BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING MARCH 26 - APRIL 1, 2021

SUMMARY

There were 12 reported site visits in the past seven days (3/26 – 4/1), with 12 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 3/30 showed low bloom potential on visible portions of Lake Okeechobee or either estuary. The best available satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 3/26 showed no bloom potential on Lake George or visible portions of the St. Johns River; however, satellite imagery from 3/26 was heavily 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 3/29, South Florida Water Management District staff collected a sample from the **C43 Canal – S77 (Upstream)**. The sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had a trace level [0.42 parts per billion (ppb)] of microcystins detected.

On 3/29, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected a sample from **Lake Okeechobee – S308 (Lakeside)** and at the **C44 Canal – S80**. The **Lake Okeechobee – S308 (Lakeside)** sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had a trace level (0.79 ppb) of microcystins detected. The **C44 Canal – S80** sample had no dominant algal taxon and had a trace level (0.34 ppb) of microcystins detected.

On 3/29, Highlands County staff collected a sample from **Huckleberry Lake – Canal Entrance**. The sample was co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Microcystis wesenbergii* and had 2.5 ppb of microcystins detected.

On 3/30, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff collected samples from **Indian River Lagoon – Parrish Park, Banana River – 520 Slick Boat Ramp** and **Indian River Lagoon – Eau Gallie Pier**. Algal identification results are still pending. Cyanotoxin samples were not collected.

On 3/30, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) staff collected a sample from the **St. Johns River – Near Georgetown**. The sample had no dominant algal taxon and had a trace level (0.38 ppb) of microcystins detected.

On 3/31, DEP staff collected samples from **Lake Sloat – Near Park, Lake Pearl – Center** and **Lake Willsara – Center**. The **Lake Sloat – Near Park** sample had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins detected. The **Lake Pearl – Center** sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had no cyanotoxins detected. The **Lake Willsara – Center** sample was co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* and had a trace level (0.25 ppb) of microcystins detected.

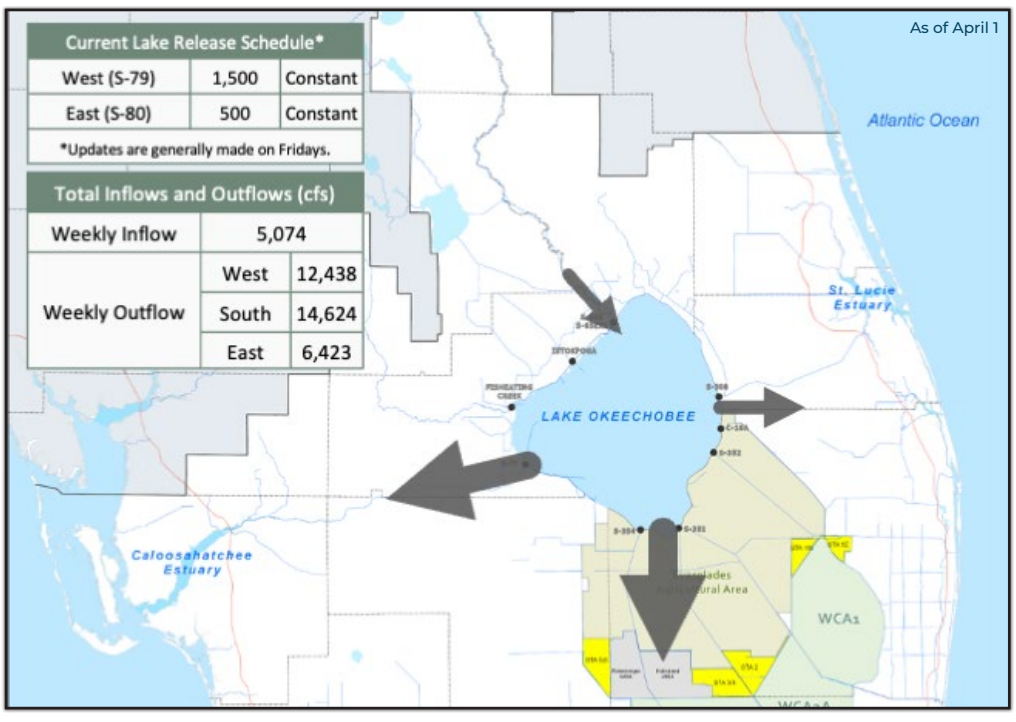
On 4/1, DEP staff collected a sample from **Lake Weir – North Shore**. Sample results are still pending.

