



Experimental Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

18 March 2004

National Ocean Service/NCCOS and CSC

NESDIS/CoastWatch and NDBC

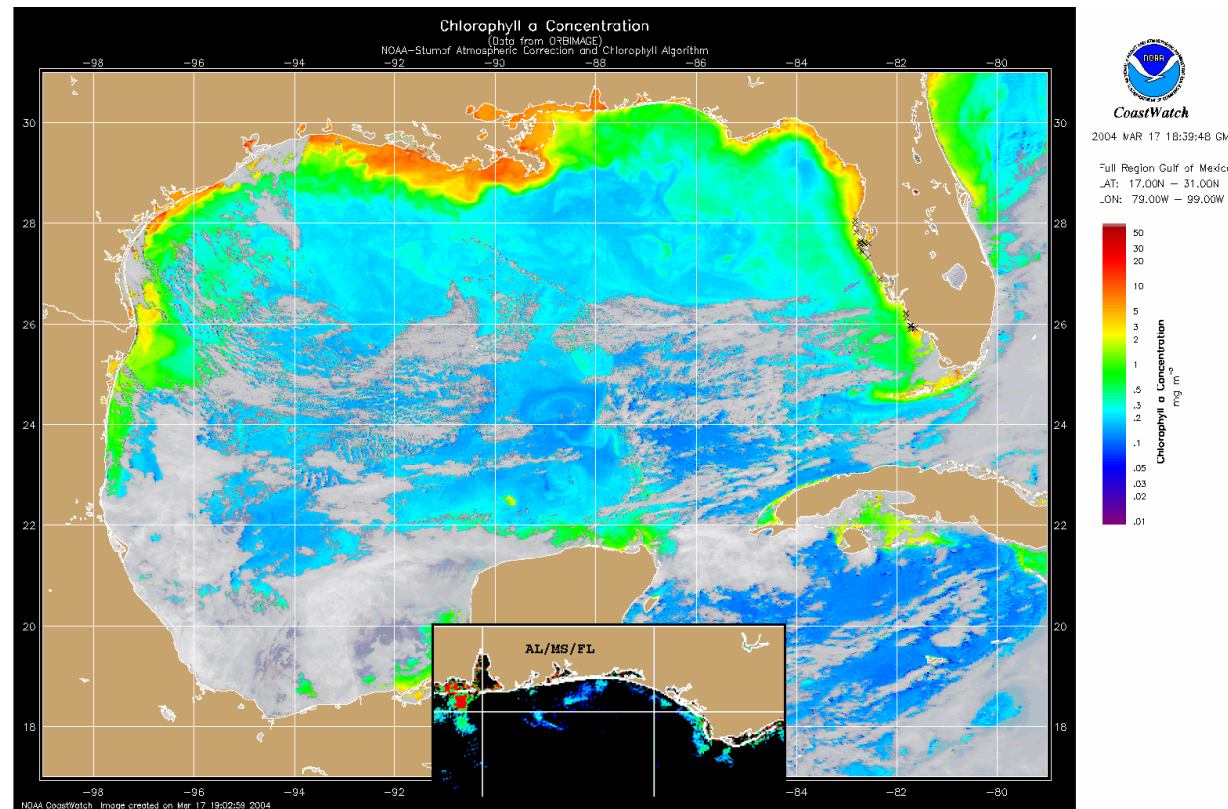
Last bulletin: March 17, 2004

Analysis

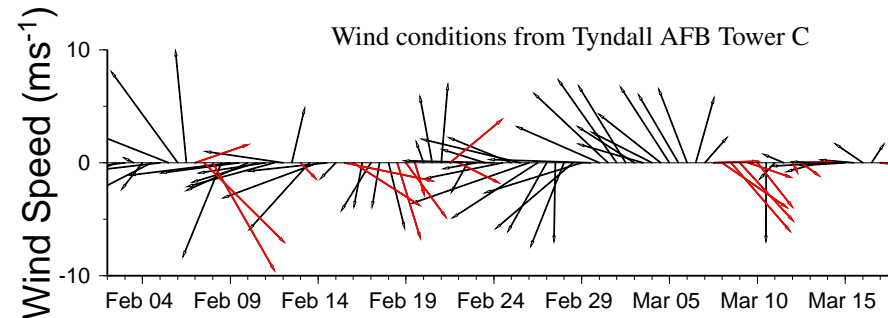
NW Florida. Elevated chlorophyll through region. East end of St. George Island (84.5W) is typical. Area of concern offshore of St. Joe Bay (85d30'W, 29d45'N) and from Cape San Blas (85d25'W, 29d36'N) north to 30N has elevated chlorophyll and mild bloom. The bloom area is constrained, mostly inshore of 7 n.miles. Chlorophyll along Cape St. Joe is 2-3 ug/L, over 3 ug/L at Mexico Beach (84d28'W; 29d51'N); higher in St. Joe Bay. *Karenia* has not been confirmed (pending by Monday). This event is well out-of-season for *Karenia* at Panhandle. Current wind conditions should not cause a change in any bloom. Front late Sunday may introduce changes.

Disregard any features off Alabama, these are a normal (and harmless result) of Mobile Bay plume.

--Stumpf



Chlorophyll concentration (above) and possible HAB areas shown in red (inset). Cell concentration sampling data from March 11, 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 been variable and are expected to continue so through Saturday. Sunday, strong northerlies should develop. Only local transport expected through weekend.

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