

Experimental Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

12 March 2004

National Ocean Service/NCCOS and CSC

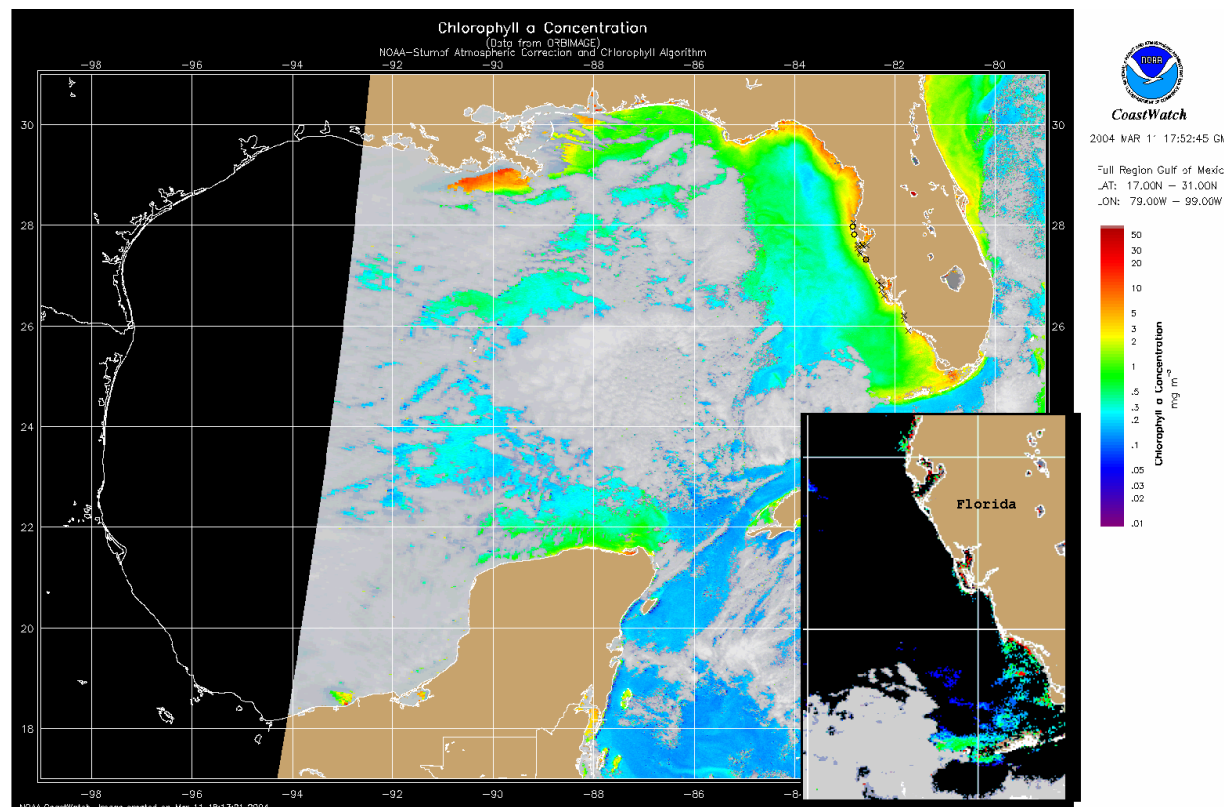
NESDIS/CoastWatch and NDBC

Last bulletin: March 1, 2004

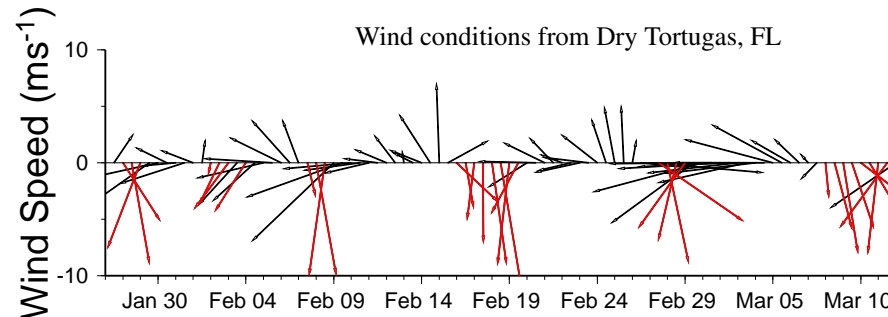
Analysis

SW Florida. The *Karenia* bloom appears to be highly localized, and extremely limited in extent. Florida reports from last week showed limited extent of bloom. (Sarasota Bay and off Clearwater). Current data indicate limited bloom should remain the case. While strong northerly winds favor intensification, chlorophyll has decreased since March 4 image (and also Feb 28 image of previous bulletin). Chlorophyll from Tampa to Gasparilla (26d45'N) have dropped from 2.5-3 ug/L to < 2. Pockets of local elevated chlorophyll appear off Captiva/Sanibel, but these have been mostly persistent for two weeks. Features off 10,000 islands are common and unlikely to be *Karenia*. Only concern is that winds have strongly favored southward transport, which could allow pockets to move southward. Any coastal *Karenia* blooms may have reported effects on Monday (3/15) with the expected wind shift.

--Stumpf



Chlorophyll concentration (above) and possible HAB areas shown in red (inset). Cell concentration sampling data from March 4, 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 over the last week have been northerly. Forecast is for NEerly with a complete wind shift on Monday (E to SE to NW) as another system moves through Florida.

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