Last Week

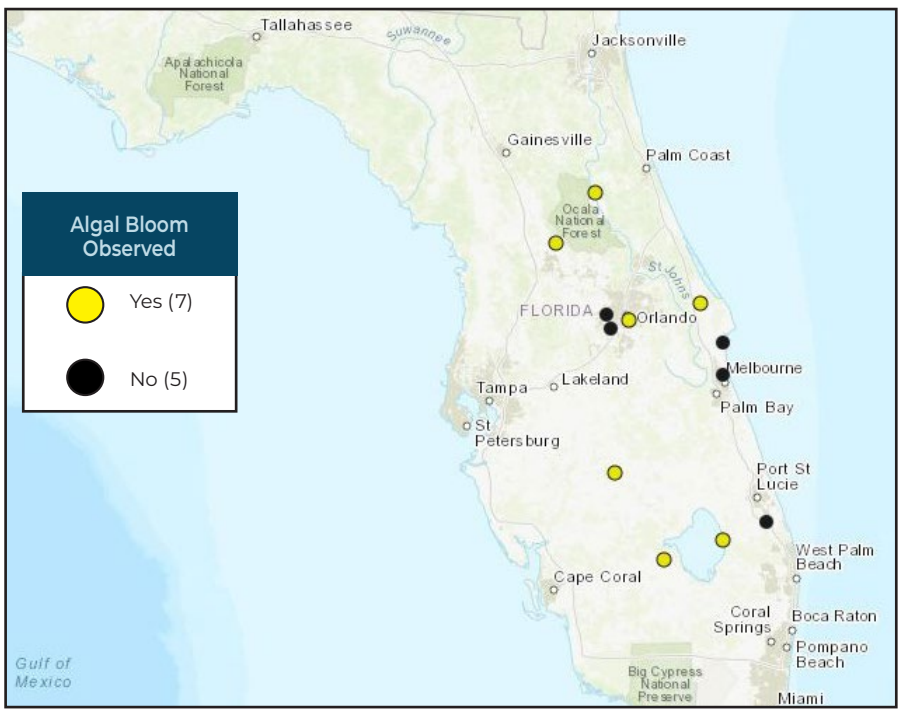
On 3/25, SJRWMD staff collected a sample from **Lake Monroe – Center**. The sample was dominated by *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* and had a trace level (0.33 ppb) of microcystins detected.

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.

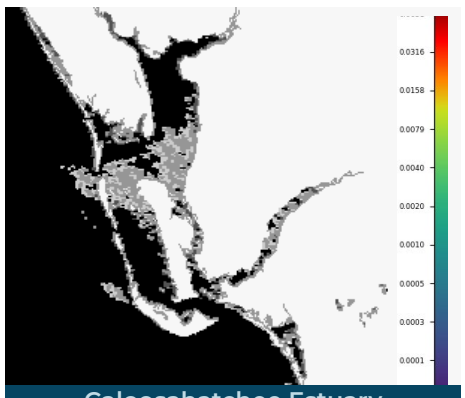
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

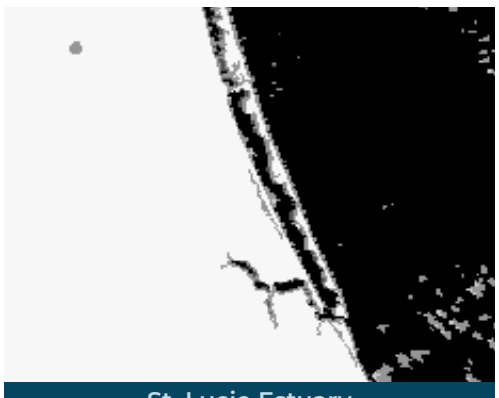


Satellite Imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud-cover.



Caloosahatchee Estuary
March 30, 2021

Lake Okeechobee
March 30, 2021



St. Lucie Estuary
March 30, 2021

St. Johns
March 26, 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