



# BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING DEC. 15 - DEC. 21, 2023

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. 19, 2023

The best available satellite imagery for the Caloosahatchee Estuary shows very scattered low to moderate bloom potential in both upper and lower reaches of the estuary.

**Lake Okeechobee**  
Dec. 19, 2023

The best available satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee shows scattered low to moderate bloom potential, primarily in nearshore waters along the northwestern and southeastern shores of the lake.

**St. Lucie Estuary**  
Dec. 19, 2023

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

**St. Johns River**  
Dec. 21, 2023

Satellite imagery for the St. Johns River shows shows lightly scattered low to moderate bloom potential on Lake George and the mainstem of the river downstream to the Highway 295 bridge.

The most up-to-date algal bloom sampling results are always available at [FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom](https://FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom). Due to the holidays, the next Blue-Green Algal Bloom Weekly Update will be Jan. 5, 2024.

## SUMMARY

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

On 12/18, Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff collected Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) response sample at two locations. Dominant algal taxa and cyanotoxin results follow each waterbody name.

**Lake Weir – West of Center:** *Botryococcus braunii*; no cyanotoxins detected.

**Taylor Lake – Odessa:** *Coelosphaerium kuetzingianum*; no cyanotoxins detected.

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

**Lake Washington – Center:** No dominant algal taxon; no cyanotoxins detected.

**Lake Yale – South of Center:** *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* were co-dominant; trace level [0.13 parts per billion (ppb)] cylindrospermopsin detected.

**Lake Jesup – Center:** *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* and *Planktolyngbya limnetica* were co-dominant; no cyanotoxins detected.

**Harris Bayou – Center:** Results pending.

**Blue Cypress Lake – Center:** Results pending.

**Lake Monroe – Center:** Results pending.

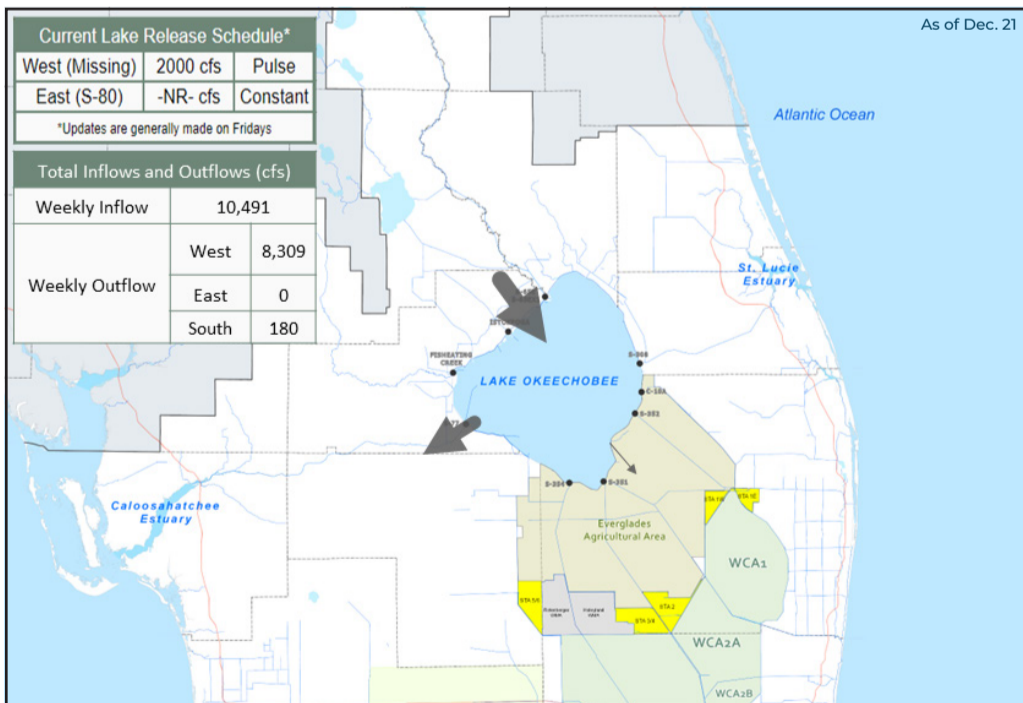
**Stick Marsh – North:** Results pending.

On 12/18, Highlands County staff collected a HAB response sample at **Lake Glenada – Boat Ramp**. The sample was co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Microcystis wesenbergii* and had 2.6 ppb microcystins detected.

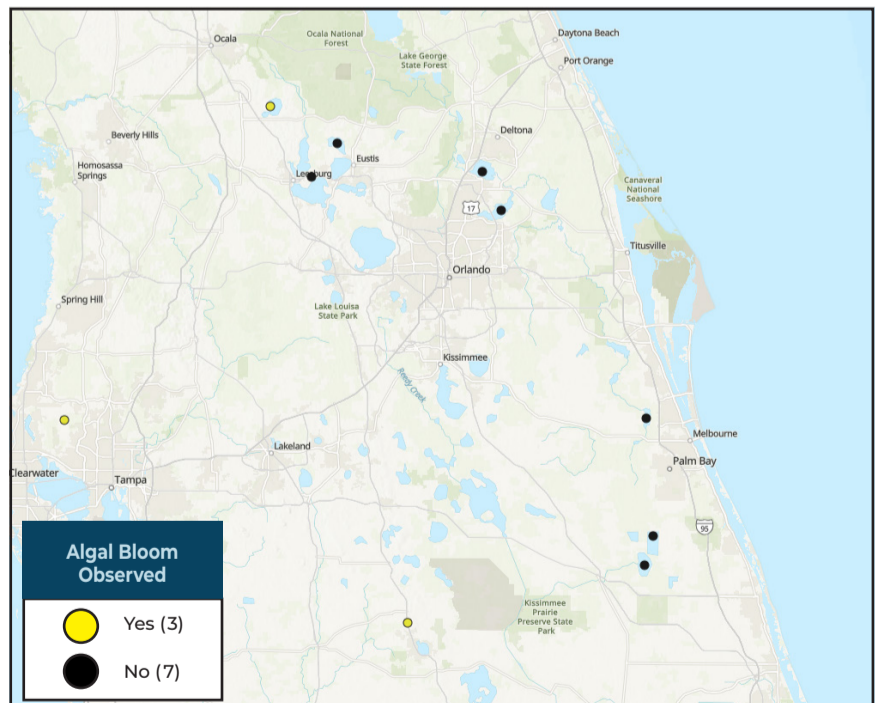
Results for completed analyses are available at [FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom](https://FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom).

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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom)