



Experimental Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

17 March 2004

National Ocean Service/NCCOS and CSC

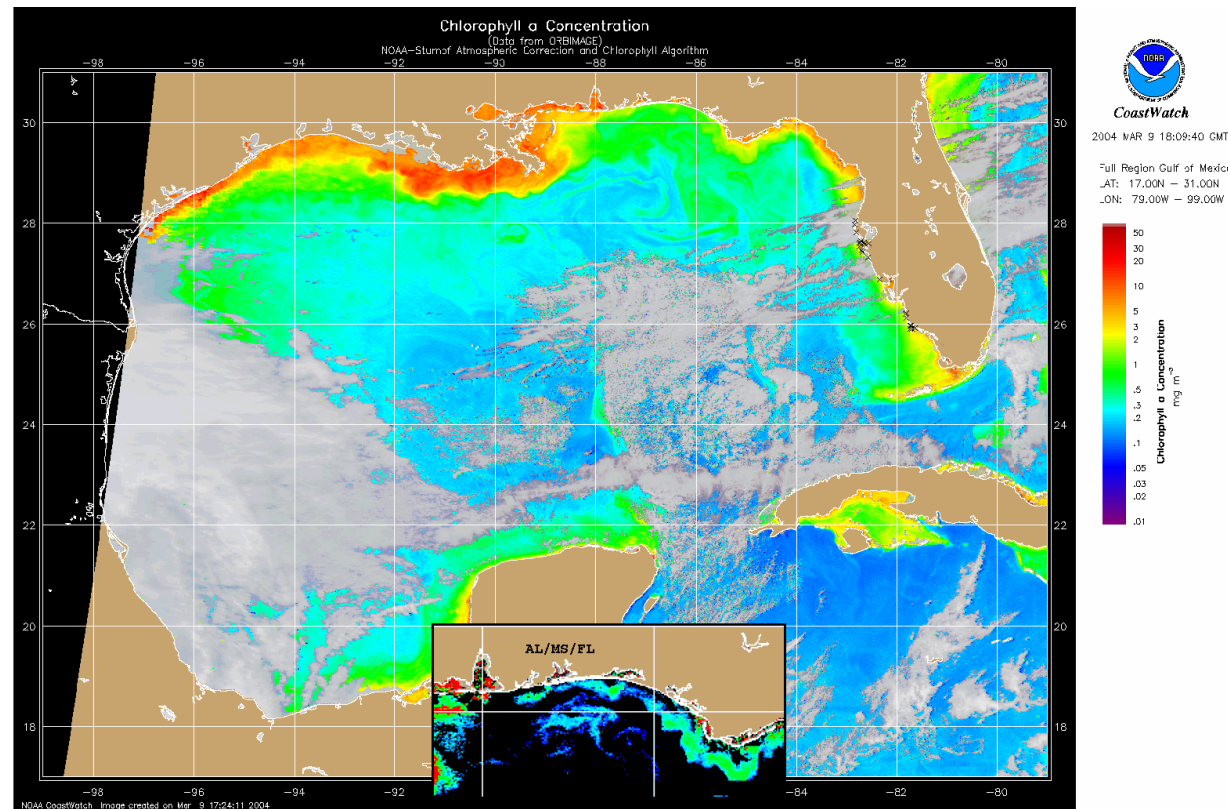
NESDIS/CoastWatch and NDBC

Last bulletin: March 12, 2004

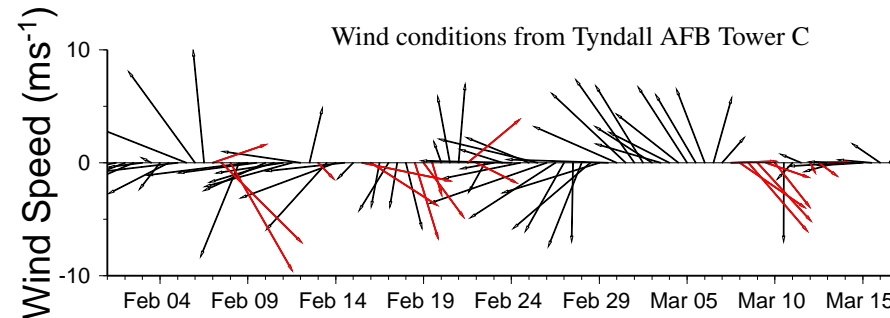
Analysis

NW Florida. Reports of dead dolphins in St Joe Bay. High chlorophyll evident in the Bay Marh 9-11, which was a Pseudo-nitzschia bloom. However pockets of new blooms appeared in the area as early as March 2, which covered the area from Cape San Blas to near Tyndall AFB (30dN). Reduced somewhat by March 9, but with strong blooms near Mexico Beach and off Cape St. Joe. A few pockets of elevated chlorophyll off St. George Island (about 85dW), but this has been an area of frequent generic blooms. If Karenia is a cause of the dolphin deaths it is more likely to be present after March 7, because of the shift to upwelling favorable. Cannot dismiss the March 2 coastal bloom though. No surface manifestations exist far offshore prior to that time. In general, chlorophyll has increased in the entire Mississippi Bight, this overall increase would not be Karenia.

--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 were downwelling favorable on panhandle, the first week in March. This changed to upwelling favorable about March 8.

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