BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING MAY 8 - MAY 14, 2020

SUMMARY

There were three reported algal bloom site visits in the past seven days (5/8-5/14), with one sample collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at one site.

Satellite imagery from 5/13 shows light to moderate bloom potential on approximately 35% of Lake Okeechobee, while the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers and estuaries show no observable bloom activity.

Satellite imagery from 5/13 for the St. Johns River is partially obscured by cloud cover but shows moderate to high bloom potential in Lake George. The mainstem of the St. Johns River from Lake George to Green Cove Springs has recently shown moderate bloom potential, but it is currently obscured by cloud cover, so an accurate estimate of the current conditions is not possible. Staff from the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) will perform routine monitoring on the river in this area next week. 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).

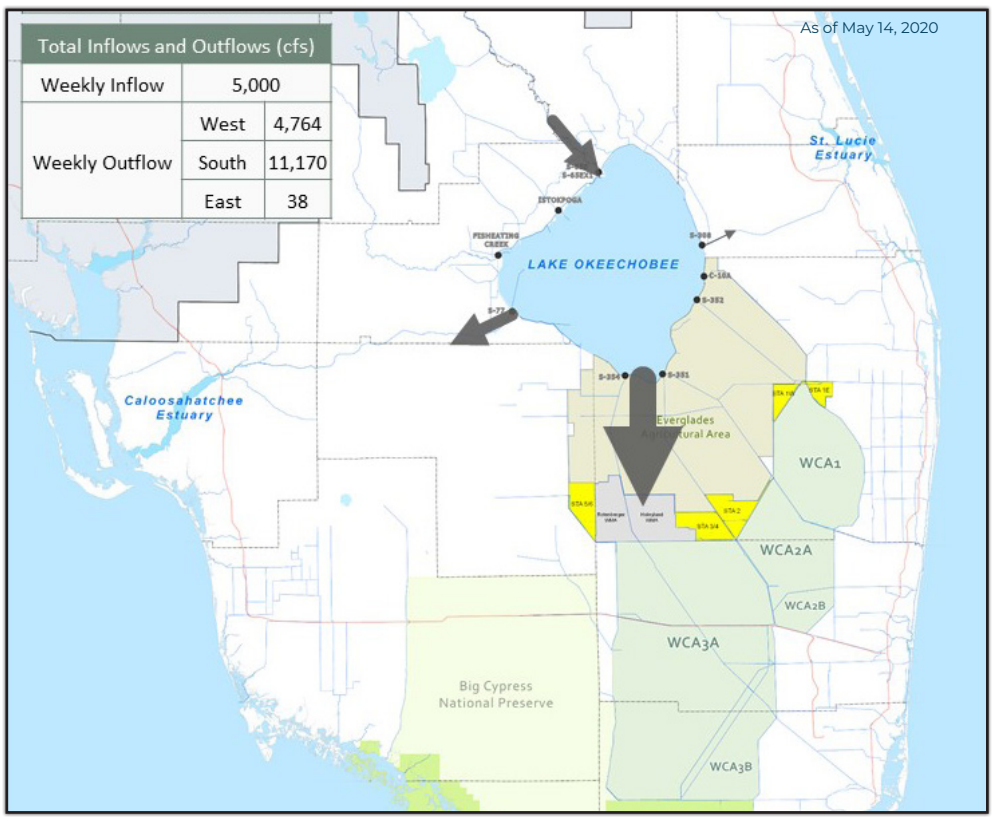
On 5/11, South Florida Water Management District staff sampled the C43 Canal at the S77 structure. The sample was co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*. No cyanotoxins were detected in the sample.

On 5/11, Florida Department of Environmental Protect staff responded to a bloom complaint at San Marco Lake (canal). Water conditions appeared normal and no samples were collected.

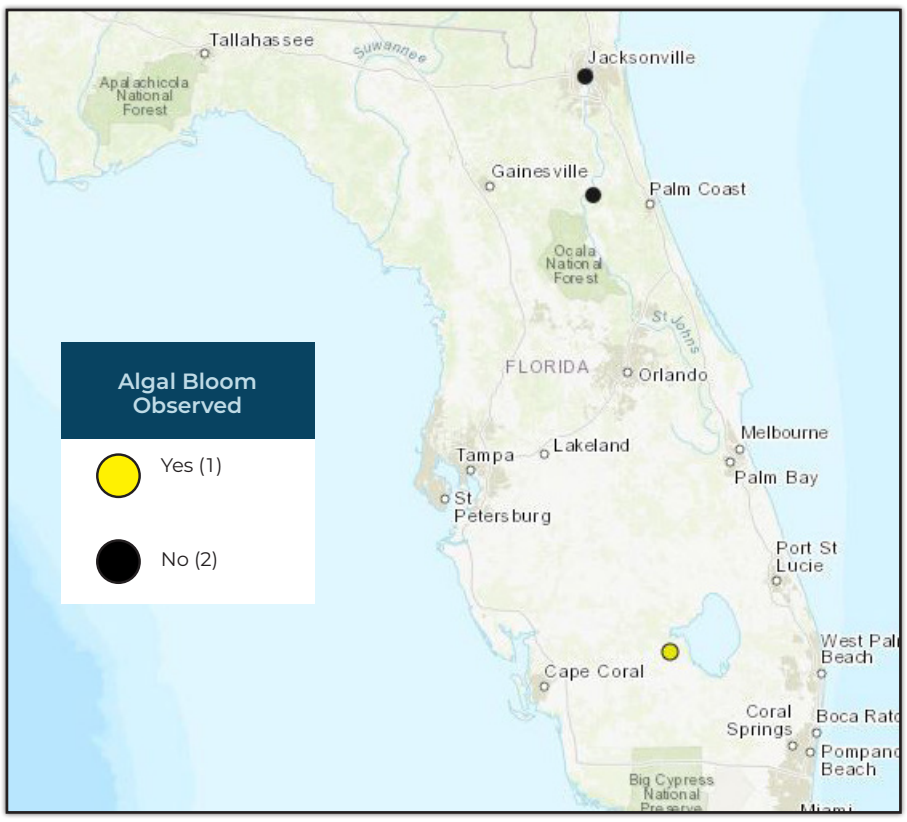
On 5/11 SJRWMD staff responded to a bloom complaint on the St. Johns River near San Mateo (CM13). No bloom was observed, and no samples were collected.

