



BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING MAY 21 - MAY 27, 2021

SUMMARY

There were 31 reported site visits in the past seven days (5/21 - 5/27), with 31 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at 21 of the sites.

The most current usable satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee is from 5/26. The lake was partially obscured by cloud cover and showed moderate to high bloom potential on approximately 30% of Lake Okeechobee, with the heaviest accumulation along the northern and western shorelines. No significant bloom potential was observed in visible portions of the Caloosahatchee river or estuary, but algal bloom conditions were reported on the Caloosahatchee River at the S79 structure, Barron Park-LaBelle, the Alva Boat Ramp and the Davis Boat Ramp.

No bloom potential was observed in visible portions of the St. Lucie river or estuary, but algal bloom conditions were observed on the C44 canal downstream of the S308 structure. Satellite imagery from 5/26 for the St. Johns River showed moderate bloom potential over all of Lake George and the visible portions of the St. Johns River downstream to Green Cove Springs, Florida. Low to moderate bloom potential was observed on the western half of Doctors Lake. 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 5/25 and 5/27, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected water samples at **13 locations in the area near Port Manatee in Tampa Bay** in response to the Piney Point emergency release. Cyanotoxins were not detected in the 5/25 samples, and the 5/27 sample results are pending. For daily updates and sampling data results, please visit ProtectingFloridaTogether.org/PineyPointUpdate.

On 5/24, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff collected samples at **C43 - S77 (upstream)** and **C43 Canal - S79 (upstream)**. Both samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had trace levels (0.56 ppb and 0.45 ppb) microcystins detected, respectively.

On 5/24, DEP staff collected samples at **Harbor Isle Lake - Center**, **Harbor Isle Lake - Northwest Lobe** and **Harbor Isle Lake - South Lobe**. Only the **Harbor Isle Lake - Center** sample had a dominant algal taxon, *Prorocentrum minimum*. No cyanotoxins were detected in any of the samples.

On 5/24, DEP staff collected samples at **Lake Okeechobee - S308 (lakeside)** and **C44 - S308 (canal side)**. Both samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had 1.9 ppb and a trace level (0.45 ppb) of microcystins detected, respectively.

On 5/24, DEP staff collected samples at **Lake Weir - North Shore** and **Lake Weir - Carney Island Swim Beach**. The **Lake Weir - North Shore** sample was dominated by *Botryococcus braunii*. The **Lake Weir - Carney Island Swim Beach** sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa*. No cyanotoxins were detected in either sample.

On 5/24, Volusia County staff collected a sample from **Edgewater Canal - Veterans Memorial Park**. The sample had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins were detected.

On 5/25, Lee County staff collected samples from the **Caloosahatchee River - Alva Boat Ramp** and **Caloosahatchee River - Davis Boat Ramp**. Both samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had a trace level (0.30 ppb) and 1.1 ppb microcystins detected, respectively.

On 5/25, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) staff collected a sample at **Lake Jesup - Center**. Results for the sample are pending.

On 5/26, DEP staff collected samples from the **Caloosahatchee River - Barron Park**, **Caloosahatchee River - Canal at Casaly Drive** and **Caloosahatchee River - South Olga Drive**. The samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had a trace level (0.63 ppb), 1.2 ppb and 1.2 ppb microcystins detected, respectively.

On 5/26, DEP staff collected samples from **Banana Lake - Cut to Stahl**, **Lake Crago - by Boat Ramp** and **Lake Deer - Western Shore**. The **Banana Lake - Cut to Stahl** sample had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins were detected. The **Lake Crago - by Boat Ramp** and **Lake Deer - Western Shore** samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had trace levels (0.35 ppb and 0.15 ppb) of microcystins detected, respectively.

On 5/26, Orange County staff collected samples from **Lake Pearl - Center** and **Lake Holden - 90m south of Lake Holden Point**. Both samples had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins were detected.

On 5/26, SJRWMD collected samples from **St. Johns River - Shands Bridge**, **Doctors Lake - Center**, **St. Johns River - Mandarin Point**, and **Stick Marsh - North**. The samples had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins were detected.

