



BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING MARCH 6 - MARCH 12, 2020

SUMMARY

There were 15 reported site visits in the past seven days (3/6-3/12), with 14 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at 13 sites.

The most recent NOAA satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee is from 3/12 and shows approximately 20% coverage of low to moderate bloom potential along the northwestern shores of the lake, with some cloud cover. No significant bloom potential was observed in the 3/12 imagery for the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers and estuaries; however, some portions of the estuaries were obscured by cloud cover. Imagery from 3/12 for the St. Johns River was also partially obscured by cloud cover but scattered low to moderate bloom potential was indicated on Lake George and on the main stem of the St. Johns River downstream of Lake George.

On 3/9, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected samples at Lake Deer (Center), Lake Hancock (South Central), Scott Lake (West Lobe), and Lake Hunter (Center). The Lake Deer sample was co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Dolichospermum circinale* and cyanotoxins were not detected. The Lake Hancock sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had only trace (0.84 parts per billion) levels of total microcystins detected. The Scott Lake and Lake Hunter samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Microcystis wesenbergii* and had 2.3 and 1.1 parts per billion of total microcystins detected, respectively.

On 3/9, Orange County staff collected samples at Lake Anderson and Lake Jennie Jewel. Both samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had 4.7 and 8.5 parts per billion of total microcystins detected, respectively.

On 3/10, DEP staff collected samples at Lake Arnold (70 meters from West shore) and at Tampa Bay (Near Bayshore). Bloom conditions were not observed by the samplers at the Tampa Bay (Near Bayshore) location. The Lake Arnold sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* and had only trace levels (0.74 parts per billion) of total microcystins detected. The Tampa Bay sample had no dominant taxa and no cyanotoxins were detected.

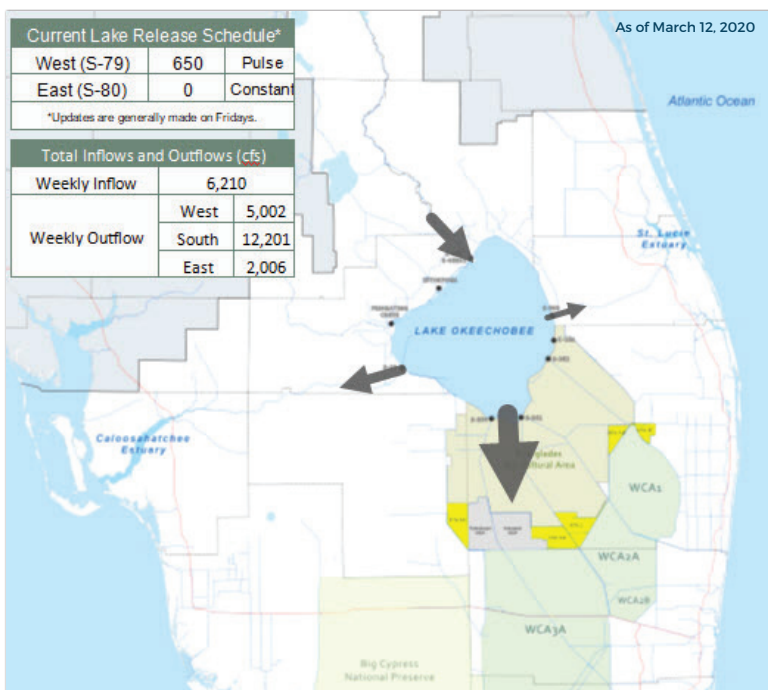
On 3/10 Lee County staff collected samples at the Caloosahatchee River (Alva Boat Ramp) and Caloosahatchee River (Franklin Locks Upstream). Both samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa*, with only trace levels (0.31 parts per billion) of total microcystins detected at the Alva Boat Ramp site and no toxins detected at the Franklin Locks Upstream site.

On 3/11, St. Johns River Water Management District staff collected a sample from Lake Harris (Center). Analysis results are still pending.

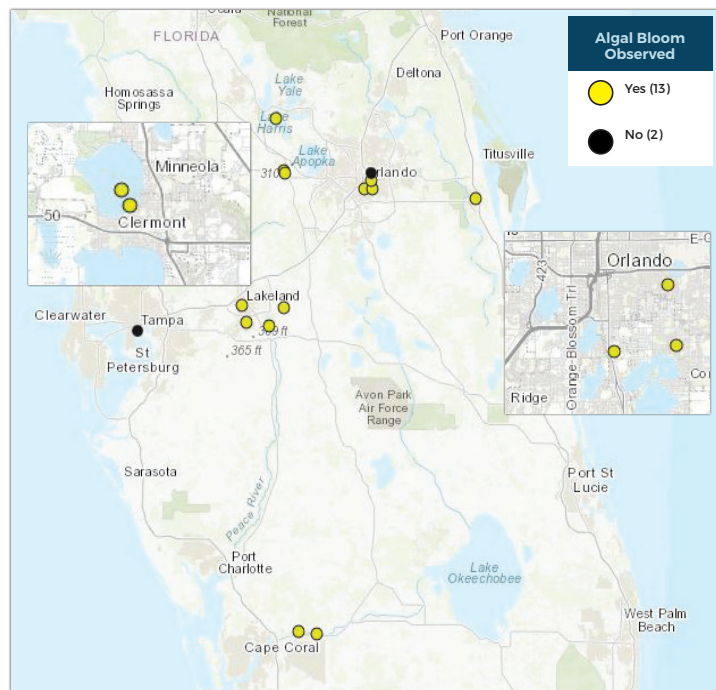
On 3/12, DEP staff collected samples at Lake Minneola (near center), Lake Minneola (near beach), and Fay Lake. Analysis results are still pending. Staff also visited Lake Harlan as a result of a bloom report; however, upon inspection by field staff, no algal bloom was observed. No bloom sample was collected.

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.

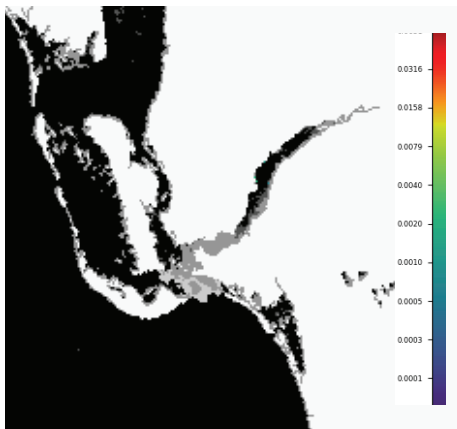
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



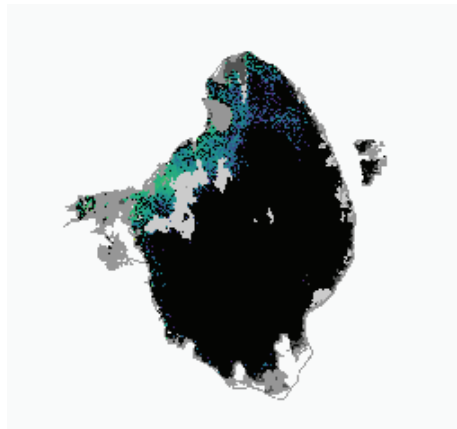
SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



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



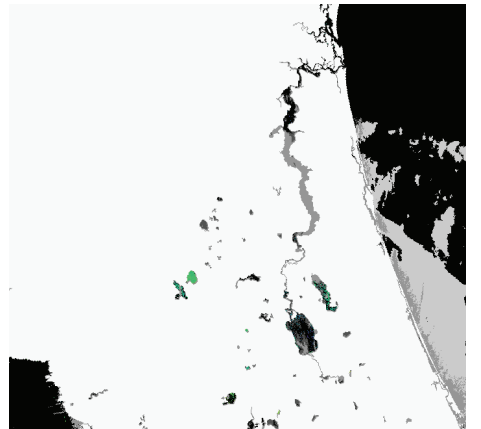
Caloosahatchee Estuary
March 12, 2020



Lake Okeechobee
March 12, 2020

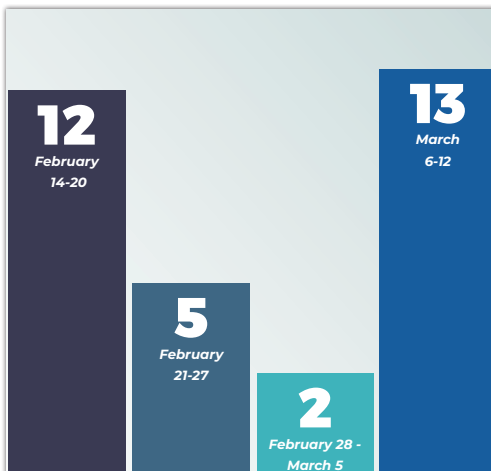


St. Lucie Estuary
March 12, 2020



St. Johns
March 12, 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