



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

18 July 2005

National Ocean Service

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Last bulletin: July 14, 2005

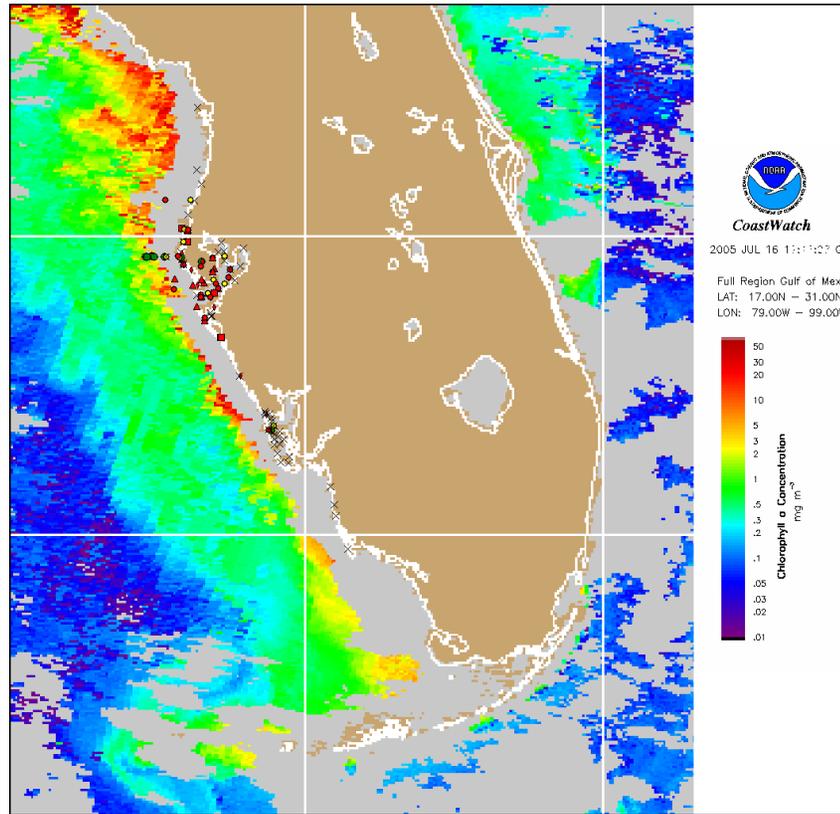
Conditions: A harmful algal bloom has been identified from southern Pasco to northern Sarasota Counties. Afternoons today through Thursday, patchy very low to low impacts are possible in Southern Pasco and Pinellas counties; with patchy low to high impacts possible in northern Sarasota County and along lower Tampa Bay in Hillsborough and Manatee Counties. Patchy very low to low impacts are possible in each of these county regions morning and night through Thursday.

Analysis: Resuspension and overcast skies continue along the south-west Florida coastline, limiting extent analysis of the bloom. Samples reported by FWRI July 10-14 indicate that the bloom has receded to the north and is now located from southern Pasco County to northern Sarasota County. *K. brevis* cell counts are medium to high in patches throughout lower Tampa Bay and continually high at New Pass in Sarasota County. Patchy very low to low concentrations were found in Pinellas and southern Pasco Counties; with very low concentrations collected subsurface offshore of southern Pinellas County. Fish kills were reported over the past several days from Weedon Island, Boca Ciega Bay and Skyway Bridge; respiratory irritation was reported at Longboat Key, Siesta Key and Lido Beach. The bloom may presently extend up to 16km north of Green Key and offshore to 83°12'W in southern Pasco County, according to a wind transport model. Further sampling in Pasco County recommended. Onshore winds will maintain impacts at the coastline during the afternoon today through Thursday. Continual reports of discolored water is likely.

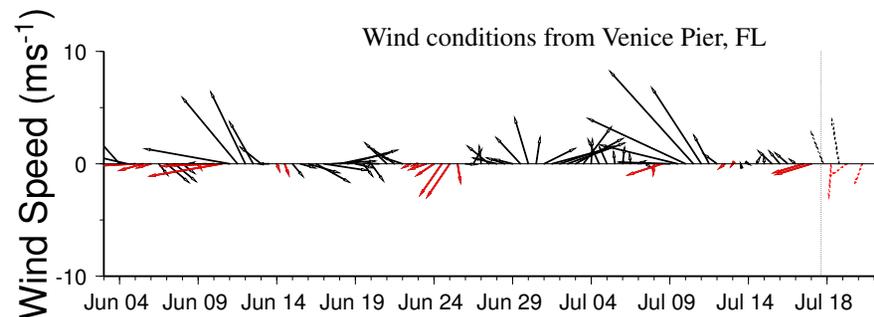
~Fisher, Bronder

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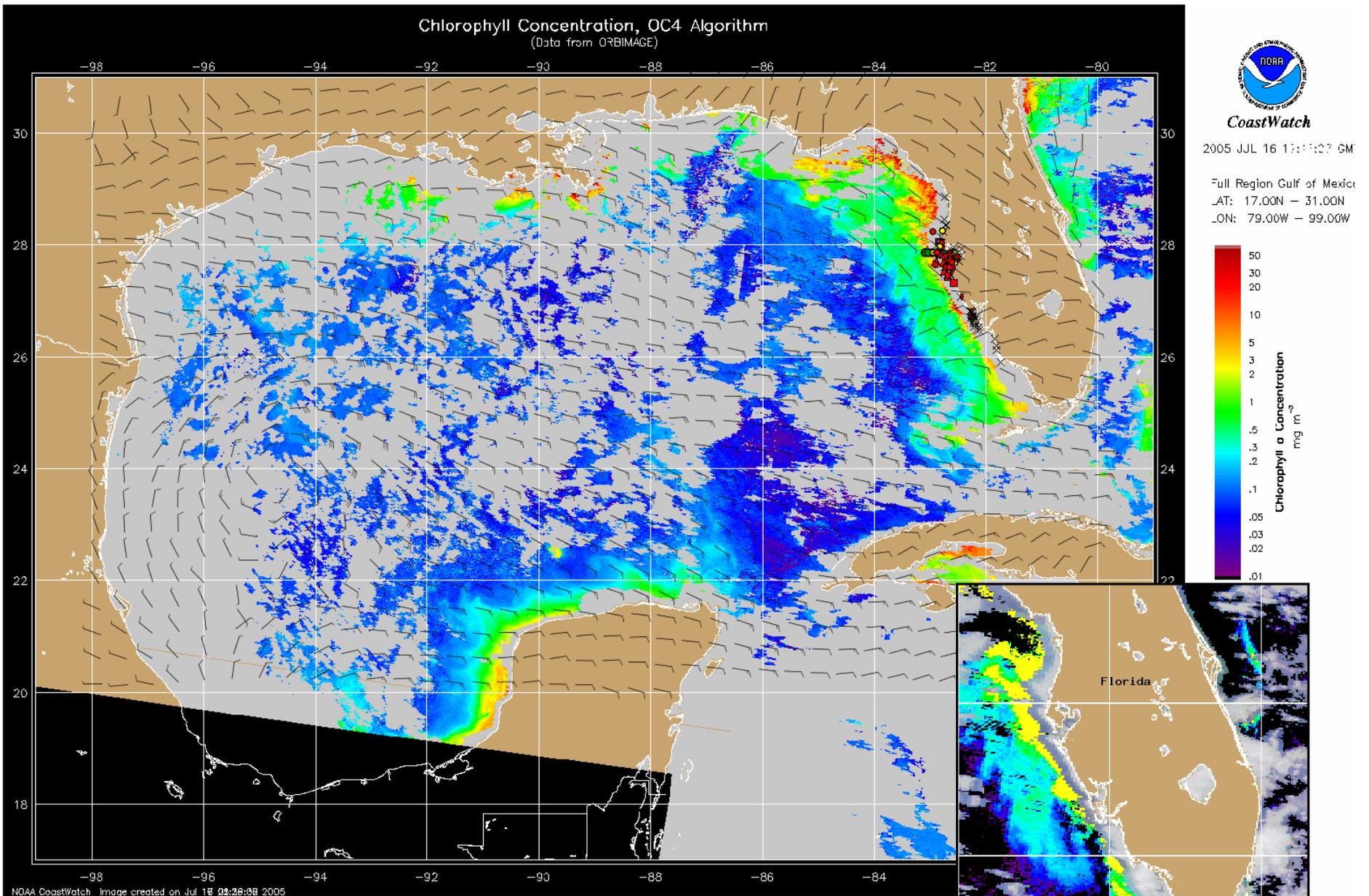


Chlorophyll concentration from satellite with HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from July 15, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on buoys. 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.

Moderate easterly winds (10kts, 5m/s) will be predominate today through Thursday, with onshore winds forecasted along the coast each afternoon.



Chlorophyll concentration from satellite and forecast winds for July 19, 2005 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from July 15, 2005 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).

Blooms shown in red (see p. 1 analysis)