SUMMARY

There were eight reports of visits in the past seven days (7/24 – 7/30), with eight samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at four sites.

Satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries from 7/30 showed approximately 70% coverage of low to high algal bloom potential on the lake and no bloom potential on the visible portions of either estuaries.

Satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 7/30 showed no bloom potential on Lake George. Much of the mainstem of the St. Johns River was obscured by cloud cover, but no bloom potential was observed in visible portions. 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 7/27, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected a sample from Lake Okeechobee – Pahokee Marina and the Ortega River – Sadler Point. The Pahokee Marina sample was co-dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and Microcystis sp. and had 16 parts per billion (ppb) total microcystins detected. The Ortega River – Sadler Point sample had no dominant algal taxon and no detectable cyanotoxins.

On 7/27, South Florida Water Management District staff collected samples from Lake Okeechobee – S308C (lakeside) and the C43 Canal – S77 (upstream). The sample from the S308C structure had no dominant algal taxon and no detectable cyanotoxins. The C43 Canal – S77 (upstream) sample was dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and had no detectable cyanotoxins.

On 7/28, St. Johns River Water Management District staff collected a sample at Stick Marsh – North and Blue Cypress Lake – Center. The Stick Marsh – North sample was dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa, and the Blue Cypress Lake – Center sample had no dominant algal taxon. Both samples were non-detect for cyanotoxins.

On 7/30, DEP staff collected samples from Reclaimed Mine Lake – Near Ramp and Scott Lake – West, both in Polk County. Sample results are pending.

Last Week

Sample results for Lake Jessup – off Grassy Point and Istokopoga Canal Boat Ramp were still pending. The Lake Jessup sample was dominated by Microcystis aeruginosa and had trace levels (0.44 ppb) of total microcystins and a trace level (0.79 ppb) of cylindrospermopsin. The Istokopoga Canal sample had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins detected.

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 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 with the algal bloom-impacted water, or the algal bloom material or fish on the shoreline. 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.