BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING OCTOBER 23 - OCTOBER 29, 2020

SUMMARY

There were five reports of visits in the past seven days (10/23 – 10/29), with five samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at two sites.

Satellite imagery for **Lake Okeechobee** and the **Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries** from 10/29 showed approximately 15% coverage of medium to high algal bloom potential, predominantly on the northwest quadrant of the lake. No bloom potential was observed on the visible portions of either estuaries.

Satellite imagery for the **St. Johns River** from 10/29 did not show any significant bloom potential on visible portions of **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 10/26, Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff sampled **Tiger Lake – Near Ramp**. The sample was dominated by *Dolichospermum circinale* and had a trace level (0.69 parts per billion) of total microcystin detected.

On 10/27, St. Johns River Water Management District staff collected samples at **Blue Cypress Lake – Center** and **Stick Marsh – North**. The **Blue Cypress Lake – Center** sample was dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and had no detectable levels of cyanotoxins. The **Stick Marsh – North** sample had no dominant algal taxon and a trace level (0.27 ppb) of total microcystin was detected.

On 10/28, Orange County staff collected samples at **Lake Anderson – NW Corner** and **Lake Roberts – SE Corner**. Both samples were co-dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Microcystis wesenbergii*, with only the **Lake Anderson – NW Corner** sample having detectable levels (1.9 ppb) of total microcystin.

Last Week

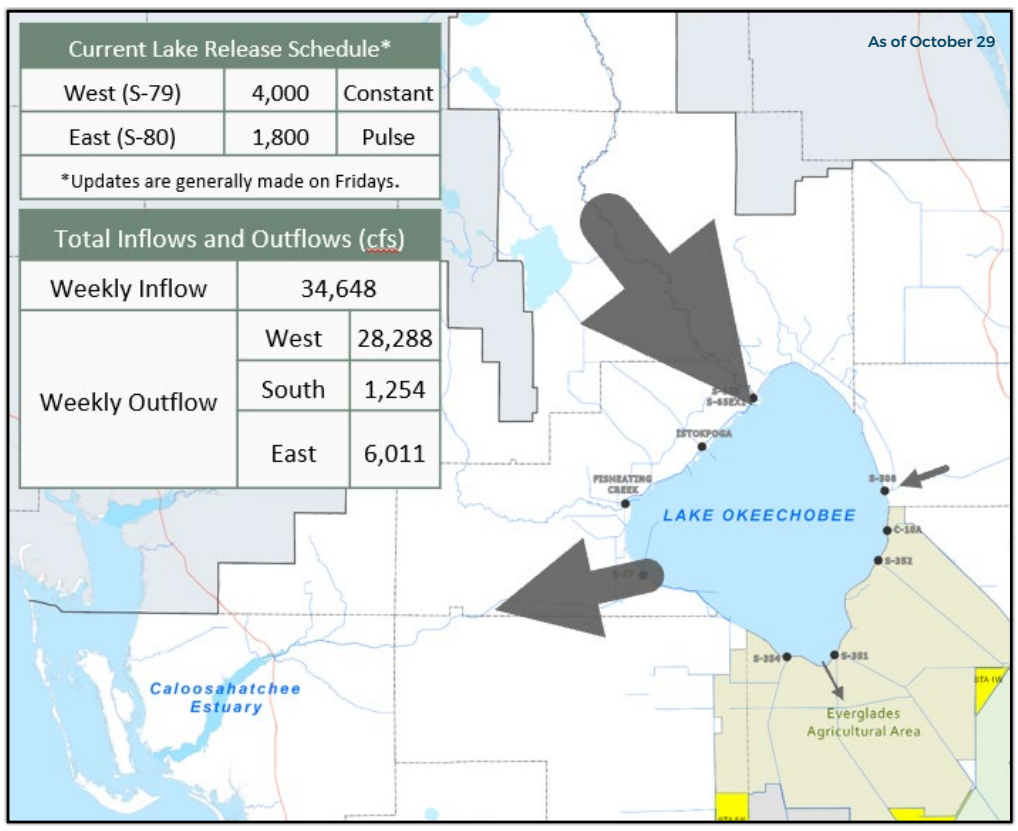
On 10/22, samples were collected at Lake Okeechobee stations **PALMOUT1**, **PALMOUT2**, **PALMOUT3**, **LZ30**, **POLE3S**, **RITTAE2**, **LZ25A**, **L007**, **L006**, **PELBAY3** and **LZ40**; however, sample results were still pending. Total microcystin results are included in parentheses following each site name: **PALMOUT1** (10 ppb); **PALMOUT2** (13 ppb); **PALMOUT3** (13 ppb); **LZ30** (8.1 ppb); **POLE3S** (non-detect); **RITTAE2** (non-detect); **LZ25A** (non-detect); **L007** (trace 0.99 ppb); **L006** (16 ppb); **PELBAY3** (non-detect); and **LZ40** (trace 0.28 pb).

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.

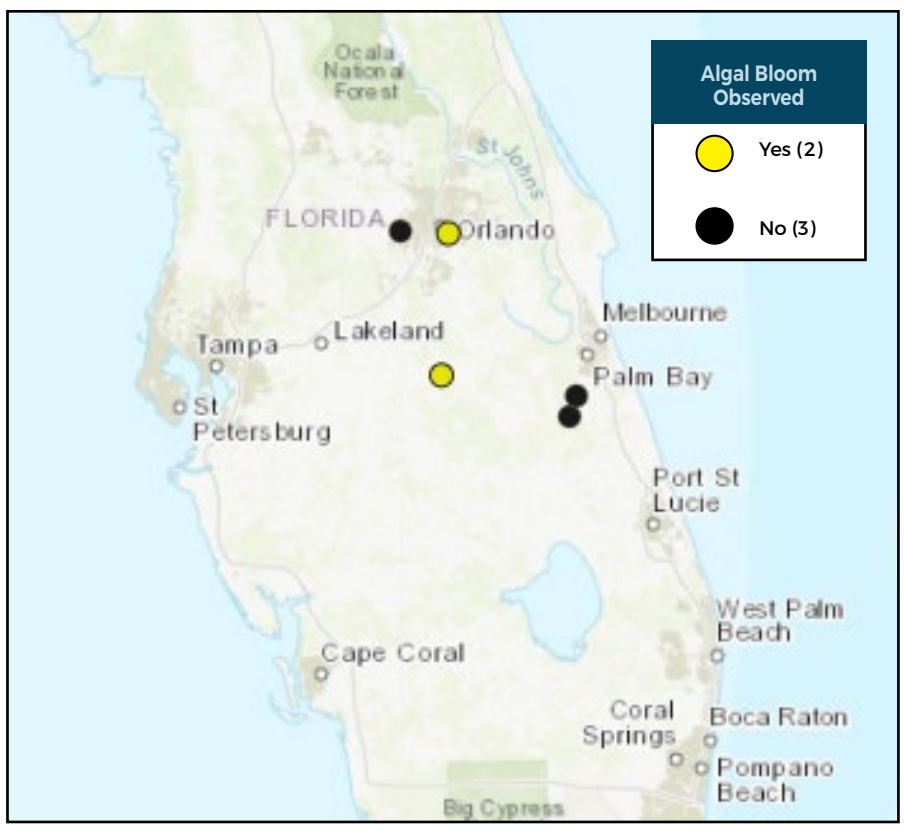
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS

Current Lake Release Schedule*		
West (S-79)	4,000	Constant
East (S-80)	1,800	Pulse
*Updates are generally made on Fridays.		

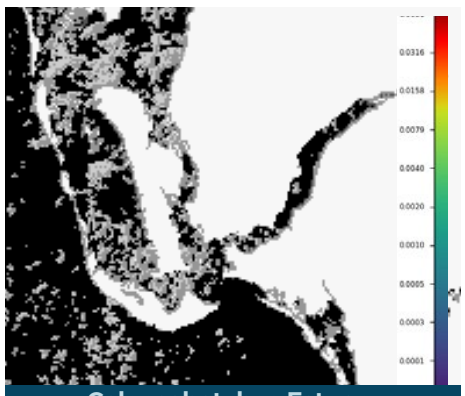
Total Inflows and Outflows (cfs)		
Weekly Inflow	34,648	
Weekly Outflow	West	28,288
	South	1,254
	East	6,011



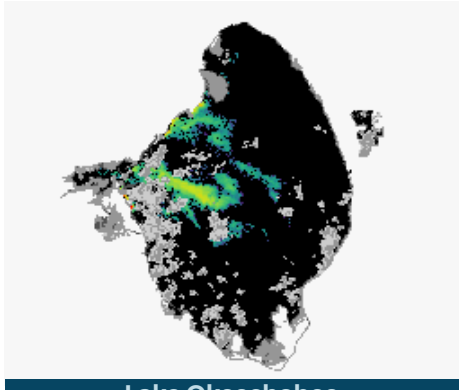
SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



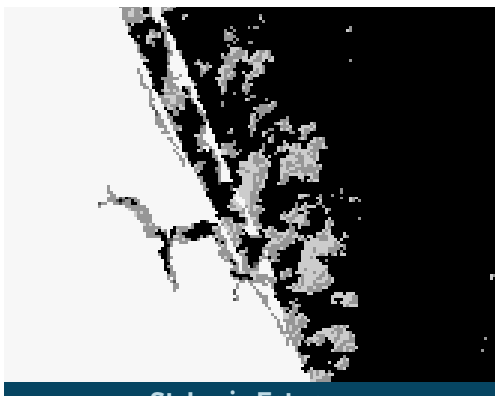
Satellite Imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud-cover



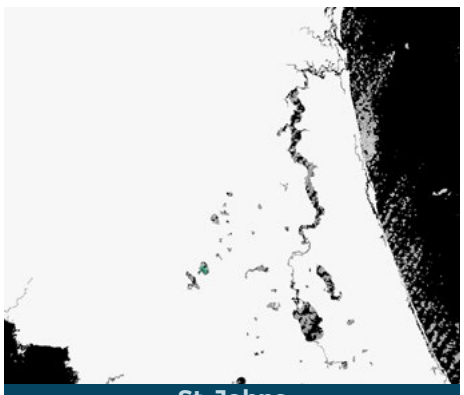
Caloosahatchee Estuary
October 29, 2020



Lake Okeechobee
October 29, 2020

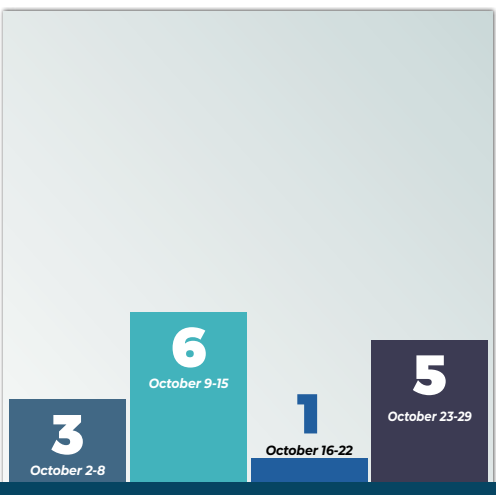


St. Lucie Estuary
October 29, 2020



St. Johns
October 29, 2020

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

Learn more about Florida's Algal Bloom Monitoring and Response visit our Water Quality website to check the current status and to receive updates.

PROTECTING TOGETHER
ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov