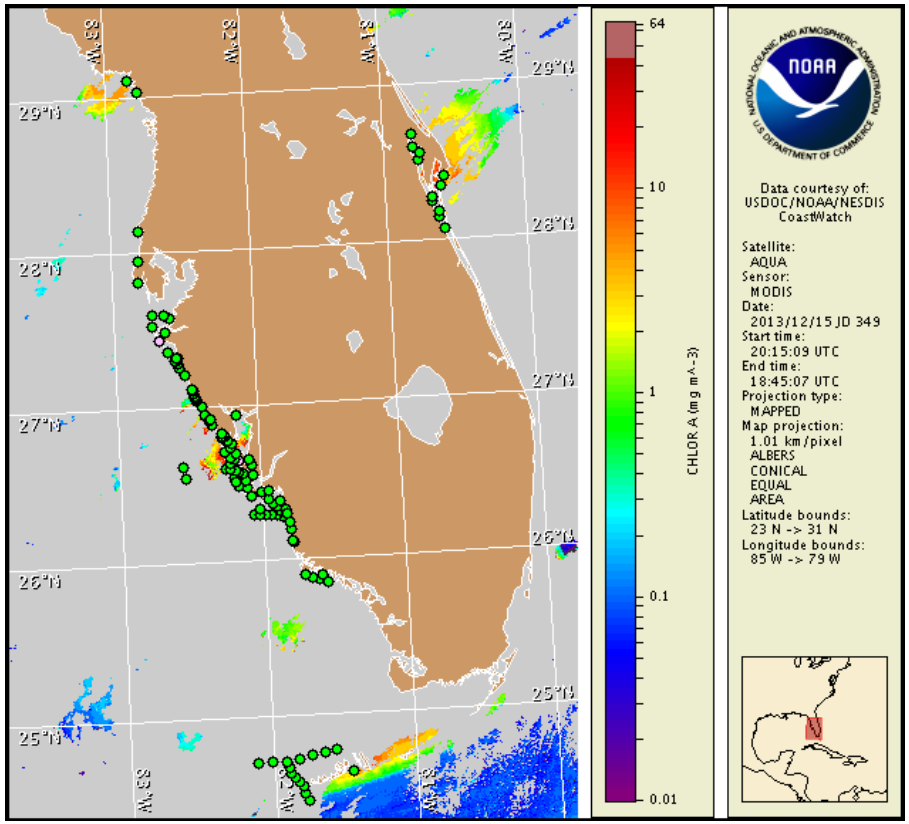
Monday, 16 December 2013

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Thursday, December 12, 2013



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s), when applicable. Points represent cell concentration sampling data from December 6 to 15: 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

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

http://myfwc.com/redtidestatus

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

Conditions Report

There is currently no indication of *Karenia brevis* (commonly known as Florida red tide) along the coast of southwest Florida, including the Florida Keys. No respiratory irritation is expected Monday, December 16 through Monday, December 23. Check http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/beach_conditions.html for recent, local observations. Health information, from the Florida Department of Health and other agencies, is available at http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/hab_health_info.html.

Analysis

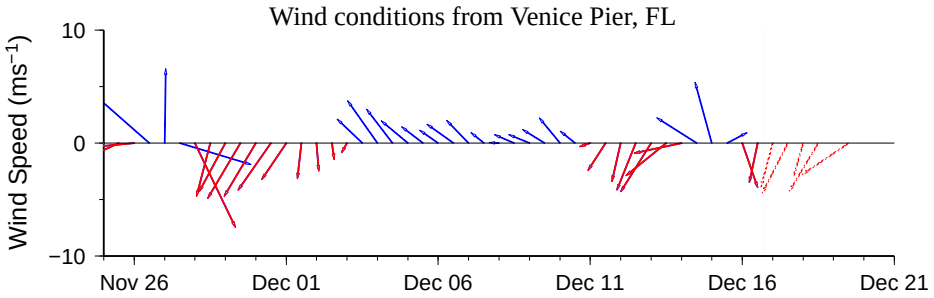
** Note: As of today, December 16, southwest Florida bulletins will be issued once weekly on Monday's due to current harmful algal bloom inactivity. Twice weekly bulletins will resume as conditions warrant. **

Samples collected over the past ten days alongshore southwest Florida indicate that *Karenia brevis* concentrations range from 'not present' to 'background', and are not present in the Florida Keys (FWRI, MML, SCHD, CCPCPD; 12/8-12/16). 'Very low' concentrations of *K. brevis* were last identified in the Marco Islands region, Collier County on December 3 (CCPCPD; 12/9). Over the past several days, no reports of respiratory irritation or fish kills associated with *K. brevis* have been received from alongshore southwest Florida.

