



BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING AUGUST 14 - 20, 2020

SUMMARY

There were 12 reports of visits in the past seven days (8/14 - 8/20), with 12 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at six sites.

Satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries from 8/18 showed approximately 50% coverage of low to high algal bloom potential on the lake. Highest bloom potential was observed along the northeast and northwest shores. No bloom potential was observed on the visible portions of either estuaries.

Satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 8/17 showed a narrow band of low to moderate bloom potential along the eastern shore of Lake George. Low to moderate bloom potential was visible on the mainstem of the St. Johns River at Little Lake George and from Federal Point to Colee Cove. Crescent Lake showed high bloom potential at the northern end of the lake and moderate bloom potential over approximately half the lake, with some areas obscured by cloud cover. 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 8/17, South Florida Water Management District staff collected samples from Lake Okeechobee at FEBOUT and FEBIN stations. The FEBOUT sample was dominated by *Planktolyngbya limnetica*, while the FEBIN sample was dominated by *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*. Total microcystins were not detected in either sample; however, a trace level (0.29 parts per billion) of cylindrospermopsin was detected in the FEBOUT sample.

On 8/17, Southwest Florida Water Management District staff collected a sample from Dosson Lake - Center. The sample had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins were detected.

On 8/17, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected a sample from Canal to Mill Cove and Rhoden Cove. No dominant algal taxon was present in the Canal to Mill Cove sample, while the Rhoden Cove sample was dominated by *Scytonema crispum*. No cyanotoxins were detected in either sample.

On 8/17, city of Cape Coral staff collected a sample from Makai Canal. The sample was submitted to Greenwater Laboratories for analysis. These results are still pending.

On 8/18, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) staff collected a sample from Dunns Creek - near fish camp, St. Johns River - Buzzard Island, and Lake Washington - Center. The Dunns Creek sample was co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Microcystis wesenbergii* and had a trace level of total microcystins (0.36 ppb) and 2.5 ppb of cylindrospermopsins. The St. Johns River sample also was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Microcystis wesenbergii* but had no detectable total microcystins and only a trace level (0.87 ppb) of cylindrospermopsin. The Lake Washington sample had no dominant algal taxon or cyanotoxins detected. Saxitoxin results for all three samples are still pending.

On 8/18, DEP staff collected a sample from the Middle River South Fork - Colohatchee Boat Ramp. The sample had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins detected.

On 8/20, DEP staff collected a sample from Scott Lake - West. Analysis results are still pending.

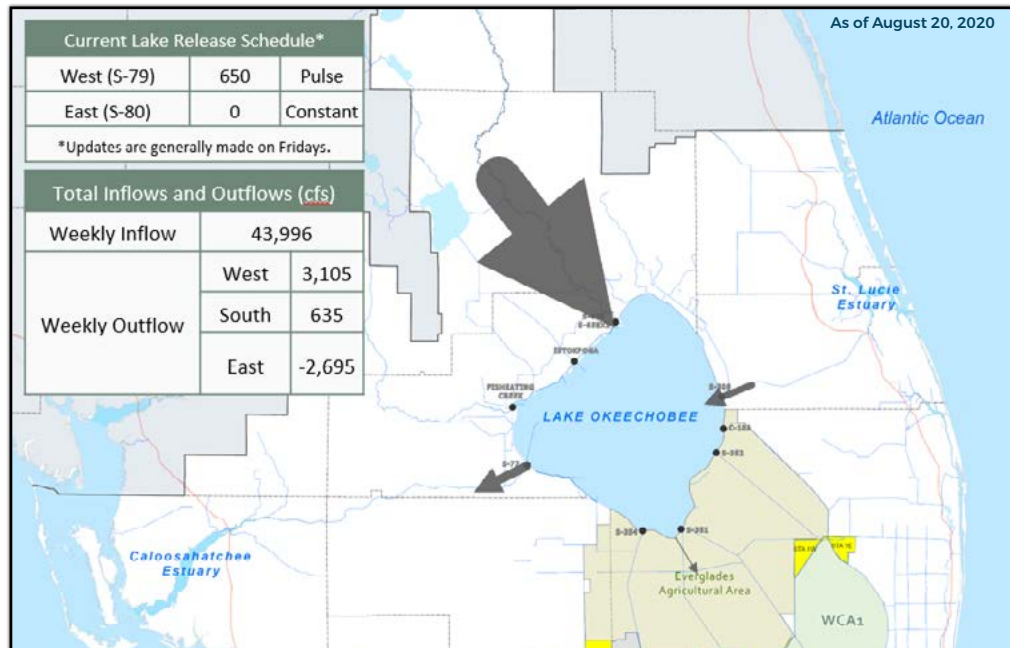
Last week

On 8/13, DEP staff collected samples from the C-51 Canal and the Fellsmere Kayak Launch. The samples had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins detected.

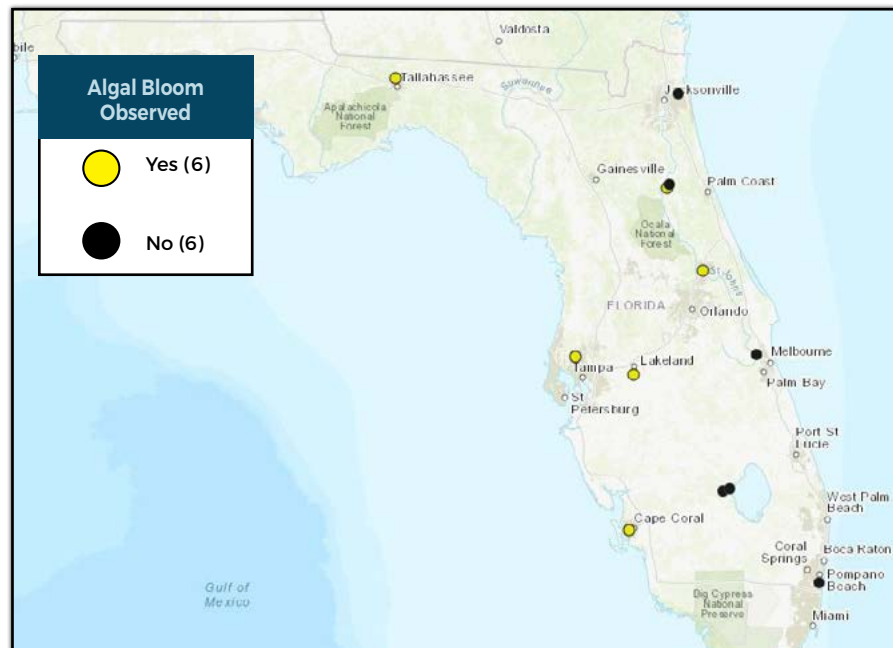
On 8/13, SJRWMD staff collected a sample on the St. Johns River - North of Rice Creek. The sample had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins detected.

This is a high-level summary of the sampling events for the reported week. For all field visit and analytical result details, please refer 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, pets or livestock should not come into contact with the algal bloom-impacted water, or the algal bloom material or fish on the shoreline.

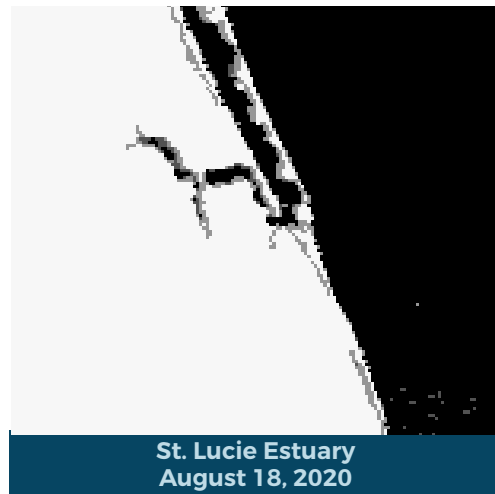
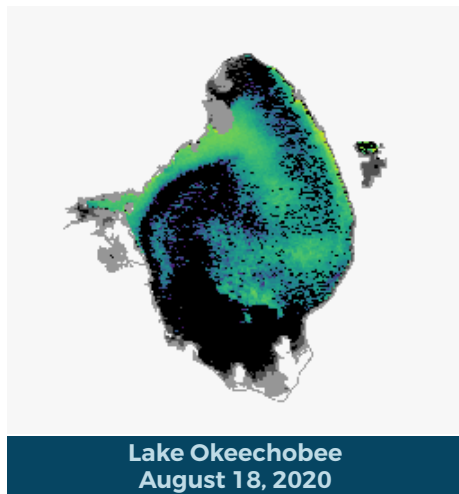
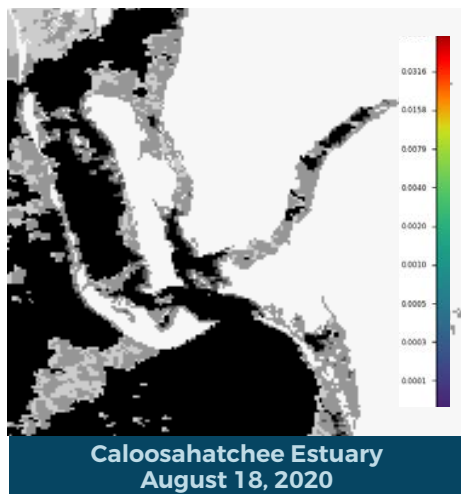
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



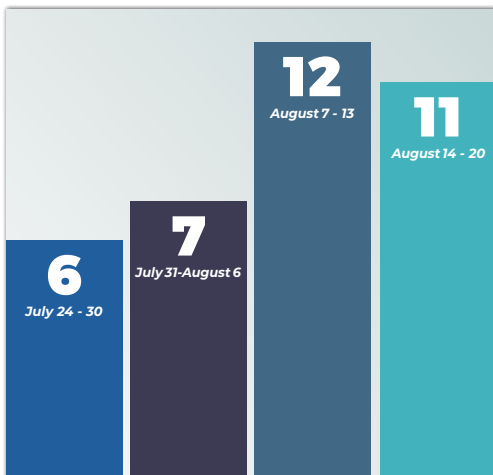
SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



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