



BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING MAY 1 - MAY 7, 2020

SUMMARY

There were 13 reported algal bloom site visits in the past seven days (5/1-5/7), with 12 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at 11 sites.

Satellite imagery of Lake Okeechobee from 5/6 is partially obscured by cloud cover, making it difficult to get an accurate estimate of lake bloom coverage (approximately 30%); however, moderate bloom potential can be observed along most of the perimeter of the lake. Satellite imagery from 5/6 for the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers and estuaries show no observable bloom activity but are partially obscured by cloud cover.

Satellite imagery from 5/6 for the St. Johns River is also partially obscured by cloud cover but shows moderate to high bloom potential in Lake George and some visible bloom potential on the mainstem of the St. Johns River near 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).

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

On 4/29, SJRWMD staff collected a sample from Fellsmere Water Management Area-Center and those results are now available. The sample was co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Dolichospermum circinale*, and 3.0 parts per billion total (ppb) microcystins were detected. On 5/4, SJRWMD staff responded to a bloom complaint at Saratoga Harbor, Satsuma, but they did not observe bloom conditions and did not collect any samples.

On 5/4, SFWMD staff collected samples on the C43 Canal at the S79 structure and on the L28 Canal-2.5 Miles North of S344. Both samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had no detectable cyanotoxins.

On 5/5, Lee County staff collected a sample on the Caloosahatchee River at the Franklin Lock (Upstream). The sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had trace levels (0.36 ppb) total microcystins detected.

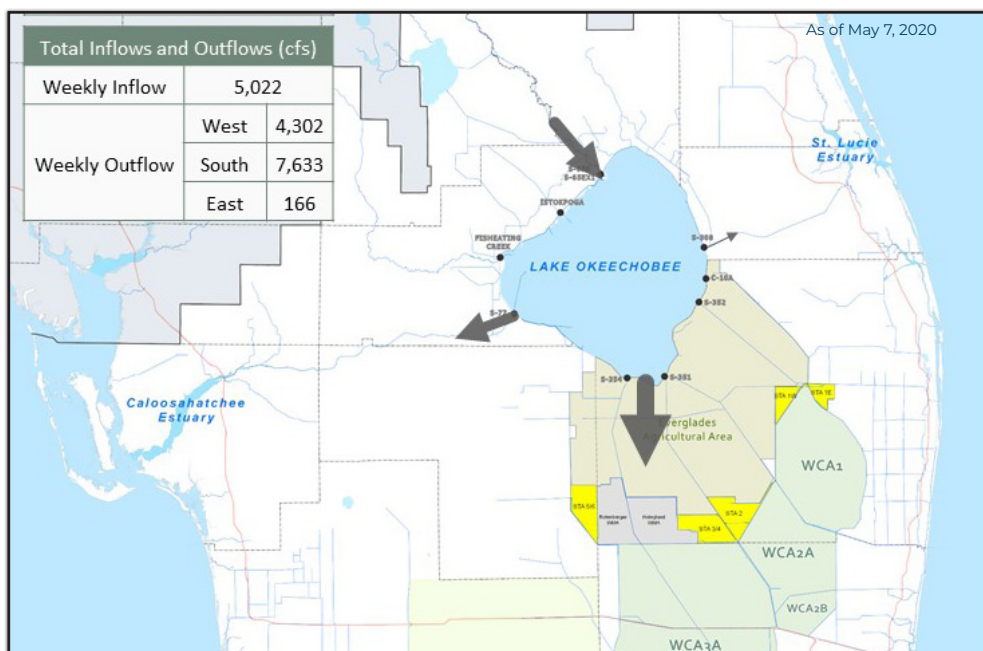
On 5/5 and 5/6, SFWMD staff visited 28 routine monitoring stations on Lake Okeechobee and observed algal bloom conditions at eight of those stations (NES135, L008, PELBAY3, L007, LZ25A, LZ30, PALMOUT2 and PALMOUT3). Samples from all stations except L008 were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa*. L008 had no dominant algal taxon. Total microcystin results for Lake Okeechobee stations are as follows: NES135 (2.5 ppb); L008 (non-detect); PELBAY3 (2.6 ppb); L007 (6.8 ppb); LZ25A (1.5 ppb); LZ30 (34.9 ppb); PALMOUT2 (trace, 0.53 ppb); and PALMOUT3 (trace, 0.98 ppb). No other cyanotoxins were detected.

Results for all 28 Lake Okeechobee monitoring stations will be posted in the near future on the [Protecting Florida Together Lake Okeechobee Water Quality Map](#).

