Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Southwest Florida

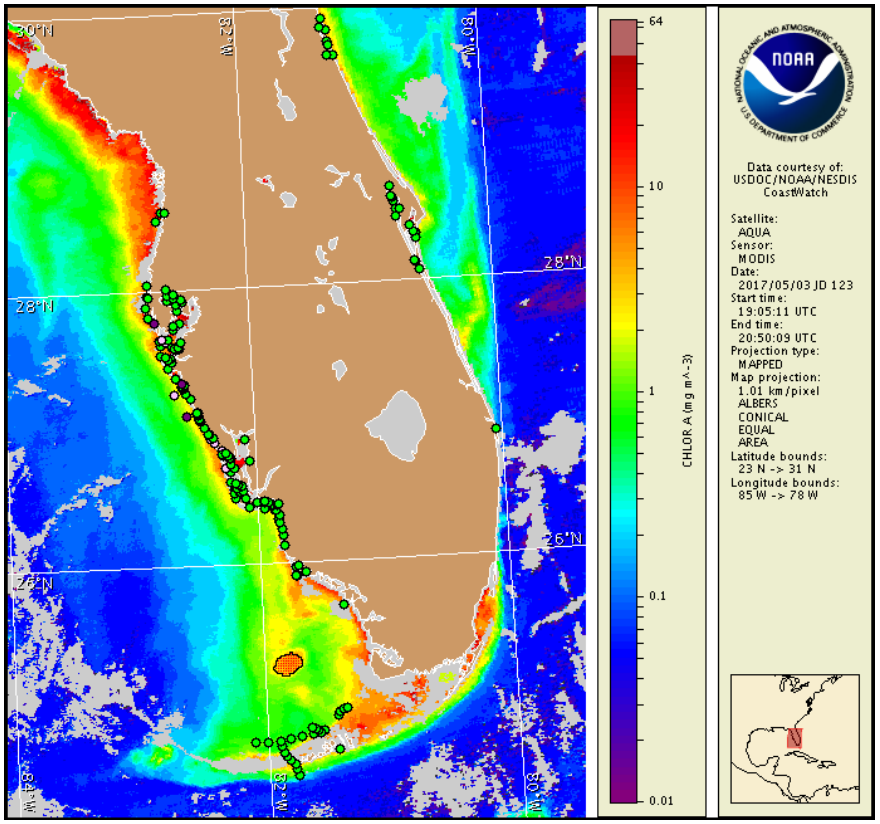
Thursday, 04 May 2017

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, May 1, 2017



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s), when applicable. Points represent cell concentration sampling data from April 24 to May 3: 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 very 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. No respiratory irritation is expected Thursday, May 4 through Monday, May 8. Check https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/beach_conditions.html for recent, local observations.

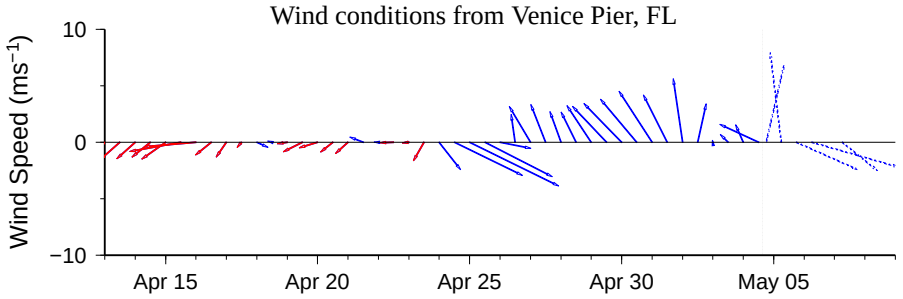
Analysis

Recent samples collected along- and offshore southwest Florida indicate 'background' to 'very low a' concentrations of *Karenia brevis* are present alongshore from Pinellas to Collier counties with 'very low a' concentrations of *K. brevis* newly identified alongshore southern Pinellas County (FWRI, SCHD, CCPCD; 4/24-5/4). 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, 5/3) indicates elevated levels of chlorophyll (1-6 μg/L) are present alongshore from Pinellas to central Collier counties, likely the result of mixed, non-harmful algal blooms that continue to be reported in the region. Two patches of elevated chlorophyll ranging from 3 to 6 μg/L, with the optical characteristics of *K. brevis*, are visible alongshore southern Charlotte and northern Lee counties and approximately 66 km northeast of the Florida Keys.

