

Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

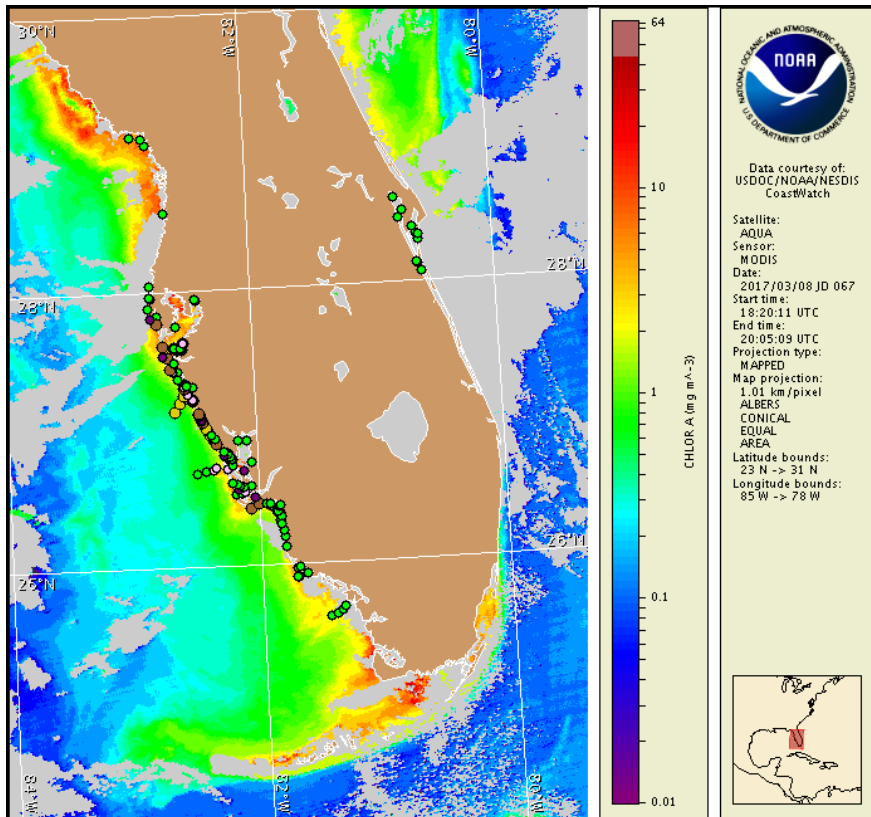
Thursday, 09 March 2017

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, March 6, 2017



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s), when applicable. Points represent cell concentration sampling data from February 27 to March 7: 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/hab_publication/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

Not present to low concentrations of *Karenia brevis* (commonly known as Florida red tide) are present along- and offshore portions of southwest Florida and not present in the Florida Keys. *K. brevis* concentrations are patchy in nature and levels of respiratory irritation will vary locally based upon nearby bloom concentrations, ocean currents, and wind speed and direction. The highest level of potential respiratory irritation forecast for Thursday, March 9 through Monday, March 13 is listed below:

County Region: Forecast (Duration)

Southern Pinellas: Low (Th-F, Su), Very Low (Sa, M)

Southern Pinellas, bay regions: Low (Th-M)

Northern Manatee, bay regions: Moderate (Th-M)

Southern Manatee: Low (Th-M)

Southern Manatee, bay regions: Low (Th-M)

Northern Sarasota: Low (Th-M)

Northern Sarasota, bay regions: Moderate (Th-M)

Southern Sarasota: Moderate (Th-F, Su-M), Low (Sa)

Northern Charlotte: Low (Th-F, Su-M), Very Low (Sa)

Northern Charlotte, bay regions: Low (Th-M)

Southern Charlotte: Very Low (Th-M)

Southern Charlotte, bay regions: Low (Th-M)

Northern Lee: Very Low (Th-M)

Northern Lee, bay regions: Very Low (Th-M)

Central Lee: Low (Th-M)

Central Lee, bay regions: Very Low (Th-M)

South Lee: Very Low (Th-M)

Northern Collier: Very Low (Th-M)

All Other SWFL County Regions: None expected (Th-M)

Check https://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 https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/hab_health_info.html. Over the past several days, reports of respiratory irritation were received from Sarasota County. Reports of dead fish were received from Manatee and Lee counties.

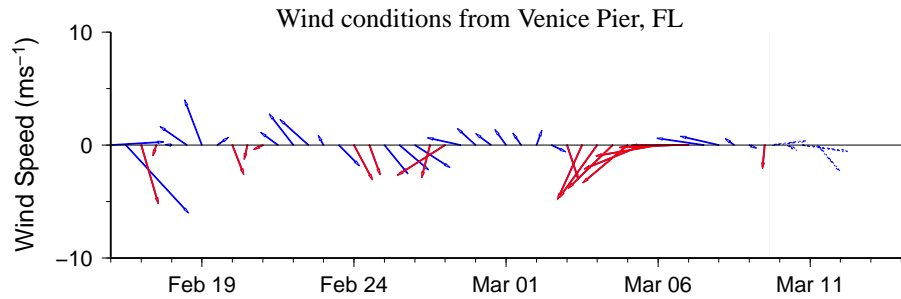
Analysis

Recent samples collected along- and offshore the coast of southwest Florida from Pinellas to Collier counties identified not present to 'low b' concentrations of *Karenia brevis*, with the highest concentrations collected at Blind Pass in southern Sarasota County (FWRI, MML, SCHD, CCPCD; 2/27-3/8). Detailed sample information and a summary of impacts can be obtained through FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute at: <http://myfwc.com/redtidestatus>.

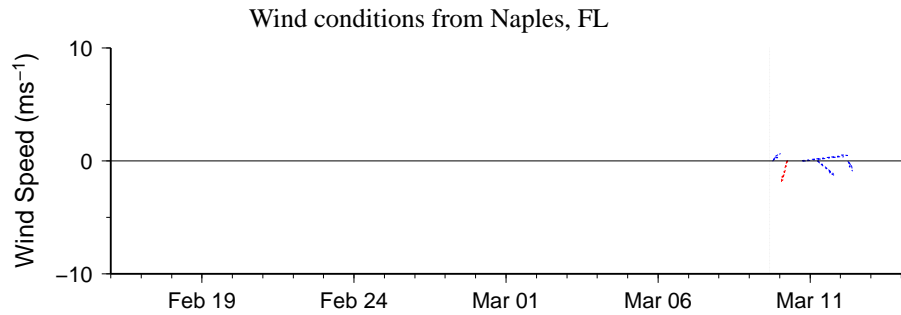
Recent ensemble imagery (MODIS Aqua, 3/8) is partially obscured by clouds in Pinellas, Lee, and Collier counties limiting analysis; however, patches of elevated chlorophyll (2-7 $\mu\text{g/L}$) are visible with some of the optical characteristics of *K. Brevis* alongshore southern Pinellas County.

Offshore winds forecasted through Saturday and variable winds Saturday afternoon through Monday may minimize the potential for respiratory irritation alongshore southwest Florida.

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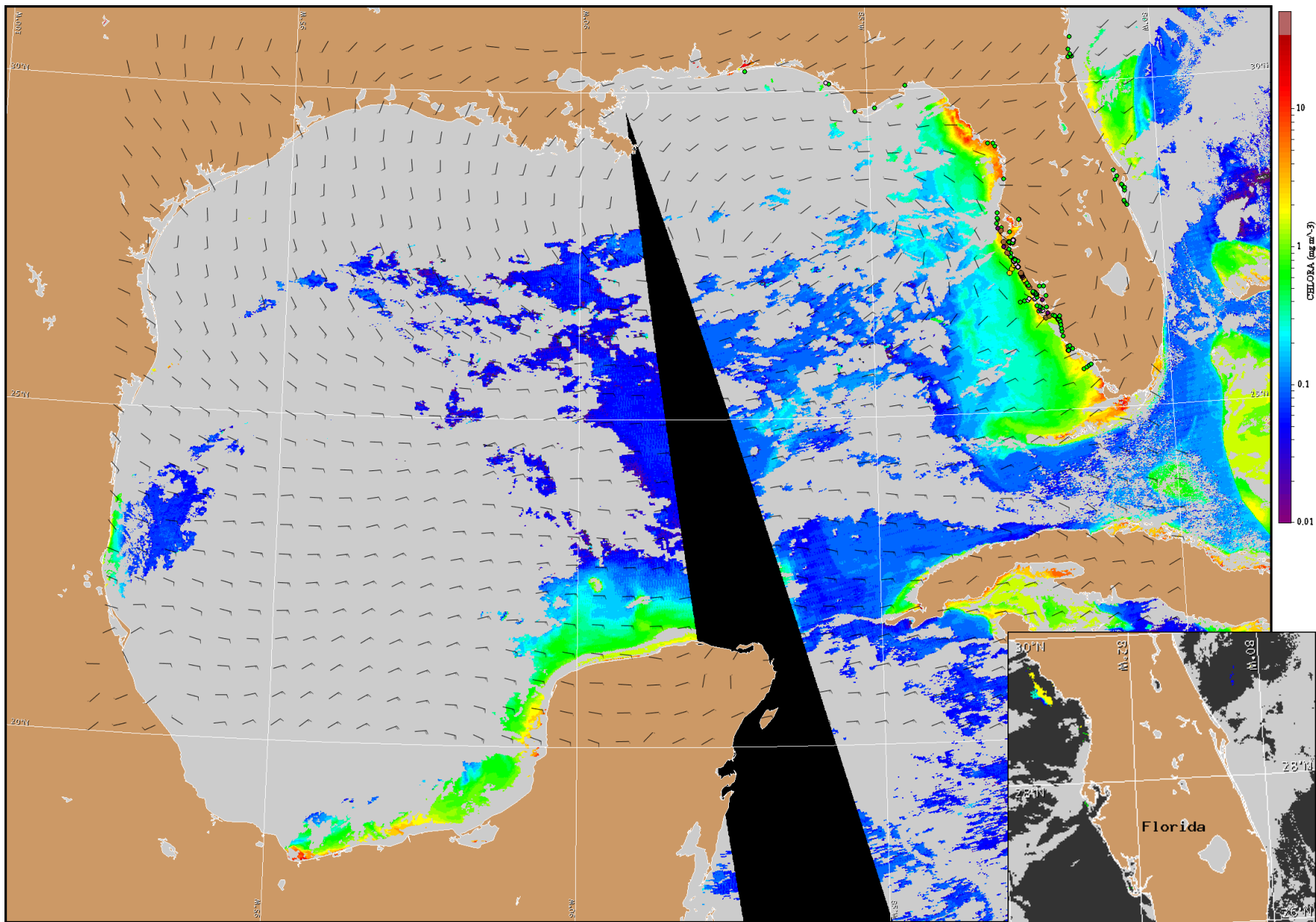
Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.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



Wind Analysis

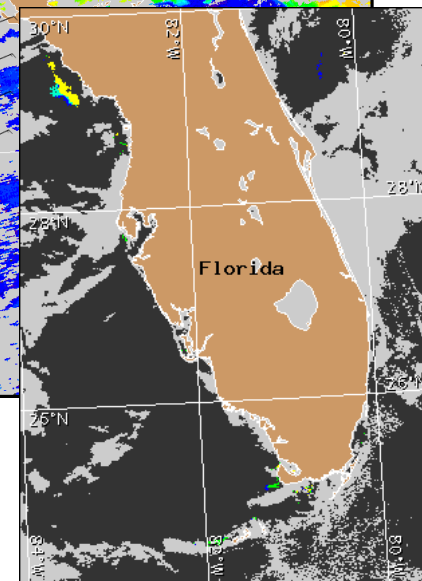
Englewood to Tarpon Springs (Venice): Northeast to northwest winds (5-15kn, 3-8m/s) today to Saturday becoming variable (5kn, 3m/s) Saturday afternoon and night. Southwest to west winds (10kn, 5m/s) Sunday. Northeast to north winds (10kn) Monday.

Chokoloskee to Bonita Beach: Variable winds (5-10kn, 3-5m/s) today through Friday. Southeast winds (10-15kn, 5-8m/s) Saturday to Sunday becoming southwest Sunday evening. Variable winds (5-10kn) Sunday night through Monday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for March 10, 2017 12Z with points representing cell concentration sampling data from February 27 to March 7: 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 with *K. brevis* optical characteristics shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).