

Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

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National Ocean Service
NESDIS/CoastWatch

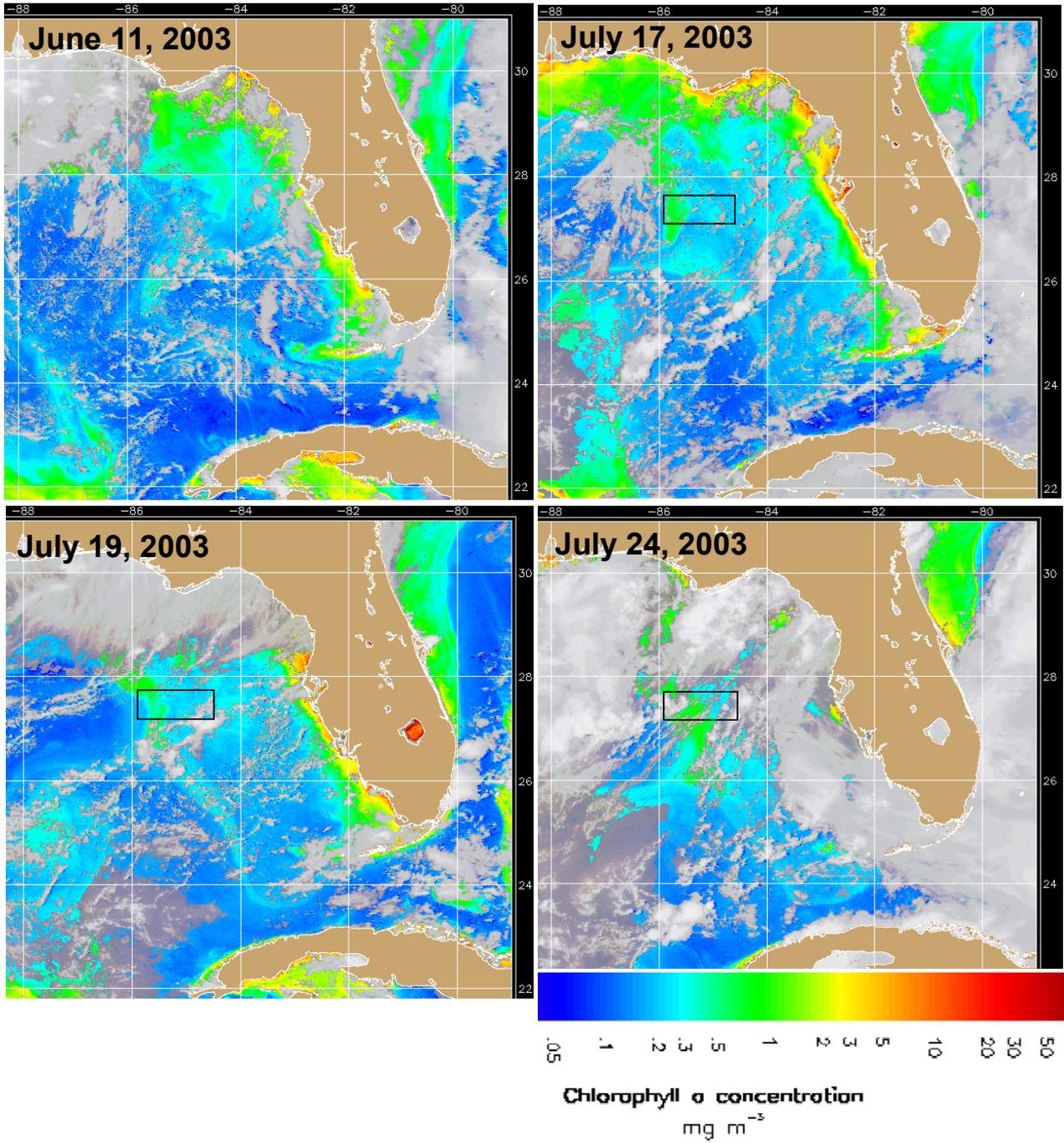


The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is disposing of treated water from the abandoned Piney Point phosphate plant in the Gulf of Mexico. Dispersal started about July 20, and occur within the box shown in the imagery on the attached pages.

For information on the Piney Point project

http://www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/comm/2003/piney_point.htm

Given the concern about the impact on the Florida Keys, we are providing additional information during this time (continued on p. 2).



Satellite imagery has shown a plume of high chlorophyll water associated with the Mississippi outflow moving from the northern Gulf through the area of the Piney Point dispersal and down the west Florida coast. Water from the Mississippi River has been carried along the Loop Current for the last several months (see June 10 image). In early July a new pulse of Mississippi River water was pulled into the Loop Current (July 17). The eastern boundary of the Loop Current also appeared to reform in late July.

The Mississippi River water plume has moved through the Straits over the last week at about 2.5 knots. It is now past Palm Beach (up to 28N). While it is offshore west of Marathon, it appears closer to the Keys east of Marathon.

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