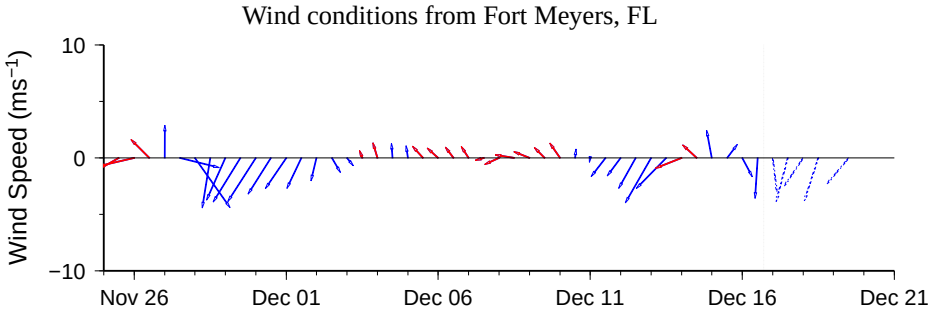
MODIS Aqua imagery continues to be cloudy limiting analysis (12/16; shown left). The anomalous feature (12/13; not shown) noted in the previous bulletins south and offshore of the Marco Islands region, Collier County persists and will continue to be monitored as conditions warrant. Features appearing in the Ten Thousand Islands region are not necessarily indicative of *K. brevis* presence.

Harmful algal bloom formation alongshore southwest Florida is not expected today through Monday, December 23.

Fenstermacher, Burrows

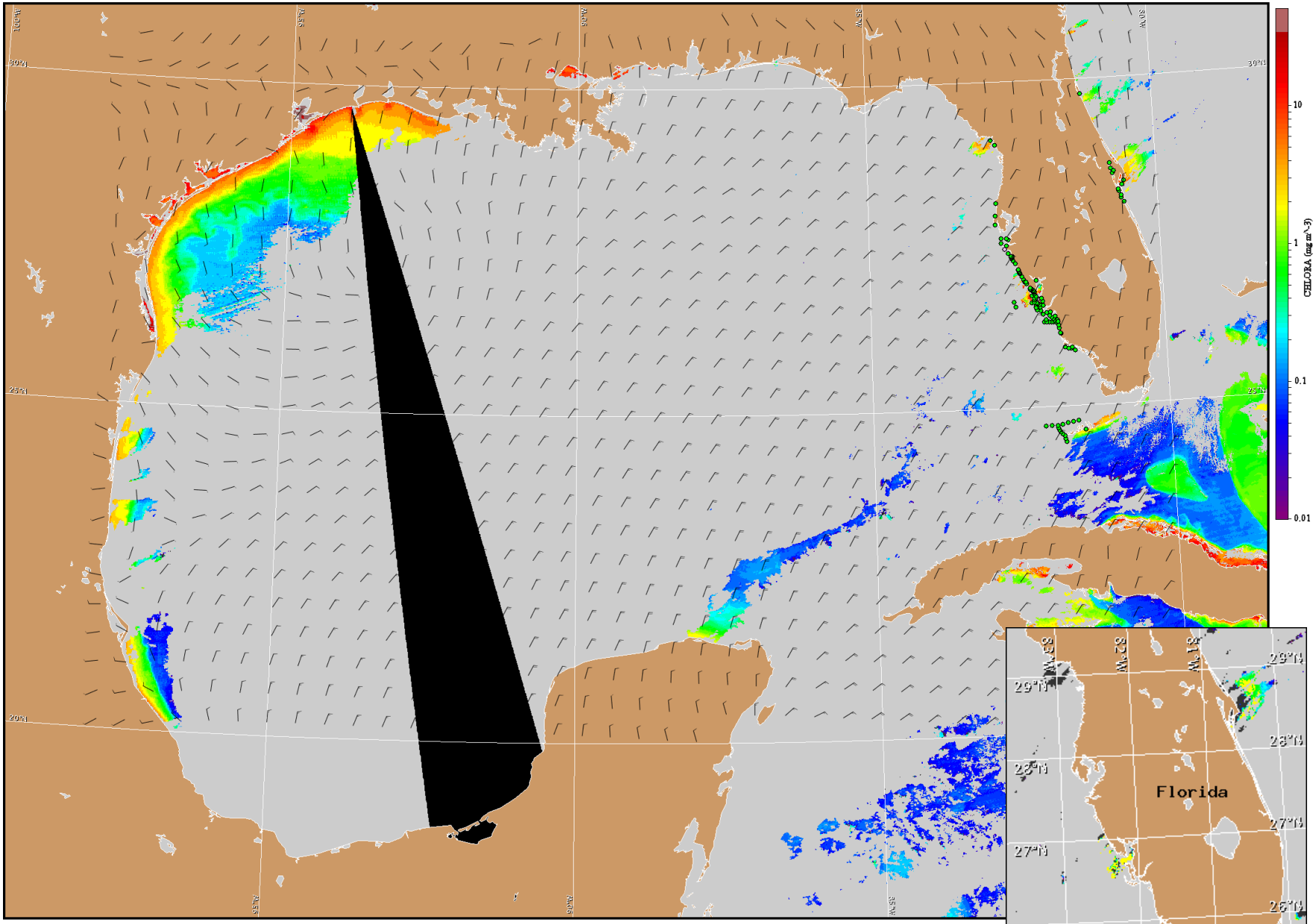


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.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



Wind Analysis

Southwest Florida: North to northeasterlies today through Wednesday (10-15 kn; 5-8 m/s). East to northeasterlies on Wednesday night and Thursday (10-15 kn). East to southeasterlies on Thursday night and Friday (10-15 kn).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for December 17, 2013 12Z with points representing cell concentration sampling data from December 6 to 15: 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:

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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).