



BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING DECEMBER 6 - DECEMBER 12, 2019

SUMMARY

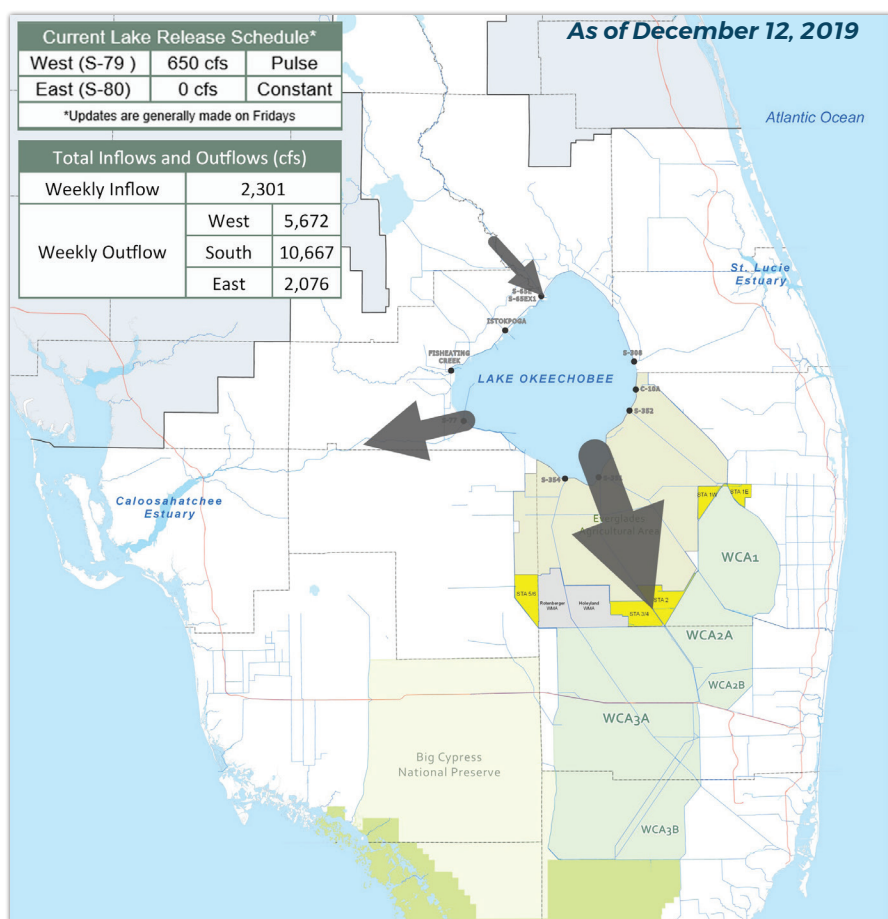
There were six reported site visits in the past seven days (12/06 - 12/12), with samples collected for all six visits. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at five of the six sites.

The most recent NOAA satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee that is not obscured by cloud cover is from 12/09, which shows approximately 15% coverage of low to moderate bloom potential, with the strongest signal in the south region of the lake. Imagery does not indicate any significant bloom activity in the estuaries, which were relatively clear of cloud cover. There was a very small area west of the I-75 bridge on the Caloosahatchee River that was showing some signal, but there have been no reports of blooms in this area. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff performed follow-up sampling on the west-southwest portion of Lake Okeechobee where the South Florida Water Management District had reported seeing olive-brown water the week before. The samples collected at North of Clewiston and Clewiston Boat Ramp were co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*, while the sample collected at East Cochran's Pass was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa*. All three samples had no detectable toxins.

