

# **Lower St Johns River**

## **Weekly River Field Brief**

25 July 2012

**Areas of Coverage:** Lower St Johns River mainstem from NAS to Crescent Lake and Lake George. Including Dunns Creek and sections of the Ocklawaha, and Black Creek.

**Coverage Dates:** July 23 -24, 2012

**Surface Water quality:** Lower Basin river salinities ranged from 1.6 ppt just north of NAS Jax to .97 off Mandarin Point. Water quality parameters were collected from NAS Jax (Piney Point) down through northern Lake George.

**Algal/HAB:** The SJRWMD team observed what appeared to be two small areas of cyanobacteria blooms on Tuesday. One was in the lower reach of the Ocklawaha, and the second in Crescent Lake near the Dunns Creek outflow. Compositions of the blooms appeared different to the field scientists. Algal toxin samples were collected from both areas at the surface and are being shipped for analysis today.

Also, live composite plankton samples were collected and shipped to FWRI on Monday for analysis for samples collected at Piney Point, Plummers Cove, and Mandarin Point.

**Foam:** No unusual foam events observed.

**Fish Kills:** None observed.

**From FWRI/Catalina Brown:**

### **7/24/2012**

**Salt Springs - Marion County** - Hotline Call - We received a report of dead catfish in the Lake George Canal. The caller explained that he has noted dead catfish for a few weeks now. FWH staff explained that we have collected catfish and water samples from central and east Florida and we continue to monitor the situation. DFFM collected samples from Lake George on 7/24 for further analysis.

### **7/23/2012**

**Salt Springs - Marion County** - Hotline Call - We received a report of a large catfish kill in Lake George. The caller explained that he noted numerous catfish gasping for air. FWH staff explained that we have collected catfish and water samples from central and east Florida and we continue to monitor the situation.

7/19/2012

**Jacksonville - Duval County** - Hotline Call – An angler contacted us to let us know he caught a weakfish infested with worms near the Jacksonville Zoo, this past weekend. The caller wanted a positive ID for the worms, and may forward pictures to us today. FWH staff gave him a general explanation about worms in fish and forwarded him the information circular “Worms in Fish”.

**Wildlife:** unremarkable

**Other notes:** Three continuous monitoring sites have been installed along the Ocklawaha River, including hwy 19, Sharpes Ferry, and Moss Bluff. Physico-chemical parameters (DO, pH, Conductivity, Salinity, and Temperature) are currently collected at these sites.

*Disclaimer: Field notes are collected at scheduled areas during sampling events. Complete shoreline surveys are usually not logistically feasible unless work occurs at a designated area at the shoreline. Our primary SJR main stem range is approximately 110 miles.*

These “River Briefs” are designed to highlight selected information from the lower SJR. If you would like more details for any of the information put forth, please ask. For questions, comments or suggestions on improving the usefulness of these weekly updates, please email me @ [rburks@sjrwmd.com](mailto:rburks@sjrwmd.com). Your input is appreciated.

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