BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING APRIL 3 - APRIL 9, 2020

SUMMARY

There were 12 reported site visits and samples collected in the past seven days (4/3-4/9). Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at all 12 sites.

Satellite imagery of Lake Okeechobee from 4/9 shows light to moderate bloom potential on less than 10% of the lake, primarily concentrated along the northwest shore. Significant bloom potential was not observed in the Caloosahatchee Estuary or St. Lucie River; however, portions of the estuaries were obscured by cloud cover. Imagery from 4/8 of the St. Johns River was largely obscured by cloud cover but continues to show moderate bloom potential on Lake George. Bloom potential may adjust due to rapidly changing environmental conditions, such as wind, rain, temperature or stage, or satellite inconsistencies.

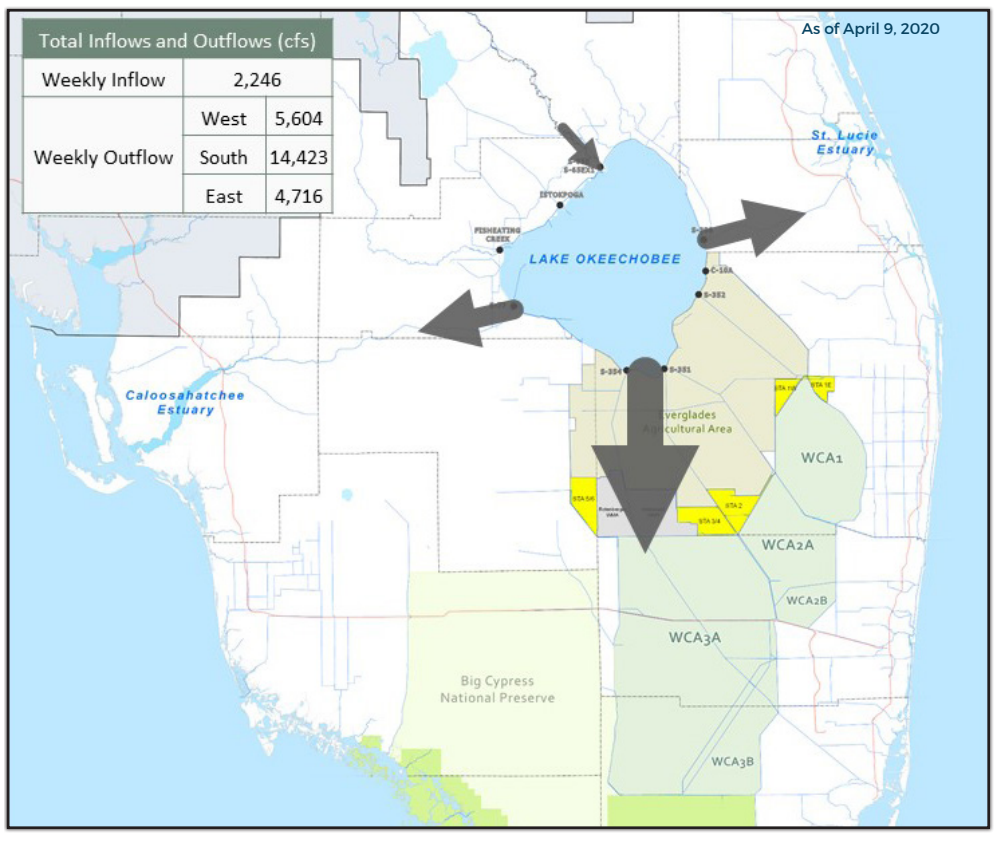
The South Florida Water Management District performed its monthly Lake Okeechobee monitoring. The district collected one bloom sample on 4/6 at Lake Okeechobee-S308C, which was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and 36 parts per billion total microcystins, and one sample of each on 4/8 from Lake Okeechobee-LZ25A and Lake Okeechobee-CLV10A. The Lake Okeechobee-LZ25A sample had no dominant algal taxa and only trace levels (0.33 parts per billion) total microcystins, while the Lake Okeechobee-CLV10A sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had only trace levels (0.42 parts per billion) total microcystins.

On 4/2, St. Johns River Water Management District collected a sample at Bull Creek, at the mouth of Dead Lake; however, the results were reported as pending last week. The Bull Creek-at the mouth of Dead Lake had no dominant algal taxa and no cyanotoxins were detected.

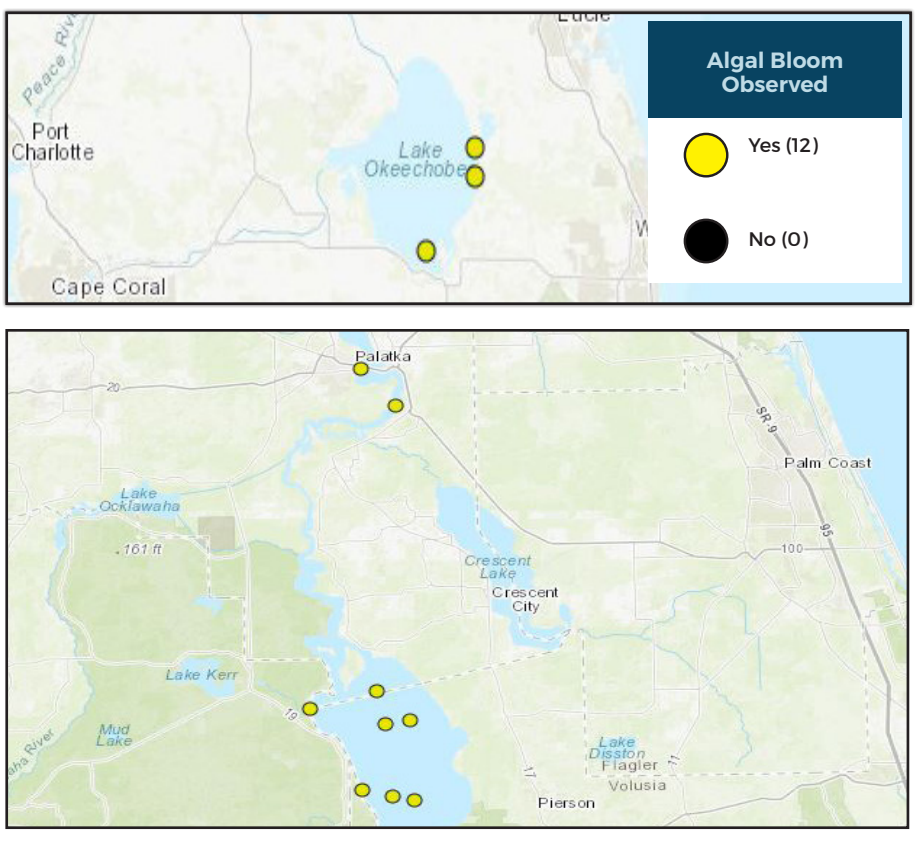
On 4/7, St. Johns River Water Management District collected samples from seven locations on Lake George (Lake George, North; Lake George, East; Lake George, South; Lake George, Southwest; Lake George, Center; Lake George, at mouth of Silver Glen; Lake George, at mouth of Salt Springs), and on the mainstem of the river at St. Johns River at Palatka City Dock and at Channel Marker 12. There has been a shipping delay and DEP's Laboratory is waiting for the samples to be delivered. These results will be reported next week.

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.

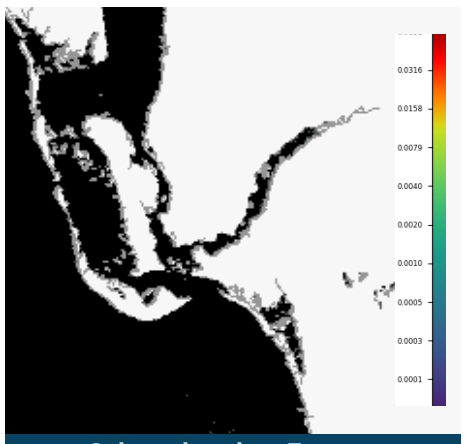
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



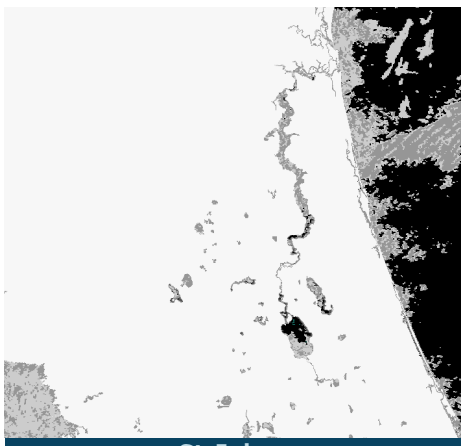
Satellite Imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud-cover



Caloosahatchee Estuary
April 9, 2020

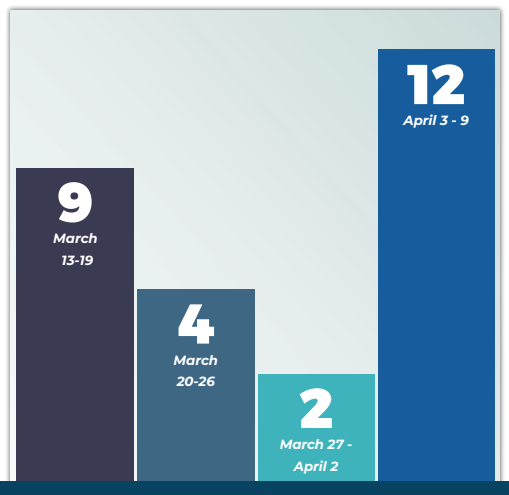
Lake Okeechobee
April 9, 2020

St. Lucie Estuary
April 9, 2020



St. Johns
April 9, 2020

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