BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING APRIL 23 - APRIL 29, 2021

SUMMARY

There were 19 reported site visits in the past seven days (4/23 – 4/29), with 19 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at 11 of the sites.

The satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee from 4/29 showed low to moderate bloom potential along the shoreline of Lake Okeechobee, with portions of the southern shoreline obscured by cloud cover. No significant bloom potential was observed in visible portions of the Caloosahatchee river or estuary. The St. Lucie river and estuary were obscured by cloud cover. The satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 4/29 was partially obscured by cloud cover and showed low to moderate bloom potential on Lake George and portions of the 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 4/23, 4/24, 4/25, 4/26, 4/27, 4/28 and 4/29, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected water samples at approximately **nine locations in the area near Port Manatee in Tampa Bay** in response to the Piney Point emergency release. Bloom conditions have been observed in the localized area of previous discharges and continue to be monitored. During this reporting period, results have ranged from non-detect to trace [0.37 parts per billion (ppb)] levels of cyanotoxins. For daily updates and sampling data results, please visit ProtectingFloridaTogether.org/PineyPointUpdate.

On 4/26, South Florida Water Management District staff collected samples at the **C43 Canal – S77 and C43 Canal – S79 structures**. The **C43 Canal – S77** sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had trace levels (0.39 ppb) of microcystins detected. The **C43 Canal – S79** sample had no dominant algal taxon and had trace levels (0.35 ppb) of microcystins detected.

On 4/26, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected samples at **Lake Okeechobee – S308C (Lakeside), Lake Okeechobee – Clewiston Boat Ramp** and **Lake Okeechobee – Pahokee Marina**. All three samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had trace (0.60 ppb), 4.6 ppb and 860 ppb microcystins detected, respectively. DEP is actively working with SFWMD on cleanup and sampling efforts at **Pahokee Marina**, and will continue to respond to the algal blooms in this area.

On 4/26, Highlands County staff collected a sample from **Huckleberry Lake – Canal Entrance**. The sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had 1.6 ppb of microcystins detected.

On 4/27, 4/28 and 4/29, St. Johns River Water Management District staff collected samples from **St. Johns River – Mandarin Point; Doctors Lake – Center; St. Johns River – Shands Bridge; Blue Cypress Lake – Center; Lake George – Center; Crescent Lake – Mouth of Dunns Creek; Stick Marsh – North;** and **Lake Washington – Center**. The **St. Johns River – Mandarin Point, Doctors Lake – Center, St. Johns River – Shands Bridge** and **Lake George – Center** samples had no dominant algal taxa and no cyanotoxins detected. The **Blue Cypress Lake – Center** sample was dominated by *Microcystis sp.* and had no cyanotoxins detected. The **Crescent Lake – Mouth of Dunns Creek** sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had no cyanotoxins detected. The **Lake Washington - Center** and **Stick Marsh – North** sample results are still pending.

On 4/28, DEP staff collected a sample from **Lake Eustis – Northwest Corner**. The sample was dominated by *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* and had no cyanotoxins detected.

On 4/29, DEP staff collected samples from **Lake Winnott – 147 Bakers Acres** and **Lake Otis – Boat Ramp**. Sample results are still pending.

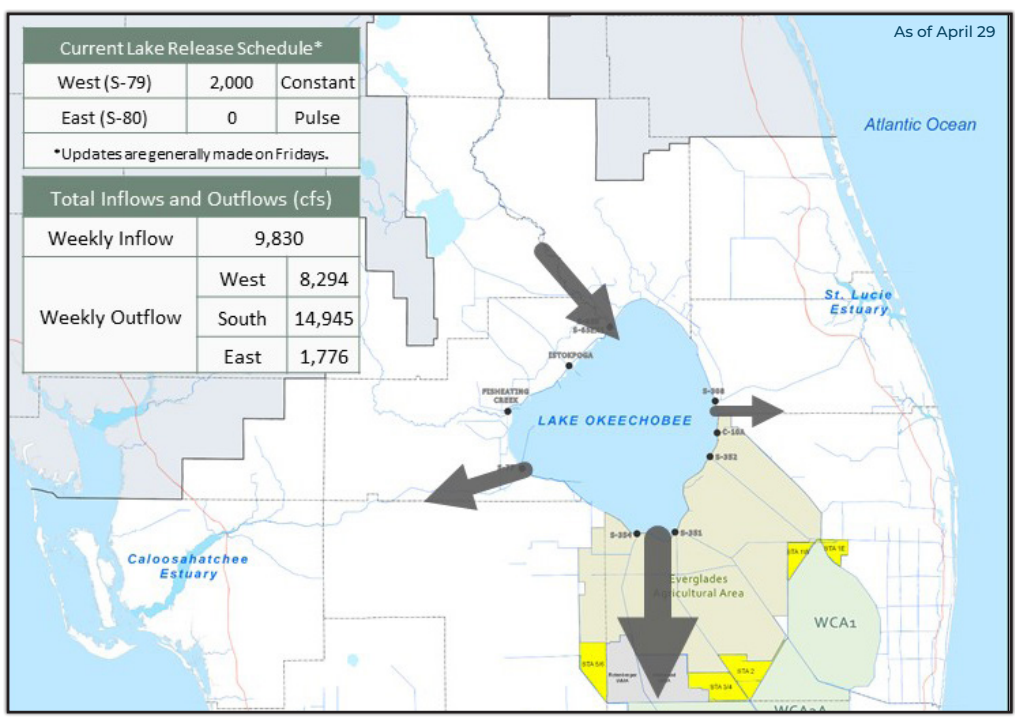
Last Week

On 4/22, DEP staff collected samples from **Sawgrass Lake – from CWC Dock** and **Dead River – Residential Canal South of US 441**. The **Sawgrass Lake – from CWC Dock** sample was dominated by *Dolichospermum planctonicum* and had no cyanotoxins detected. The **Dead River – Residential Canal South of US 441** sample was dominated by *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* and had a trace level (0.32 ppb) of microcystins detected

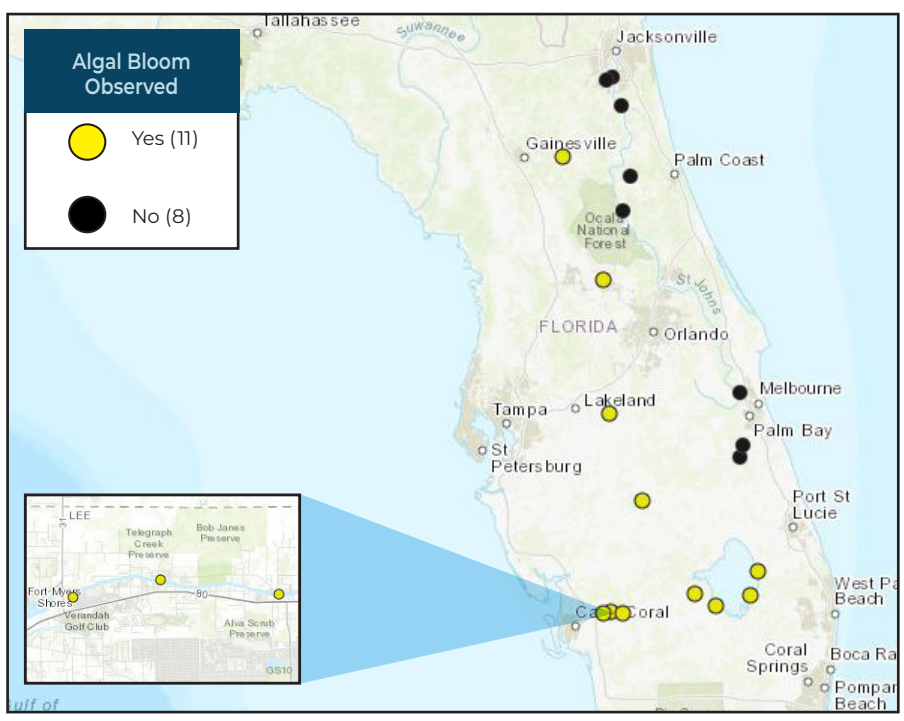
On 4/22, Orange County staff collected samples at **Lake Anderson – NW Corner, Lake Conway – SW Shore** and **Lake Holden – 90 Meters S of Lake Holden Point**. The **Lake Anderson – NW Corner** sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had trace levels (2.3 ppb) of microcystins detected. The **Lake Conway – SW Shore** sample had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins detected. The **Lake Holden – 90 Meters S of Lake Holden Point** sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had no cyanotoxins 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.

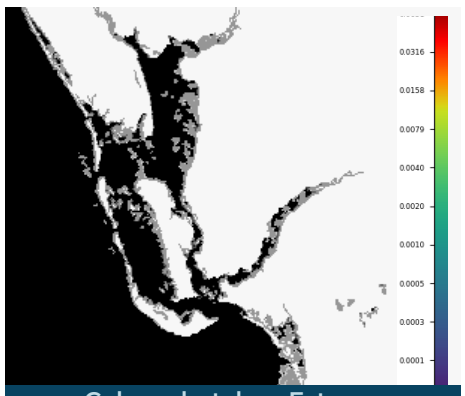
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



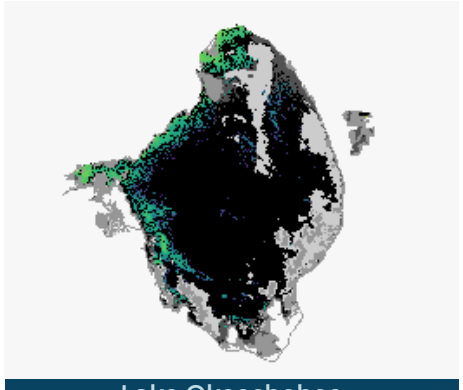
SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



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

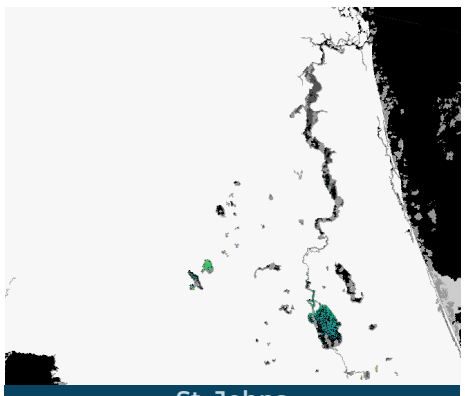


Caloosahatchee Estuary
April 29, 2021



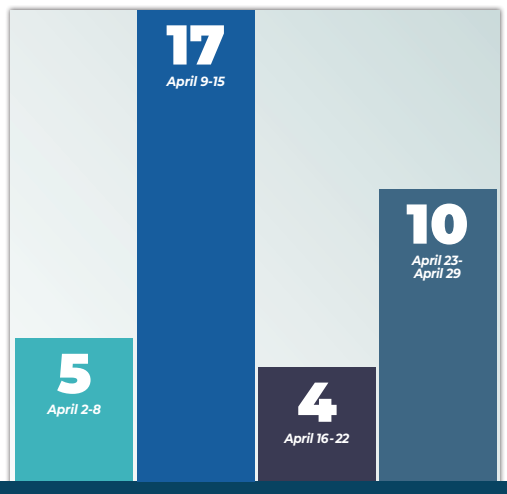
Lake Okeechobee
April 29, 2021

St. Lucie Estuary
April 29, 2021



St. Johns
April 29, 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