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.

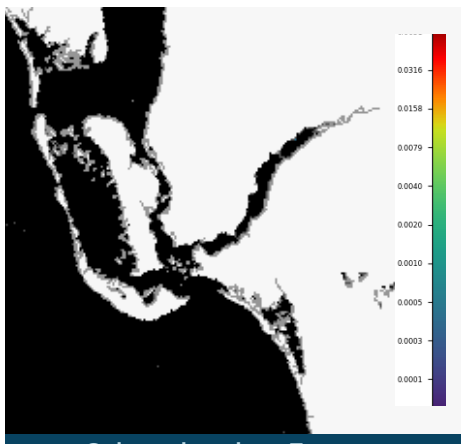
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



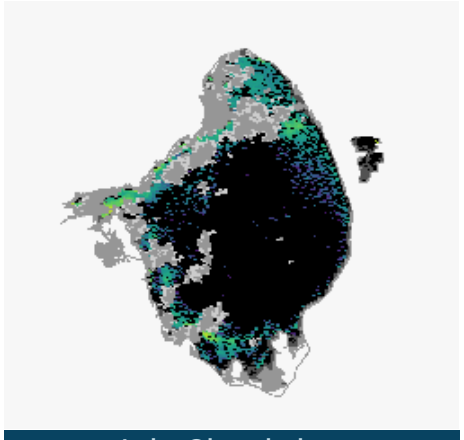
SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



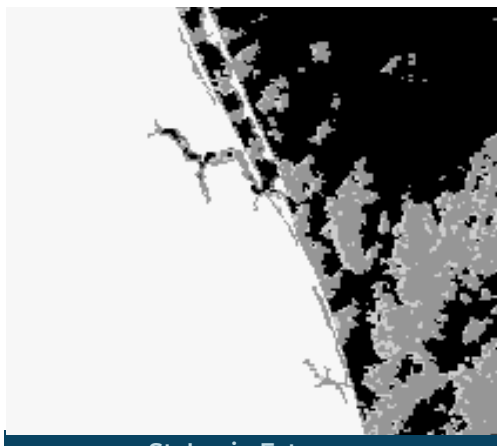
Satellite Imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud-cover



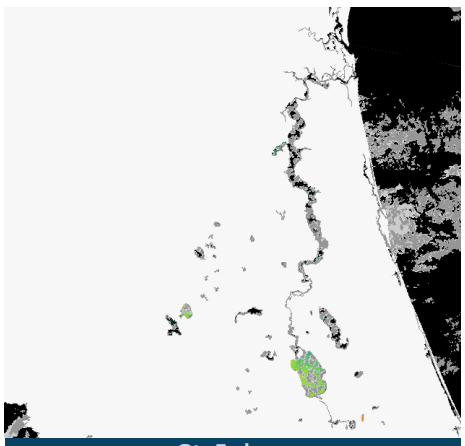
Caloosahatchee Estuary
May 13, 2020



Lake Okeechobee
May 13, 2020

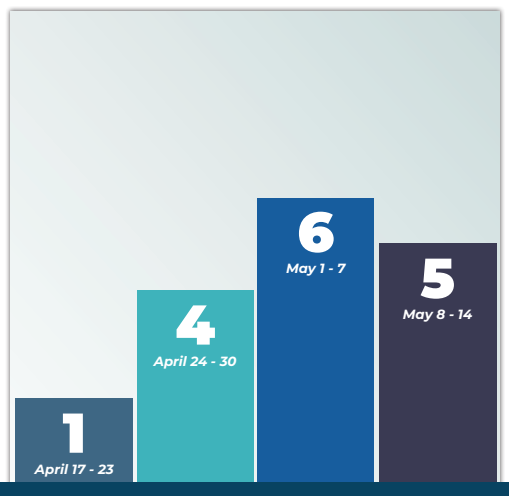


St. Lucie Estuary
May 13, 2020



St. Johns
May 13, 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.

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ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov