There were 31 reports of visits in the past seven days (10/16 - 10/22), with 31 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at eight sites.

On 10/15, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff collected samples from Lake George and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries. From 10/17 to 10/22 has been heavily obscured by cloud cover. A small fraction of the southwest portion of the lake is visible in imagery from 10/18 and there is some indication of low algal bloom potential in the few visible portions. The most recent visible imagery available was included in last week’s HAB report. The imagery from 10/15 showed approximately 40% coverage of medium to high algal bloom potential on the lake. No boom potential was observed on the visible portions of either estuaries.

Satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 10/17 to 10/22 has also been heavily obscured by cloud cover. The 10/18 imagery is least obscured and did not show any significant bloom potential on Lake George or visible portions of the main stem of the St. Johns River. Please keep in mind that boom potential is subject to change due to rapidly changing environmental conditions or satellite inconsistencies (i.e., wind, rain, temperature or stage).

On 10/10, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff collected samples from C43 Canal – S77 (Upstream) and S304C (Lakeside). No dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins were detected in the two samples.

On 10/22, samples were collected at Lake Washington Center, Doctor’s Lake Center, and SJR at Mandal Point. The sample was co-dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii. The sample had a trace level (0.55 ppb) of cylindrospermopsin detected (saxitoxin results pending).

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On 10/22, samples were collected at Lake Okeechobee stations PALMOUT, PALMOUT2, L256, POLESL, RITTA2, L220A, L007, L006, PELBAY, and L240. Sample results are pending. On 10/15, SJRWMD staff collected a sample at Lake Jessup-Center that was co-dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii. The sample had a trace level (0.55 ppb) of cylindrospermopsin detected (saxitoxin results pending).

On 10/19, SJRWMD staff collected a sample from Crescent Lake - mouth of Dunns Creek on 10/16 and samples from SJR at Mandarin Point, Doctor's Lake-Center, and SJR at Shands Bridge on 10/15. The sample was co-dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii. The sample had a trace level (0.55 ppb) of cylindrospermopsin detected (saxitoxin results pending).

On 10/14 and samples from SJR at Mandarin Point, Doctor's Lake-Center, and SJR at Shands Bridge on 10/15. The sample was co-dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii. The sample had a trace level (0.55 ppb) of cylindrospermopsin detected (saxitoxin results pending).

On 10/15, 2020 DEP collected a sample from Direct Run-off upstream of Laurel Drive. The sample was co-dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and Dolichospermum planctonicum. Toxins were detected at 31 ppb, the result was Y’ qualified to indicate improper sample preservation because the sample was received above six degrees Celsius.

This is a high level summary of the sampling events for the reported week. For all field and analytical result details, please refer the complete algal bloom maps 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 handheld or possibly cause skin and eye irritation due to contact. We advise to stay out of water where algae is visibly present as specks, mats 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.