

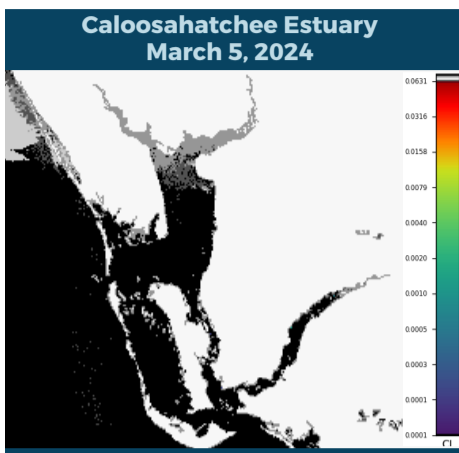


BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

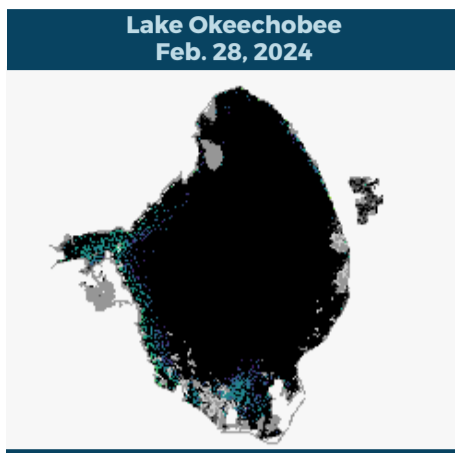
REPORTING MARCH 1 - MARCH 7, 2024

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

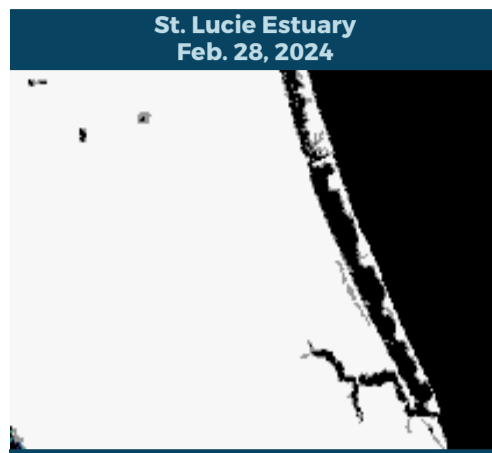
A value of 0.004 is nominally equivalent to approximately 20-30 ug/L chlorophyll a of cyanobacteria, and 0.06 would be in the 300-500 ug/L chlorophyll a range. Please keep in mind that bloom potential is subject to change due to rapidly changing environmental conditions or satellite inconsistencies (i.e., wind, rain, temperature or stage).



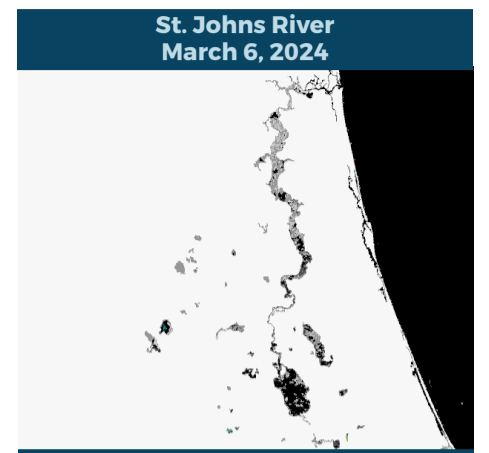
The most recent useable satellite imagery for the Caloosahatchee Estuary is from 3/5 and shows no significant bloom potential.



The most recent useable satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee from 2/28 is partially obscured by heavy cloud cover, but shows low to moderate bloom potential on 15% of the lake, predominantly along the western and southern shorelines of the lake.



The most recent useable satellite imagery for the St. Lucie Estuary is from 2/28 and shows no bloom potential.



The most recent useable satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 3/6 is partially obscured by scattered cloud cover, but shows lightly scattered low to moderate bloom potential throughout Lake George and the mainstem of the river down to the city of Jacksonville.

SUMMARY

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

On 3/4 - 3/7, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff made three Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) response site visits and samples were collected at one location.

Dowling Lake - North sample was dominated by *Microcystis sp.* and had a trace level [0.61 parts per billion (ppb)] microcystins detected.

Caloosahatchee River - Pentagon Canal and **Caloosahatchee River - Killer Canal** sites had no cyanobacteria bloom present and no samples were taken.

On 3/4, South Florida Water Management District staff collected one routine HAB monitoring sample at **Lake Okeechobee - S308C (lakeside)**. The sample had no dominant algal taxon or cyanotoxins detected.

Last Week:

On 2/29, DEP staff collected two HAB response samples. Dominant algal taxa and cyanotoxin results follow each waterbody name.

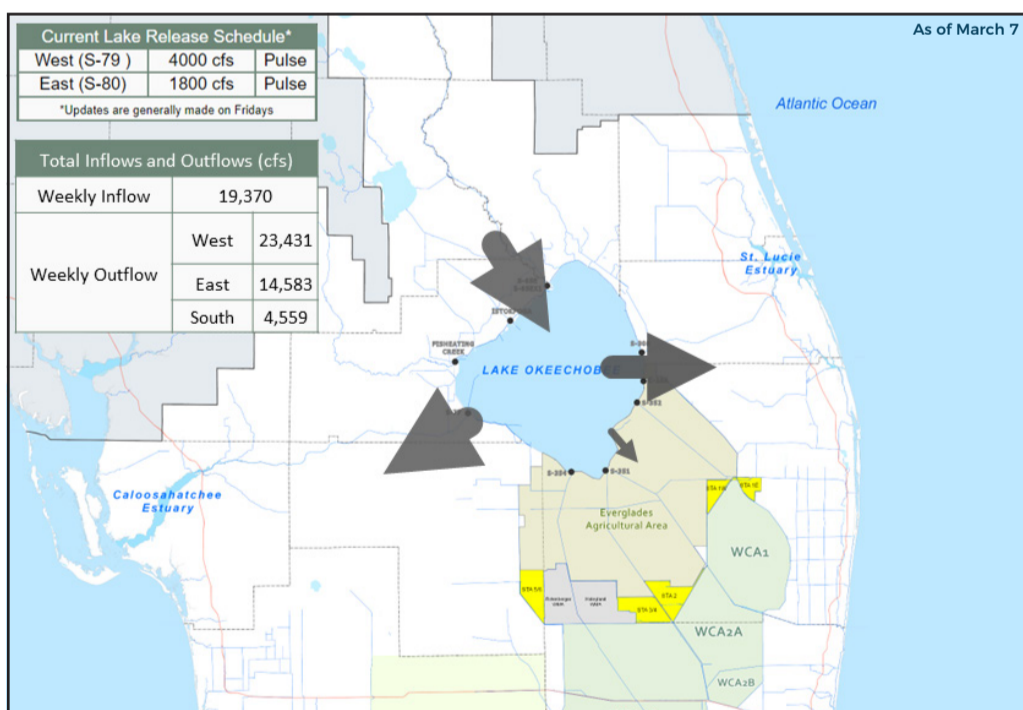
St. Lucie River - Northwest of Roosevelt: No dominant algal taxon; no cyanotoxins detected.

St. Lucie River - Banyan Tree Drive: *Microcystis sp.* dominant; no cyanotoxins detected.

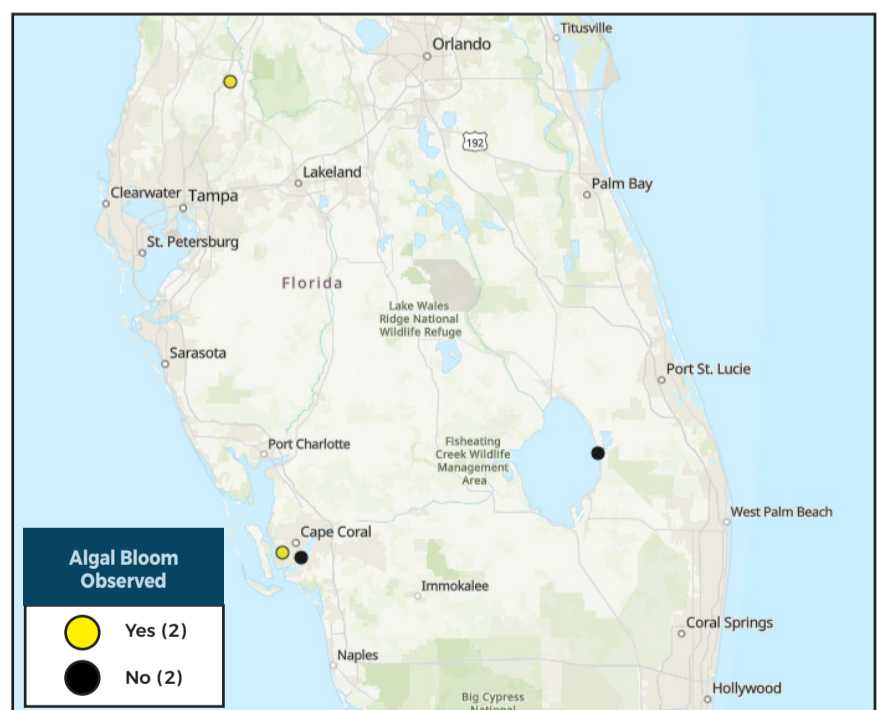
Results for completed analyses are available at FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom.

This is a high-level summary of the sampling events for the reported 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 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