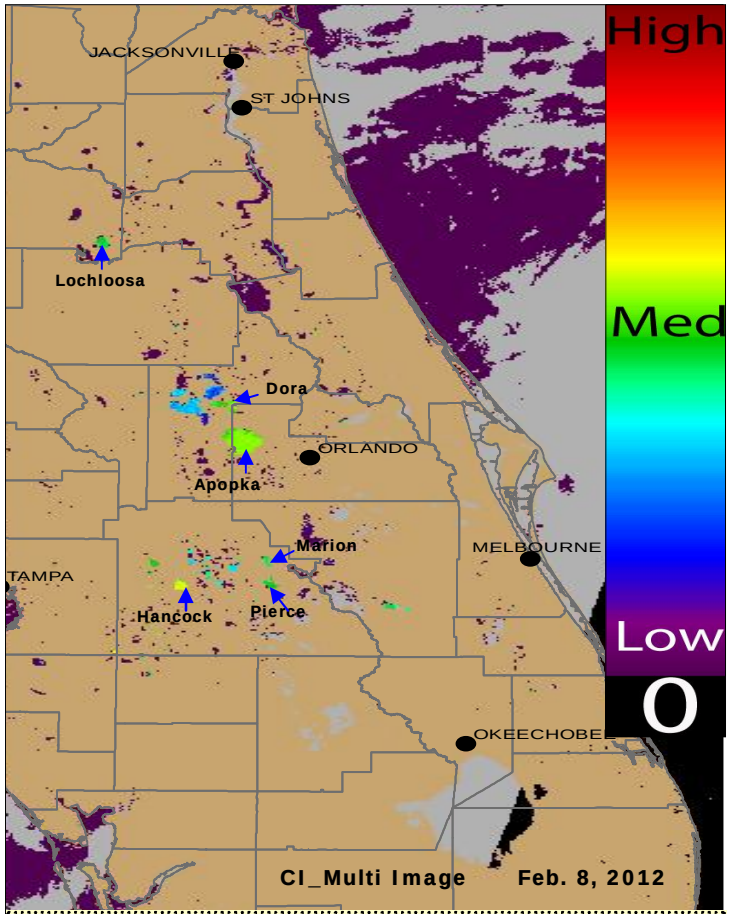
Experimental Cyanobacteria Health Bulletin: Feb. 8th 2012

To report an illness related to a marine toxin or algal bloom please contact the Florida Poison Information Center-Miami Aquatic Toxins Hotline at 1-888-232-8635.
For questions about the report: please contact Becky Lazensky, FL-DOH, at 352-955-1900. Images/data were obtained from Florida Water Management Districts, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NOAA National Climatic Data Centers and National Weather Centers. Support to produce this report was received through a NOAA/NASA Agreement (Number: NNH08ZDA001N)



If your agency has field sampling data on the regions shown in red, these data can be used to help validate the MERIS imagery. Contact Becky Lazensky at: 352-955-1900 to participate in future FDOH validation efforts.

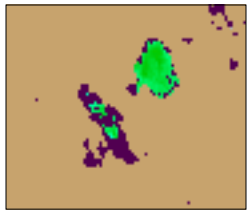
The MERIS Satellite Images above display a cyanobacteria index generated with a Medium Resolution Imaging Spectrometer (MERIS) satellite provided by the European Space Agency & NOAA.

- Very low likelihood of a bloom
- May indicate clouds or missing data
- Low cyanobacteria concentrations
- Medium cyanobacteria concentrations
- Probable bloom or higher cyanobacteria concentrations

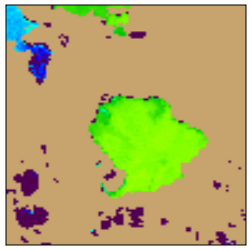
CyanoHabs Conditions Report: Feb. 8

- The software used to analyze the MERIS images was not fully operational this week. As a result, the imagery may have missed some of the cyanobacteria activity that would typically be detected
- Lochloosa and Orange Lakes (Alachua and Marion Counties) displayed medium estimated cyanobacteria concentrations
- Lake Apopka (Orange and Lake Counties) displayed medium estimated cyanobacteria concentrations
- Lake Dora (Lake County) displayed medium concentrations

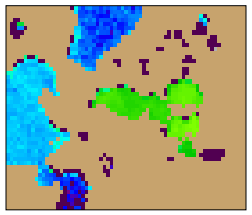
Lochloosa and Orange Lakes



Lake Apopka

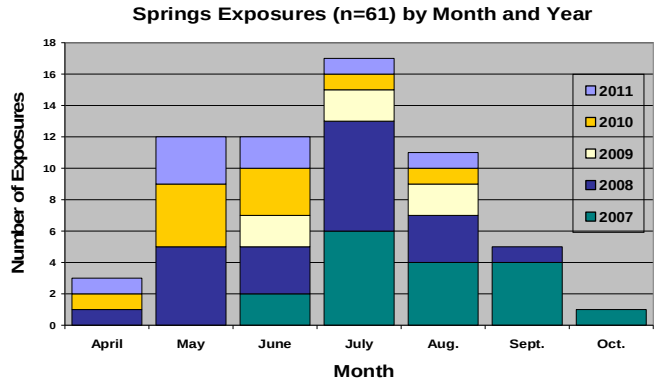


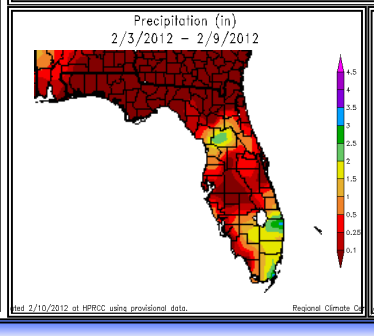
Lake Dora

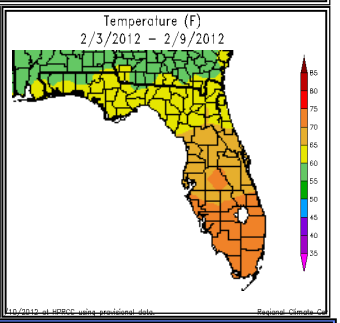


Aquatic Rashes in Swimmers
By: Becky Lazensky, MPH

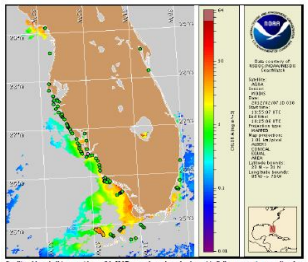
Each year rash illnesses are reported in swimmers who visit Florida springs. Dermal exposure to cyanotoxins is one inherent risk of recreational activity in freshwater. The summer months are associated with the highest number of these incidents. In a data analysis of 61 reports from 2007-2011, July had the highest number of rash incidents.







Non CyanoHABs & Health Report-*K. brevis* Bloom Update: Feb. 10, 2012



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom
Bulletin Region: SW Florida
Date: February 9, 2012
NOAA Ocean Service, NOAA Satellite and Information Service, NOAA National Weather Service

Confirmed Species: *Karenia brevis*

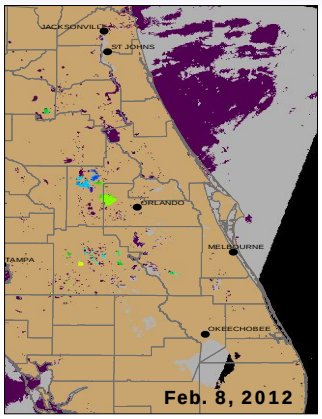
FWRI/FWC Results: Detected in very low to low concentrations in two water samples collected this week offshore of Harbor and Big Spanish Keys (the Florida Keys, Monroe County); background concentrations were detected in one sample collected alongshore of the Big Marco Pass area (southern Collier County). It is possible that patchy concentrations of *K. brevis* remain in these areas.

Health Reports: No respiratory impacts are expected alongshore southwest Florida through Feb. 12th.

To Report a Fish Kill: Call the FWRI/FWC Fish Kill Hotline at: 1-800-636-0511

Visit FWRI/FWC for Updates:
http://myfwc.com/research/redtide/events/status/

Interpreting Medium Resolution Imaging Spectrometer Satellite Imagery



- The medium resolution imaging spectrometer (MERIS) is located on the Envisat satellite deployed by the European Space Agency.
- The cyanobacterial index algorithm shown in this report is designed to identify high biomass algal blooms caused by cyanobacteria. However, the current algorithm tends to have false positives, so other blooms may be "flagged". NOAA is currently testing new algorithms that are more specific to cyanobacteria.
- Data can be used to estimate near surface cyanobacteria concentrations which are an indication that algal blooms may be present.
- The mathematical algorithms used to generate the satellite images can vary, resulting in some models having a higher likelihood of detecting surface blooms.
- While patches of red or warm colors may indicate a bloom, these data have not been verified in most cases using ground-truth methods. Data collected by the satellite is considered experimental.
- Only portions of Florida are in the satellite's current coverage area.
- Several environmental factors may affect how results can be interpreted. For example, areas with abundant aquatic plant vegetation may present with a high cyanobacteria index on the color spectrum, resulting in a false positive bloom reading.
- The satellite identifies the biomass near the surface (in the upper few feet of water). As a result, it may underestimate the total biomass for blooms that are mixed or dispersed through the water column. Turbidity does not otherwise influence the algorithms. The satellite imagery does not display the species of algae present.
- Cloud coverage can obscure imagery and create patches or gray areas on map and obscure bloom detection.
- Weather conditions can impact the duration and location of blooms and the satellite imagery shown in this report may no longer be relevant. Images represent the last image taken with a realization that blooms may have moved, dissipated or intensified.

To review HABs satellite reports in the Gulf of Mexico and marine waters visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive at: http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html

For Individual Weather Station Data Visit:
http://www.sercc.com/climateinfo/historical
historical_fl.html

Questions about the report or suggestions: You can contact
Becky Lazensky, MPH
352-955-1900
Becky_Lazensky@doh.state.fl.us