



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: AL/MS/FL

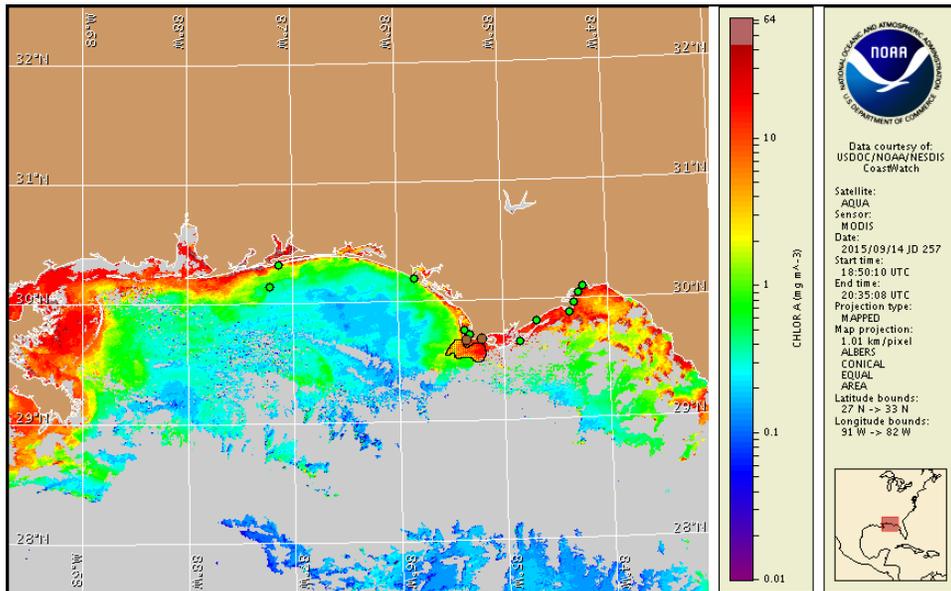
Tuesday, 15 September 2015

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, November 10, 2014



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s), when applicable. Points represent cell concentration sampling data from September 5 to 11: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). 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 for Florida 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 northwest Florida from Escambia to Taylor counties. *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 along-shore northwest Florida Tuesday, September 15 to Thursday, September 17 is listed below:

County Region: Forecast (Duration)

Gulf: Very low (Tu-Th)

Franklin: Very low (Tu-Th)

Franklin, bay regions: Low (Tu-Th)

All Other NWFL County Regions: None expected (Tu-Th)

SWFL County Regions: Visit <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/#swfl>

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. Over the past week, one report of respiratory irritation was received from alongshore Bay County.

Analysis

Recent samples collected over the past 10-days from along- and offshore northwest Florida (Escambia to Taylor counties) indicated not present to 'low a' concentrations of *Karenia brevis*. In Gulf County, samples collected on 9/7 from Cape San Blas and the Indian Pass boat ramp indicated 'low a' concentrations of *K. brevis* (FWRI). All other sampling along- and offshore and within the bay regions of Escambia, Walton, Bay, Gulf, Franklin, and Wakulla counties indicated *K. brevis* was not present (FWRI; 9/5-9/11). One account of respiratory irritation associated with *K. brevis* was received along Bid-a-Wee Beach in Bay County (Public inquiry; 9/7). No reports of dead fish have been received from alongshore northwest Florida over the past several days (FWRI, MML; 9/5-9/15).

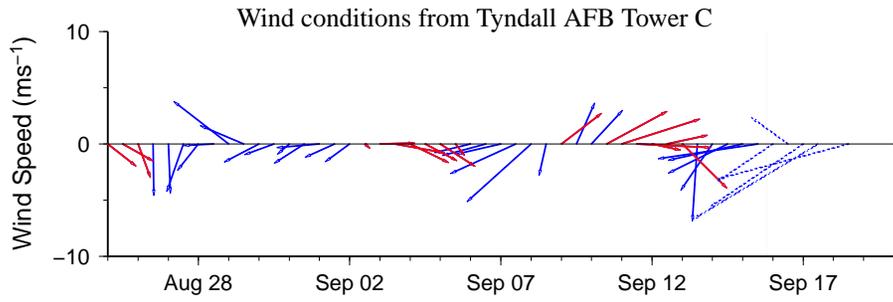
Recent ensemble imagery from 9/14 (MODIS Aqua, shown left) is partially obscured by clouds along- and offshore northwest Florida from Franklin to Taylor counties, limiting analysis. Patches of elevated to very high chlorophyll (2 to $>20\mu\text{g/L}$) with the optical characteristics of *K. brevis* are visible along- and offshore northwest Florida from Escambia to Gulf counties. A patch of anomalously high chlorophyll (7 to $>20\mu\text{g/L}$) has become visible alongshore, and extending up to 12 miles offshore, Gulf County where recent sampling indicated up to 'low a' concentrations of *K. brevis*.

East winds forecasted today through Thursday may promote onshore transport of *K. brevis* concentrations and may minimize the potential for intensification at the coast.

