BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING FEBRUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 25, 2021

SUMMARY

There were 17 reported site visits in the past seven days (2/19 – 2/25), with 16 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at nine of the sites. The best available satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries from 2/22 showed no bloom potential on visible portions of Lake Okeechobee. No significant bloom potential was observed in either estuary. Satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 2/23 showed light scattered bloom potential on Lake George or on the visible portions of the St. Johns River. Please keep in mind that bloom potential is subject to change due to rapidly changing environmental conditions or satellite inconsistencies (i.e., wind, rain, temperature or stage).

On 2/22, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected a sample from **Thomas Lake – Center**. The sample was dominated by *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* and had no cyanotoxins detected.

On 2/23, Highlands County staff collected a sample from **Peachtree Dr. Canal – Near G-90**. The sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had no cyanotoxins detected.

On 2/23, DEP staff sampled **Lake Willasara – Center, Sykes Creek Access Canal – between Taurus Ct. and Centaurus Ct.**, **Lake Copeland – North of Center** and **Lake Ivanhoe – 200 feet from Boat Ramp**. Both the **Lake Willasara – Center** sample and the **Lake Ivanhoe – 200 Feet from Boat Ramp** sample were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa*, and trace levels of microcystins (1.2 parts per billion [ppb] and 0.27 ppb, respectively) were detected. The **Sykes Creek Access Canal – Between Taurus Ct. and Centaurus Ct.** sample had no dominant algal taxon and had no cyanotoxins detected. The **Lake Copeland – North of Center** sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had no cyanotoxins detected.

On 2/23, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff collected samples from **Indian River Lagoon – Parrish Park**, from **Indian River Lagoon – Eau Gallie Pier** and the **Banana River – 520 Slick Boat Ramp**. Cyanotoxin samples were not collected and algal identifications are still pending.

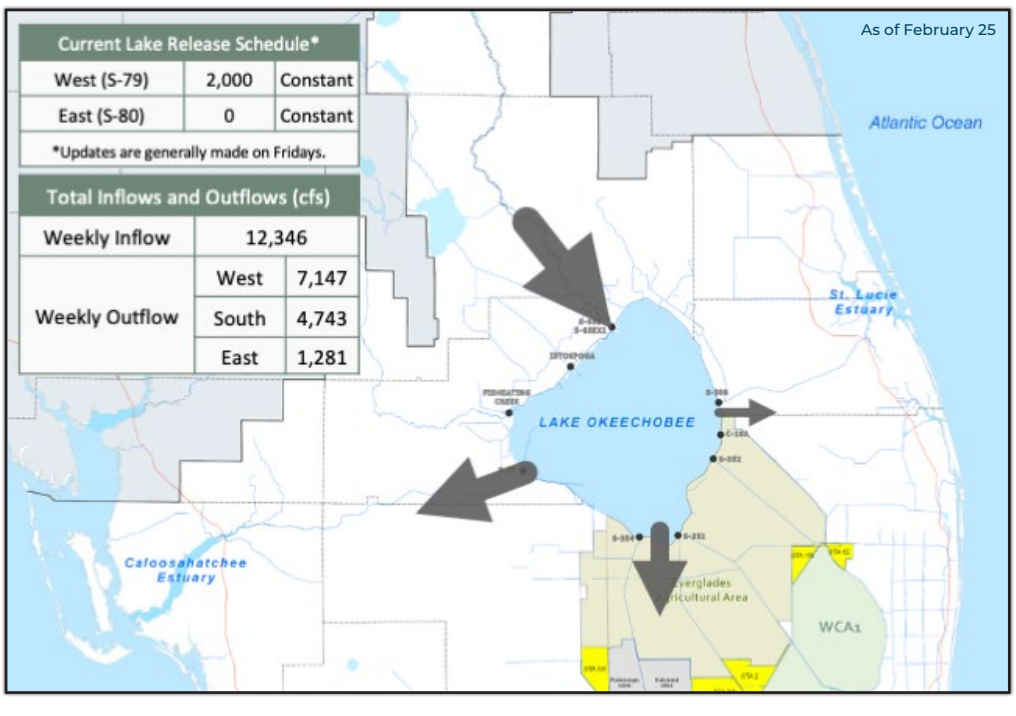
On 2/24, DEP staff sampled **Lake Pearl – Center.** The sample was co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Dolichospermum circinale* and had no cyanotoxins detected. DEP staff also visited **Bear Creek – Mango Ave South**. No bloom was observed, only floating aquatic plants, so no sample was collected.

On 2/24 and 2/25, St. Johns River Water Management District staff collected samples at **Blue Cypress Lake – Center, Fellsmere WMA – Center, Lake Jessup – Center, Lake Monroe – Center** and **Stick Marsh – North**. Results for all five sites are pending.

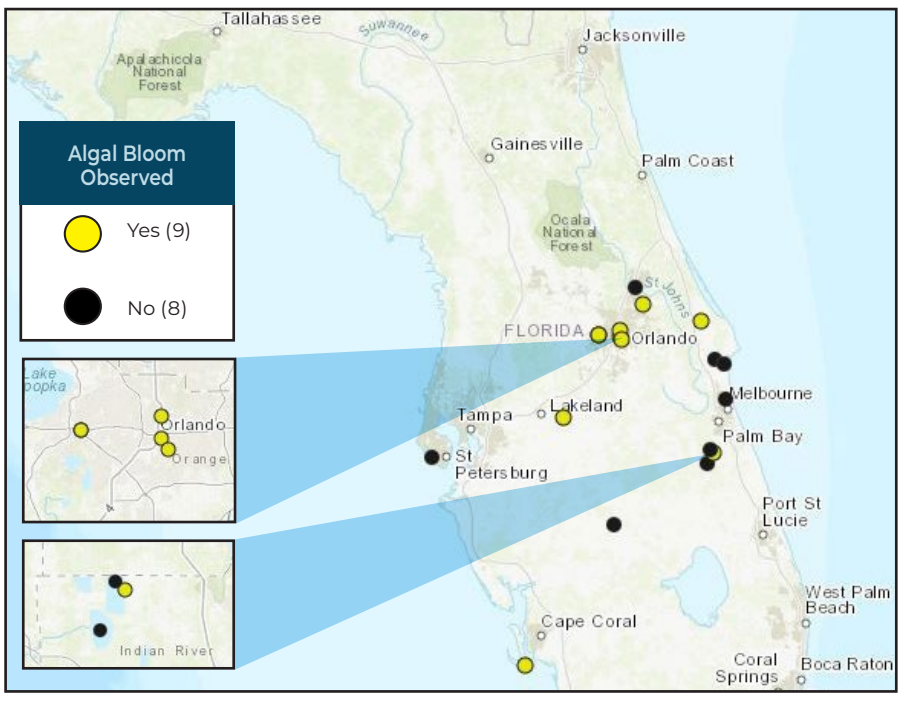
On 2/25, DEP staff sampled **Sanibel Slough – Middle Gulf Dr**. Results are pending.

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.

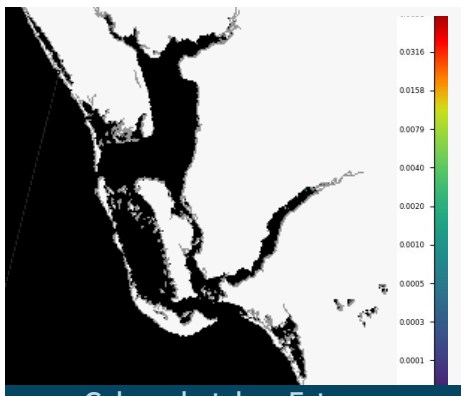
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

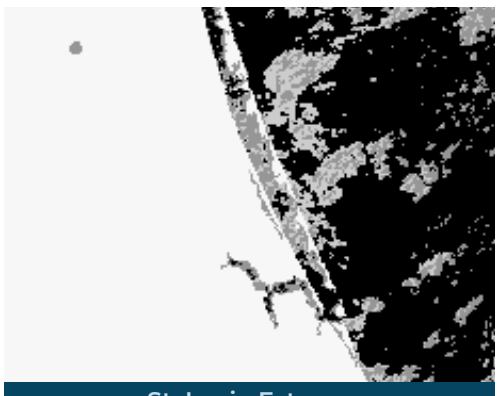


Satellite Imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud-cover.



Caloosahatchee Estuary
February 22, 2021

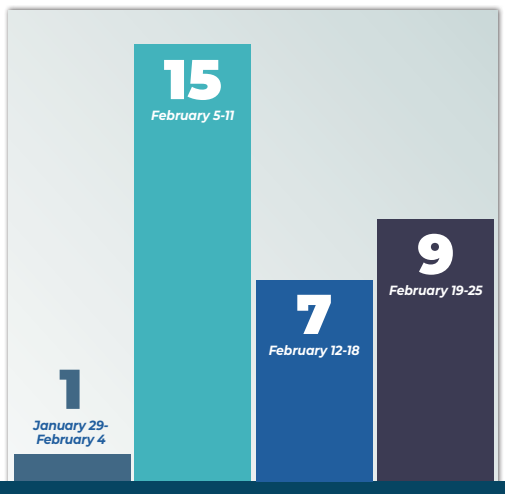
Lake Okeechobee
February 22, 2021



St. Lucie Estuary
February 22, 2021

St. Johns
February 23, 2021

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 visit our Water Quality website to check the current status and to receive updates.

PROTECTING TOGETHER

ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov