BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING NOVEMBER 15 - NOVEMBER 21, 2019

SUMMARY

There were nine reported site visits in the past week (11/15 – 11/21), with samples collected at each location. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at five of the nine sites.

NOAA satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee from 11/20 shows approximately 15 - 20% coverage of moderate bloom potential on the western side of the lake from Fisheating Bay to Clewiston. Imagery does not indicate any bloom activity in the estuaries, although portions of the estuaries were partially obscured by cloud cover. Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff collected a sample within the potential bloom area (Fisheating Bay) on Lake Okeechobee on 11/14. Algal bloom conditions were not observed by the samplers at that time. The sample was dominated by *Cuspidothrix issatschenkoi* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*, and no toxins were detected.

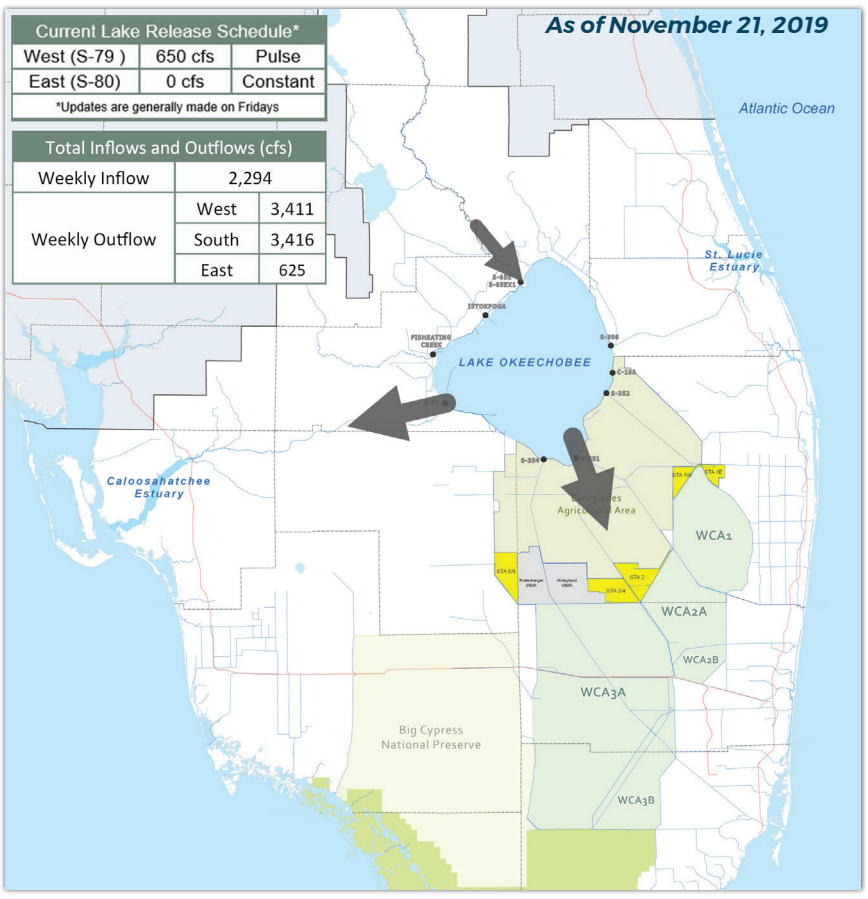
Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff also performed sampling on Deer Lake, Scott Lake, Lake Hunter, Lake Olivia, Seventeen Mile Pond and at Pine Tree Park. Santa Rosa County collected a sample at Oriole Beach for algal bloom identification, and the city of Cape Coral collected a sample from a canal near Gulfstream Parkway. The Deer Lake sample was dominated by the cyanobacteria *Coelesphaerium kuetzingianum* and had no detectable toxins. The Scott Lake sample was co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Microcystis wesenbergii* and had 1.98 parts per billion of total microcystins and a trace level (0.39 parts per billion) of cylindrospermopsin. Both the Lake Olivia at Center and Lake Olivia at Boat Ramp samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa*, but no toxins were detected in either sample. There was no dominate taxon in the Lake Hunter which had a total microcystin result of 0.80 parts per billion. Seventeen Mile Pond, Pine Tree Park and the Gulfstream Parkway Canal samples had no dominant taxon and no toxins were detected. The Oriole Beach sample was co-dominated by *Dolichospermum circinale* and another unidentified *Dolichospermum* species. A subsample of the algal identification sample has been provided to the DEP chemists for algal toxin analysis. Those results will be reported next week.

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.

