



Experimental Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science and Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory

17 September, 2015, Bulletin 20

The *Microcystis* cyanobacteria bloom continues in the southwestern part of the Western basin. Calm winds (<10 knots) over the past few days increased surface concentrations from Tuesday's bulletin. The patches of bloom in the Central Basin have continued to decrease in concentration, below detection in many areas. Although very low concentrations may still resurface in calm conditions. Toxicity is relatively low, except in scums, where a significant risk continues to exist.

Strong southerly winds are expected over the weekend, causing mixing to increase. Surface concentrations may decrease due to mixing. Northeastern transport is expected. The persistent bloom in Sandusky Bay continues. No other blooms are evident in the central and eastern basins.

Some small blooms, separate from the main bloom seen here, have been reported in the Cleveland area. While these have had low levels of toxin, please check for updates on Ohio State Parks at Ohio EPA's site, <http://epa.ohio.gov/habalgae.aspx>. Keep your pets and yourself out of the water in areas where scum is forming.

-Dupuy, Stumpf

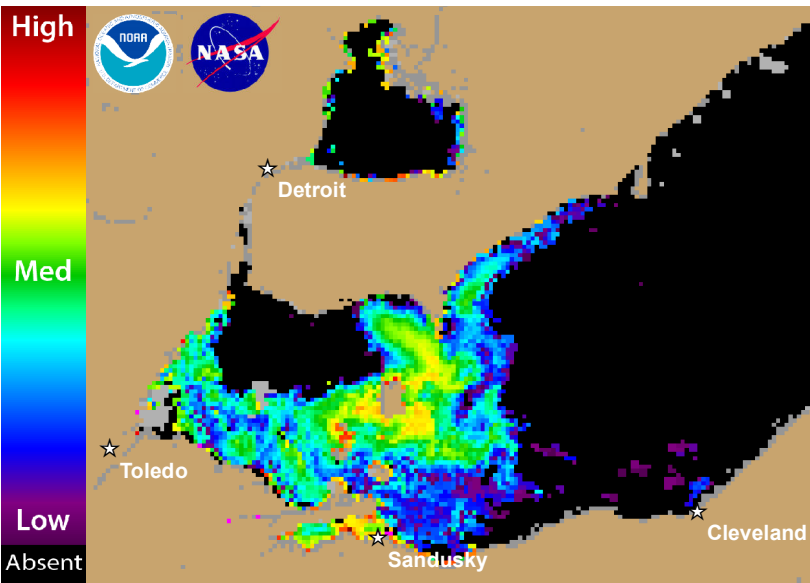


Figure 1. Cyanobacterial Index from NASA's MODIS- Terra_aqua data collected 16 September, 2015 at 13:05 EST. Grey indicates clouds or missing data. Black represents no cyanobacteria detected. Colored pixels indicate the presence of cyanobacteria. Cooler colors (blue and purple) indicate low concentrations and warmer colors (red, orange, and yellow) indicate high concentrations. The estimated threshold for cyanobacteria detection is 20,000 cells/mL.

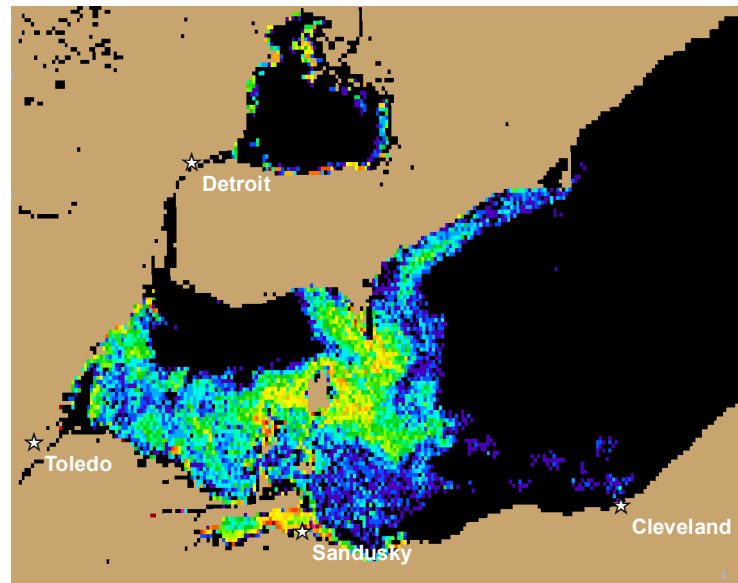


Figure 2. Nowcast position of bloom for 17 September, 2015 using GLCFS modeled currents to move the bloom from the 16 September, 2015 image.

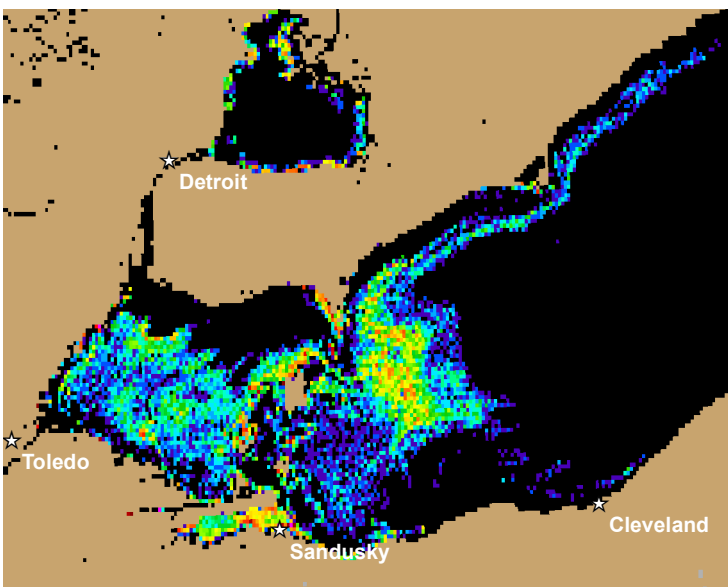
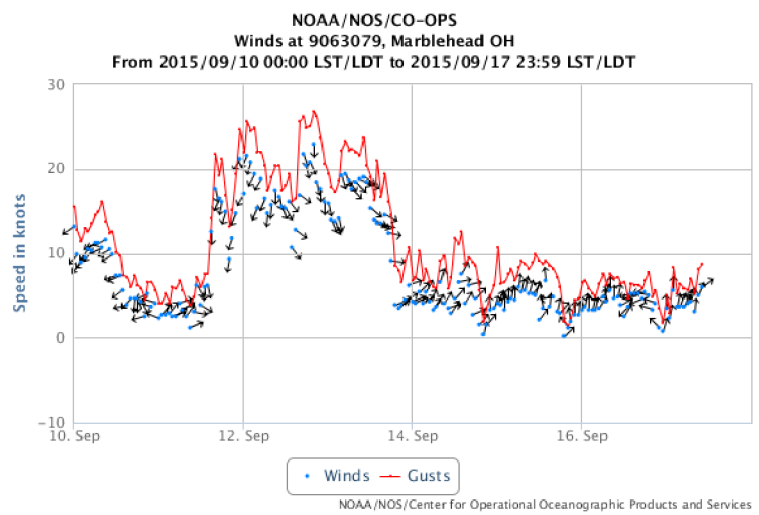
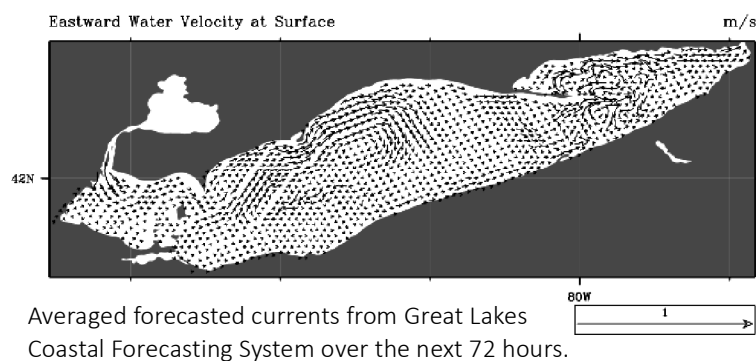


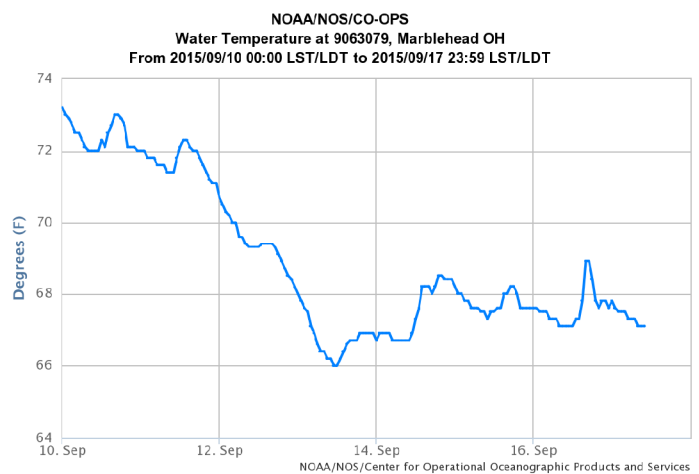
Figure 3. Forecast position of bloom for 20 September, 2015 using GLCFS modeled currents to move the bloom from the 16 September, 2015 image.



Wind Speed, Gusts and Direction from Marblehead, OH. From: NOAA/Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS). Note: 1 knot = 0.51444 m/s. Blooms mix through the water column at wind speeds greater than 7.7 m/sec (~ 15 knots).



Averaged forecasted currents from Great Lakes Coastal Forecasting System over the next 72 hours.



Water Temperature from Marblehead, OH. From: NOAA/Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS).

Supported by the NASA Applied Sciences Health and Air Quality Program. Wind forecasts derived from NOAA/National Weather Service in Cleveland.

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