SUMMARY

There were 21 reported site visits in the past seven days (2/5 – 2/11) with 21 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at 12 of the sites. The best available satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries from 2/7 showed scattered low bloom potential on visible portions of Lake Okeechobee. No significant bloom potential was observed in either estuary. Satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 2/7 showed no bloom potential on Lake George. The lower St. Johns River was obscured by cloud cover; however, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) samplers did not observe algal bloom conditions on the St. Johns River between Mandarin Point and the Shands Bridge this week during their routine monthly monitoring trip. 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 2/8, DEP and SJRWMD staff collected samples from Lake Okeechobee – northwest lobe. All three samples were dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and had 3.1 parts per billion (ppb), 3.6 ppb and 4.9 ppb total microcystin, respectively. On 2/8, South Florida Water Management District (SFWM) staff collected a sample from Lake Okeechobee – S308C (lakeside). The sample had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins were detected.

On 2/8, SJRWMD staff collected samples from the St. Johns River – Mandarin Point, St. Johns River – Shands Bridge and Doctors Lake – Center. No dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins were detected in any of the samples.

On 2/9, Collier County staff collected samples from Naples Moorings Bay – Park Shore Marina and Naples Moorings Bay – Park Shore Discharge. Both samples were co-dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and Dolichospermum planctonicum. No cyanotoxins were detected in the samples.

On 2/9, SJRWMD staff collected a sample from Black Creek Canal – Ebbtide Court. The sample was dominated by Enteromorpha flexuosa and no cyanotoxins were detected.

On 2/9 and 2/10, SFWM staff collected samples from Lake Okeechobee at eight sites: KISSR0.0, LZ2, L005, POLESOUT, RITTAE2, LZ30, PALMOUT and CLV10A. Due to shipping delays, these results are still pending.

On 2/11, DEP staff collected samples from Lake Minnehaha – 130 meters southeast of Lake Drive, Lake Minnehaha – 130 meters southeast of Highway 561 and Lake Okeechobee. Sample results are still pending.

On 2/11, SJRWMD staff collected samples from Harbor Isle Lake – Southern Lobe, Harbor Isle Lake – Center and Harbor Isle Lake – Northwest Lobe. All three samples were dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and had 3.1 parts per billion (ppb), 3.6 ppb and 4.9 ppb total microcystin, respectively.

On 2/11, SJRWMD staff collected a sample from Lake Okeechobee – S308C (lakeside). The sample had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins were detected.

On 2/11, DEP staff collected samples from Lake Minnehaha – 75 meters south of Lakeshore Drive, Lake Minnehaha – 130 meters southeast of Highway 561 and Lake Okeechobee. Sample results are still pending.

This is a high-level summary of the sampling events for the reported week. For field visit and analytical result details, please refer to 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, 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. Life below the top layer of water where algae is actively present as specks, mats or water is discolored blue-green or turquoise-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.

REPORTRPUBLIC 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)

SALTWATER BLOOM

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

FRESHWATER BLOOM

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

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

CONTACT DOH

(DD county office)

FloridaHealth.gov/ all-county-locations.html

CONTACT FWC

800-636-0611 (Fish kills)
888-404-3922 (wildlife alert)
MyFWC.com/RedTide

CONTACT FWC

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.