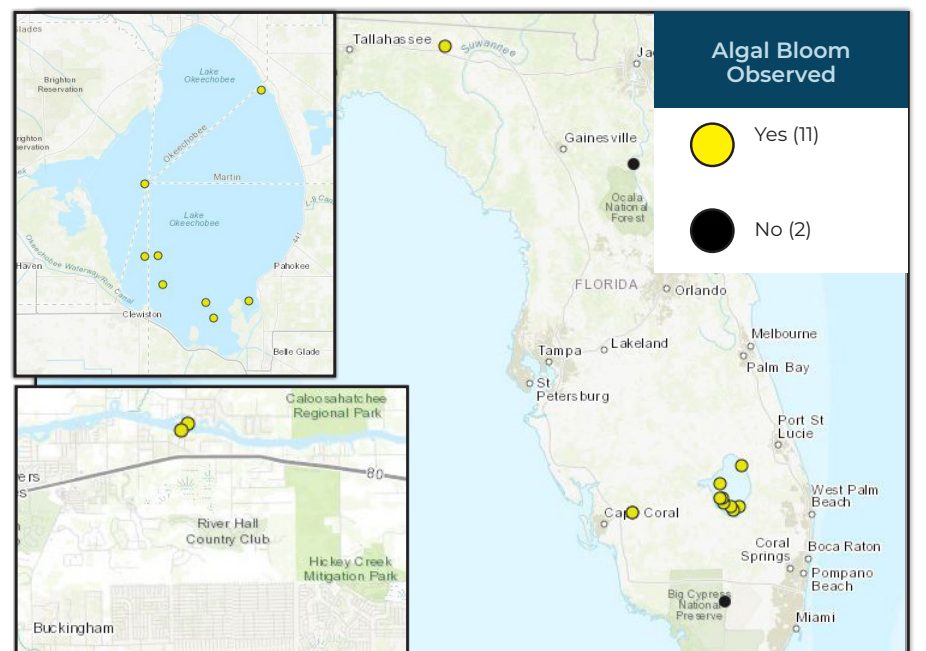
On 5/6, Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff visited Lake Francis in response to a bloom complaint. No cyanotoxins were detected in the sample. Algal identification results are pending.

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.

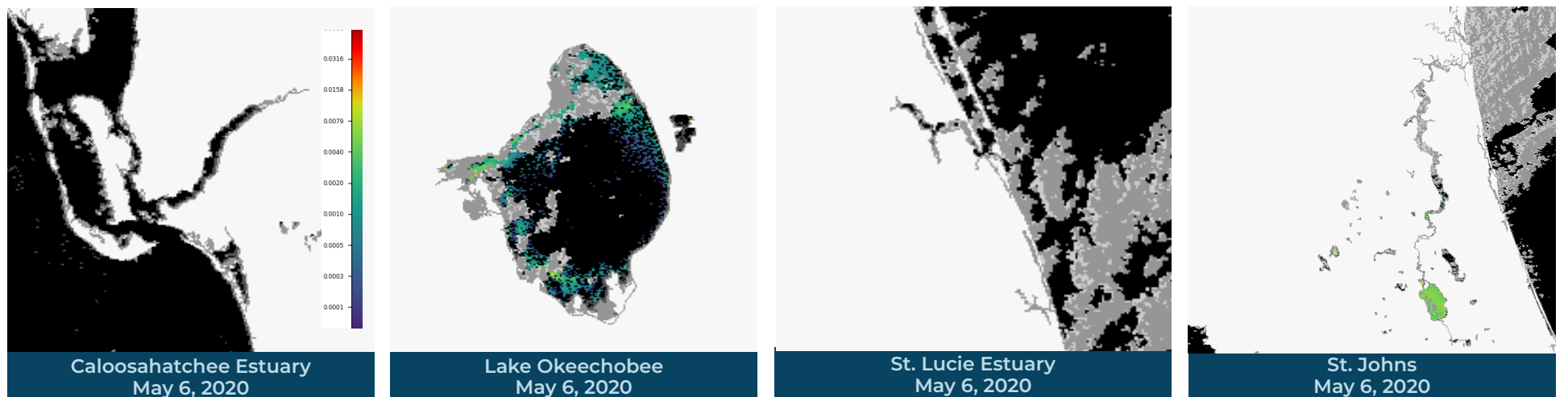
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



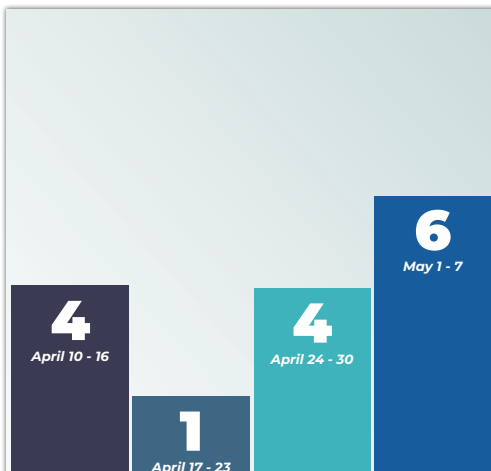
SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



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

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