



BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING SEPTEMBER 18 - SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

SUMMARY

There were 33 reports of visits in the past seven days (9/18 – 9/24), with 33 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at eight sites.

Satellite imagery for **Lake Okeechobee** and the **Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries** from 9/22 was partially obscured by cloud cover but showed approximately 15% coverage of low to moderate algal bloom potential on the lake. No bloom potential was observed on the visible portions of either estuaries.

Satellite imagery for the **St. Johns River** from 9/22 was also heavily obscured by cloud cover but did not show any significant bloom potential on **Lake George** or the **main stem of the St. Johns River**. 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 9/21, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff collected samples from the **C43 Canal – Upstream of the S77 Structure** and from **Lake Okeechobee – S308C Structure**. No dominant algal taxon was observed in these samples. Only the **Lake Okeechobee – S308C Structure** sample had a trace level (0.57 parts per billion) of total microcystin detected.

On 9/22, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) staff collected a sample from **Lake Washington – Center**. The sample had no dominant algal taxon, and an estimated trace level (0.38 ppb) of total microcystin was detected in the sample.

On 9/23, SJRWMD staff collected a sample from **Doctors Lake**. The sample had no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins were detected.

On 9/23 – 9/24, SFWMD staff collected samples from **Lake Okeechobee** at the following stations. Analysis results for samples collected on 9/24 will not be available until early next week. Total microcystin results are included in parentheses following each station name: **KISSRO.0** (non-detect); **LZ2** (non-detect); **NES191** (non-detect); **L001** (trace, 0.26 ppb); **NES135** (3.2 ppb); **NCENTER** (46 ppb); **EASTSHORE** (7.5 ppb); **L004** (trace, 0.33 ppb); **L008** (12 ppb); **L005** (trace, 0.44 ppb); **POLESOUT** (trace, 0.44 ppb); **POLESOUTI** (non-detect); **POLESOUT2** (1.6 ppb); **POLESOUT3** (20 ppb); **KBARSE** (2.2 ppb); **CLV10A** (pending); **LZ40** (pending); **PALMOUT** (pending); **PALMOUTI** (pending); **PALMOUT2** (pending); **PALMOUT3** (pending); **LZ30** (pending); **POLE3S** (pending); **RITTA2** (pending); **LZ25A** (pending); **L007** (pending); **L006** (pending); and **PELBAY3** (pending). *Microcystis aeruginosa* was the dominant taxon in all the samples collected on 9/23 with total microcystin levels greater than 1 ppb, except **POLESOUTI**, which was co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*. **POLESOUT** was the only station sampled on 9/23 that was dominated by *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*.

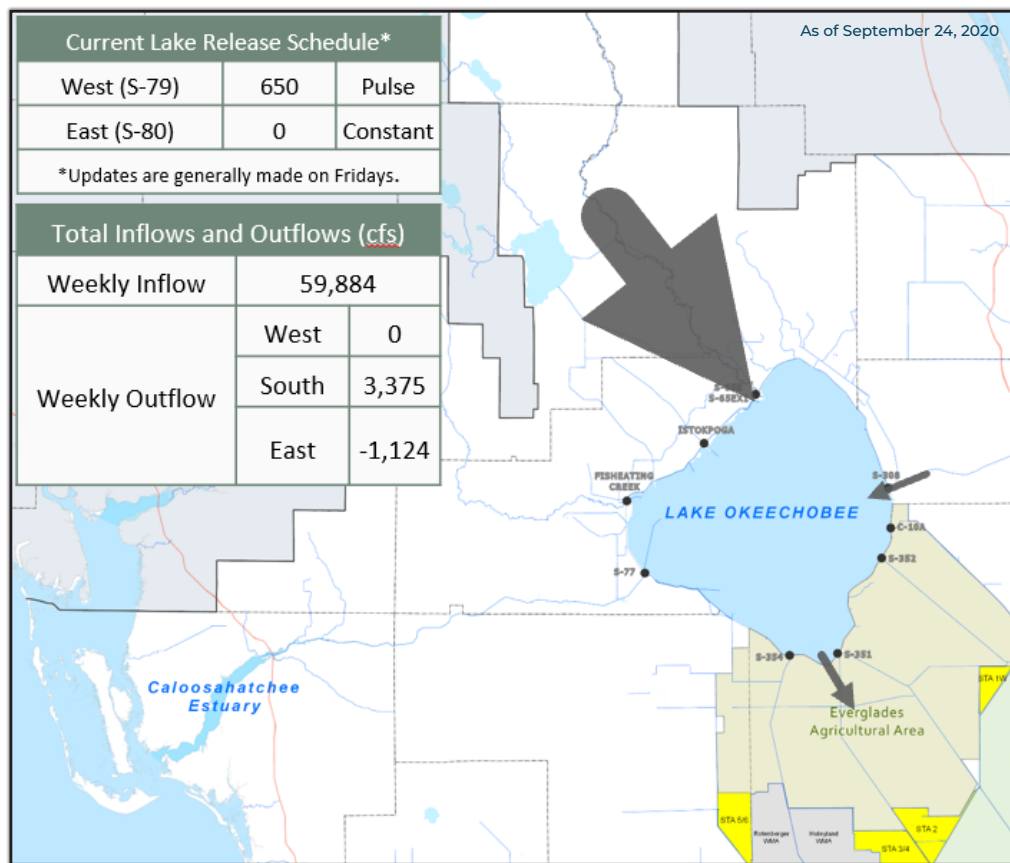
On 9/24, Orange County staff collected a sample from **Lake Roberts SE**. Results are pending.

