Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin
Region: Texas
Tuesday, 21 February 2017
NOAA National Ocean Service
NOAA Satellite and Information Service
NOAA National Weather Service
Last bulletin: Monday, February 13, 2017

Conditions Report

Karenia brevis (commonly known as Texas red tide) ranges from not present to background concentrations along the coast of Texas. No respiratory irritation is expected Tuesday, February 21 through Monday, February 27.

Check http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/beach_conditions.html for recent, local observations.

Analysis

Sampling from the Texas A&M University’s Imaging FlowCytobot (IFCB), located on the Port Aransas ship channel, indicates that Karenia brevis concentrations range between ‘not present’ and ‘background’ (TAMU; 2/13-2/21). For information on area shellfish restrictions, contact the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Recent MODIS Aqua ensemble imagery (2/18; shown left) is obscured by clouds from Sabine Pass to the Matagorda Peninsula, preventing analysis of this region. Ensemble imagery along- and offshore the Texas coast from the Matagorda Peninsula to the Rio Grande does not indicate the presence of chlorophyll anomalies with the optical characteristics of K. brevis.

Forecast models based on predicted near-surface currents indicate a potential maximum transport of 15km south from the Port Aransas region from February 18 to February 24.

Davis, Kavanaugh, Ludema

Wind Analysis

Port Aransas to Matagorda Ship Channel: Northwest winds (5-20kn, 3-10m/s) today through Wednesday shifting west (5-10kn, 3-5m/s) this afternoon. South winds (5-15kn, 3-8m/s) Wednesday night through Friday becoming east to northeast winds (5-20kn) Friday afternoon through evening. Northeast to east winds (10-20kn, 5-10m/s) Saturday.
Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for February 22, 2017 06Z with points representing cell concentration sampling data from February 11 to 20: 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 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. 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/hab_publication/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas with *K. brevis* optical characteristics shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).