BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING APRIL 10 - APRIL 16, 2020

SUMMARY

There were three reported site visits in the past seven days (4/10-4/16), with three samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at one site.

Satellite imagery of Lake Okeechobee from 4/13 shows light bloom potential on less than 10% of the lake, primarily concentrated along the northwest shore; however, there was considerable cloud cover over the lake, making it difficult to get an accurate estimate of lake-wide bloom coverage. Recent imagery for the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries has been obscured by cloud cover.

Recent imagery for the St. Johns River also has been obscured by cloud cover, but bloom conditions likely persist on Lake George and the mainstem of the St. Johns River between Lake George and Palatka. 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 4/7, St. Johns River Water Management District staff observed widespread bloom conditions on Lake George and the mainstem of the St. Johns River between Lake George and Palatka. They 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-Mouth of Silver Glen, Lake George-Mouth of Salt Springs), and on the mainstem of the river at St. Johns River at Palatka City Dock and at Channel Marker 12. Results were not available for last week's report due to shipping delays.

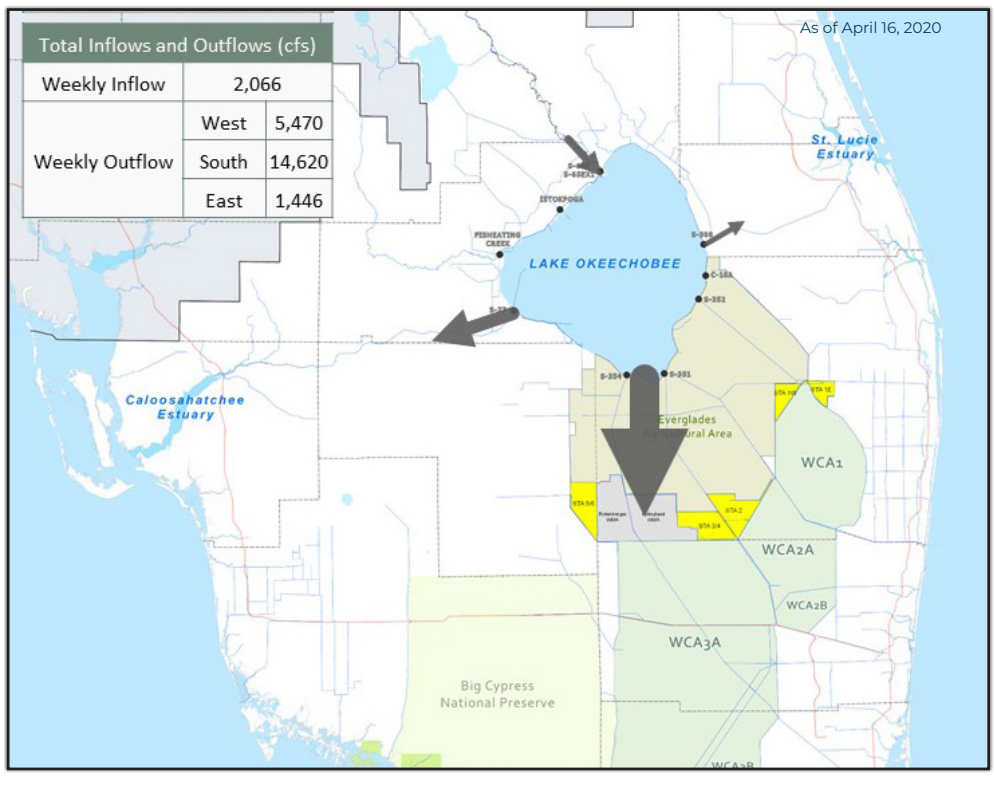
Cyanotoxins were non-detect in any of the samples. All but one of the Lake George samples were dominated by *Planktolyngbya limnetica*, with only the Lake George-Mouth of Silver Glen differing, being co-dominated by *Planktolyngbya limnetica* and *Dolichospermum circinale*. The St. Johns River at Palatka City Dock sample had no dominant algal taxon, and at Channel Marker 12 the sample was dominated by *Dolichospermum circinale*.

On 4/14, Lee County staff collected a sample at the Caloosahatchee River-Alva Boat Ramp where algae were observed forming streaks and accumulating along the shoreline. No cyanotoxins were detected. The sample was co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*.

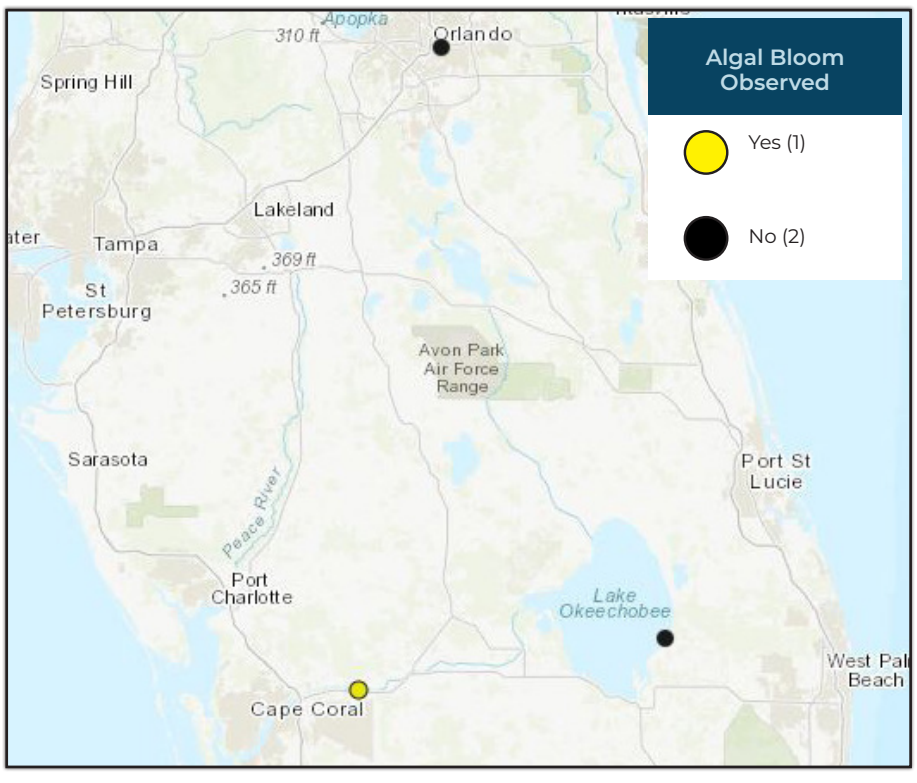
On 4/15, Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff collected a sample from Lake Arnold. Bloom conditions were not observed by the samplers, and no cyanotoxins or dominate algal taxon were observed in the sample.

This is a high-level summary of the sampling events for the reported week. For all field visit and analytical result details, please refer 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.

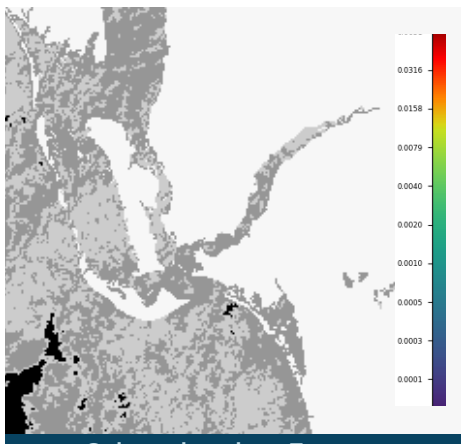
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



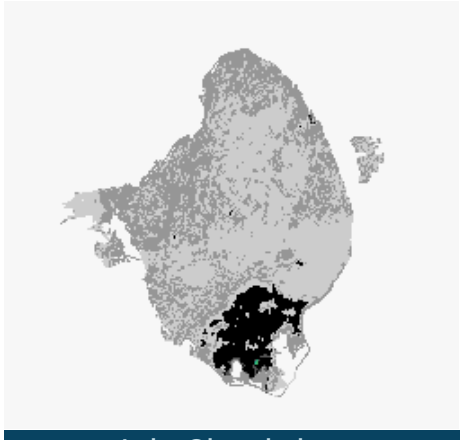
SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



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



Caloosahatchee Estuary
April 16, 2020

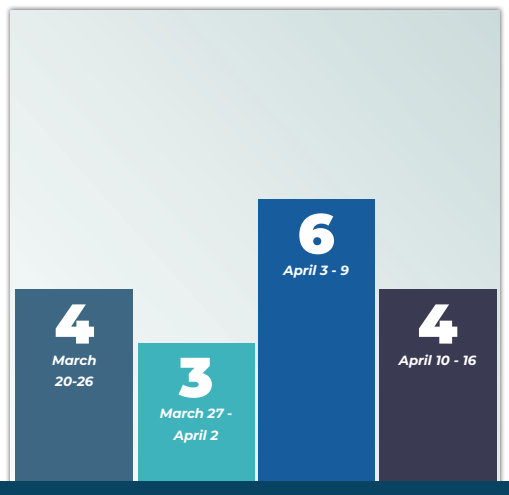


Lake Okeechobee
April 16, 2020

St. Lucie Estuary
April 16, 2020

St. Johns
April 16, 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