On 5/27, three agencies collected samples. SFWMD staff collected a sample at **C43 canal - S49 (upstream)**. SJRWMD staff collected samples at **Lake George - Center**, **Crescent Lake - mouth of Dunns Creek** and **Lake Monroe - Center**. DEP collected samples at **Orange River - Manatee Park** and **Orange River - Orange Harbor RV Resort**. Results for the six samples are pending.

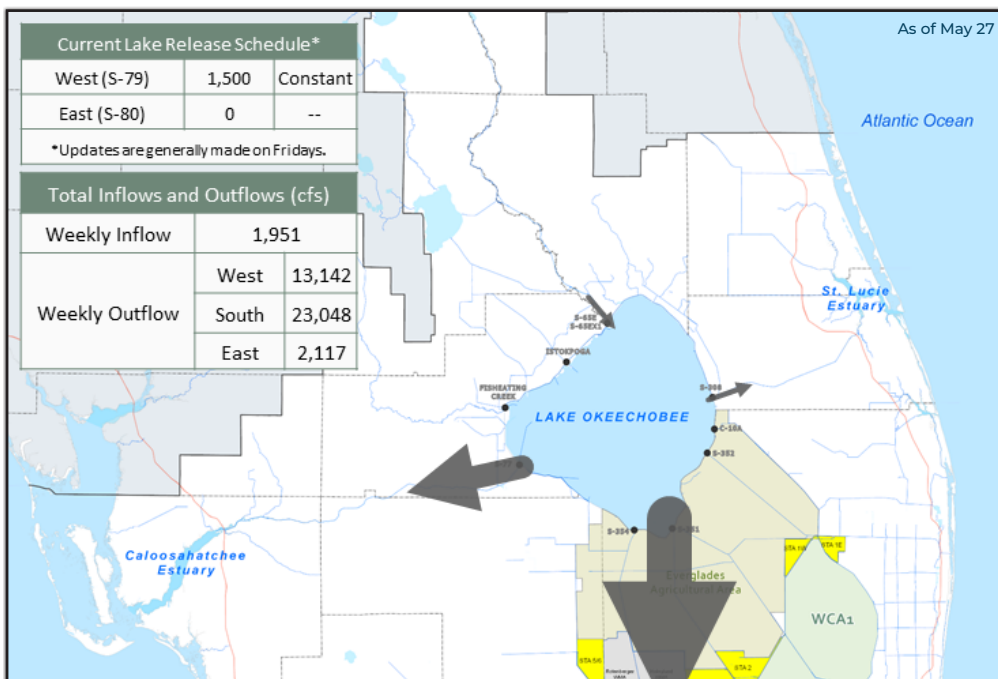
Last Week

On 5/20, DEP staff collected a sample from **Caloosa Canal - Sebastian Court**. The sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had 7.6 ppb microcystins detected.

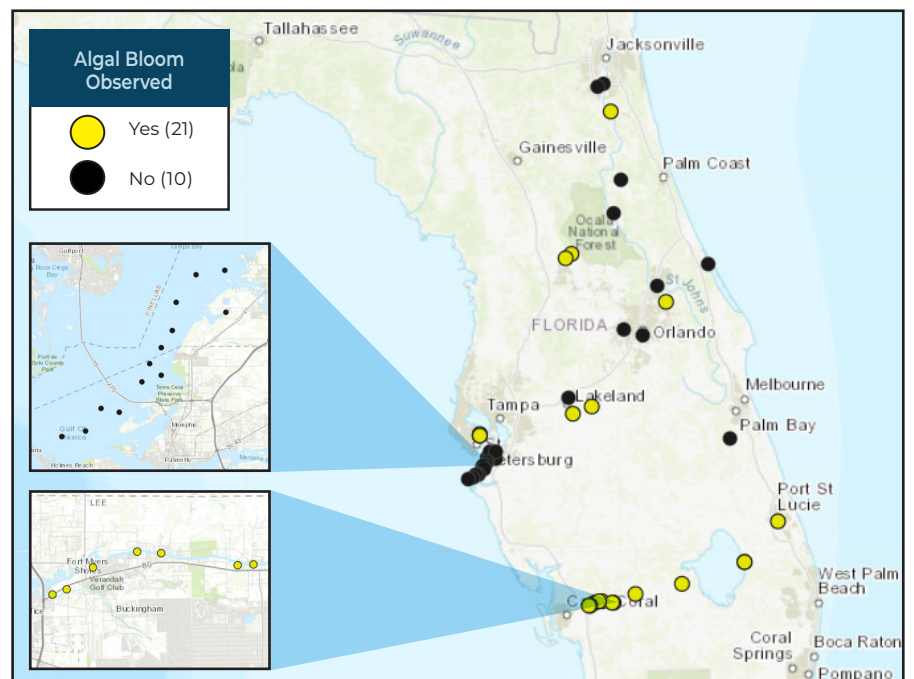
On 5/20, SFWMD staff collected samples from the **C51 Canal - S155A (upstream)**; **C51 Canal - S155 (upstream)**; **C51 Canal - Bridge Southern with Military**; **C51 Canal - Bridge Forrest Hill with I-95**; and **C44 Canal - S80 (upstream)**. The **C51 Canal - S155A (upstream)**, **C51 Canal - Bridge Southern with Military** and **C51 Canal - Bridge Forrest Hill with I-95** were each dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had a trace level (0.78 ppb), 23 ppb and 7.8 ppb microcystins detected, respectively. The **C51 Canal - S155 (upstream)** and **C44 Canal - S80 (upstream)** samples had no dominant algal taxon and had a trace (0.42 ppb) and non-detect levels of microcystins detected, respectively.

This is a high-level summary of the sampling events for the reported week. For all field visit and analytical result details, please refer to 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 staying out of water where algae is visibly present as specks or 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.

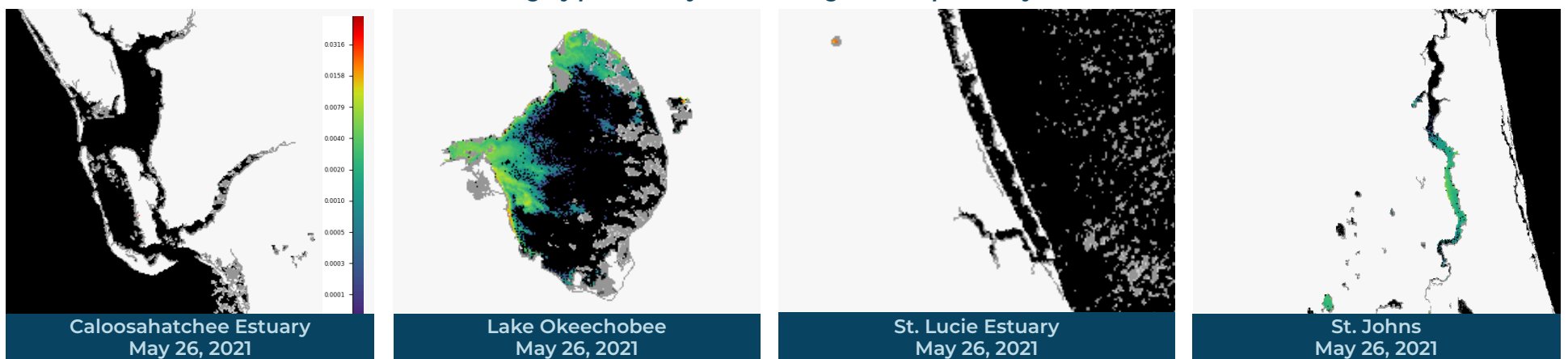
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



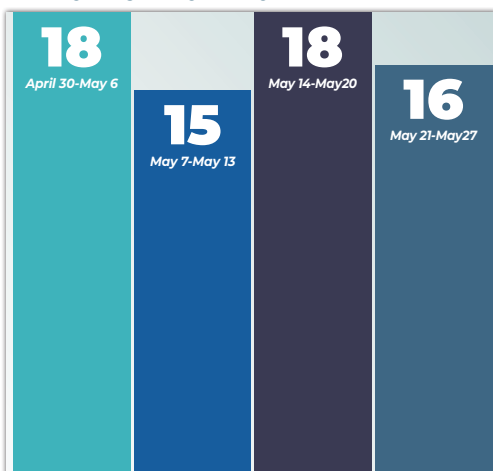
SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



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