SUMMARY

There were 13 reported site visits in the past seven days (7/10 – 7/16), with 13 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at six sites.

Satellite imagery from 7/14 shows bloom potential in Lake Okeechobee on approximately 85% coverage, while visible portions of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries in the 7/14 imagery show no observable bloom activity.

Satellite imagery from 7/14 for the St. Johns River is partially obscured by cloud cover but shows minimal bloom potential in visible portions of Lake George. An area of increased bloom activity was observed on the St. Johns River in the vicinity of West Tocoi, Florida. 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 7/13, South Florida Water Management District staff performed routine monitoring on the C43 canal – upstream of S77 structure, on Lake Okeechobee at the S308C and the S352 structures. Only the Lake Okeechobee - S352 sample had a dominant algal taxon, Microcystis aeruginosa, and detectable total microcystins (2 parts per billion).

On 7/14, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected samples in response to bloom complaint at Lake Garfield – ramp. The sample did not have a dominant algal taxon or detectable levels of cyanotoxins.

On 7/14 and 7/15, St. Johns River Water Management District staff collected samples from the St. Johns River at Mandarin Point, Shands Bridge, Watson Island, Racy Point, Doctors Lake, Lake Apopka – SW Lobe, Lake George – Center and the St. Johns River – Buzzard Island. Only the Lake Apopka sample had a dominant algal taxon, Microcystis aeruginosa. Total microcystins, cylindrospermopsin, and anatoxin-a were non-detect in all samples. The Doctors Lake, Lake George – Center and St. Johns River – Buzzard Island samples had trace levels (0.95 ppb, 0.56 ppb and 0.53 ppb, respectively) of saxitoxin.

On 7/16, DEP staff collected a sample from Lake Weir. These results are still pending.

This is a high-level summary of the sampling events for the reported week. For site visit and analytical result details, please review 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, please to be cautious not to come into contact with the algal bloom-impacted water, or the algal bloom material or fish on the shoreline.