



BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING APRIL 24 - APRIL 30, 2020

SUMMARY

There were four reported site visits in the past seven days (4/24-4/30), with three samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at two sites.

Satellite imagery of Lake Okeechobee from 4/28 is partially obscured by cloud cover, making it difficult to get an accurate estimate of lake bloom coverage (greater than 25%); however, moderate bloom potential can be observed along the northwest shoreline, with light bloom potential in nearshore waters for the rest of the lake. Satellite imagery from 4/28 for the Caloosahatchee River and estuary shows no observable bloom activity, while the St. Lucie River and estuary were obscured by cloud cover, making it difficult to get an accurate estimate of bloom activity.

Satellite imagery from 4/28 for the St. Johns River shows moderate to high bloom potential in Lake George and moderate bloom potential in the mainstem of the St. Johns River downstream of Lake George to approximately Green Cove Springs. Doctors Lake is also showing moderate to high bloom potential. St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) staff surveyed portions of the river on 4/29 and found no surface scums, only olive drab colored water. No samples were collected during these visits. 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).

Both the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the SJRWMD will begin their enhanced algal bloom monitoring starting in May, with more routine stations being visited and sampled for algal identification, cyanotoxins, chlorophyll a and nutrients twice a month in addition to algal bloom response sampling.

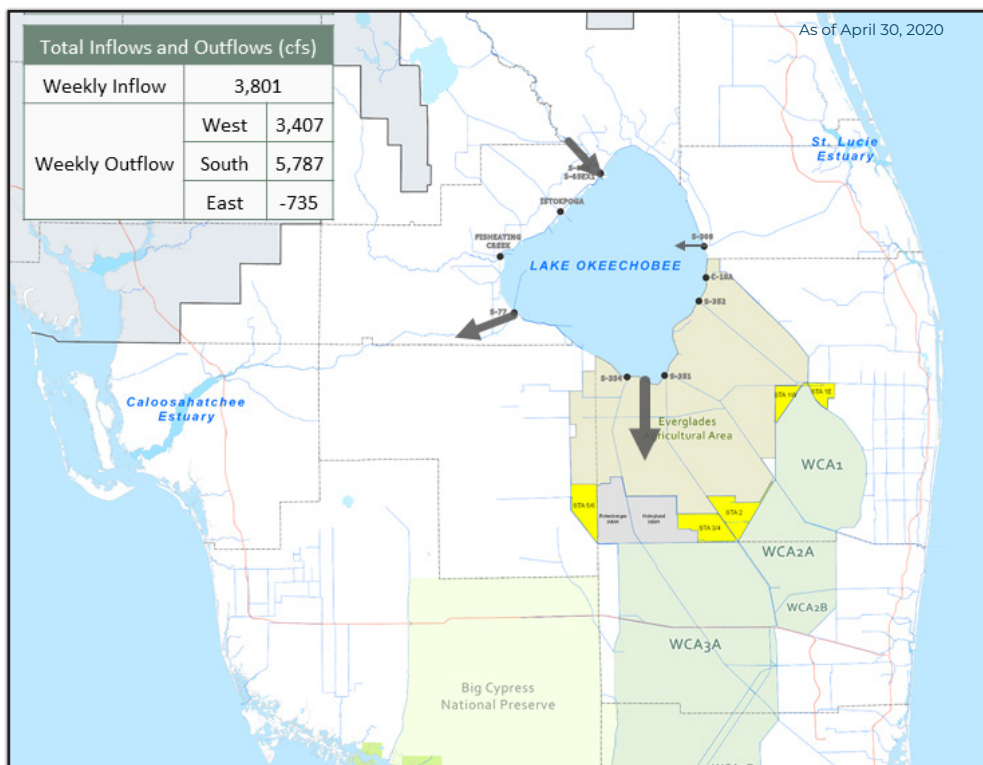
On 4/27, Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff responded to a complaint about a bloom on Miramar Creek in Duval County. No bloom was observed, and no sample was taken at this time.

On 4/28, SFWMD staff collected samples on Lake Okeechobee – Pahokee Marina and on the C44 canal – downstream of the S153 structure. SFWMD staff observed bloom conditions at the Pahokee Marina, but not downstream of the S153 structure on the C44 canal. The Lake Okeechobee – Pahokee Marina sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had trace levels (0.63 parts per billion) of total microcystin. The C44 canal sample had no dominant algal taxon and no detectable cyanotoxins.

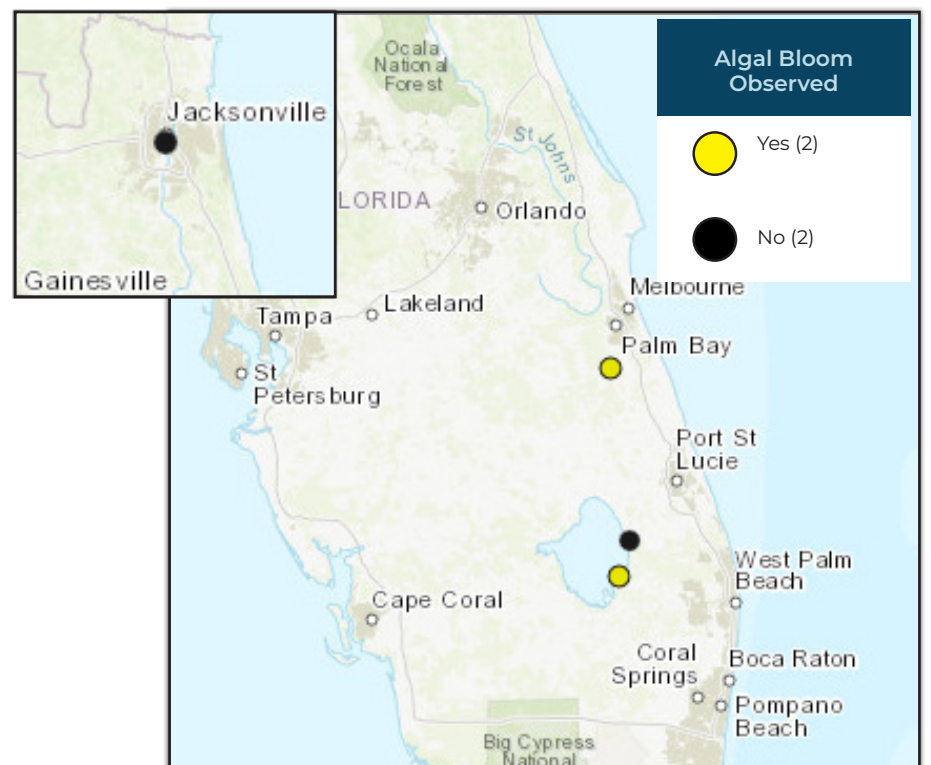
On 4/29, SJRWMD staff collected a sample from Fellsmere Water Management Area – Center. Analysis results are still pending and will be reported early next week.

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.

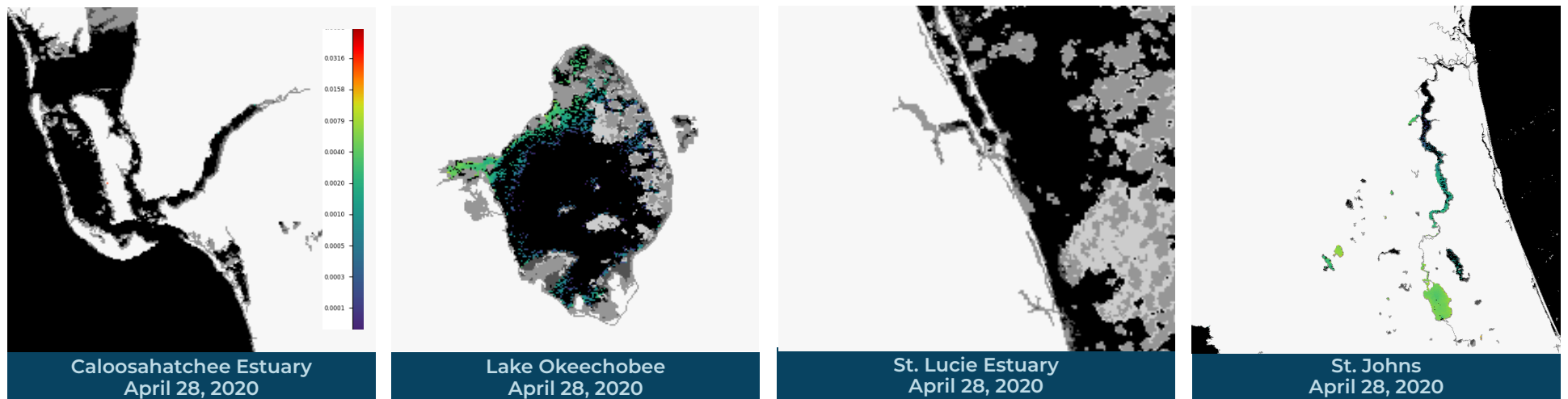
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



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



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