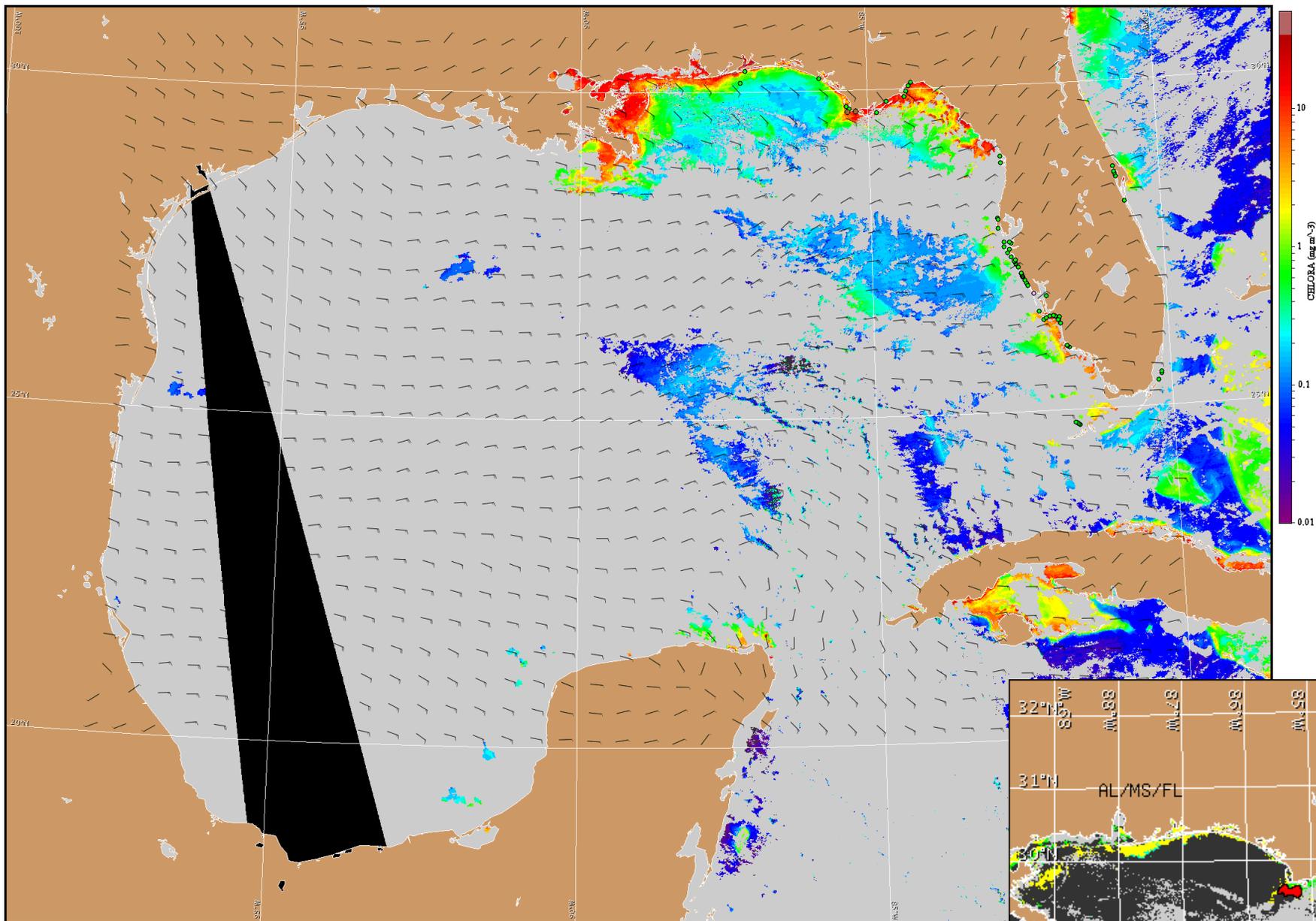
Davis, Lalime, Kavanaugh

Wind Analysis

Escambia to Taylor counties: East winds (15-20kn, 8-10m/s) today through Thursday.

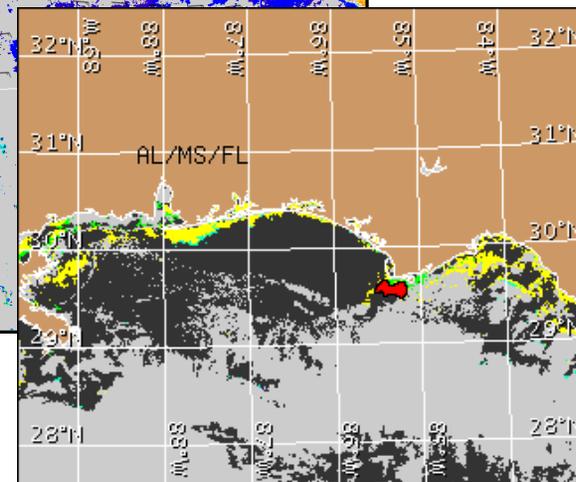


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.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



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for September 16, 2015 12Z with points representing cell concentration sampling data from September 5 to 11: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). 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).