SUMMARY

There were 13 reported site visits in the past seven days (3/12 - 3/18), with 13 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at seven of the sites. The satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries from 3/18 showed no significant bloom potential on visible portions of Lake Okeechobee or either estuary. The best available satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 3/17 showed no bloom potential on Lake George or visible portions of the St. Johns River; however, satellite imagery from 3/18 was almost completely obscured by cloud cover. 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 3/17, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected 4 samples from sites Lake Ivanhoe - 200ft from boat ramp, Lake Holden - 90m S of Lake Holden Point, and Lake Conway - SW Shore. The Lake Ivanhoe - 200ft from boat ramp and Lake Conway - SW Shore samples had no dominant algal taxon and a trace level (0.29 ppb and 0.42 ppb, respectively) of microcystins detected. The Lake Holden - 90m S of Lake Holden Point sample was dominated by Microcystis wesenbergii and a trace level (0.89 ppb) of microcystins was detected.

On 3/17, Highlands County staff collected a sample from Huckleberry Lake - Canal Entrance. The sample was co-dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and Microcystis wesenbergii and a level of 12 ppb of microcystins was detected.

On 3/18, DEP staff collected 4 samples from sites Lake Mabel - 25m from NW shore, Trout Lake Canal - 35m from FL-19, Lake Estelle near OMA, and Banana Lake cut to Stahl. Results are pending.

Last Week

On 3/9 - 3/12, SFWMD staff collected samples from Lake Okeechobee at sites RITTA2, LZ50, PALMOUT and CVL10A. No dominant algal taxon or cyanotoxins were detected.