Experimental Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

25 May 2004

National Ocean Service/NCCOS and CSC

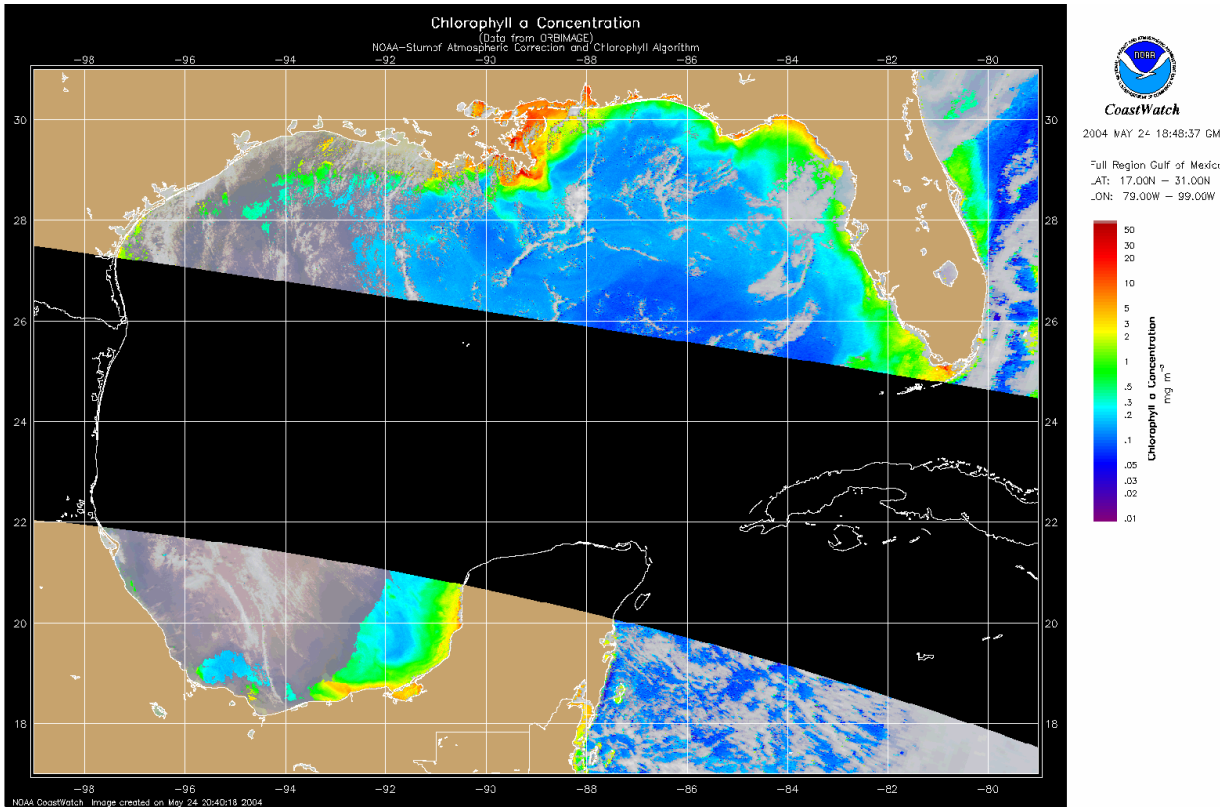
NESDIS/CoastWatch and NDBC

Last bulletin: May 21, 2004

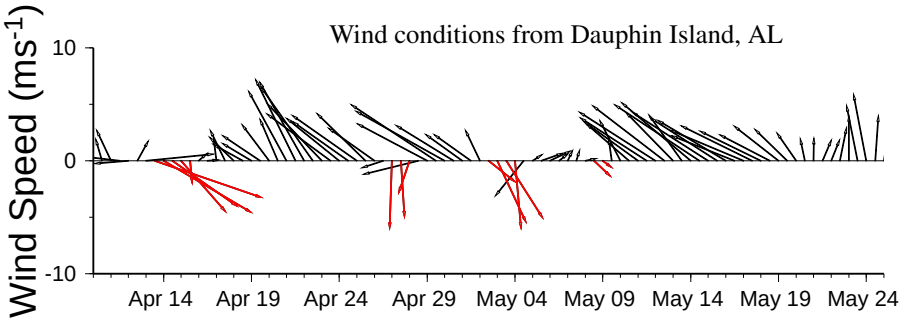
Analysis

An extensive high chlorophyll event along the Mississippi Delta and extending from Baratarra Bay to the Mississippi Sound began in early May. Imagery shows it was not present on April 27 and was extensive by May 6. Samples collected by the state of Louisiana and LUMCON indicate that the event appears to be a result of a combination of a non-toxic diatom bloom with a "mucousy-sediment type" slurry. This may be caused by a combination of Trichodesmium and the brown diatoms (most likely Guinardia delicatatula). Although the event appears to be non-toxic, it is a concern as large blooms like this can lead to low oxygen events in the bottom waters, which was observed off Atchafalaya and Terrebonne Bay in April (18-19) and May (13) samples. The event is continuing with high chlorophyll around the Delta on May 24. A bloom, probably of similar characteristics, is developing in Mississippi Sound.

-Tomlinson



Cell concentration sampling data from May 20, 2004 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), 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.

Winds have persistently been southerly to southeasterly since May 9.
