SUMMARY

There were 23 reported site visits in the past seven days (4/2 – 4/8), with 22 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at 14 of the sites. The satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee from 4/6 showed increasing low to moderate bloom potential on visible portions of Lake Okeechobee. No bloom potential was observed in visible portions of the Caloosahatchee or St. Lucie rivers or estuaries. The satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 4/6 showed increasing low to moderate bloom potential on Lake George and the visible St. Johns River downstream of Lake George. 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 4/6, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff collected a sample from the C43 Canal – 577 (Upstream) and at Lake Okeechobee – S508 (Lakeside). The C43 Canal – 577 (Upstream) sample was dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and had a trace level (0.53 parts per billion (ppb)) of microcystins detected. The Lake Okeechobee – S508 (Lakeside) sample had no dominate algal taxon and had a trace level (0.27 ppb) microcystins detected.

During 4/6 – 4/7, SFWMD staff collected samples from Lake Okeechobee at eight sites: KISSR0, L22, L005, POLEOUT, RITTAE2, L230, PALMOUT and CLVIDA. All stations except RITTAE2 and CLVIDA were dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa or Microcystis sp. Microcystin concentrations are presented for each site as follows: KISSR0 (Trace, 0.38 ppb), L22 (Trace, 0.53 ppb), L005 (Trace, 0.79 ppb), POLEOUT (Trace, 0.64 ppb), RITTAE2 (non-detect), L230 (1 ppb), PALMOUT (1.1 ppb) and CLVIDA (pending).

On 4/6, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected a sample from Lake Haines – Four Lakes Dock. The sample was co-dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and Aphanizophon flos-aquae and had 2.1 ppb of microcystins detected.

On 4/7, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff collected samples from Indian River Lagoon – Parrish Park, Banana River – S20 Slick Boat Ramp and Indian River Lagoon – Eau Callie Pier. Algal identification results are still pending. Cyanotoxins samples were not collected.

On 4/7, DEP staff visited two sites at Lake Minnehaha – 75 Meters South of Lakeshore Drive and Lake Minnehaha – 130 Meters Southeast of County Road 561. Staff only collected a sample from the Lake Minnehaha – 75 Meters South of Lakeshore Drive site since no bloom was visible at the Lake Minnehaha – 130 Meters Southeast of County Road 561 site. The Lake Minnehaha – 75 Meters South of Lakeshore Drive sample had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins were detected.

On 4/8, DEP staff collected samples from Lake Winnott – 147 Baker Acres, Lake Winnott – West Shore, Lake Winnott – Off Shore Lane, Lake Winnott – East Lobe, Lake Deer – 33rd St NW Boat Ramp, Trout Lake Canal – 35 Meters From HWY 19 and Lake Toho – Marina Dock. Results are still pending.

Last Week

On 4/1, DEP staff collected a sample from Lake Weir – North Shore. The sample was co-dominated by Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii and Botryococcus brauni. No cyanotoxins were detected in the sample.

This is a high-level summary of the sampling events for the reported week. For all field visit and analytical result details, please refer to the complete algal bloom maps and reports. Different types of blue-green algal bloom species can look different and have different impacts. However, regardless of species, they can produce toxins that can make you or your pets sick if swallowed or possibly cause skin and/or eye irritation due to contact. Avoid contact with any out of water algae which is visibly present as spots, mats or water is discolored. Pets or livestock should not come into contact with the algal bloom-impacted water, or the algal bloom species can produce toxins that can make you or your pets sick if swallowed. Additionally, pets or livestock should not come into contact with the algal bloom-impacted water, or the algal bloom species can produce toxins that can make you or your pets sick if swallowed.

REPORT ALGAL BLOOMS

- Observe an algal bloom in a lake or freshwater river
- Information about blue-green algal blooms

FRESHWATER BLOOM

- Observe or a fish kill
- Information about red tide and other saltwater algal blooms

SALTWATER BLOOM

- Observe stranded wildlife or a fish kill
- Information about red tide and other saltwater algal blooms

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)
- Learn more about Florida’s Algal Bloom Monitoring and Response visit our Water Quality website to check the current status and to receive updates.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

- Florida Poison Control Centers can be reached 24/7 at 800-222-1222 (DOH provides grant funding to the Florida Poison Control Centers)
- Contact FWC 800-636-0611 (Fish kill) 888-404-3922 (wildlife Alert)
- MyFWC.com/RedTide
- FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom

Contact DOH 855-305-3903 (to report freshwater blooms)

Contact DEP

ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov