BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

Reporting May 24 - May 30, 2019

SUMMARY

Satellite imagery indicate that the potential for harmful algal blooms is intensifying throughout Florida, although the number of online reports was lower than expected over the holiday weekend. Visible algae is consistently appearing on the satellite imagery of Lake Okeechobee; mostly on the western portions of the lake, with medium to high bloom potential reported north and east of Clewiston. Sampling on Lake Okeechobee has resulted in low-level detection of microcystin.

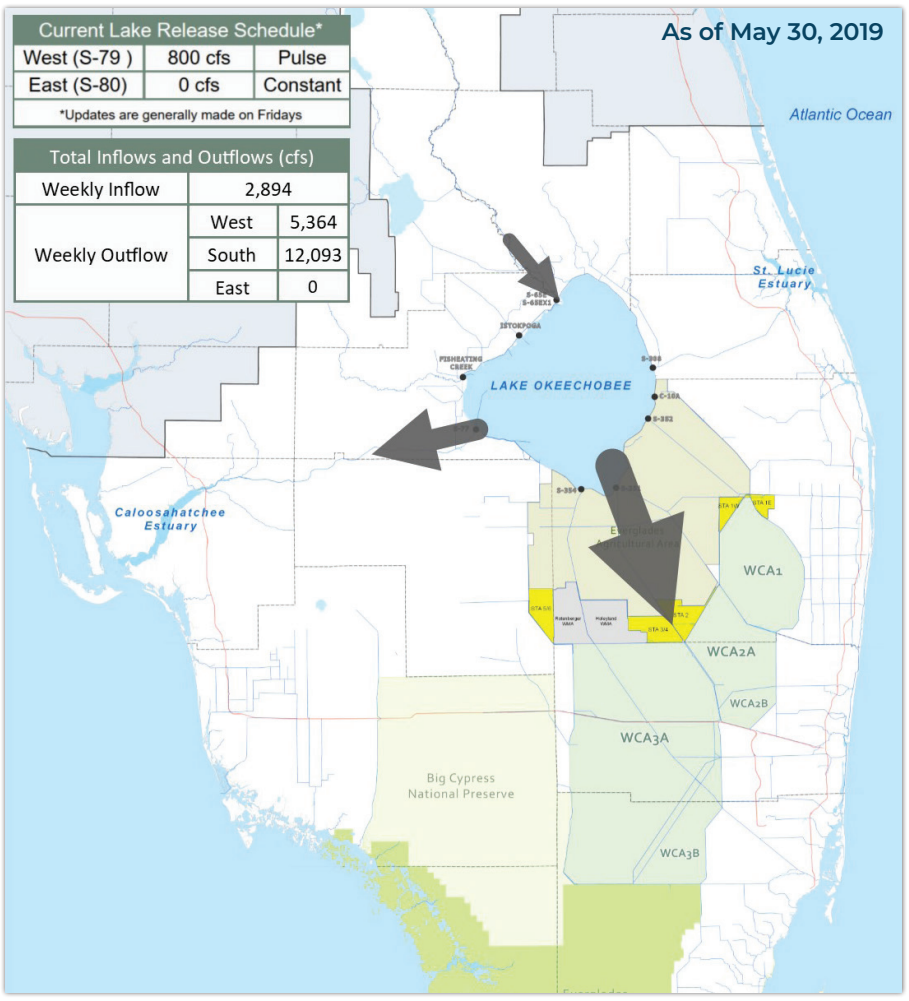
The Army Corps of Engineers Lock Operators continue to report algae present both upstream and downstream of the S-79 structure (west of Lake Okeechobee) and the S-308 Lock (east of Lake Okeechobee), and is now reporting algae upstream of the S-78 structure (5/27/2018 and 5/28/2019).

