



BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING MARCH 8 - MARCH 14, 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
March 14, 2024

The most recent usable satellite imagery for the Caloosahatchee Estuary is from 3/14 and shows scattered low bloom potential in the upper estuary.

Lake Okeechobee
March 14, 2024

The most recent usable satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee is from 3/14 and shows moderate bloom potential on 15% of the lake, predominantly along the western shoreline, with more scattered bloom potential along the northern and southern shorelines of the lake.

St. Lucie Estuary
March 14, 2024

The most recent usable satellite imagery for the St. Lucie Estuary is from 3/14 and shows no bloom potential.

St. Johns River
March 14, 2024

The most recent usable satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 3/14 is partially obscured by cloud cover, but shows scattered moderate bloom potential at the eastern shore of Lake George and scattered low to moderate bloom potential throughout the mainstem of the river from Palatka downstream to the city of Jacksonville.

SUMMARY

March 8 - March 14, 2024 - There were 23 reported site visits in the past seven days with 23 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by samplers at nine of these sites.

Special Note: Due to heavy fog delaying the sample shipment, the DEP laboratory did not receive the Lake Okeechobee routine HAB monitoring samples collected on 3/13 in time to report all of the cyanotoxin results in this week's HAB report. These results will be posted on the DEP HAB Dashboard (FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom) on 3/18 and will be included in next week's HAB report.

On 3/11 - 3/14, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) collected eight Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) response samples. Dominant algal taxa and cyanotoxin results follow each waterbody name.

Lake Breckenridge - South Lobe: *Woronichinia naegeliana*; no cyanotoxins detected.

Lake Taylor - Odessa: No dominant algal taxon; no cyanotoxins detected.

Blanton Lake - South Lobe: *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Microcystis wesenbergii* co-dominant; 4 parts per billion (ppb) microcystins detected.

Mead Lake - Mook Street: *Woronichinia naegeliana* and *Dolichospermum sp.* co-dominant; no cyanotoxins detected.

Lake Harris - East Central Shore: *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* co-dominant; no cyanotoxins detected.

Lake Minnehaha - East Dock: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; 1.5 ppb microcystins detected.

Lake Pearl - Park Dock: *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Pseudanabaena mucicola* co-dominant; 6.2 ppb microcystins detected.

Lake Clarke Inflow - East Congress Avenue: No dominant algal taxon; no microcystins detected. Results for saxitoxins and anatoxin-a pending.

On 3/12 - 3/13, South Florida Water Management District staff collected eight **Lake Okeechobee** routine HAB monitoring samples. Dominant algal taxa and cyanotoxin results follow each waterbody name.

KISSR0.0: No dominant algal taxon; no cyanotoxins detected.

LZ2: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; trace level (0.33 ppb) microcystins detected.

L005: *Dolichospermum circinale*; no cyanotoxins detected.

POLESOUT: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; no cyanotoxins detected.

CLV10A: No dominant algal taxon; no microcystins detected. Results for saxitoxins and anatoxin-a pending.

PALMOUT: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; trace level (0.26 ppb) microcystins detected. Results for saxitoxins and anatoxin-a pending.

LZ30: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; no microcystins detected. Results for saxitoxins and anatoxin-a pending.

RITTAE2: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; no microcystins detected. Results for saxitoxins and anatoxin-a pending.

On 3/12 - 3/14, St. Johns River Water Management District collected seven routine HAB monitoring samples. Dominant algal taxa and cyanotoxin results follow each waterbody name.

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

St. Johns River - Mandarin Point: No dominant algal taxon; no cyanotoxins detected.

Lake Yale - Center: *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* co-dominant; 0.62 ppb microcystins detected.

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

St. Johns River - Shands Bridge: No dominant algal taxon; no cyanotoxins detected.

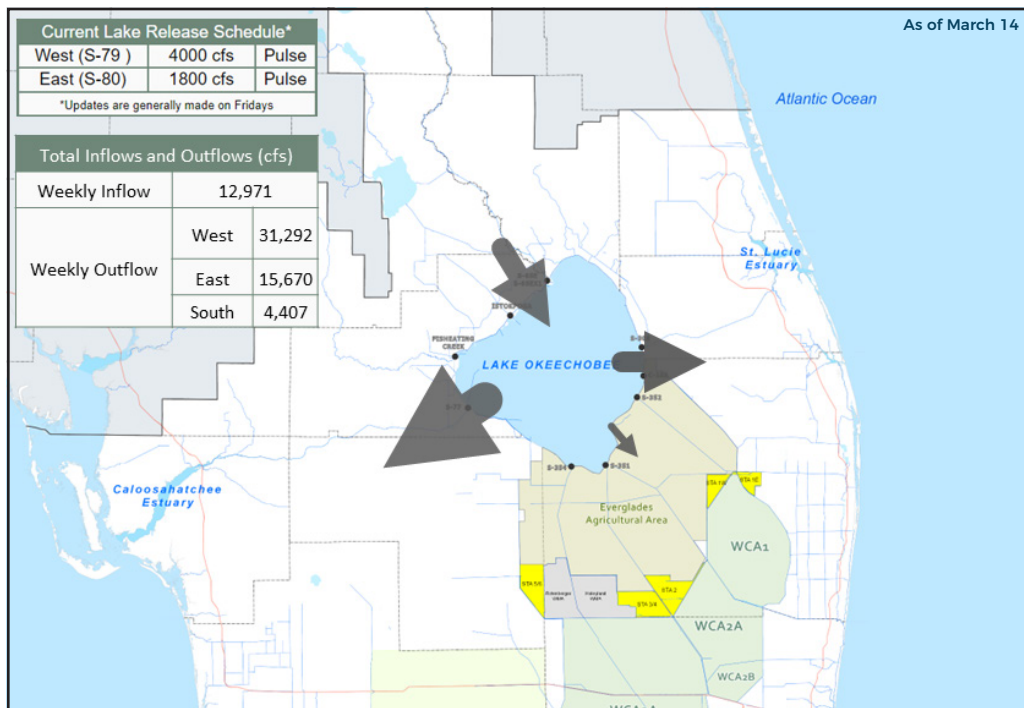
Harris Bayou - Center: No dominant algal taxon; no cyanotoxins detected.

Crescent Lake - Mouth of Dunns Creek: No dominant algal taxon; no microcystins detected. Results for saxitoxins and anatoxin-a pending.

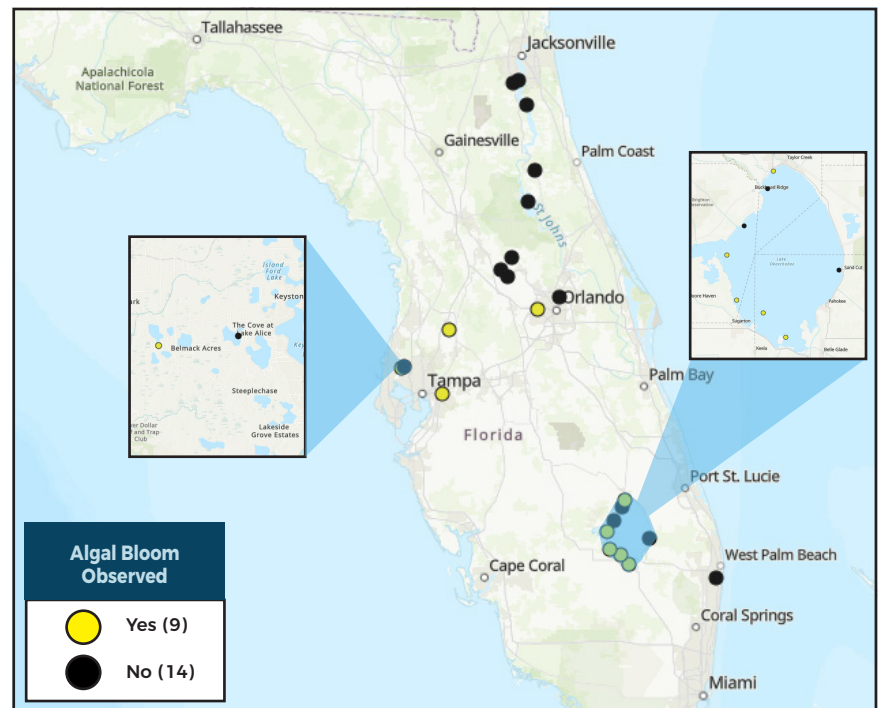
Results for completed analyses are available at FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom.

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



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