SUMMARY

There were 46 reported site visits in the past seven days, with 46 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by observers at 16 sites.

On 7/6–7/20, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff collected samples from the C43 Canal – St. Lucie Estuary; the C43 Canal – St. Lucie Estuary (upstream); and Lake Okeechobee – C43 Canal (lake). The C41 Canal – St. Lucie Estuary (upstream) and Lake Okeechobee – Lake Washington samples were both dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and neither had cyanotoxins detected. The C43 Canal – St. Lucie Estuary (upstream) sample was dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and had no cyanotoxins detected. On 7/7–7/20, SFWMD staff performed bimonthly routine harmful algal bloom (HAB) monitoring on Lake Okeechobee at the following stations. Microcystin results are included in parentheses in parts per billion (ppb) following each station name: FEBIN (non-detect); FEBOUT (trace, 0.47 ppb); KISSIRIO (non-detect); L22 (non-detect); NES399 (non-detect); L000 (1.5 ppb); NES51 (5.1 ppb); NCECENTER (trace, 0.8 ppb); L004 (non-detect); L005 (non-detect); L006 (trace, 0.27 ppb); POLESEOUT (trace, 0.43 ppb); POLESEOUT (trace, 0.41 ppb); POLESEOUT (trace, 0.27 ppb); POLESEOUT (trace, 0.47 ppb); KBARSE (4.4 ppb); CLVDIA (non-detect); L240 (non-detect); PALMOUT (non-detect); PALMOUT (non-detect); PALMOUT (non-detect); L250 (non-detect); POL355 (non-detect); RITTAE2 (non-detect); LZZA (non-detect); L007 (non-detect); L009 (non-detect); and PEBLAYS (non-detect).

Nineteen of the Lake Okeechobee station samples were dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa. 10 other stations had no dominant algal taxon, and only station L006 was co-dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and Planktothrix irritans.

On 7/8, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected samples from Swimming Pen Creek – Whitey’s Fish Camp; Doctors Lake (4 locations); Santiago Canal; Lake Griffin; Lake Harris; and Silver Lake. The Swimming Pen Creek – Whitey’s Fish Camp sample had no dominant algal taxon and had 9.8 ppb of microcystins detected. All four Doctors Lake samples were dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and had microcystins ranging between 3.4 ppb and 5.1 ppb. Analytical results are pending for the Santiago Canal, Lake Griffin, Lake Harris and Silver Lake samples.

On 7/1 – 7/2, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) staff collected a routine HAB monitoring sample at St. Johns River – Buffalo Bluff Bridge and Welaka Springs. The Lake Washington sample had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins detected. The St. Johns River – Buffalo Bluff Bridge and Welaka Springs samples were both co-dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and Cyindrospermopsis raciborskii, and each had a trace level (0.27 ppb and 0.25 ppb, respectively) of cylindrospermopsin detected.

On 7/8, Highlands County staff collected a sample from Lake Sebring. The sample was dominated by Dolichospermum circinale and had no cyanotoxins detected.

Last week

On 7/6 – 7/4, SFWMD staff collected samples from Fish Lake, Lake Hancock, Lake Ivanhoe, Lake Mann and Lake Sue. The Fish Lake, Lake Ivanhoe, Lake Mann and Lake Sue samples had no dominant algal taxon and had a trace level 0.16 ppb, non-detect and 0.66 ppb of cylindrospermopsin detected, respectively. The Lake Hancock and Lake Sue samples were both dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and had non-detect and a trace level (0.27 ppb) of cylindrospermopsin detected, respectively.

On 7/4, SFWMD staff collected a sample at St. Johns River – Palatka Riverfront Park Boat Ramp. The sample was dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and had a trace level (0.16 ppb) of cylindrospermopsin detected.

Results for completed analyses are available and posted at FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom.

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 Results” 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 or a fish kill is present. Information about red tide, visit FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom.

A value of 0.004 is nominally equivalent to approximately 20-30 µg/L chlorophyll a of cyanobacteria, and 0.06 would be in the 200-500 µg/L chlorophyll a range. 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).

As of 7/21, 2022, 24 “Visible Algal Bloom” stations were scattered along the southeast shore. The satellite imagery for the St. Johns River shows areas of moderate to high bloom potential in Lake George and on the mainstem of the river downstream of Lake George, and in Doctors Lake, Hastings, Florida, and in Doctors Lake.

To receive personalized email notifications about blue-green algae and red tide, visit FloridaPoisonControl Centers can be reached 24/7 at 800-222-1222 (ODH provides grant funding to the Florida Poison Control Centers)