



Experimental Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

27 March 2003

National Ocean Service/NCCOS and CSC

NESDIS/CoastWatch and NDBC

Last bulletin: March 19, 2003

Analysis

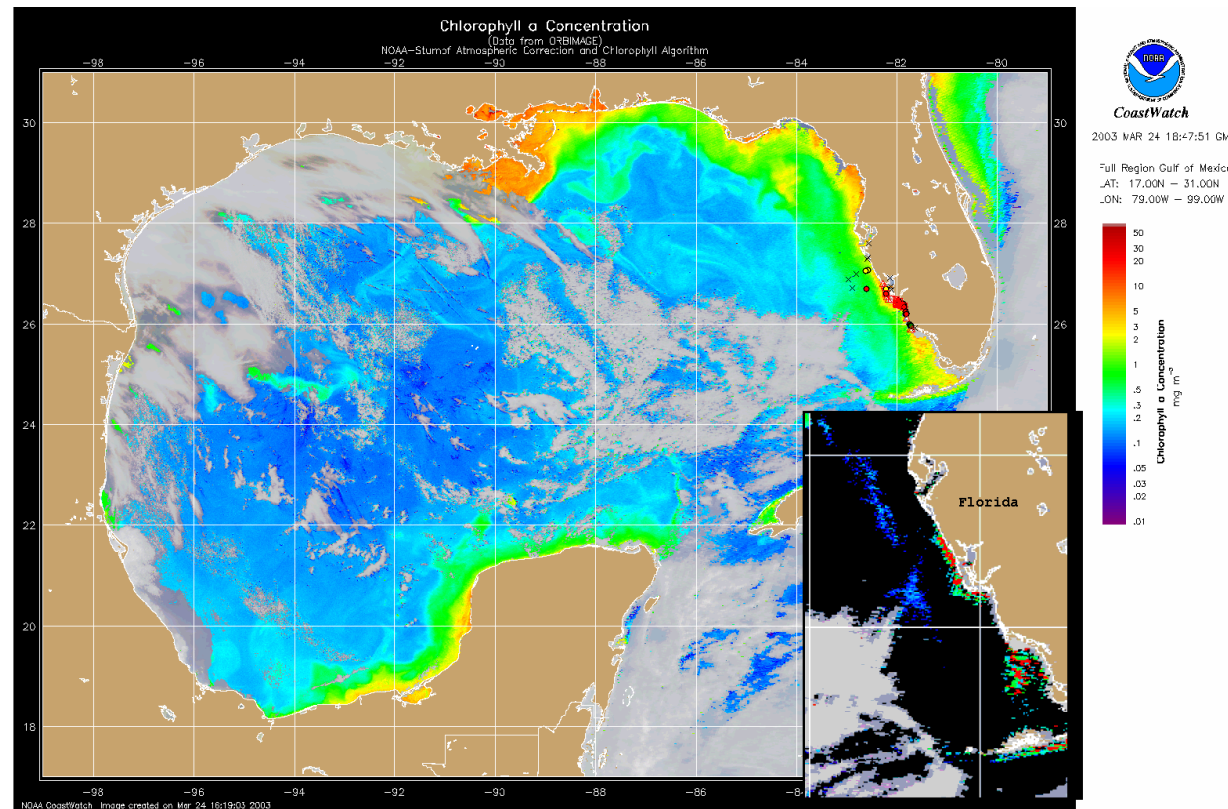
SW Florida: A *K. brevis* bloom has been identified. The imagery indicates that the *K. brevis* bloom extends from Venice (27d1'N 82d30'W) to Ft. Meyers (26d14'N 81d53'W) to 5-10 km offshore. Medium to high *K. brevis* counts have been observed since March 17 from Sarasota to Naples. In addition, the area from Marco Island extending well southward and offshore to 25d17'N and 81d34'W is flagged within the imagery. Medium to high cell counts were measured on Marco Island (25d56'N, -81d43'W) and Caxambas Pass (25d55'N, -81d44'W) from March 17-18 indicating that a bloom still lingers in this area. Imagery indicates chlorophyll concentrations >6ug/L in both areas. This is consistent with the cell counts. Direct detection is limited due to bloom persistence.

Florida Keys and NW Florida: High chlorophyll in these other areas are usually not associated with *K. brevis* blooms.

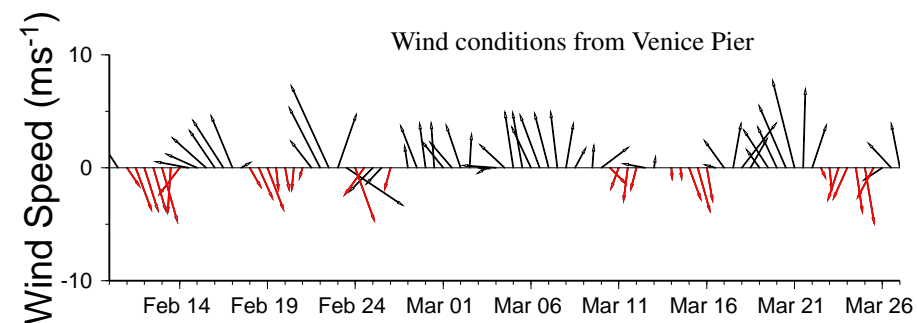
-Tomlinson

Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

1. These data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
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Chlorophyll concentration (above) and possible HAB areas shown in red (inset). Cell concentration sampling data from March 20, 2003 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red circles (low), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on NOAA buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast.

Southerly to westerly winds are predicted to continue through Friday. Winds are predicted to shift northerly by Monday and could minimize *K. brevis* effects at the coast.