Forecasted winds Saturday through Monday will increase the potential southern transport of surface *K. brevis* concentrations.

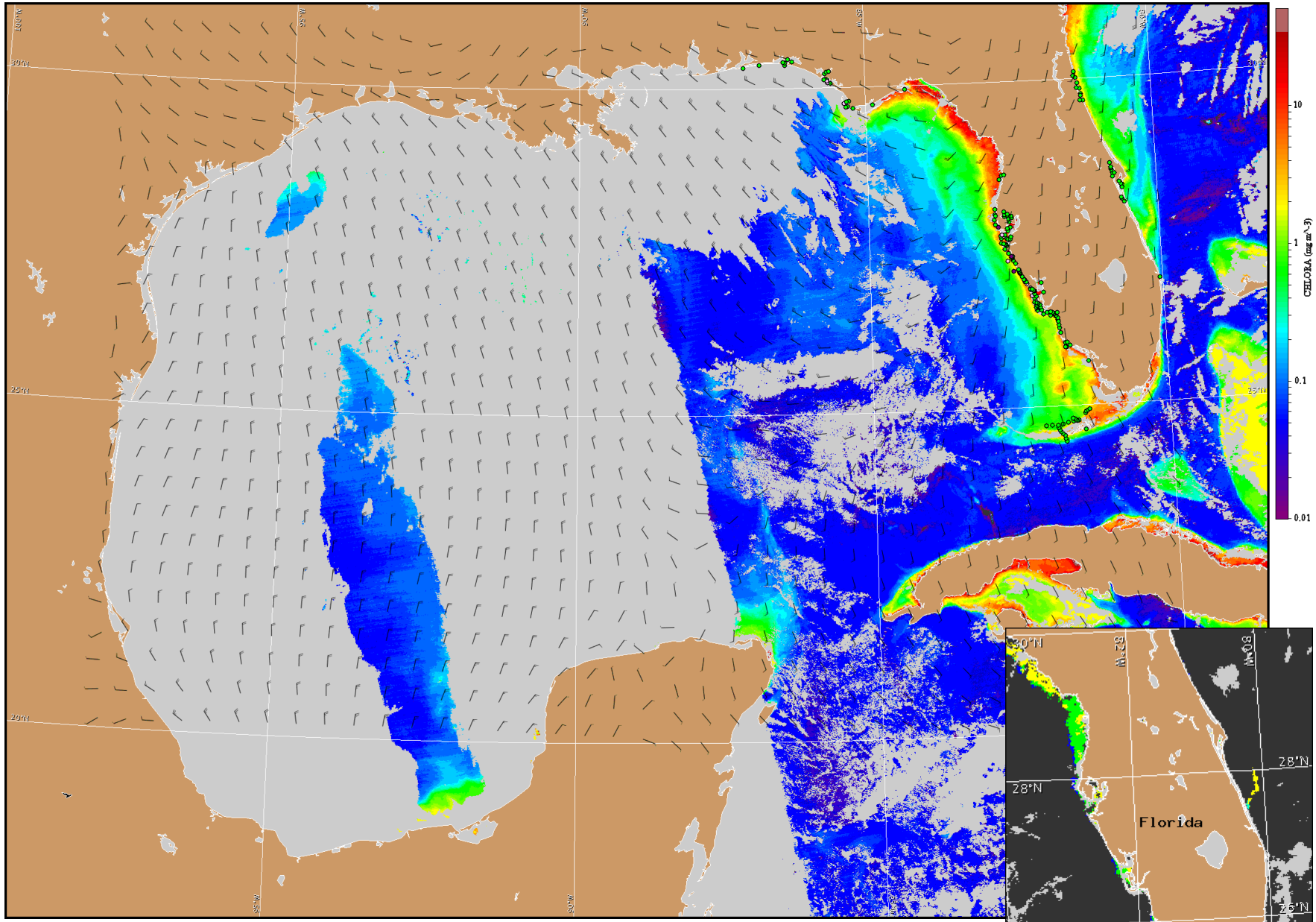
Urízar, Keeney



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): South to southwest winds (15-20 kn, 8-10 m/s) today. West to Northwest winds (5-20 kn, 3-10 m/s) Friday through Sunday. North winds (10 kn, 5 m/s) Sunday night. Northeast to northwest winds (10 kn) Monday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for May 5, 2017 06Z with points representing cell concentration sampling data from April 24 to May 3: 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

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