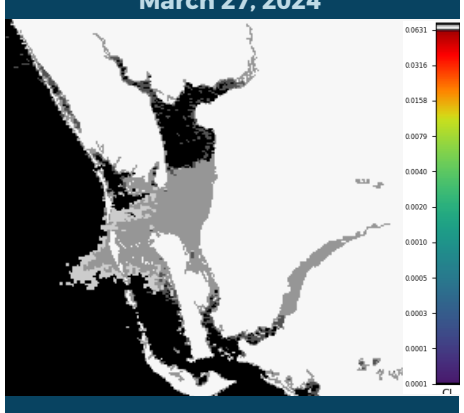
BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING MARCH 22 - MARCH 28, 2024

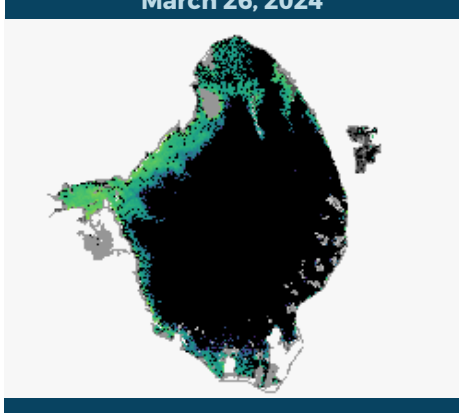
Satellite imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud cover.
A value of 0.004 is nominally equivalent to approximately 20-30 ug/L chlorophyll a of cyanobacteria, and 0.06 would be in the 300-500 ug/L chlorophyll a range.
Please keep in mind that bloom potential is subject to change due to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

Caloosahatchee Estuary
March 27, 2024



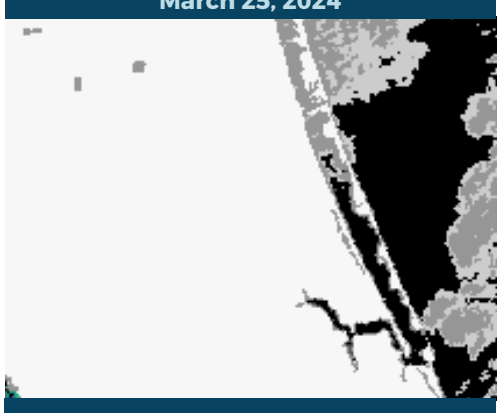
Satellite imagery for the Caloosahatchee Estuary from 3/27 is heavily obscured by cloud cover but shows no bloom potential on visible portions of the estuary.

Lake Okeechobee
March 26, 2024



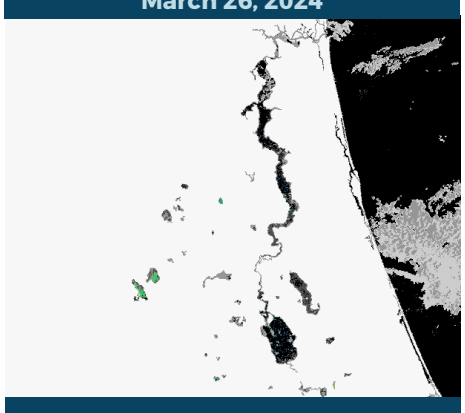
Satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee from 3/26 shows low to moderate bloom potential on approximately 20% of the lake, predominantly in the northwest quadrant of the lake with scattered bloom potential along the western and southern shorelines of the lake.

St. Lucie Estuary
March 25, 2024



Satellite imagery for the St. Lucie Estuary from 3/25 shows no bloom potential on visible portions of the estuary.

St. Johns River
March 26, 2024



Satellite imagery for the St. Johns River from 3/26 shows scattered low bloom potential on Lake George and throughout the mainstem of the river from Lake George downstream to Orange Park.

SUMMARY

There were 25 reported site visits in the past seven days with 25 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by samplers at 10 of the sites.

On 3/25 – 3/28, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected 17 harmful algal bloom (HAB) response samples. Dominant algal taxa and cyanotoxin results follow each waterbody name.

St. Lucie Canal – 96th Street Bridge: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; 17 parts per billion (ppb) microcystins detected.

Lake Harris – East Central Shore: *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*; no cyanotoxins detected.

Orange River – RV Boat Ramp: No dominant algal taxon; no cyanotoxins detected.

St. Lucie River – Four Rivers: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; 11 ppb microcystins detected.

St. Lucie River – Palm City Bridge: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; trace level (0.92 ppb) microcystins detected.

Lake Thonotosassa – Center: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; trace level (0.76 ppb) microcystins detected.

Scott Lake – West: *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Microcystis wesenbergii* co-dominant; trace level (0.83 ppb) microcystins detected.

Lake Hancock – South Central: *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*; trace level (0.34 ppb) anatoxin-a and trace level (0.30 ppb) microcystins detected.

Lake Parker – Northeast: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; no cyanotoxins detected.

Lake Gibson – West: *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Microcystis wesenbergii* co-dominant; microcystins estimated to be 1.1 ppb.

Results are pending for **Lake Hamilton East – Sample Park, St. Lucie River – Seagate Harbor Boat Ramp, Lake Marion – Ducky's Dock, Lake Pierce – Northwest, St. Lucie River – Harborage, Lake Tarpon – Southeast** and **St. Lucie Canal – Army Corp Campground.**

On 3/26 – 3/27, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) collected eight routine HAB monitoring samples. Dominant algal taxa and cyanotoxin results follow each waterbody name.

Fellsmere Water Management Area – Center: *Microcystis sp.*; trace level (0.60 ppb) microcystins detected.

Lake Yale – South of Center: *Microcystis sp.* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* co-dominant; 0.69 ppb microcystins detected.

Lake Griffin – North of Center: *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*; no cyanotoxins detected.

Lake Eustis – South Near 441 Boat Ramp: *Microcystis sp.* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* co-dominant; no cyanotoxins detected.

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

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

Lake Jesup – Center: *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* co-dominant; trace level (0.12 ppb) cylindrospermopsin detected.

Lake Monroe – Center: *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* co-dominant; no cyanotoxins detected.

Last Week

On 3/21, DEP staff collected a HAB response sample from **Blanton Lake – South** and **Lake Dowling – Off Dock**.

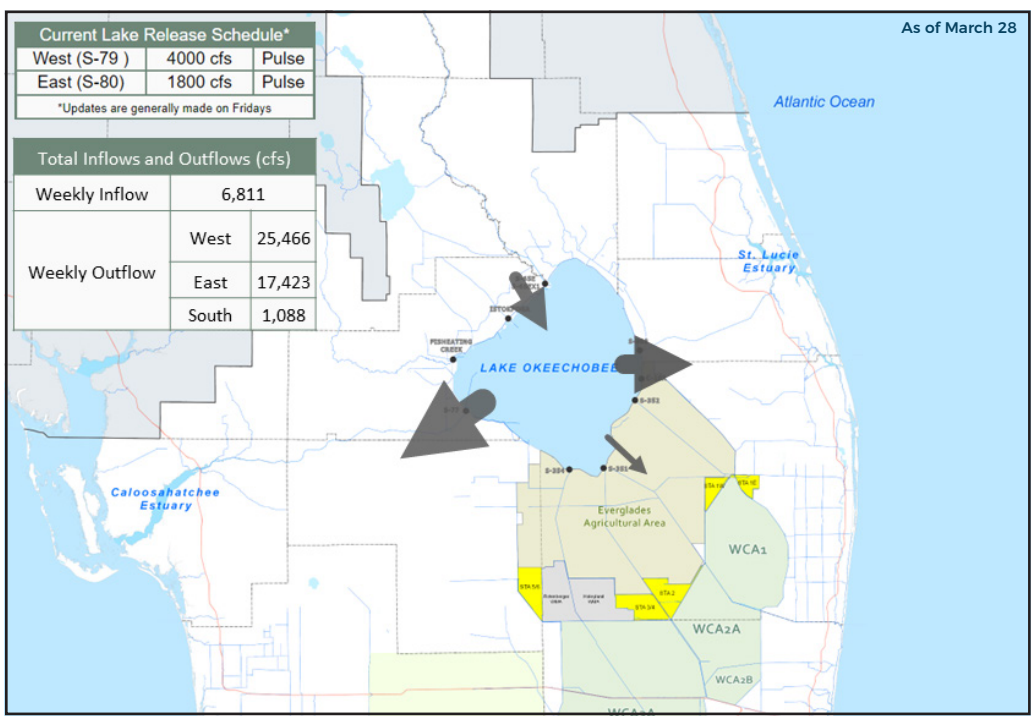
Blanton Lake – South: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; 3.5 ppb microcystins detected.

Lake Dowling – Off Dock: *Microcystis aeruginosa*; trace level (0.35 ppb) microcystins detected.

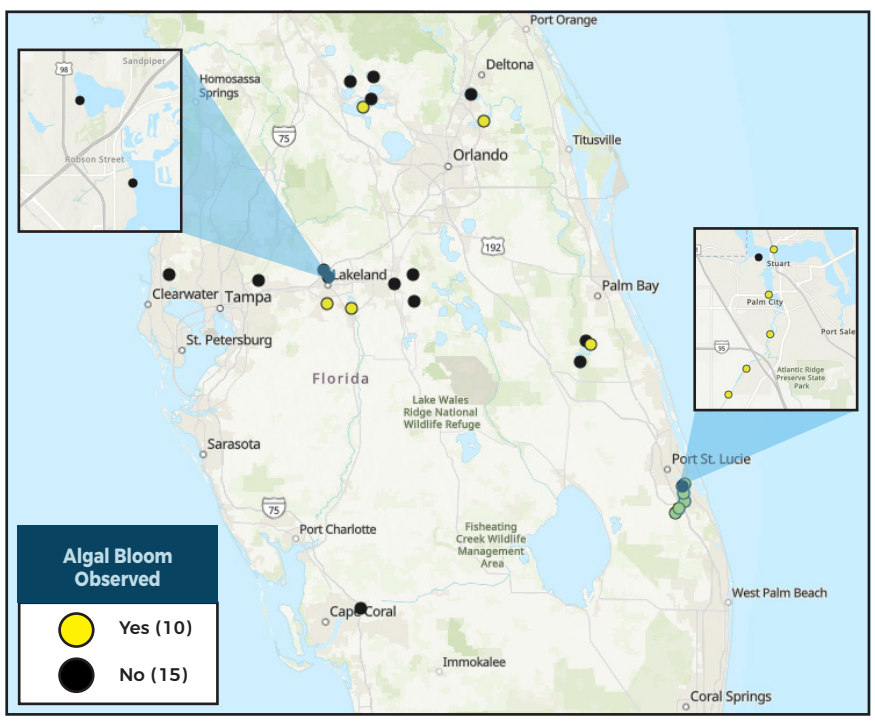
Results for completed analyses are available at FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom.

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