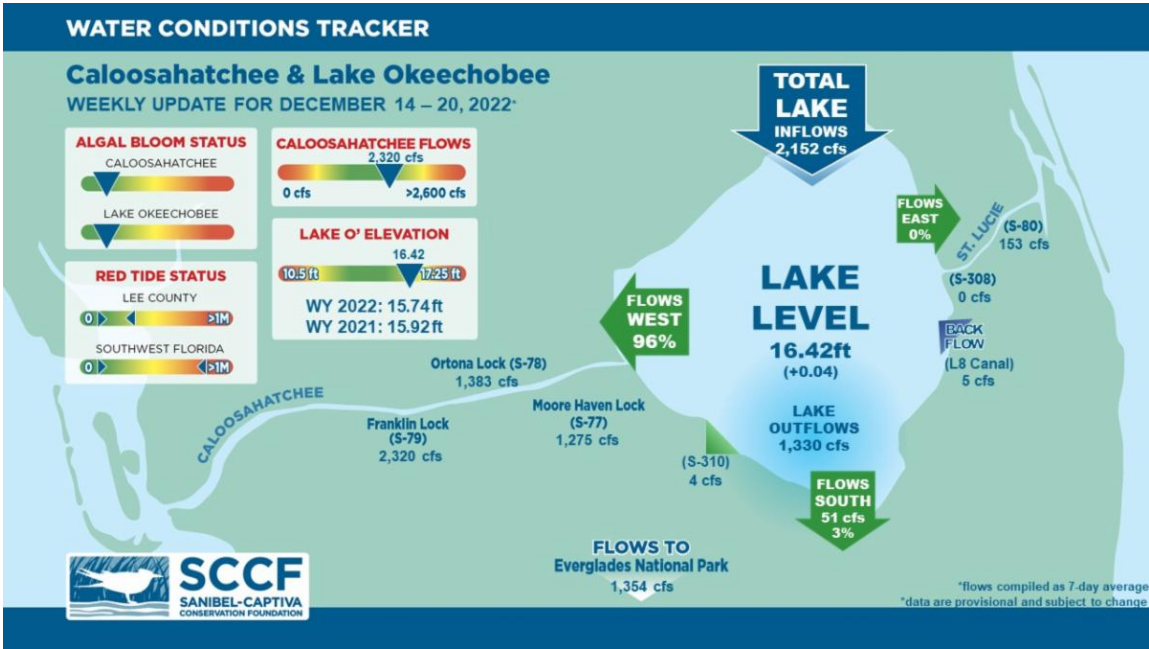




This Week's Water Conditions Update

December 23, 2022

Water Conditions Tracker



Lake Okeechobee Levels & Caloosahatchee Flow Impacts

On 12/20/22 Lake Okeechobee was at 16.42 feet, increasing by 0.04 feet in the past week. The weekly average flow at S-79 was 2,320 cfs (cubic feet per second) and flow from the Lake at S-77 was an average of 1,275 cfs. The 14-day average flow at S-79 was **1,817 cfs** and has been in the **optimal** flow envelope (750-2,100cfs) for 55 days.

For more information on Lake Okeechobee and estuary conditions go to the latest [Caloosahatchee Conditions Report](#)



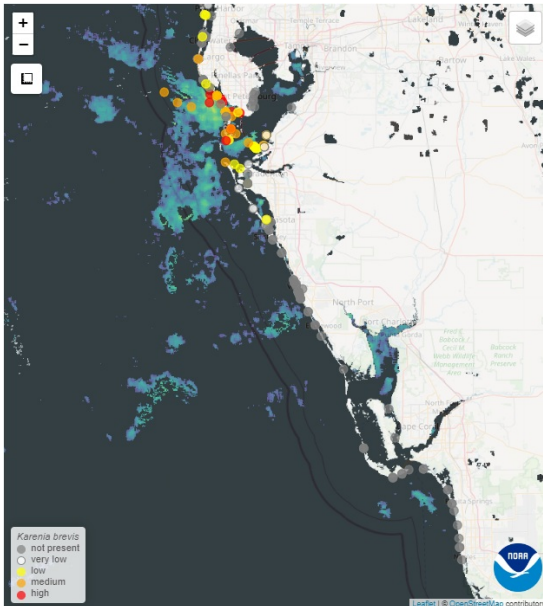
Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation

12/19/22

Virtual Water Quality Tour from Lighthouse Beach

[Click here](#) or on the image above to take a virtual tour from above Lighthouse Beach Park to see how the water looked this week.

Photo was taken on 12/19/22 at 12:46 PM on a falling tide (Low tide @ 2:43 PM (1.04 ft)).



Red Tide

[Satellite imagery](#) over the past week has detected low to moderate concentrations of chlorophyll of the coast of Southwest Florida, mostly near Tampa Bay.

On 12/16/22, the FWC reported that over the past week the red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was observed in 75 samples collected from Florida's Gulf Coast over the past week. Bloom concentrations (>100,000 cells/liter) were present in 30 samples: 18 in and offshore of Pinellas County, one in Hillsborough County, four in Manatee County, four in Sarasota County, two in Charlotte County, and one offshore of Monroe County.

K. brevis was observed at background to high concentrations in and offshore of Pinellas County, high concentrations in Hillsborough County, background to medium concentrations in and offshore of Manatee County, background to high concentrations in Sarasota County, low to medium concentrations in and offshore of Charlotte County, **background to very low concentrations in and offshore of Lee County**, very low concentrations offshore of Collier County, and background to medium concentrations in and offshore of Monroe County.

The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) (currently displaced off island) received 10 birds with toxicosis symptoms (from red tide or blue-green algae) from 12/13/22 - 12/19/22.

Beach Conditions

In the past week, the City of Sanibel reported 4 dead laughing gulls and 1 dead double crested cormorant on Sanibel beaches, and the Town of Fort Myers Beach reported a horseshoe crab kill.

Blue-Green Algae

On 12/19/22 sampling for cyanobacteria by the Lee County Environmental Lab reported the **presence** of *Microcystis* and *Dolichospermum* upstream of the **Franklin Locks** and at the **Davis Boat Ramp** as wind driven tan-green scum along the lock and seawall.

On 12/14/22, [satellite imagery](#) from Lake Okeechobee showed no bloom potential in the lake.

Become a Citizen Scientist and Get the Algae Reporting App Today!

SCCF wants to know when and where all types of algae sightings occur to monitor conditions around the islands and to investigate algae bloom occurrence with patterns in seasonal weather changes and Lake Okeechobee water management practices.



Download the algae reporting app on your phone by [clicking here](#) or by searching for the ArcGIS Survey123 app in the app store. Once installed, give the app permission to access your phone's location to receive GPS coordinates of your sighting and camera/media to capture and attach pictures. When you open the app, click "Continue Without Signing In."

Next, download the algae reporting survey by scanning the QR code above or [clicking here](#) on your phone. Once the survey is downloaded, fill out the required fields and click the check mark in the lower right corner to submit your sighting. Note: If you do not have cellular coverage, you can still fill out the survey and save it in the outbox to be sent later. [Click here](#) to download instructions.

Resources To Follow:

To learn more about our current water conditions, click on the following links:

[Caloosahatchee Conditions Report](#)

A collaborative, weekly analysis, including recommendations for water managers regarding Lake Okeechobee flows.

[RECON](#)

SCCF's River, Estuary, and Coastal Observing Network is a network of eight optical water quality sensors deployed throughout the Caloosahatchee and the Pine Island Sound estuary to provide real-time water quality data.

[Caloosahatchee River Virtual Tour](#)

[Red Tide Resources](#)

[NOAA HAB Monitoring System - Lake Okeechobee](#)

[Algae Reporting App](#)

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SCCF (Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation) | PO BOX 839, Sanibel, FL 33957

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