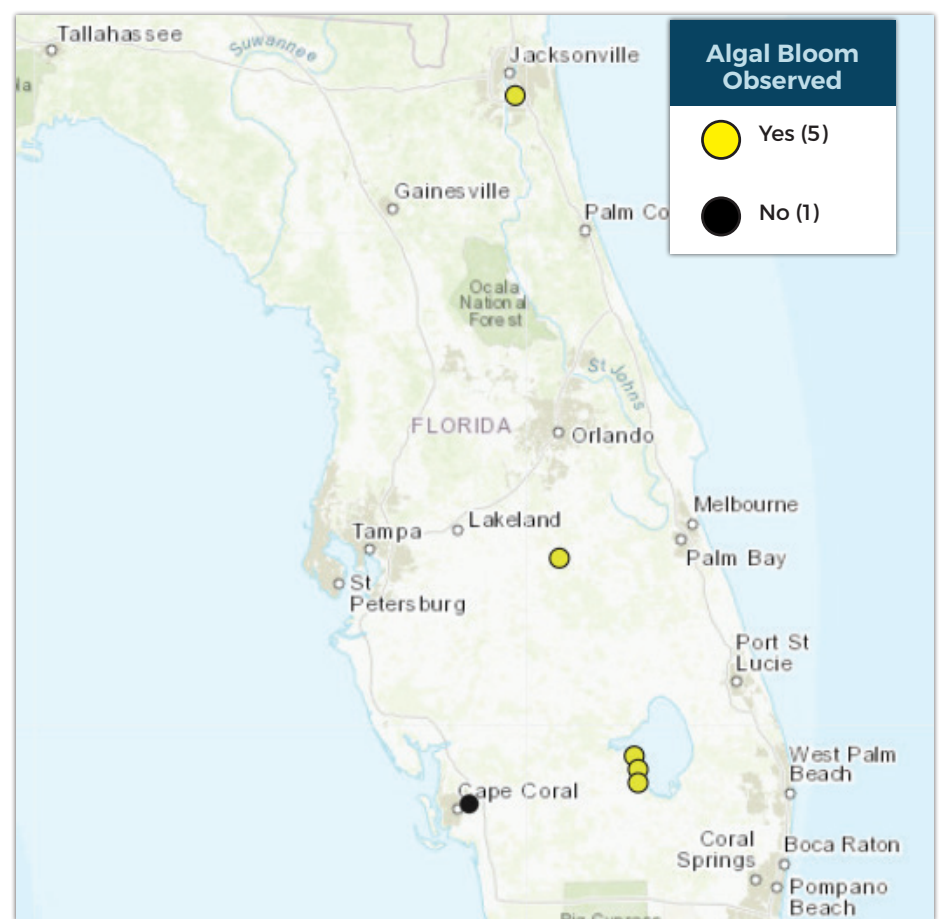
DEP staff performed sampling at three additional locations. The sample collected from the St. Johns River at Holly Grove Ave had no dominant algal taxa and no toxins were detected. The sample collected at Marina Town Hancock Creek was dominated by *Hillea fusiformis* and had no detectable toxins. The sample collected at Tiger Lake was co-dominated by *Microcystis wesenbergii* and *Dolichospermum circinale* and had an estimated trace level (0.67 parts per billion) of total microcystins.

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.

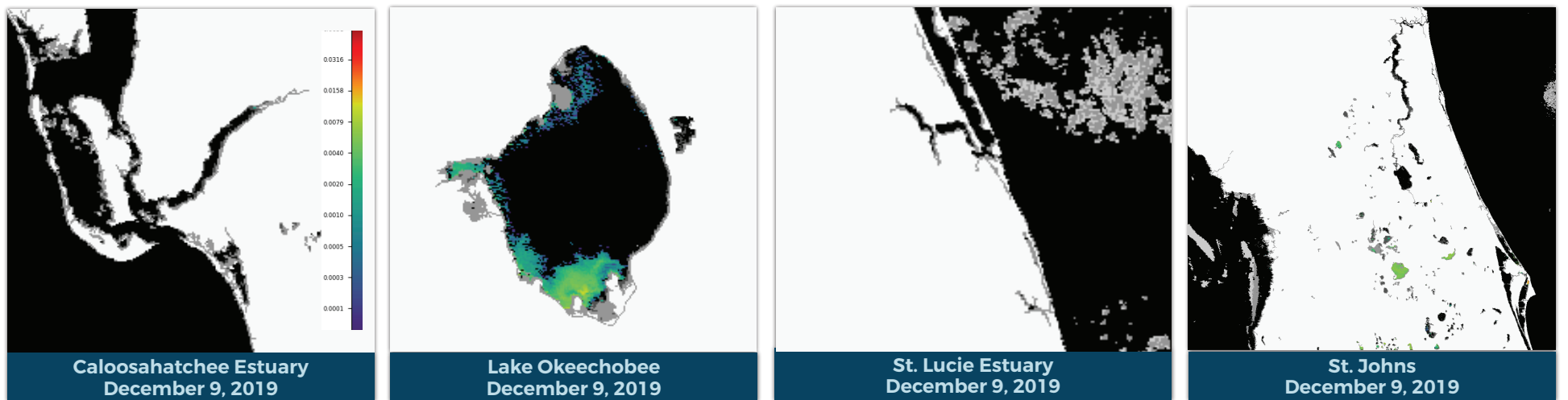
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



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