



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

31 October 2005

National Ocean Service

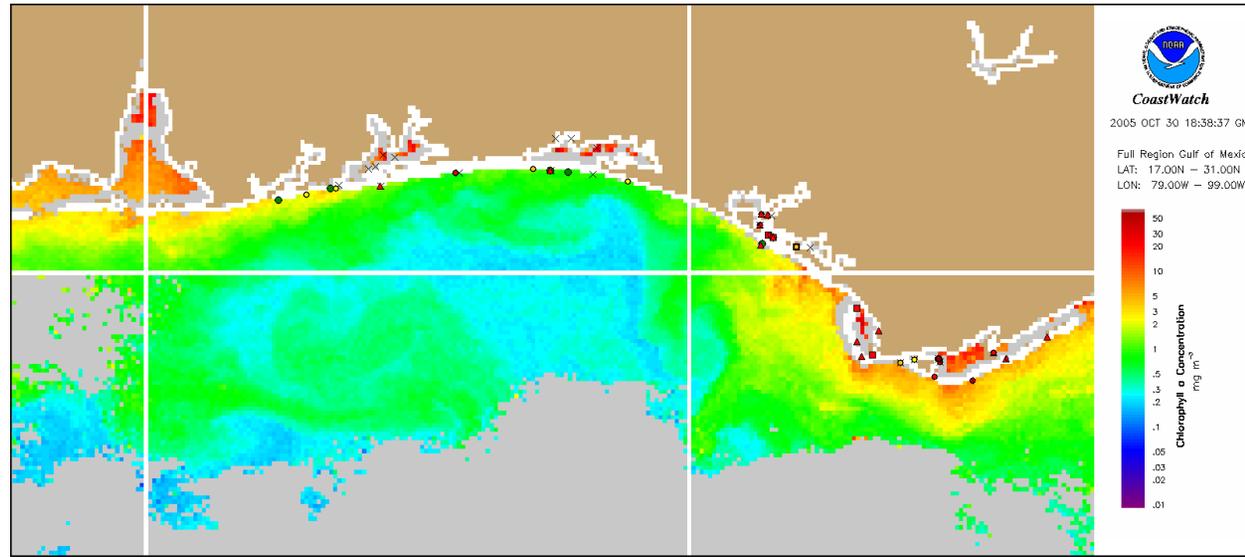
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Last bulletin: October 31, 2005

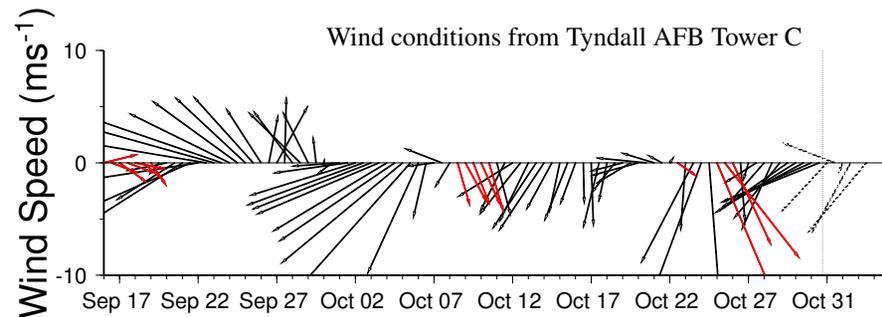
Conditions: Harmful algal blooms have been identified in patches in Levy County, near the mouth of Tampa Bay, and in Sarasota and Collier Counties. A second bloom has been identified in patches along the Florida panhandle and Alabama from Franklin County to Mobile County. Very low impacts are possible in Levy and Sarasota Counties through Thursday. Very low to low impacts are possible in Bay County through Thursday. Dead fish have been reported in Okaloosa County over the past few days. Dead fish smell, while unpleasant, doesn't produce the same respiratory irritation as red tide.

Analysis: The bloom off of Florida's panhandle persists in patches. Sample data since 10/24 has shown medium concentrations in Levy and Bay counties (FWRI) and very low concentrations in Gulf County (FWRI) and Baldwin County (AL Dept. Public Health). Satellite imagery from 10/29 indicates a chlorophyll concentration >20 µg/L at 29°45'N, 85°34'W, off of Bay County. A wind transport model indicates that 70-80 km of westward transport may have occurred since 10/27. Westward transport of the bloom is possible through Thursday.

Bronder, Stolz



Chlorophyll concentration from satellite with HAB areas shown by red polygon(s).

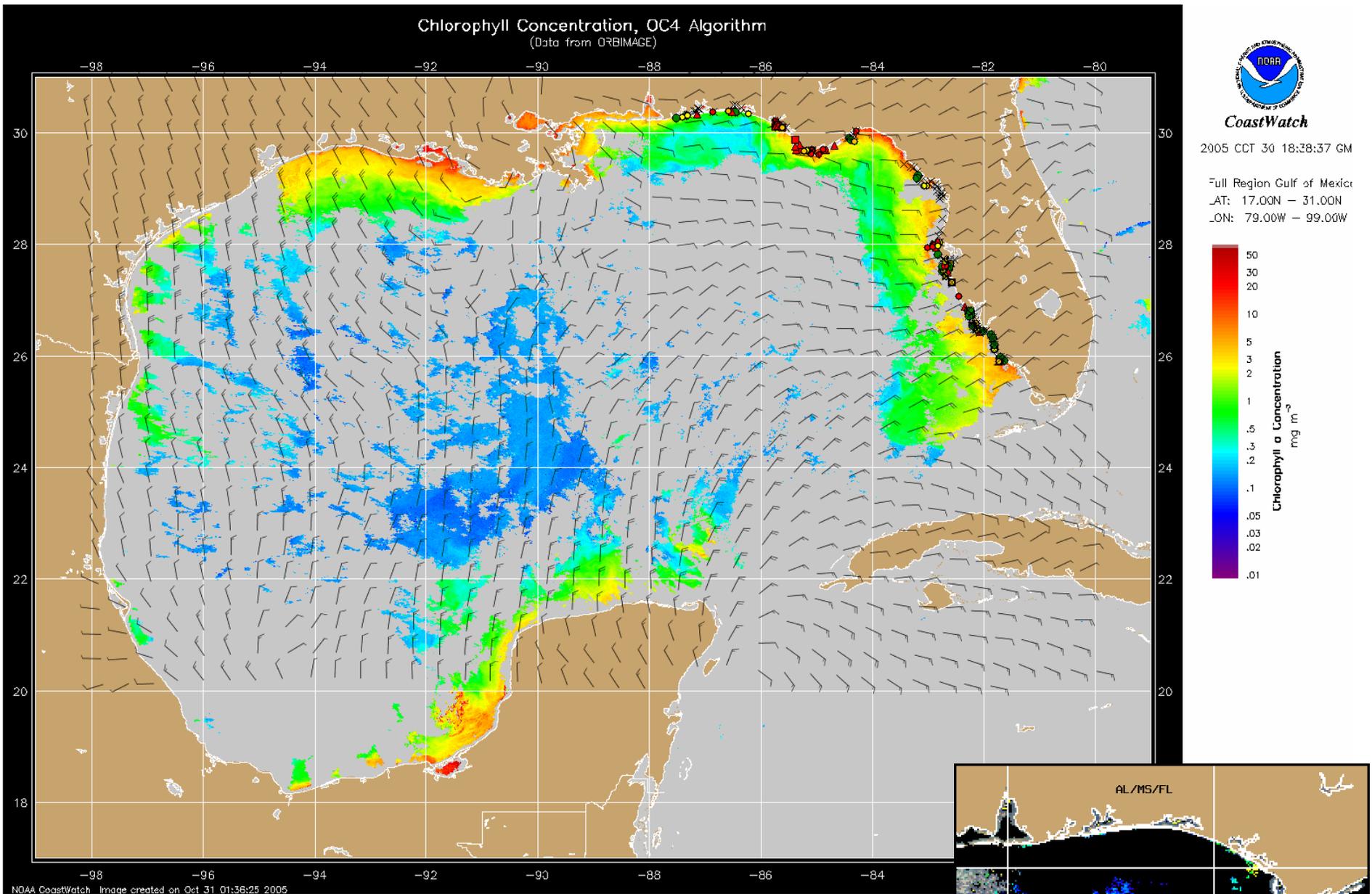


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

Winds will be east (15 kts, 8 m/s) today and tomorrow, northeast (15 kts, 8 m/s) Wednesday and Thursday.

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

1. These data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Distribution for military, or commercial purposes is NOT permitted.
3. There are restrictions on Internet/Web/public posting of these data.
4. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive OrbImage approval via the CoastWatch Program.



Chlorophyll concentration from satellite and forecast winds for November 1, 2005 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from October 19, 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)