BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING OCTOBER 18 - OCTOBER 24, 2019

SUMMARY

There were seven reported site visits in the past week (10/18 - 10/24), with all seven site visits resulting in samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at three of the sites. There were 10 additional samples collected on 10/17 after the (10/11 - 10/17) weekly HAB summary was drafted, with all 10 site visits resulting in samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were not observed at any of these sites.

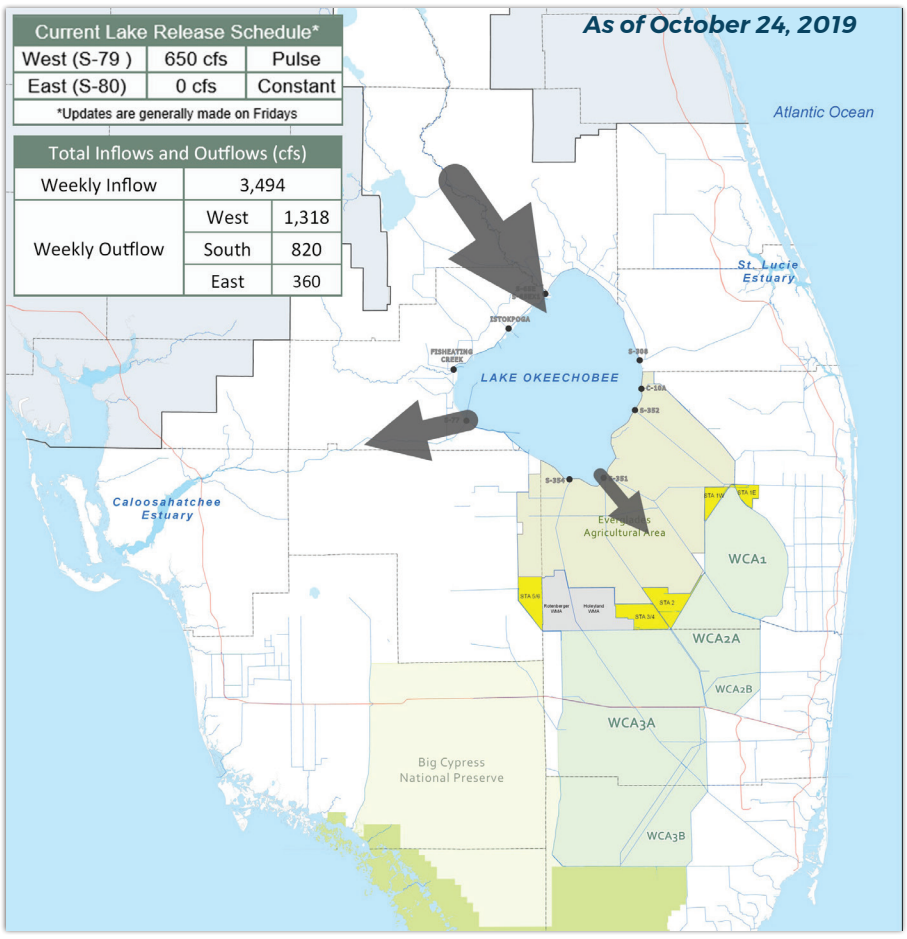
NOAA satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee from 10/24 shows very minimal bloom potential on the northwestern side of the lake. Imagery does not indicate any bloom activity in the estuaries, although portions of the estuaries are obscured by cloud cover. The South Florida Water Management District collected samples at the S78 and S79 structures on 10/21, with no dominant taxa or toxins detected in either sample. The South Florida Water Management District also sampled the C51 canal at Kirk Road on 10/22, and the sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had a total microcystin result of 13.02 parts per billion. Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff sample on Lake Okeechobee at Western Lake Okeechobee, Lakeport Pass, and Lakeport. The Western Lake Okeechobee and Lakeport samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa*. The Lakeport Pass sample had no dominant taxa. None of the samples had detectable concentrations of microcystins; however, a trace level (0.33 parts per billion) of cylindrospermopsin was detected in the Lakeport sample.

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) collected eight samples from the St. Johns River on 10/17. None of the samples had a dominant taxon and microcystin results were all non-detect; however, trace levels (0.05 – 0.11 parts per billion) of saxitoxin were found in the eight samples, and trace levels (0.11 – 0.45 parts per billion) of cylindrospermopsin were detected in five of the eight samples. The SJRWMD also collected one sample from Blue Cypress Lake on 10/21 that was dominated by *Microcystis wesenbergii* and had no toxins were detected.

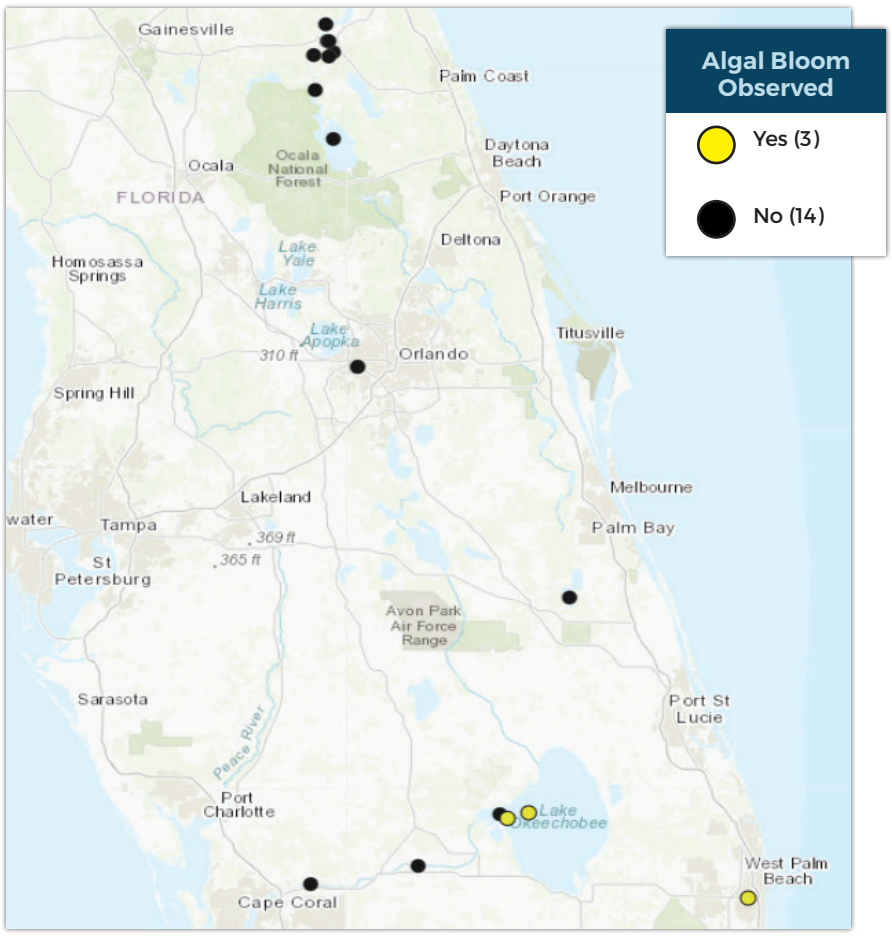
DEP performed follow up sampling at two stations (Center and Boat Ramp) on Lake Olivia. Neither sample had a dominant taxon or detectable microcystins; however, both samples had had trace levels (both 0.43 parts per billion) of cylindrospermopsin.

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.

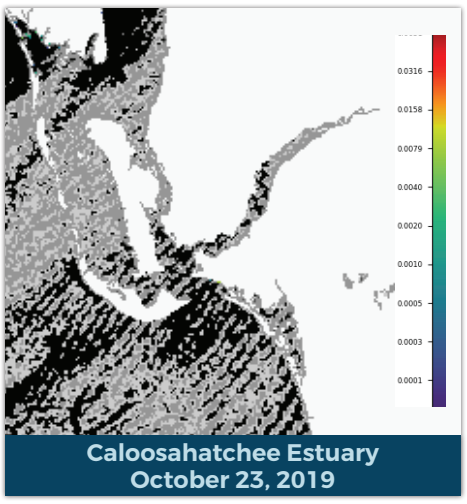
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



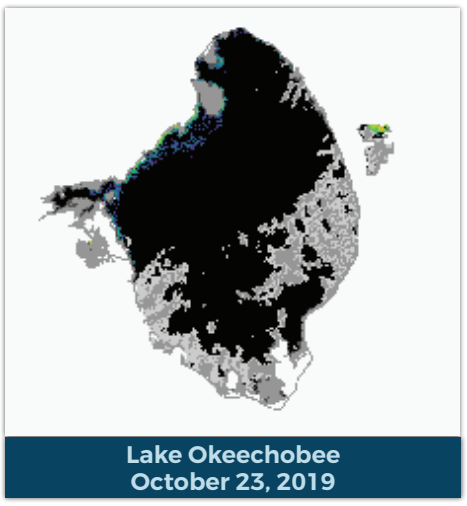
SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



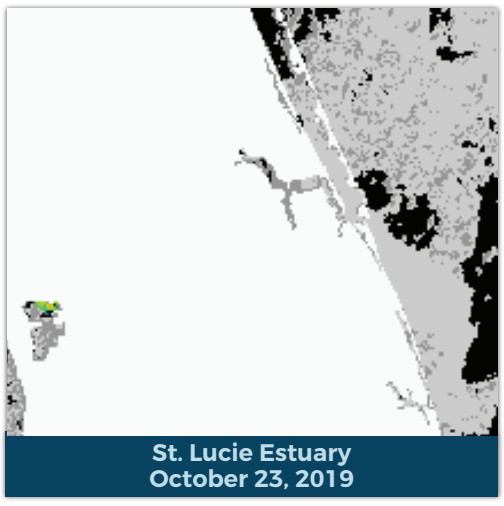
Satellite Imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud-cover



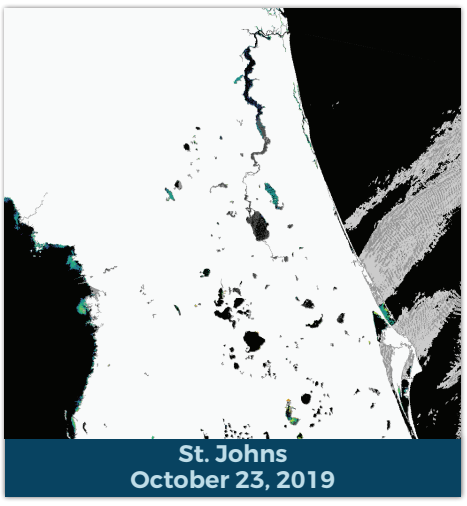
Caloosahatchee Estuary
October 23, 2019



Lake Okeechobee
October 23, 2019



St. Lucie Estuary
October 23, 2019



St. Johns
October 23, 2019

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 at FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom