



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

11 October 2007

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: October 9, 2007

Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified in Bay and Escambia Counties along the Florida Panhandle. Patchy low impacts are possible for Bay County today through Sunday, with no impacts expected for Escambia County. Harmful algae has also been identified in Okaloosa and Walton Counties; however no impacts are expected in either county today through Sunday.

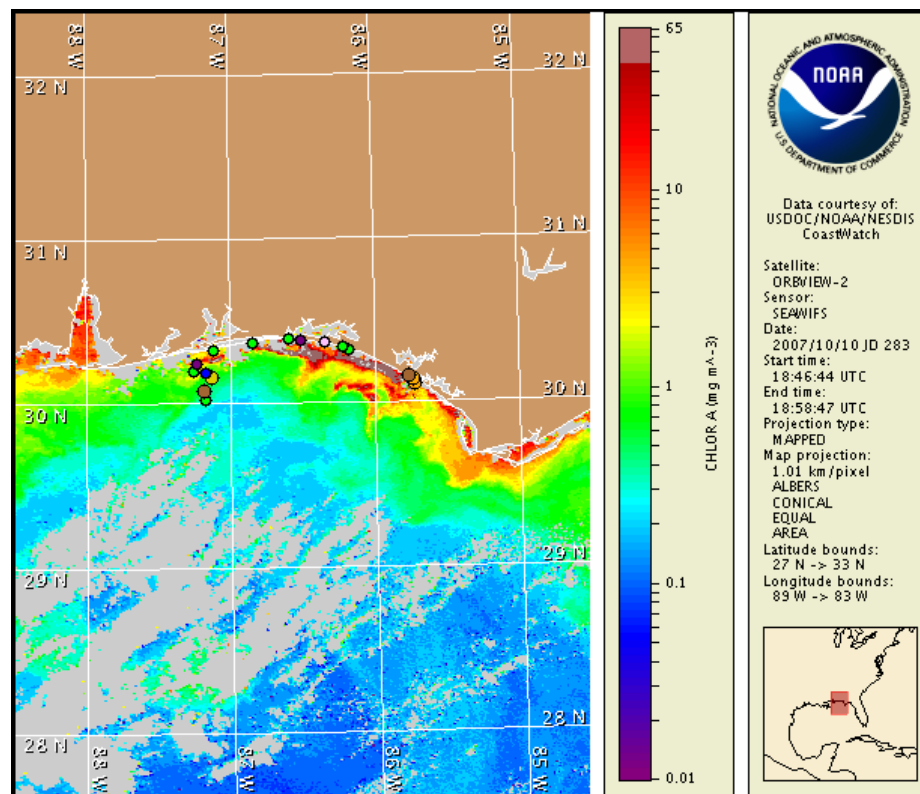
Analysis

The harmful algal bloom persists in patches in the Western Florida Panhandle from Bay to Escambia County. Recent sampling results revealed that the bloom is now present offshore Escambia County. Very low to low concentrations of *K. brevis* were detected in Escambia County offshore Pensacola (FWRI; 10/6). Satellite imagery from 10/10 indicates a high patch of chlorophyll offshore of Escambia County, south of Pensacola extending from 30°19'15"N, 87°2'31"W to 30°14'28"N, 87°16'22"W along its east-west axis (with concentrations greater than 10µg/L.) Continued sampling is recommended. Medium to high concentrations of *Karenia brevis* remain along the coast in Bay County (FWRI; 10/9) near St. Andrews State Park. There have been several reports of fish kills and respiratory irritation in Bay County this week, including multiple fish kills reported in Panama City Beach and near Tyndall Air Force Base (FWRI; 10/9-10/11). Satellite imagery from 10/10 indicates high chlorophyll levels alongshore Bay County from 30°4'44"N, 85°40'11"W to 29°54'35"N, 85°26'43"W and offshore in two distinct patches from 30°1'50"N, 85°59'39"W to 30°6'32"N, 86°17'40"W along its east-west axis and from 30°6'9"N, 85°56'25"W to 30°1'6"N, 85°50'17"W along its north-south axis. Chlorophyll is also elevated alongshore both Okaloosa and Walton Counties, from 30°12'52"N, 86°3'8"W to 30°17'43"N, 86°30'35"W along its east-west axis. Continued sampling is recommended. Northerly and easterly winds throughout the weekend will minimize impacts along the coast.

~Keller, Allen

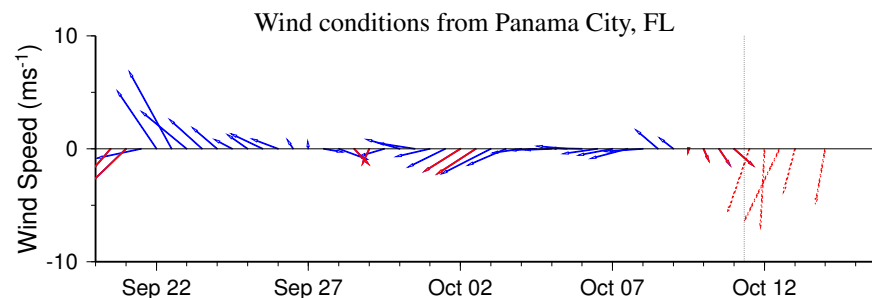
Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

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.



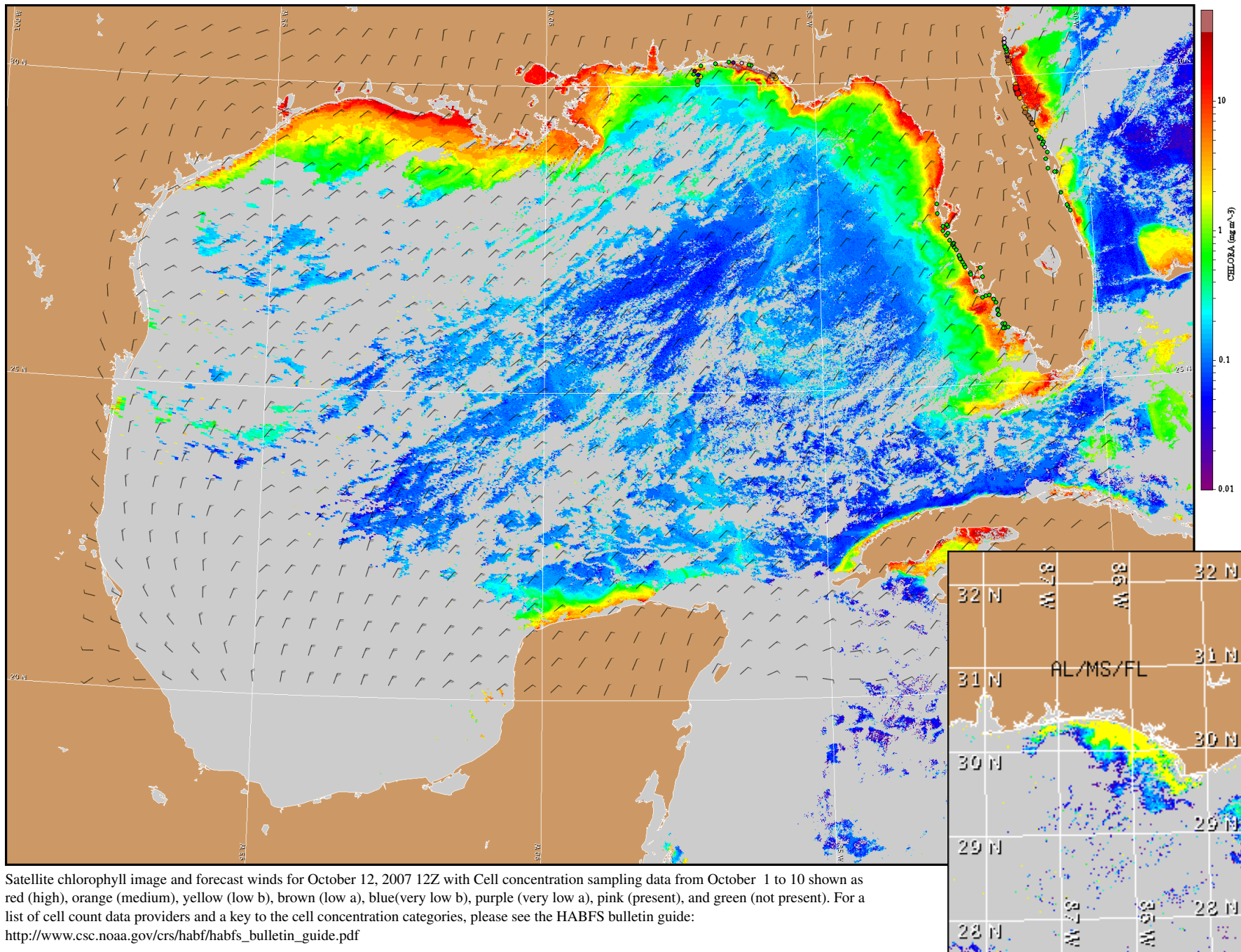
Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from October 1 to 10 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count 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



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: Northerly winds today through Friday (5-10 knots, 3-5 m/s), with northeasterly winds on Saturday. Easterly on Sunday (5-10 knots; 3-5 m/s).



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

Wind conditions from Tyndall AFB Tower C

