



BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING DEC. 22, 2023 - JAN. 4, 2024

Satellite imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud cover.

A value of 0.004 is nominally equivalent to approximately 20-30 ug/L chlorophyll a of cyanobacteria, and 0.06 would be in the 300-500 ug/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).

Caloosahatchee Estuary
Dec. 31, 2023

The best available satellite imagery for the Caloosahatchee Estuary is from 12/31, and it shows very scattered low to moderate bloom potential in both upper and lower reaches of the estuary.

Lake Okeechobee
Jan. 1, 2024

The best available satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee is from 1/1, and shows low to moderate bloom potential on 5% - 10% of the lake, primarily in nearshore waters along the western shoreline.

St. Lucie Estuary
Jan. 4, 2024

Satellite imagery for the St. Lucie Estuary from 1/4 shows no bloom potential on visible portions of the estuary.

St. Johns River
Jan. 4, 2024

Satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 1/4 shows lightly scattered low bloom potential on Lake George and the mainstem of the river downstream to just south of Doctors Lake.

SUMMARY

There were four reported site visits in the past 14 days with four samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by samplers at three of the sites.

On 12/27 - 1/4, Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff collected Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) response sample at three locations. Dominant algal taxa and cyanotoxin results follow each waterbody name.

Blanton Lake - South Lobe (12/27): *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Microcystis wesenbergii* co-dominant; 11 parts per billion (ppb) of microcystins detected.

Chrise Lake (12/27): *Microcystis wesenbergii*; no cyanotoxins detected.

Blanton Lake - South Lobe (1/4): Results pending.

On 12/27, Highlands County staff collected a HAB response sample at **Lake Placid**. The sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had a trace level (0.13 ppb) of microcystins detected.

Last Two Weeks

On 12/21, St. Johns River Water Management District staff collected four routine HAB monitoring samples. Dominant algal taxa and cyanotoxin results follow each waterbody name.

Harris Bayou - Center: No dominant algal taxon; trace level (0.33 ppb) of microcystins detected.

Blue Cypress Lake - Center: No dominant algal taxon; no cyanotoxins detected.

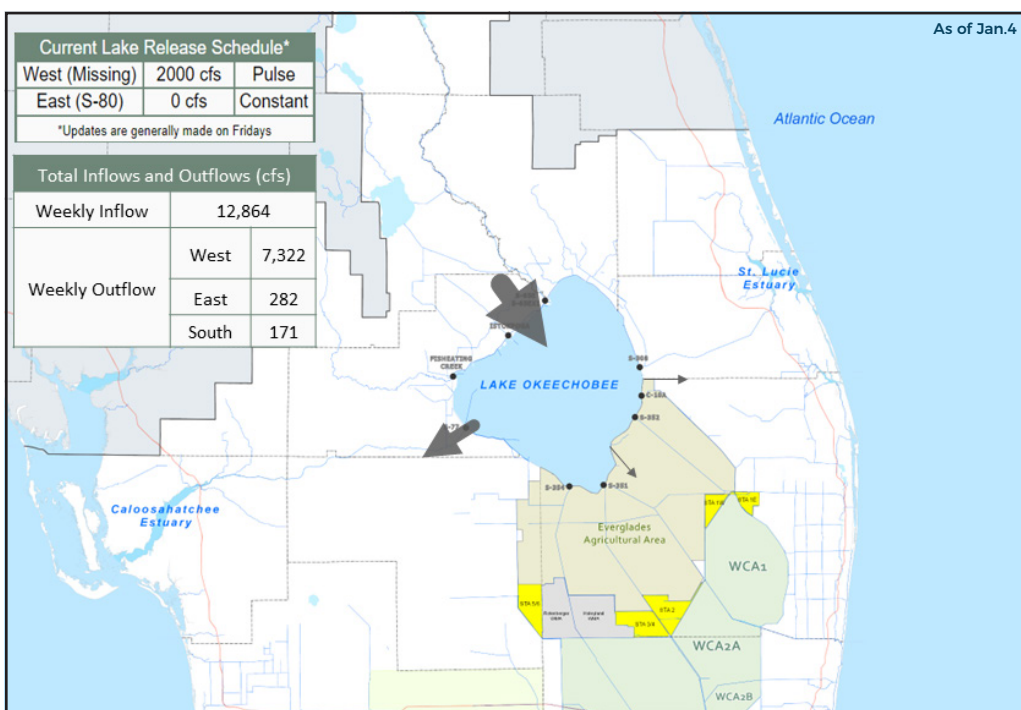
Lake Monroe - Center: No dominant algal taxon; trace level (0.26 ppb) of microcystins detected.

Stick Marsh - North: No dominant algal taxon; no cyanotoxins detected.

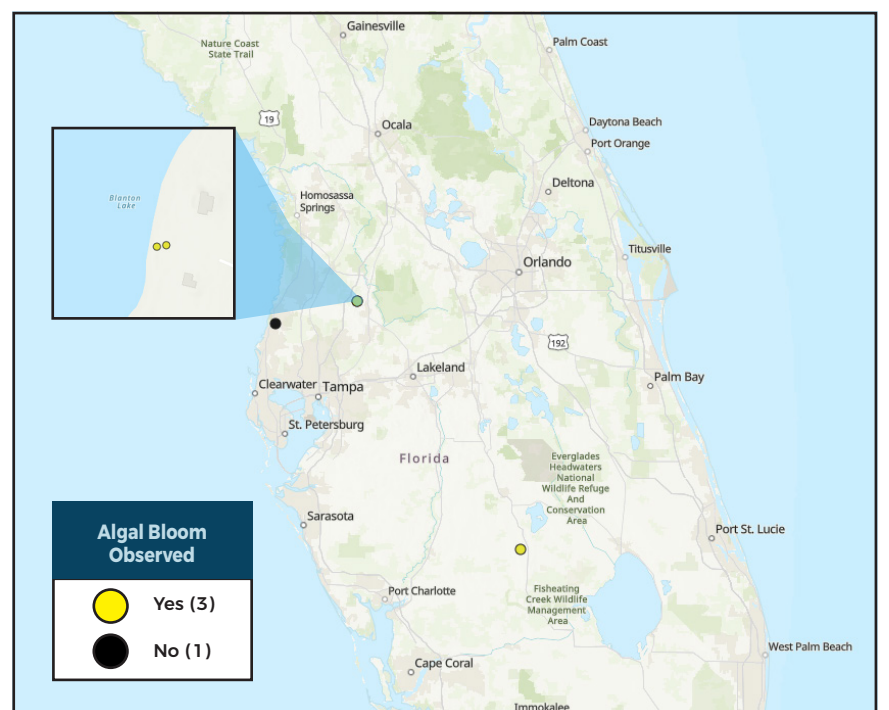
Results for completed analyses are available at FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom.

This is a high-level summary of the sampling events for the reported weeks. 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 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 as specks or mats or where water is discolored pea-green, blue-green or brownish-red. Additionally, pets or livestock should not come into contact with algal bloom-impacted water or with algal bloom material or fish on the shoreline.

LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



SIGN-UP FOR UPDATES

To receive personalized email notifications about blue-green algae and red tide, visit

PROTECTING TOGETHER
ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov

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