DEP is reporting 21 site visits where sampling occurred since 5/22/2019 in the Southwest Florida and the Northeast Florida/St. Johns River regions. Microcystin was detected above 1 microgram per liter at seven locations. The remaining 15 locations results returned microcystin not detected. The majority of the site visits are reporting filamentous blue-green algae; only six sites reported Microcystis aeruginosa as the dominant taxa. Filamentous algae continues to persist along the west coast of Florida in Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte counties.

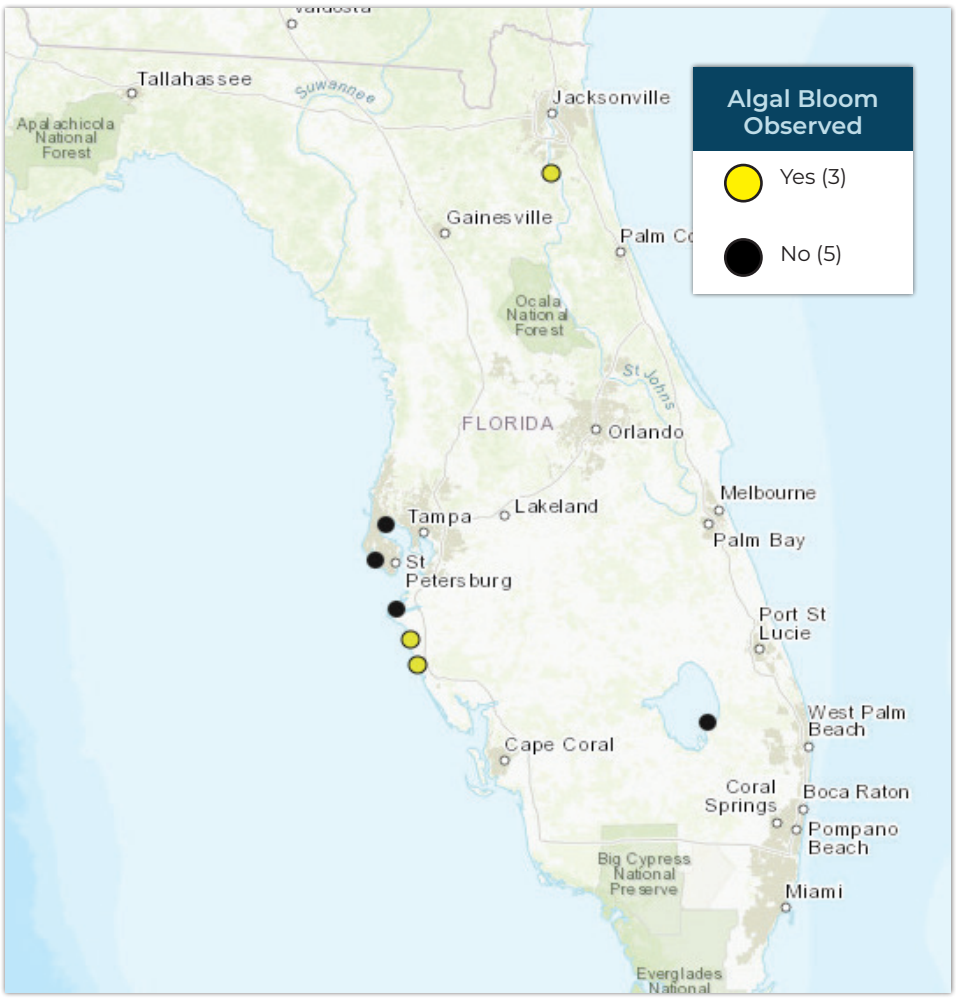
The St. Johns River continues to have a bloom present from Lake George to Doctors Lake. Samples of the bloom indicate an increase in Microcystis aeruginosa-dominated samples, with microcystin toxins ranging from 1.84 to 3.54 ug/L

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.

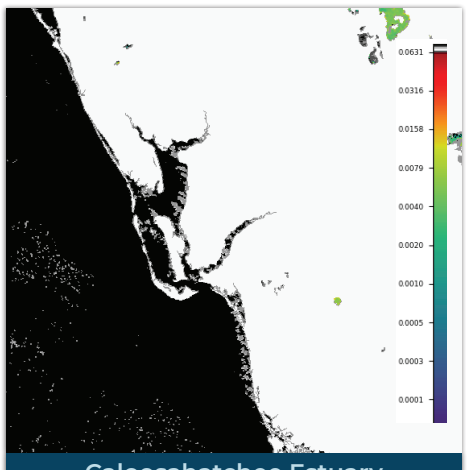
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



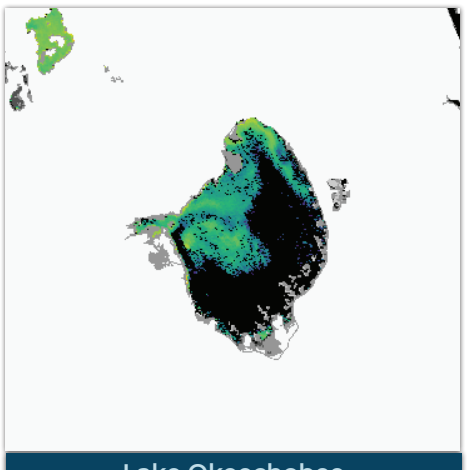
SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



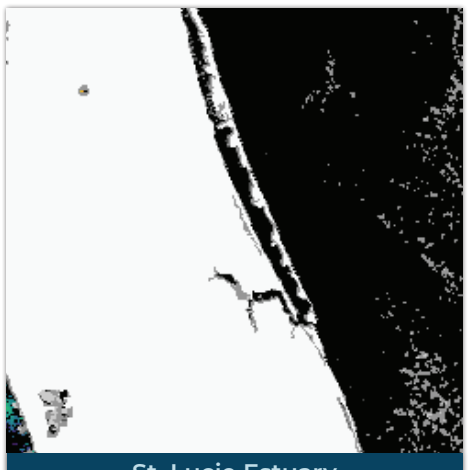
Satellite Imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud-cover



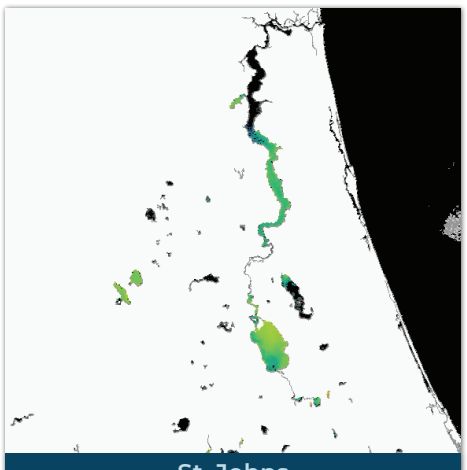
Caloosahatchee Estuary
May 30, 2019



Lake Okeechobee
May 30, 2019

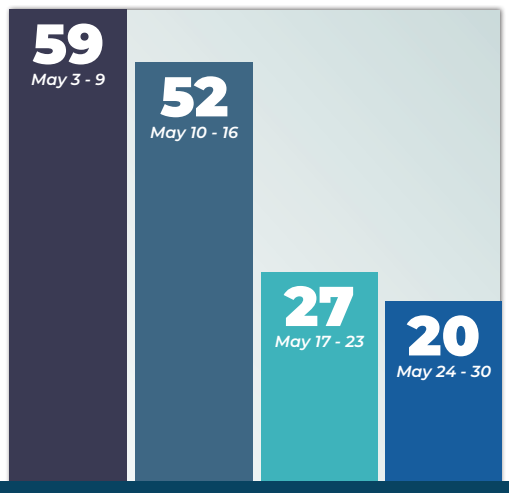


St. Lucie Estuary
May 30, 2019



St. Johns
May 30, 2019

REPORTS FROM HOTLINE



REPORT PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

HUMAN ILLNESS

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

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

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 at FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom