BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 7, 2020

SUMMARY

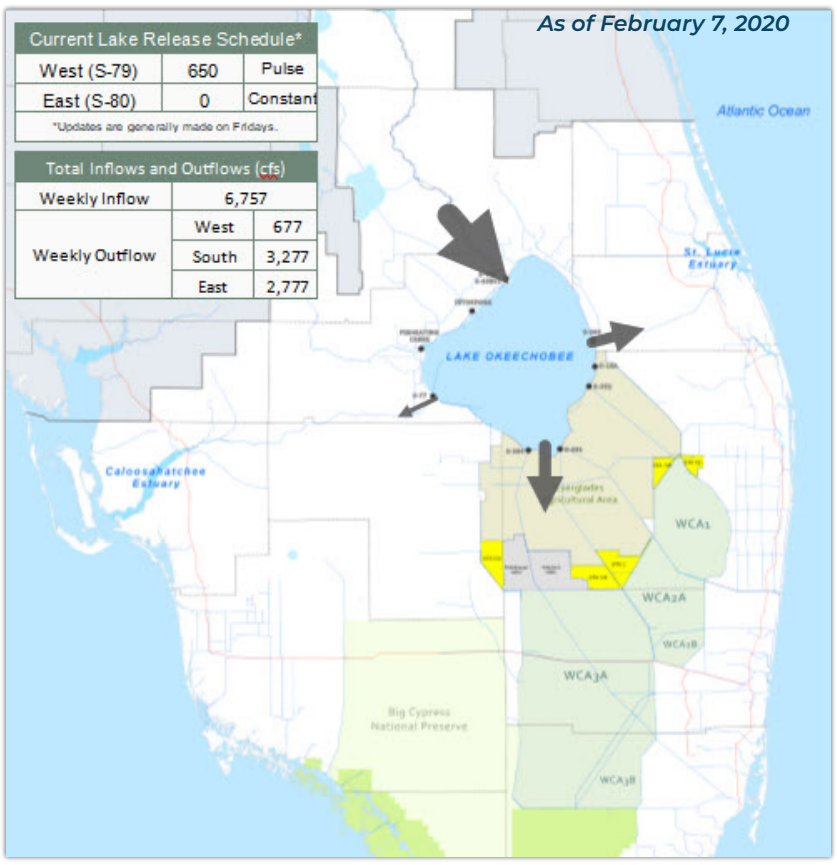
There were 13 reported site visits in the past seven days (1/31 – 2/6), with 13 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at 12 of the 13 sites.

The most recent NOAA satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee that is not obscured by significant cloud cover is from 2/3 and shows approximately 20% coverage of low to moderate bloom potential along the western and southern shores of the lake. South Florida Water Management District samplers collected samples from the lake at RITTAE2, LZ30, PALMOUT and POLE35. The dominant algal taxa in the POLE35 sample was *Microcystis aeruginosa*. The PALMOUT sample was dominated by *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*. RITTAE2 and LZ30 samples had no dominant taxa. No toxins were detected at RITTAE2, LZ30 or PALMOUT, but 1.3 parts per billion of total microcystins were detected at POLE35.

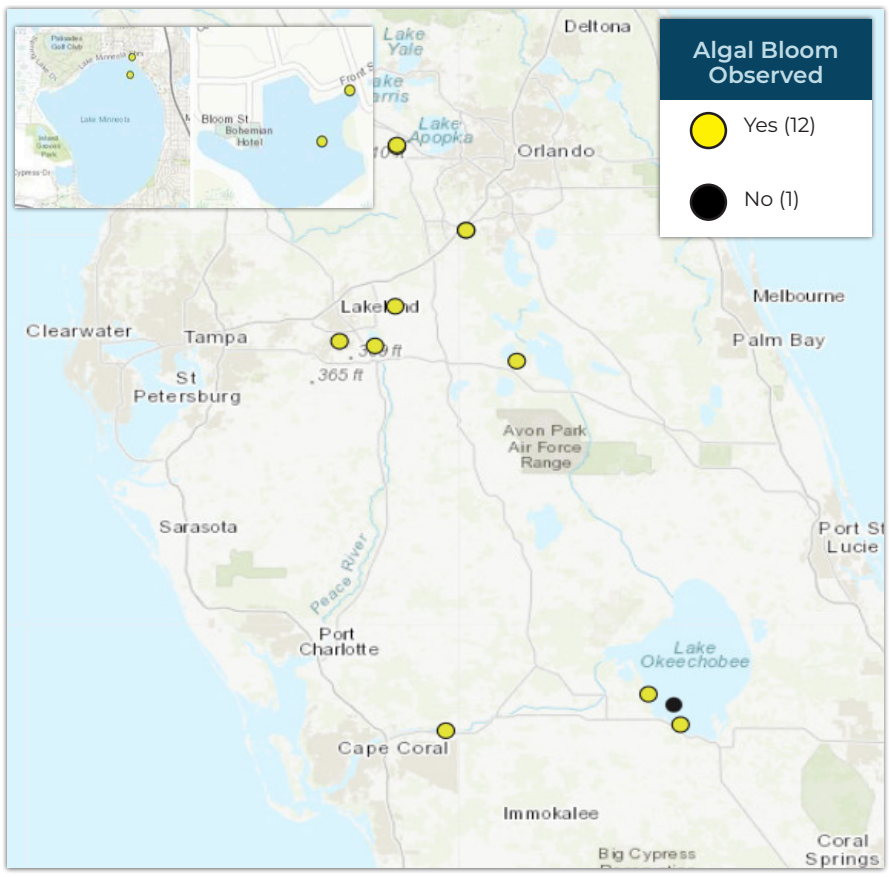
Imagery from 2/3 indicates no significant bloom potential was observed in the Caloosahatchee Estuary or St. Lucie Estuary; however, the St. Johns River and Crescent Lake are showing scattered cyanobacteria chlorophyll a signal. St. Johns River Water Management District will be investigating these locations early next week. Lee County staff collected samples on 2/4 at the Alva Boat Ramp. The sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and 1.5 parts per billion of total microcystins were detected. DEP staff collected samples on 2/3 at Lake Rianhard at two locations, Sycamore Street and East of Center. Both samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa*. The Sycamore Street sample had a total microcystin concentration of 120 parts per billion and a trace level of cylindrospermopsin (0.74 parts per billion), and the East of Center sample had only trace (0.28 parts per billion) levels of total microcystins. DEP staff performed additional sampling at Lake Minneola (NE Corner and West of Lee's Villa) on 2/5 and Tiger Lake, Lake Mariana, Lake Hancock and Scott Lake-West on 2/6. Both Lake Minneola samples were dominated by *Dolichospermum planctonicum* and neither had toxins detected. Results are pending for the rest of the lakes.

This is a high-level summary of the sampling events for the reported week. For all field visit and analytical result details, please refer the complete algal bloom map with data table by clicking the "Field and Lab Details" Quick Link from the Algal Bloom Dashboard. Different types of blue-green algal bloom species can look different and have different impacts. However, regardless of species, many types of blue-green algae can produce toxins that can make you or your pets sick if swallowed or possibly cause skin and/or eye irritation due to contact. We advise to stay out of water where algae is visibly present as specks, mats or water is discolored pea-green, blue-green or brownish-red. Additionally, pets or livestock should not come into contact with the algal bloom-impacted water, or the algal bloom material or fish on the shoreline.

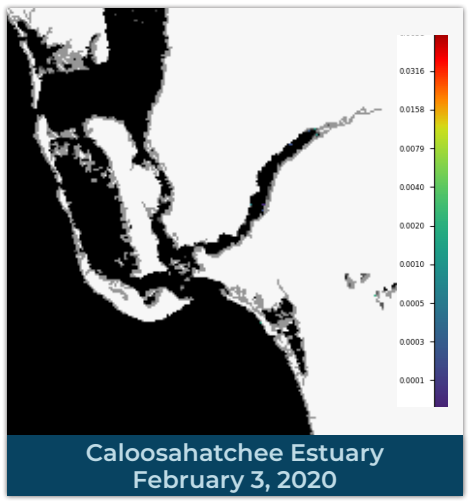
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



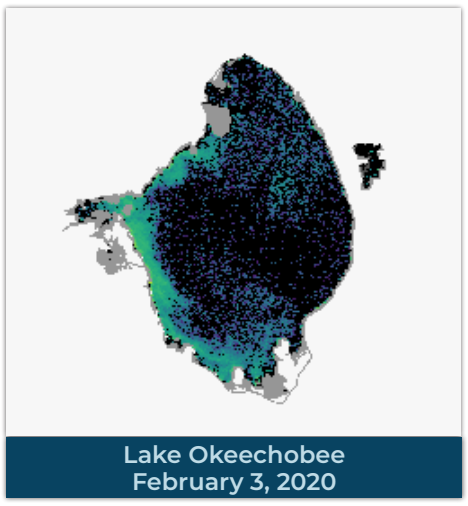
SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



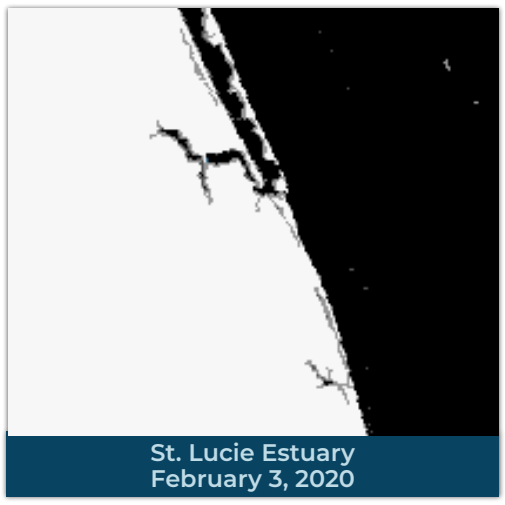
Satellite Imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud-cover



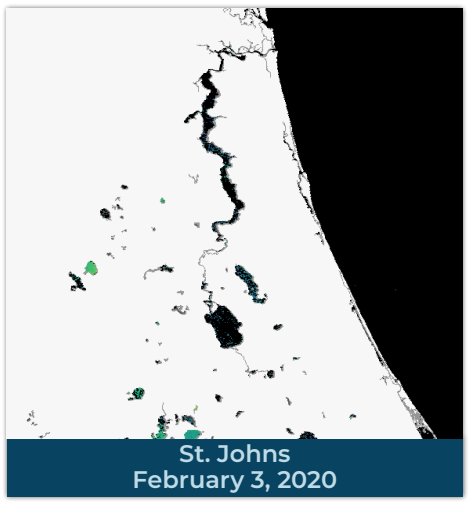
Caloosahatchee Estuary
February 3, 2020



Lake Okeechobee
February 3, 2020

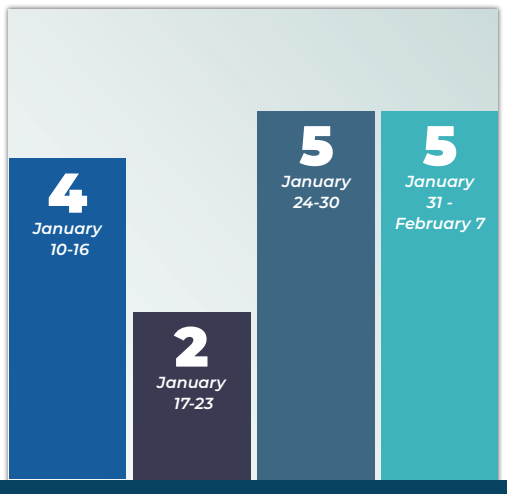


St. Lucie Estuary
February 3, 2020



St. Johns
February 3, 2020

REPORTS FROM HOTLINE



REPORT PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

HUMAN ILLNESS

Florida Poison Control Centers can be reached 24/7 at 800-222-1222

(DOH provides grant funding to the Florida Poison Control Centers)

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

CONTACT DOH

(DOH county office)

FloridaHealth.gov/all-county-locations.html

REPORT ALGAL BLOOMS

SALTWATER BLOOM

- Observe stranded wildlife or a fish kill
- Information about red tide and other saltwater algal blooms

CONTACT FWC

800-636-0511 (fish kills)
888-404-3922 (wildlife Alert)

MyFWC.com/RedTide

FRESHWATER BLOOM

- Observe an algal bloom in a lake or freshwater river
- Information about blue-green algal blooms

CONTACT DEP

855-305-3903
(to report freshwater blooms)

FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom

Learn more about Florida's Algal Bloom Monitoring and Response visit our Water Quality website to check the current status and to receive updates.

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ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov