



# BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

## REPORTING JULY 10 - JULY 16, 2020

### SUMMARY

There were 13 reported site visits in the past seven days (7/10 – 7/16), with 13 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at six sites.

Satellite imagery from 7/14 shows bloom potential in **Lake Okeechobee** on approximately 85% coverage, while visible portions of the **Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries** in the 7/14 imagery show no observable bloom activity.

Satellite imagery from 7/14 for the **St. Johns River** is partially obscured by cloud cover but shows minimal bloom potential in visible portions of **Lake George**. An area of increased bloom activity was observed on the **St. Johns River** in the vicinity of **West Toco, Florida**. 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 7/13, South Florida Water Management District staff performed routine monitoring on the **C43 canal – upstream of S77 structure, on Lake Okeechobee** at the **S308C and the S352 structures**. Only the **Lake Okeechobee - S352** sample had a dominant algal taxon, *Microcystis aeruginosa*, and detectable total microcystins (21 parts per billion).

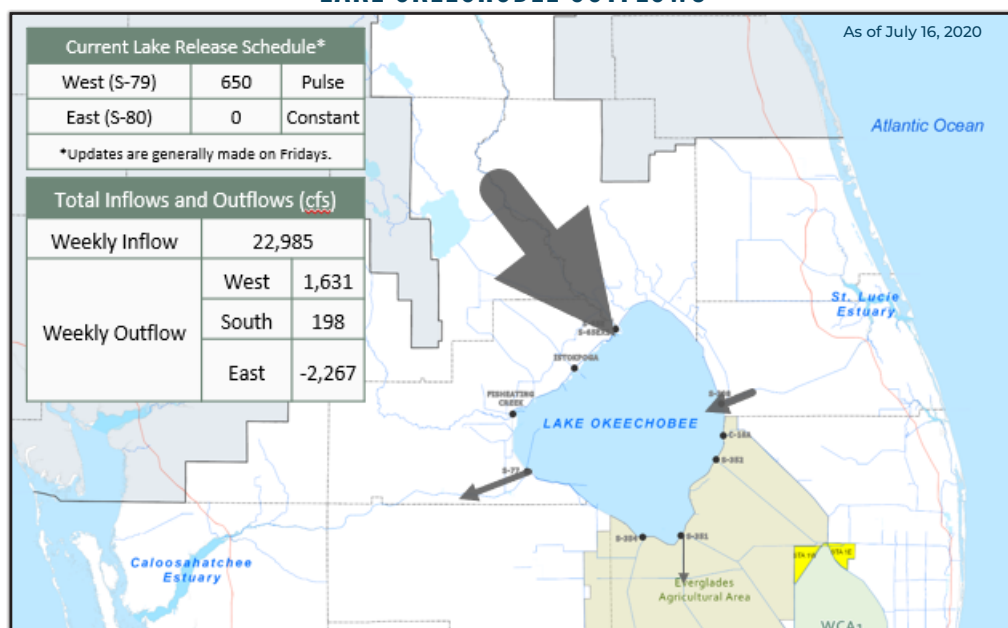
On 7/14, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff collected samples in response to bloom complaint at **Lake Garfield – ramp**. The sample did not have a dominant algal taxon or detectable levels of cyanotoxins.

On 7/14 and 7/15, St. Johns River Water Management District staff collected samples from the **St. Johns River at Mandarin Point, Shands Bridge, Watson Island, Racy Point, Doctors Lake, Lake Apopka – SW Lobe, Lake George – Center** and the **St. Johns River – Buzzard Island**. Only the **Lake Apopka** sample had a dominant algal taxon, *Microcystis aeruginosa*. Total microcystins, cylindrospermopsin, and anatoxin-a were non-detect in all samples. The **Doctors Lake, Lake George – Center** and **St. Johns River – Buzzard Island** samples had trace levels (0.95 ppb, 0.56 ppb and 0.53 ppb, respectively) of saxitoxin.

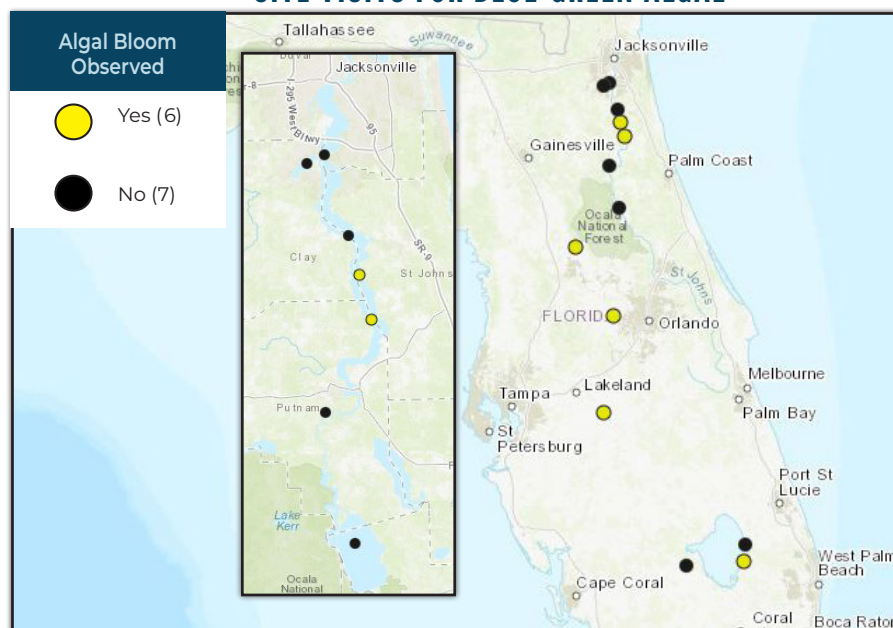
On 7/16, DEP staff collected a sample from **Lake Weir**. These results are still pending.

*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.*

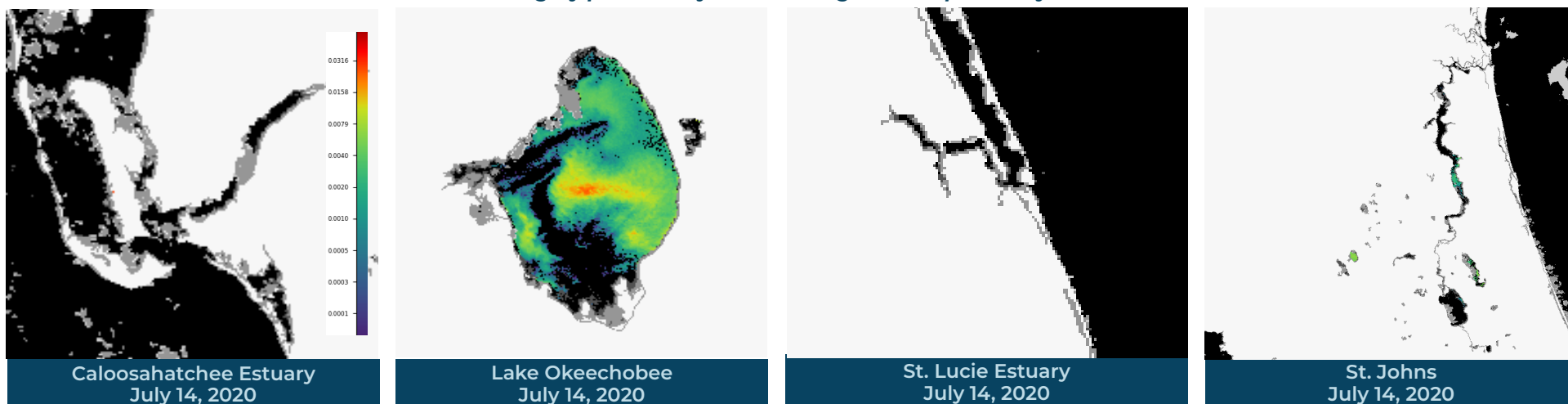
### LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



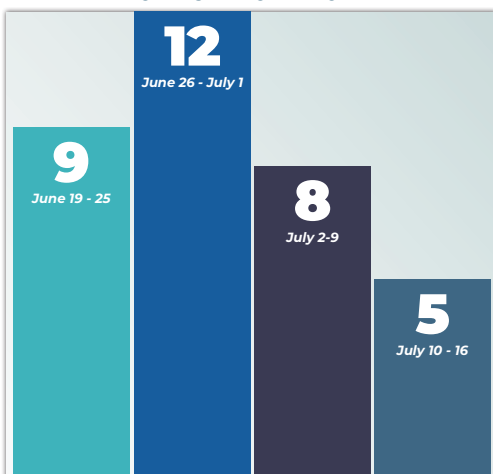
### SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



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