



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

19 November 2007

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: November 15, 2007

Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified in patches from Gulf County, Florida to Baldwin County, Alabama. In bay regions of Gulf County, patchy high impacts are possible today through Thursday. In bay regions of Okaloosa County patchy moderate impacts are possible today through Thursday. In bay regions of Walton County patchy low impacts are possible today through Thursday. In bay regions of Santa Rosa County patchy very low impacts are possible today through Thursday. Today through Wednesday, patchy low impacts are possible in coastal regions of eastern Bay, northern Gulf and Walton Counties and patchy moderate impacts are possible in coastal Okaloosa County. In Escambia County, Florida and Baldwin County, Alabama, patchy low impacts are possible today through Wednesday. Patchy very low impacts are possible Thursday in coastal regions of eastern Bay, northern Gulf, Walton, Okaloosa, Escambia and Baldwin Counties.

Analysis

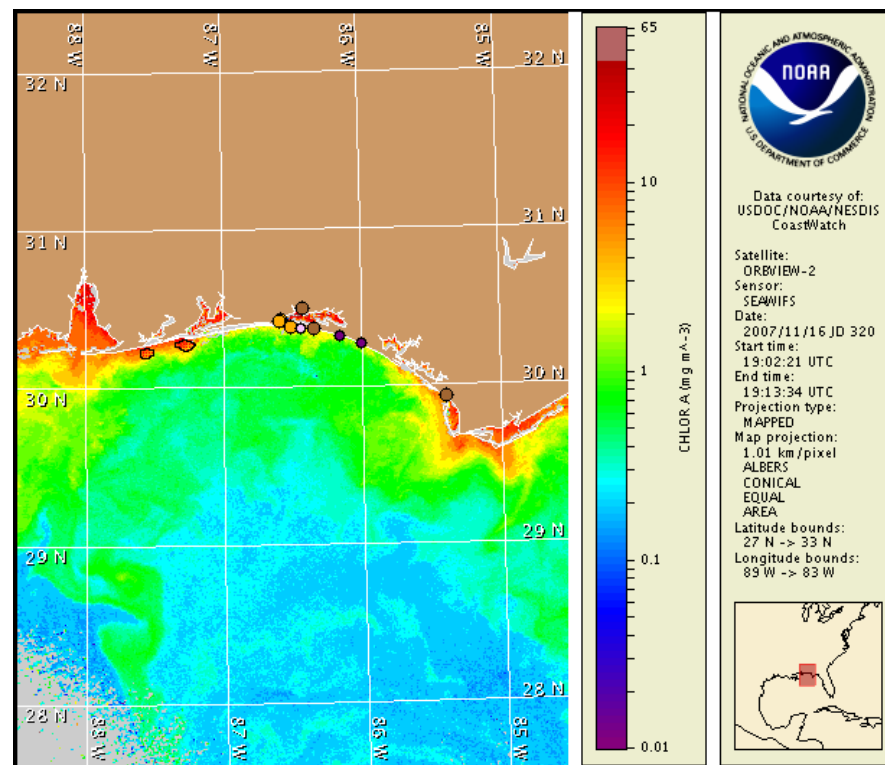
A harmful algal bloom persists in patches from Gulf County to Escambia County, Florida and in Baldwin County, Alabama. Recent samples from Okaloosa County, Florida indicate 'very low a' to 'medium' concentrations of *Karenia brevis* (FWRI, 11/14). Satellite imagery (11/16) indicates the continued presence of elevated chlorophyll levels ($>3\mu\text{g/L}$) from Baldwin County, Alabama to the eastern border of Escambia County. The elevated patch of chlorophyll located onshore Okaloosa County has strengthened to approximately $8\mu\text{g/L}$ and is still centered at $30^{\circ}22'21''\text{N}$, $86^{\circ}31'33''\text{W}$. From eastern Bay County to Gulf County, chlorophyll levels remain elevated ($2\text{--}15\mu\text{g/L}$). Numerous reports of dead fish have been received from Walton and Okaloosa counties over the past few days. Respiratory irritation has also been reported in Walton County.

Onshore winds will increase the potential for impacts Tuesday and Wednesday. Intensification of the bloom is unlikely.

Urizar, Fisher

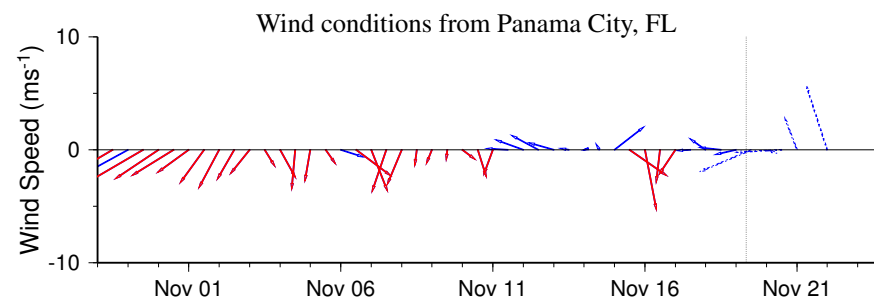
Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

1. Data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive GeoEye approval via the CoastWatch Program.



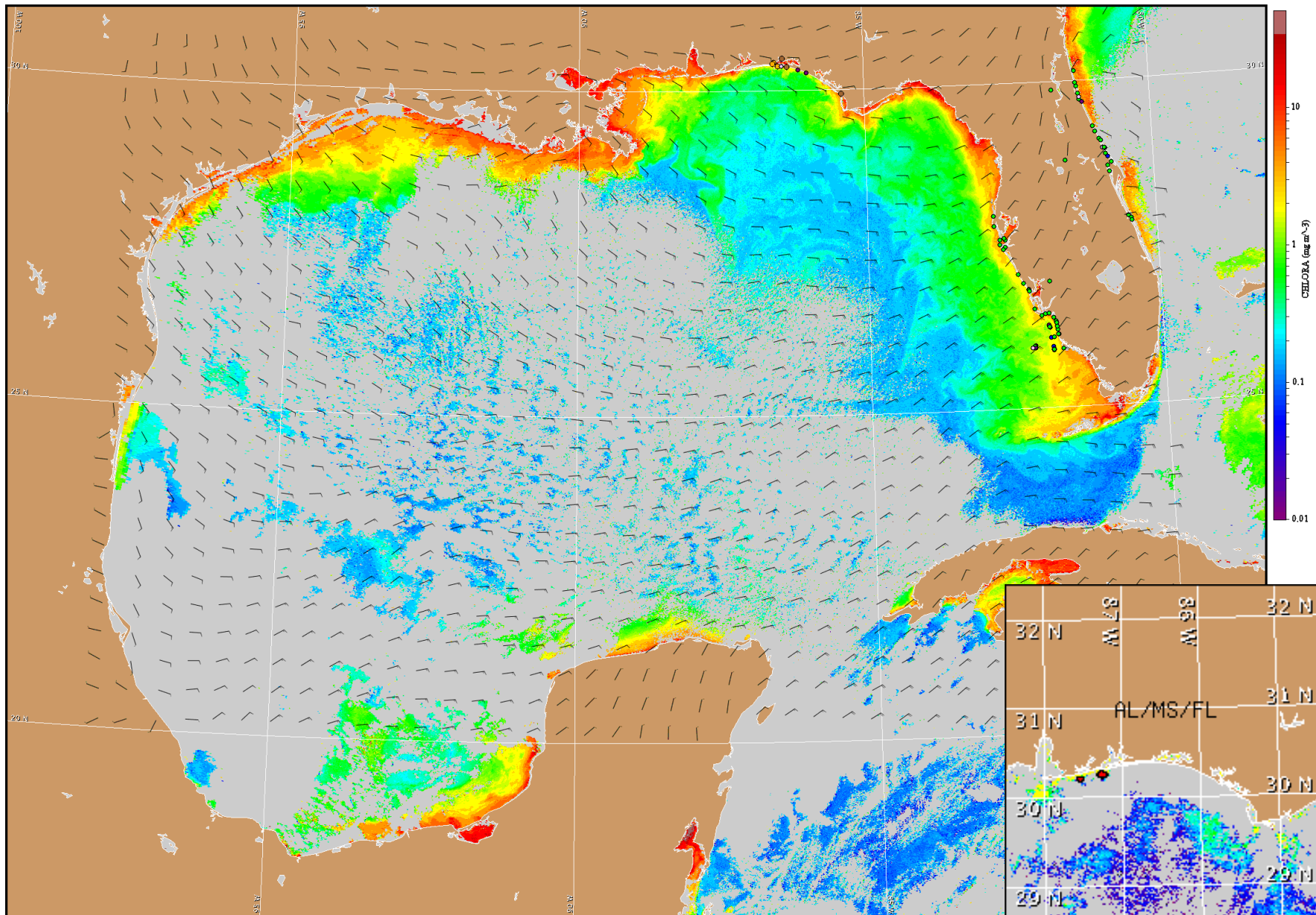
Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from November 9 to 15 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habfs/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



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.

NW Florida: Easterlies today (10-15 kt, 5-8 m/s). Southeasterlies Tuesday and Wednesday (10-15 kt, 5-8 m/s). Southwesterlies Wednesday night (15 kt, 8 m/s). Northwesterlies Thursday (20 kt).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for November 20, 2007 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from November 9 to 15 shown as 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 cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

