BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING MARCH 12 - MARCH 18, 2021

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 3/15, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff collected samples from **C51 Canal - S115A** and **C51 Canal - S155**. Both samples were co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Planktothrix agardhi*. In both samples, a trace level (0.47 parts per billion [ppb] and 0.58 ppb, respectively) of microcystins was detected.

On 3/15, St. Johns River Water Management District staff collected samples from **Lake Washington - Center** and **Lake George - Center**. Both samples had no dominant algal taxon with a trace level (0.40 ppb and 0.44 ppb, respectively) of microcystins detected.

On 3/16, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected a sample from **Lake Winnott - 147 Bakers Acres Rd.** The sample was dominated by *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* and a trace level (0.39 ppb) of microcystins was detected.

On 3/17, 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 aeruginosa* 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.

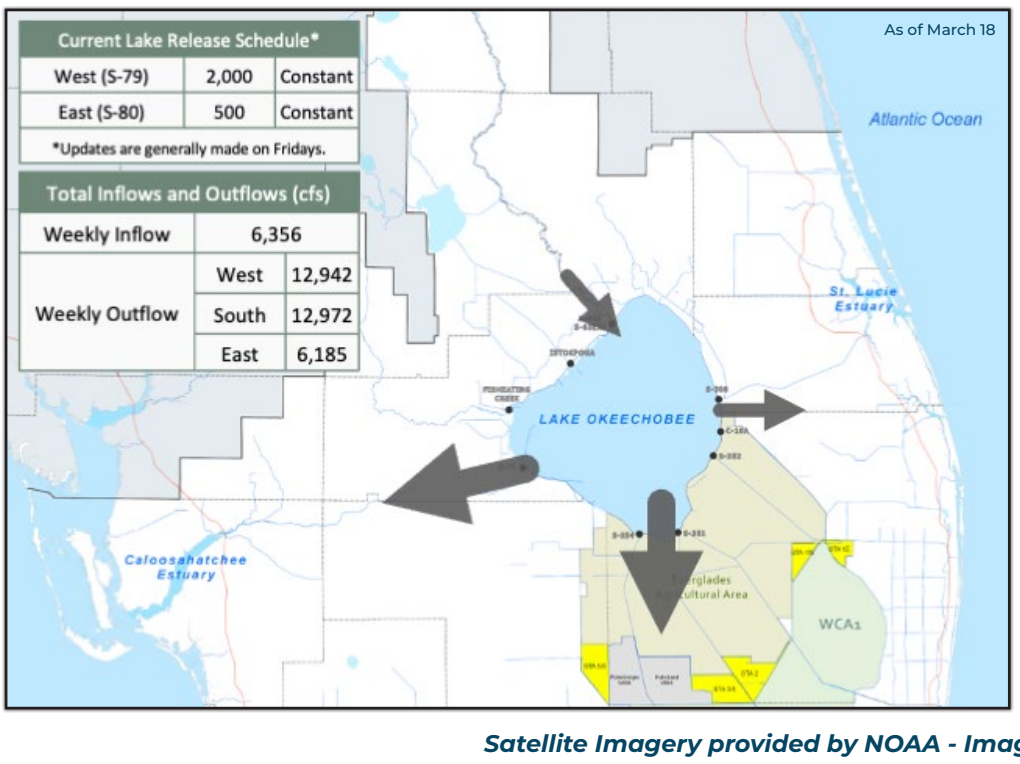
On 3/18, DEP staff collected 4 samples from sites **Lake Mabel - 25m from NW shore, Trout Lake Canal - 35m from FL-19, Lake Estelle near OMA,** and **Banana Lake cut to Stahl**. Results are pending.

Last Week

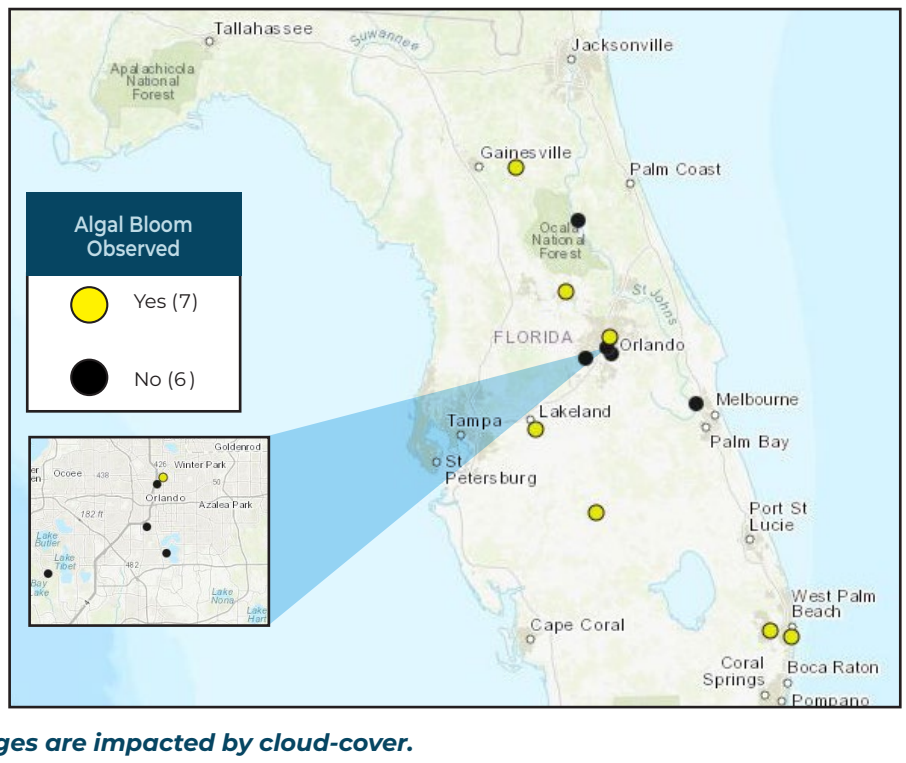
On 3/9 - 3/12, SFWMD staff collected samples from **Lake Okeechobee** at sites **RITTAE2, LZ30, PALMOUT** and **CLV10A**. No dominant algal taxon or cyanotoxins were detected.

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.

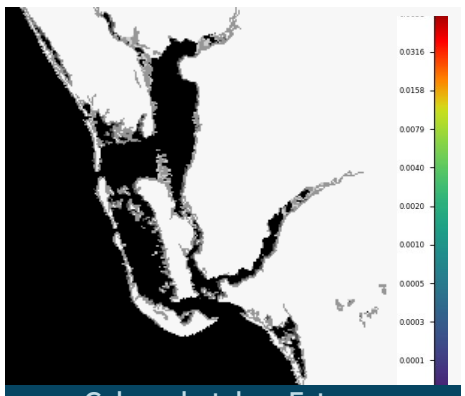
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

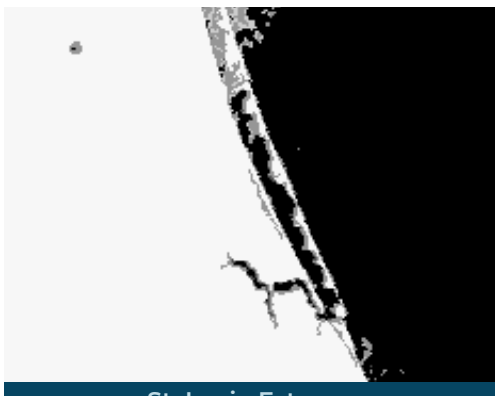


Satellite Imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud-cover.



Caloosahatchee Estuary
March 18, 2021

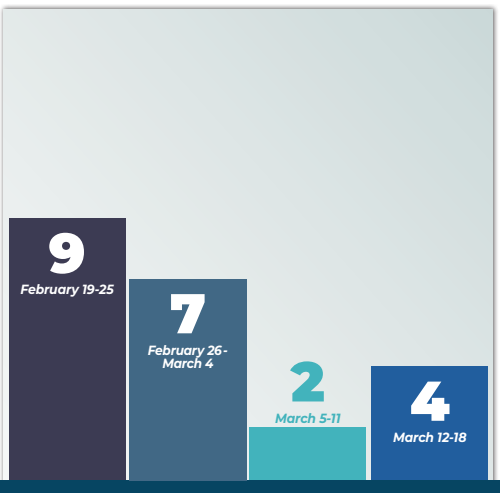
Lake Okeechobee
March 18, 2021



St. Lucie Estuary
March 18, 2021

St. Johns
March 17, 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