



# BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

## REPORTING FEBRUARY 7 - FEBRUARY 13, 2020

### SUMMARY

There were seven reported site visits in the past week (2/7 - 2/13), with seven samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at five of the sites.

The most recent NOAA satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee from 2/10 shows approximately 10% coverage of low to moderate bloom potential along the western shores of the lake. The lake was partially obscured by cloud cover, so actual algal coverage may be greater; however, recent wind activity has likely caused some decrease in chlorophyll, a signal due to upper water column mixing. No significant bloom potential was observed in the 2/10 imagery for the Caloosahatchee Estuary; however, the St. Lucie Estuary and St. Johns River had too much cloud cover to assess their current bloom potential.

St. Johns River Water Management District collected samples at Crescent Lake (Mouth of Dunns Creek) on 2/10 and at St. Johns River (Hibernia Point) and St. Johns River (Mandarin Point) on 2/12. The Crescent Lake (Mouth of Dunns Creek) sample was dominated by *Planktolyngbya limnetica* but no cyanotoxins were detected. Results for the two St. Johns River samples are pending.

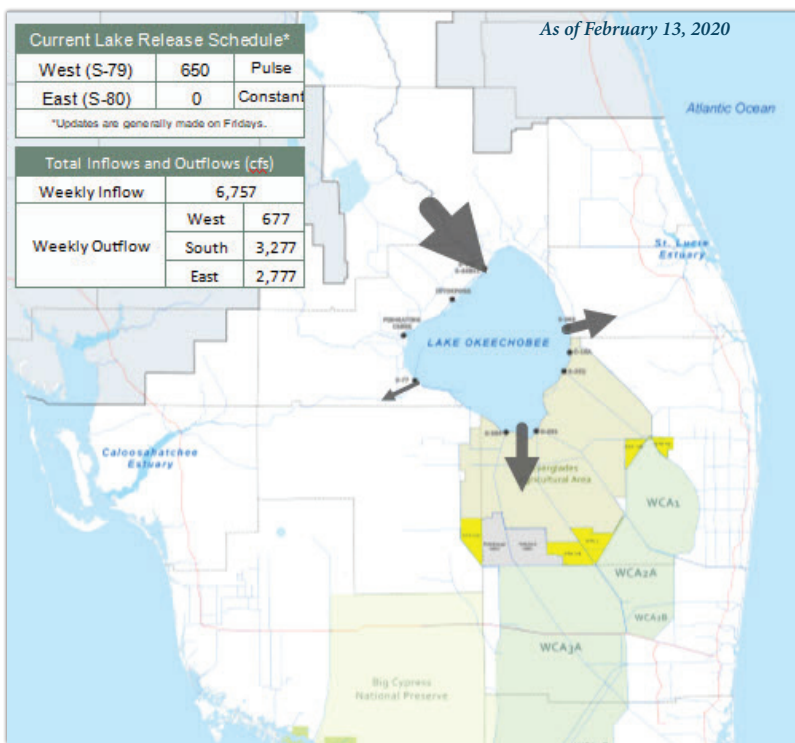
Lee County staff collected a follow-up sample on 2/11 at the Alva Boat Ramp. The sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* but no cyanotoxins were detected.

DEP staff performed follow-up sampling on 2/13 at two Lake Rainhard locations (Sycamore Street and 70 meters South of Front Street). Sample results are pending. 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.

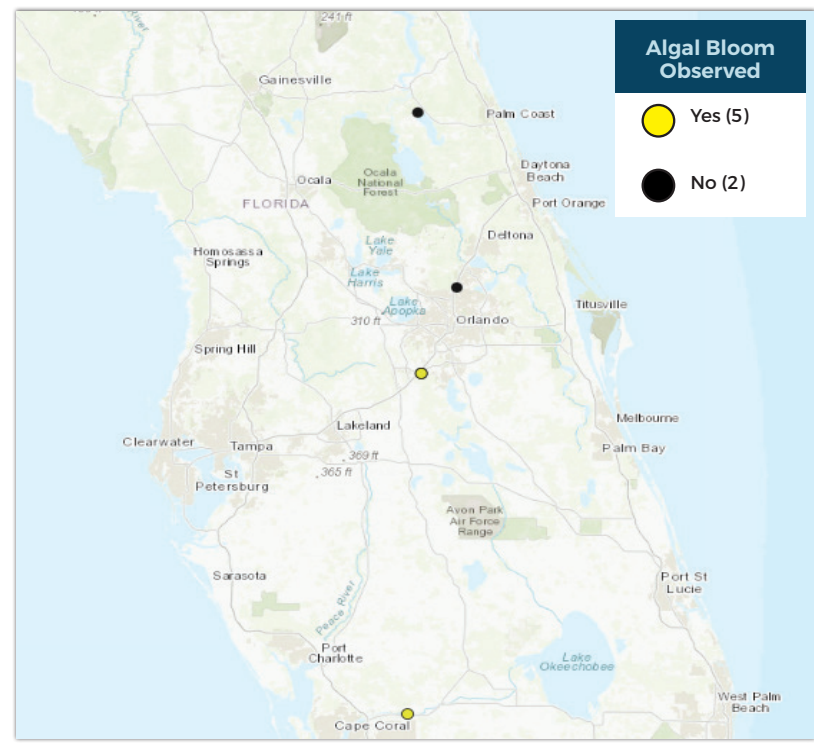
Results for samples collected on 2/6 were pending during last week's report. These results are now available. DEP staff collected samples at Tiger Lake (NW Lobe), Lake Mariana (Near Ramp), Lake Hancock (South), Scott Lake (West) and Lake Hunter (Center). The Tiger Lake (NW Lobe) sample had no dominant algal taxa and no detectable cyanotoxins. The Lake Mariana (Near Ramp) sample also had no dominant algal taxa and no detectable cyanotoxins. The Lake Hancock (South) sample was co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Dolichospermum circinale* and had trace levels (0.32 parts per billion) of total microcystin detected. The Scott Lake (West) sample was dominated by *Microcystis wesenbergii* and had 2.1 parts per billion of total microcystins. The Lake Hunter (Center) sample was co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Microcystis wesenbergii* and had 1.0 parts per billion total microcystins detected. The Lake Hancock, Scott Lake and Lake Hunter samples were all received late due to a delay in shipping caused by last week's storm. These samples were out of the acceptable temperature range when they were received, so the results have been qualified.

*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.*

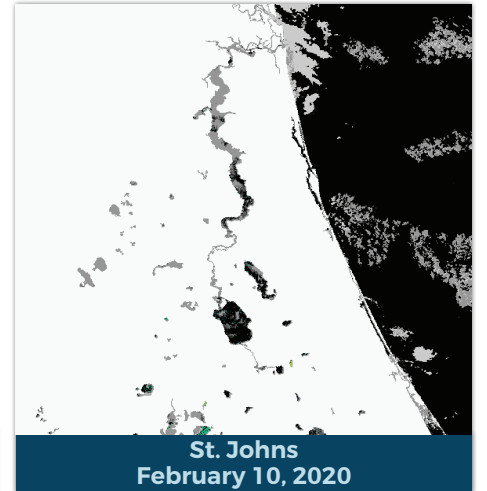
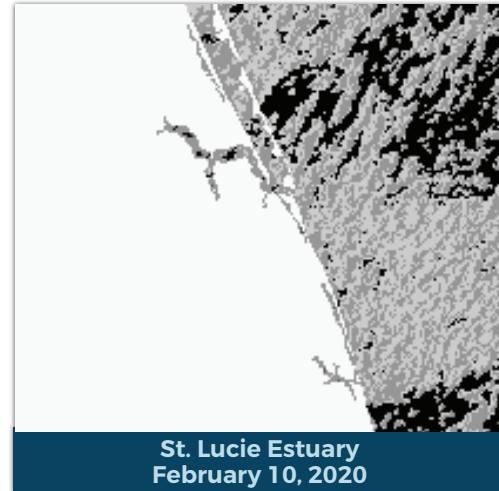
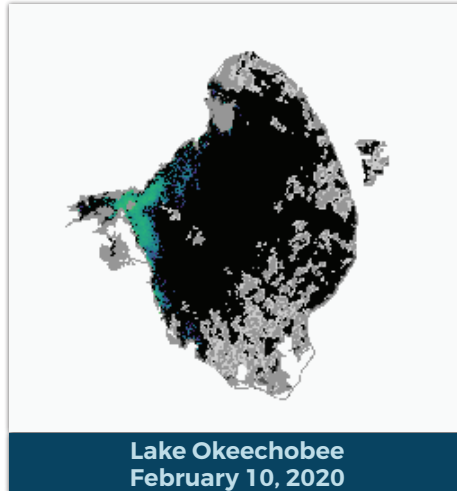
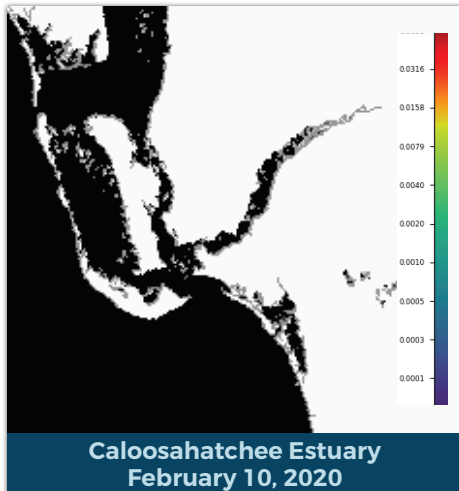
### LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



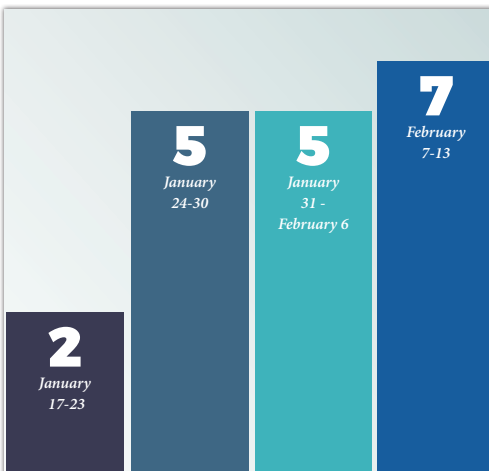
### SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



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



### 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