Last Week

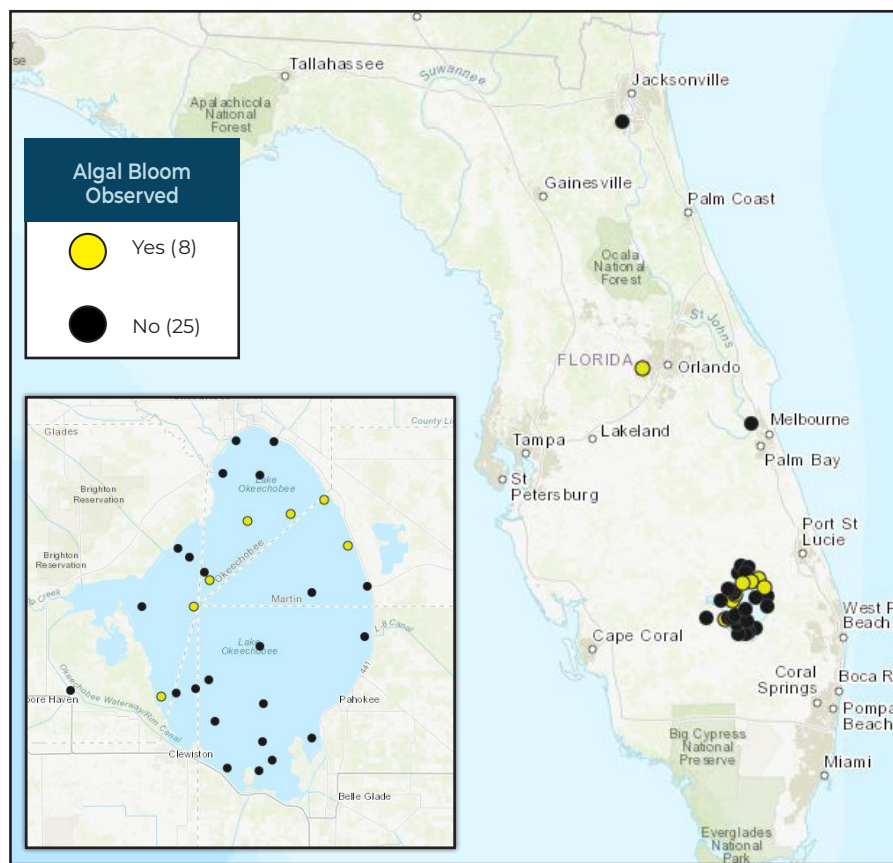
On 9/17, DEP staff collected samples from **Lake Otis – Boat Ramp** and **Lake Idyl – Dock**. Both samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa*, but only the **Lake Idyl – Dock** sample had detectable levels of cyanotoxins with (0.32 ppb) of total microcystin detected.

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.

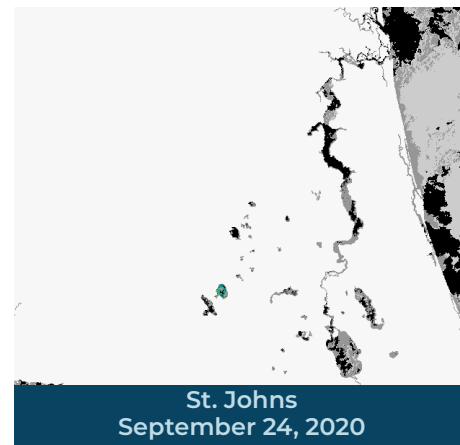
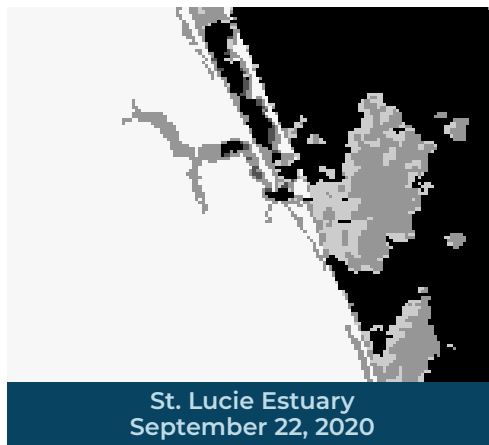
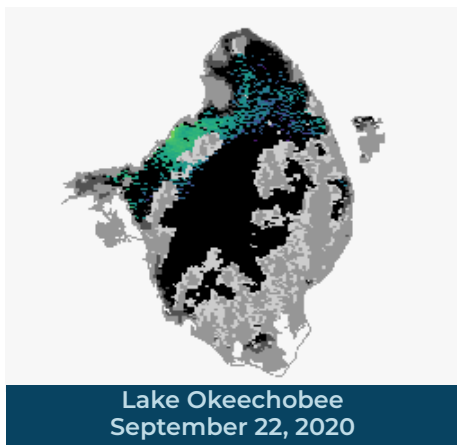
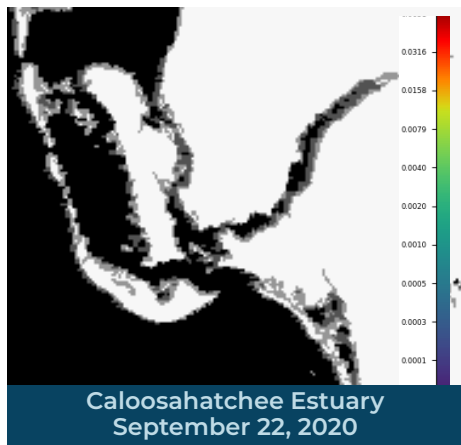
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



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