



# Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

27 December 2005

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: December 22, 2005

## Conditions Report

Harmful algal blooms have been identified in patches in Dixie, Levy, southern Pinellas, northern Sarasota, and Monroe Counties. Patchy very low impacts possible in Dixie and Levy Counties tonight through tomorrow, with no impacts expected Thursday. No impacts expected today in southern Pinellas and northern Sarasota Counties, with patchy very low impacts possible Wednesday afternoon and Thursday. Patchy low to very low impacts are possible for gulfside Lower Keys through Thursday. No impacts expected today or Thursday for oceanside Lower Keys, with patchy very low impacts possible tomorrow.

## Analysis

The ongoing bloom in SW Florida continues to dissipate onshore. *K. brevis* was present at Skyway Pier, and very low at New Pass, with not present samples along the rest of the coast from Tarpon Springs to Marco Island (12/19-21, FWRI). Chlorophyll remains elevated (>5 µg/L) offshore southern Collier and northern Monroe Counties. The region is obscured by clouds in recent satellite imagery, but extends from approximately 26°11'N 82°22'W to 25°11'N 81°50'W. No recent samples for this area are available. No impacts are expected through Thursday and variable winds should minimize transport.

The bloom continues to dissipate along Dixie and Levy Counties. Present and very low concentrations were reported 12/19 (FWRI). Slightly higher potential for coastal impact tomorrow afternoon. Minimal transport expected.

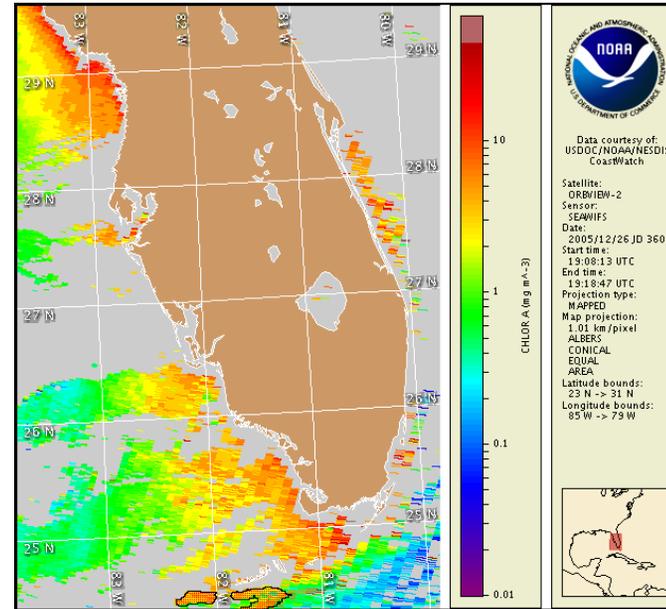
The bloom continues in the FL Keys, although appears to have weakened. Very low to low concentrations of *K. brevis* were reported from Marathon to the Marquesas on the north side of the Keys, as well as some very low samples south of the Lower Keys, in Newfound Harbor, Hawk Channel, and Looe Key (12/16-20, Mote). Reports of discolored water north of Marathon and SE of Key West were received last week.

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

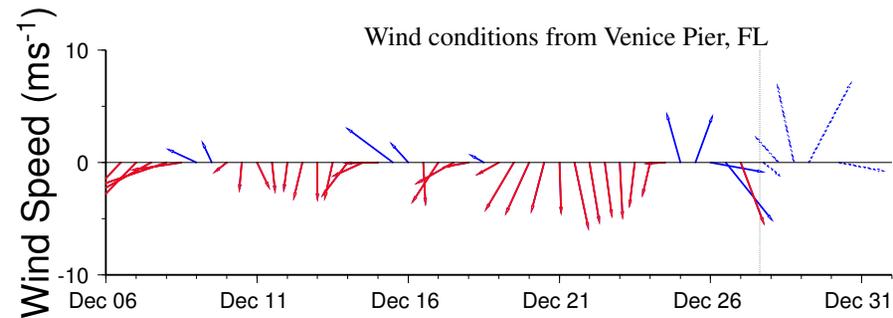
1. Data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive OrbImage approval via the CoastWatch Program.

Clouds obscure the extent of the bloom, but chlorophyll concentrations remain elevated (>5 µg/L) north and south of the lower Keys, and as far west as 24°35'N 82°24'W. Continued slow western transport of the gulfside section of the bloom and eastern transport of the oceanside section is expected.

-Stolz



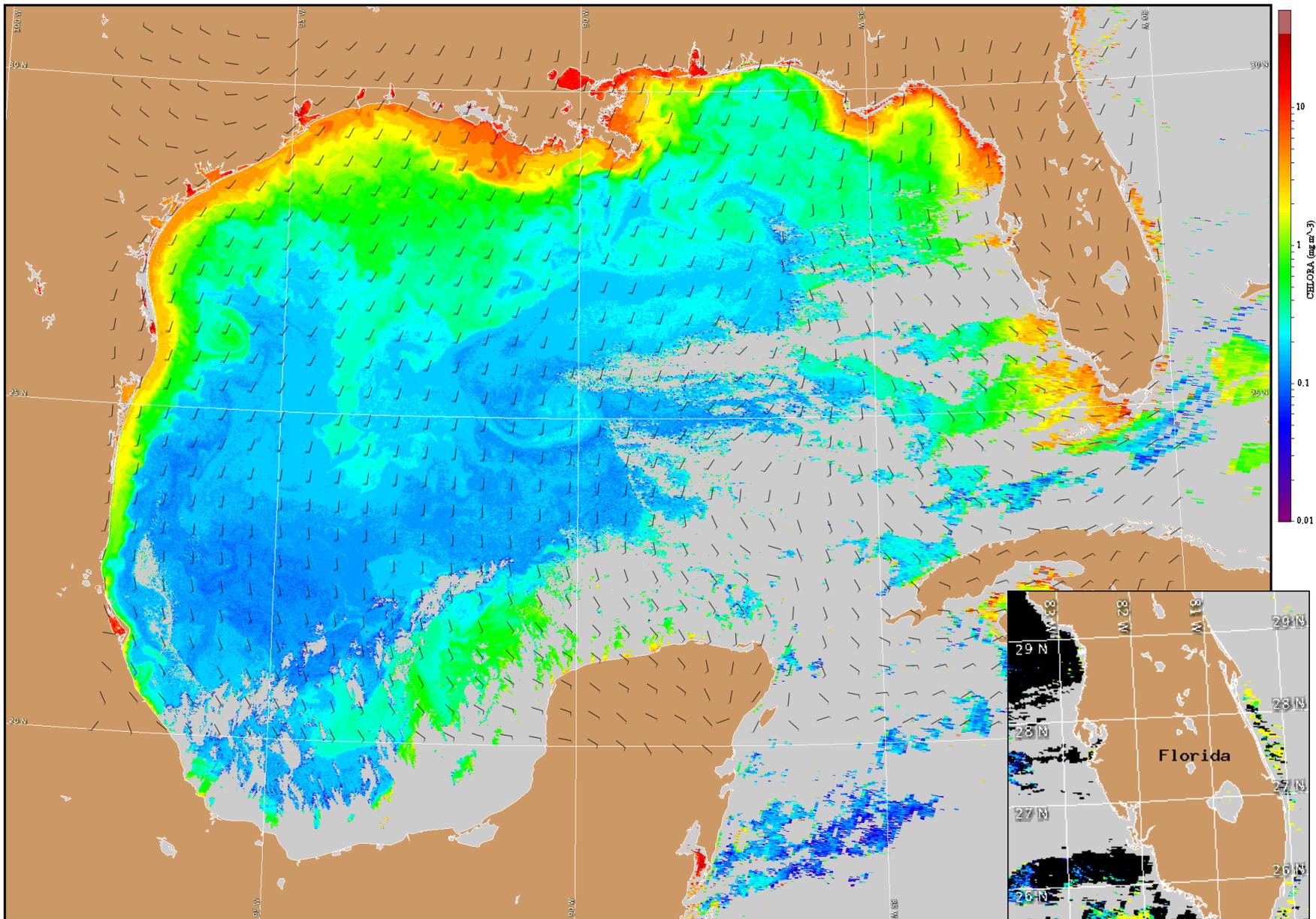
Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s).



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.

SW Florida: Northeasterly winds today at 5-10 knots (3-5 m/s), clocking to the southeast tonight and south tomorrow. Southwesterly winds tomorrow night becoming northwesterly Thursday at 15 knots (8 m/s).

FL Keys: Northerly winds today at 15 knots (8 m/s), becoming northeasterly tonight and southeasterly tomorrow at 10 knots (5 m/s). Winds clocking southwest Wednesday night to westerlies Thursday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for December 28, 2005 06Z.

Verified HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

