SUMMARY

There were 33 reports of visits in the past seven days (7/17 – 7/23), with 33 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at nine sites. Satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries and rivers has been unavailable for the past week due to overcast conditions. The most recent image available for Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie River and Estuary is for 7/14 which showed approximately 85% coverage of low to high algal bloom potential on the lake and no bloom activity on the visible portions of the St. Lucie River or estuary. The most recent image available for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary is from 7/18 which shows no bloom activity on the visible portions of the Caloosahatchee River or estuary.

Satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 7/21 shows areas of low to moderate bloom potential along the eastern shore of Lake George to the Ortega Bridge just south of Jacksonville. 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 7/20, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected a sample from Lake Washington – Center. The sample had no dominant algal taxon and no detectable microcystins, cylindrospermopsins or anatoxins-a (cyanotoxin results are pending).

On 7/20, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected a sample from the St. Johns River – St. Vincent Hospital. The sample was dominated by Dolichospermum circinale and no cyanotoxins were detected.

On 7/21 and 7/22, South Florida Water Management District staff collected samples from Lake Okeechobee at the following stations. Cyanotoxin results are included in parentheses following each station name: KISSR00 (non-detect), LZZ2 (trace, 0.28 parts per billion), NES191 (non-detect), L001 (trace, 0.38 ppb), NES333 (trace, 0.42 ppb), NCENTER (trace, 0.28 ppb), EASTSHORE (trace, 0.32 ppb), L004 (trace, 0.65 ppb), L008 (trace, 0.50 ppb), L005 (non-detect), POLESOUT (trace, 0.33 ppb), POLESOUT1 (trace, 0.25 ppb), POLESOUT2 (trace, 0.74 ppb), POLESOUT3 (4.6 ppb), KBARSE (trace, 0.35 ppb), CLV10A (2.4 ppb), LZ40 (188 ppb), PALMOUT (11 ppb), PALMOUT1 (non-detect), PALMOUT2 (trace, 0.46 ppb), PALMOUT3 (4.7 ppb), LS52-Lakeside (2.6 ppb), L230 (7.3 ppb), POLE3 (non-detect), RITTAE2 (non-detect), LZZ5A (trace, 0.95 ppb), R007 (12 ppb), L006 (29 ppb), and PELBAY3 (trace, 0.46 ppb). Microcystis aeruginosa was the dominant taxon in all samples with total microcystin levels greater than 1 ppb. Several stations (POLESOUT, POLESOUT1, KBARSE) that had trace levels of total microcystins were dominated by Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii.

On 7/22, DEP staff collected a sample from Lake Sebring – SW Boat Ramp. The dominant algal taxon was Dolichospermum circinale. No cyanotoxins were detected.

On 7/23, DEP staff collected a sample from the Istokpoga Canal – Boat Ramp. Sample 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 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 species 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 their presence in water. It is important to note that blooms can be present outside of what is visibly present as specks, mats or water is discolored pea-green, blue, green or brown.

Learn more about Florida’s Algal Bloom Monitoring and Response by visiting our website (FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom) or by calling the Florida Poison Control Centers (DOH provides grant funding to the Florida Algal Bloom Dashboard). Different types of blue-green algal bloom species can look different and have different impacts. However, regardless of species, many species 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 their presence in water. It is important to note that blooms can be present outside of what is visibly present as specks, mats or water is discolored pea-green, blue, green or brown. Additionally, pets or livestock should not come into contact with the algal bloom-impacted water, or the algal bloom material.

If you observe an algal bloom in a lake or freshwater river or stream obverse an algal bloom in a lake or freshwater river or stream, please contact us immediately. We advise to stay out of water where algae is visibly present as specks, mats or water is discolored pea-green, blue, green or brown. Additionally, pets or livestock should not come into contact with the algal bloom-impacted water, or the algal bloom material.