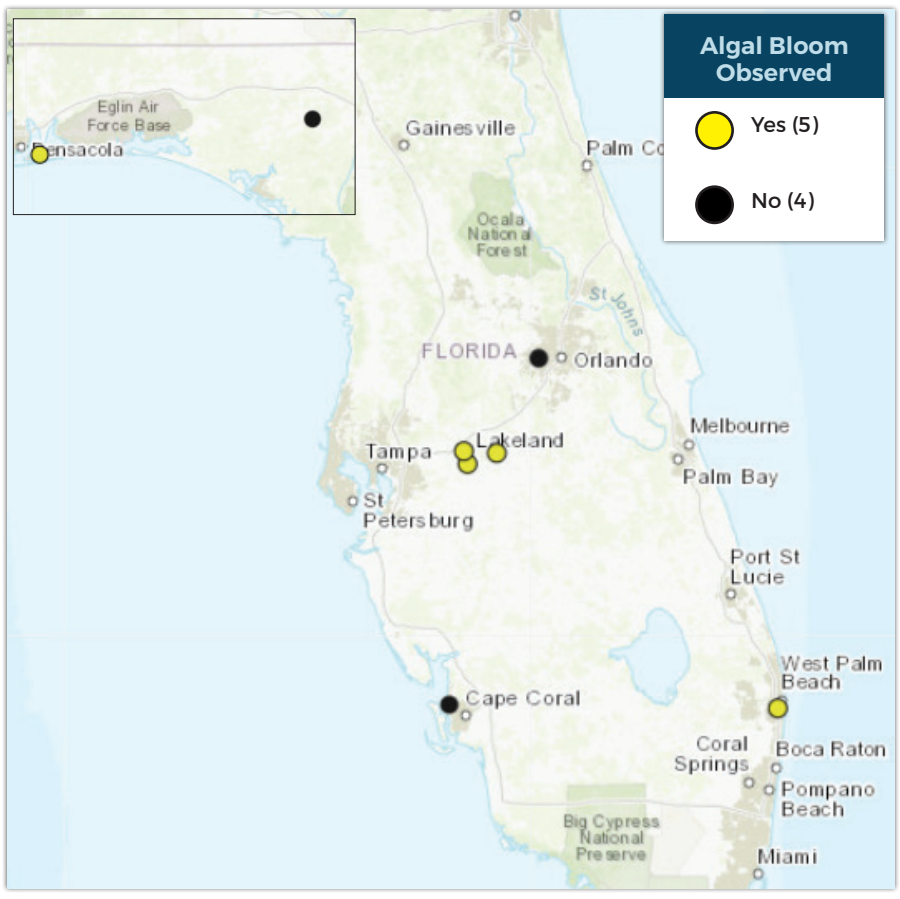
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS

Current Lake Release Schedule*		
West (S-79)	650 cfs	Pulse
East (S-80)	0 cfs	Constant
*Updates are generally made on Fridays		

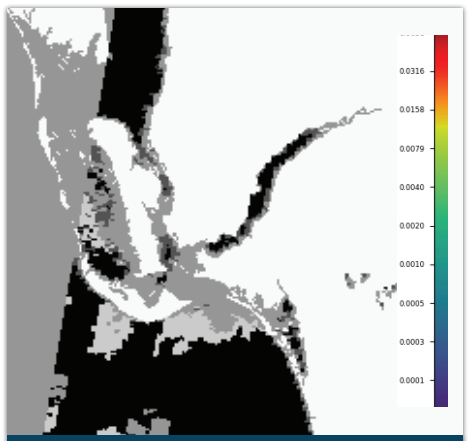
Total Inflows and Outflows (cfs)		
Weekly Inflow	2,294	
Weekly Outflow	West	3,411
	South	3,416
	East	625



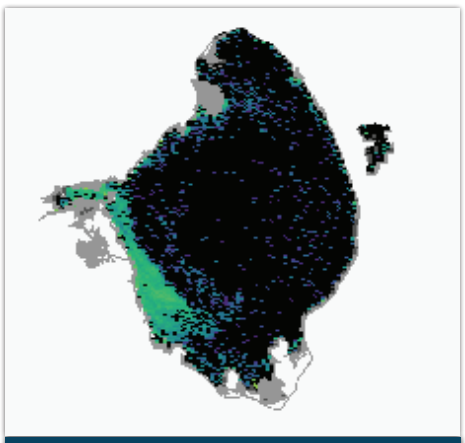
SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



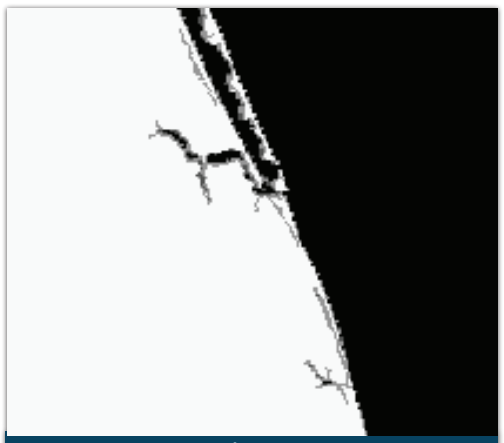
Satellite Imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud-cover



Caloosahatchee Estuary
November 20, 2019



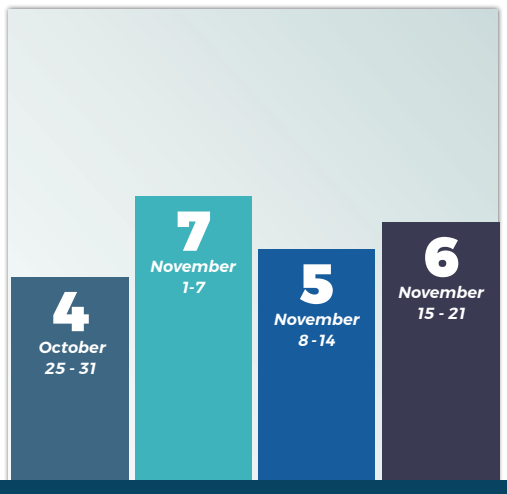
Lake Okeechobee
November 20, 2019



St. Lucie Estuary
November 20, 2019

St. Johns
November 20, 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