

Lower St Johns River

Weekly River Field Brief

2011, April 18-23

Areas of Coverage: *Limited range due to scheduled temporary District laboratory closure.*

SJR main stem at limited sites: Doctors Lake, Shands Bridge, Racy Point, Lake George, Crescent Lake. Storm samples collected at Hasting RSTs (maintenance/data collection). No shoreline samples.

Water quality: Water temps ranged from 24.7 at Shands Bridge to 27.4 at Crescent Lake. Readings for pH ranged from 8.2 at Shands Bridge to 9.2 at Lake George.

Weather/Rainfall events: Seasonal temperatures Monday, High heat Tues-Sat, averaging 10 degs above normal each day. Zero rainfall recorded.

Algal/HAB: No significant blooms or scum formations observed at sampling locations (note disclaimer at end). Possible beginnings of bloom noted at Palatka Boat Ramp on Wed. Localized.

Foam: Heavy foam bands several hundred meters long and 20-50 meters wide observed off San Marco Saturday, east side of river (30 18' 19.38" N; 81 39' 38.67 W). Strong winds from west. Dense coverage observed in canal entrance to Marco Lake (30 18' 05.97" N; 81 39' 26.77 W). Foam side-to-side, thick, and observed running into Marco Lake.

Fish Kills: None observed

Wildlife: Alligators and turtles observed along banks of Dunns Creek. Osprey fledgling activity observed at 70 percent of channel markers Palatka to Lake George. Swallow tailed kites observed soaring over Dunns Creek (7 count). Manatee observed off Dunns Creek Park.

Other notes: Chironomid pupae exoskeletons and adult carcasses observed at Lake George surface. Estimated to be about 200 sq/m. Ratio was about 50/50 pupae exoskeletons to adults.

Projected areas of operation for next week: Limited, due to temporary District Lab shutdown. Hastings RSTs. Limited parameter WQ sampling along SJR main stem from Mayport to Astor, FL, including Crescent Lake, Ocklawaha, Black Creek, Doctors Lake, and Six Mile Creek.

Disclaimer: Field events are at scheduled areas during sampling events. Shoreline surveys are usually not logistically feasible, as our main stem range is approximately 110 miles.

For questions, comments or suggestions on improving the usefulness of these weekly updates, please email me @ rburks@sjrwmd.com. Your input is appreciated.

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