

Lower St Johns River
Weekly River Field Brief

2011 June 3

Areas of Coverage: Hastings RSTs and tributaries. Palatka to Riverdale. Sampling dates: May 31-June 2. (note: short operational week due to holiday). Information coverage dates: May 27-June 2.

Surface Water quality: Collected fractions: full WQ suite, limited to tributaries.

Weather/Rainfall events: Hot and dry. Above average normal temperatures during day (+18 F total for week) and night (+ 9 F total for week). Rainfall recorded at 0.72 in on single event (5/27) for Jacksonville during the week. Rainfall is projected to be below normal for the month of June.

Algal/HAB: No team river presence this week except for Palatka to Riverdale. No bloom or scum formations observed in this area. RSTs monitoring indicate trending elevated chlorophyll levels, phytoplankton blooms. Meters deployed to monitor DO levels. (note disclaimer at end).

Foam: No foam observed from Palatka to Riverdale. See citizen report section.

Fish Kills: None observed along SJR from Palatka to Riverdale.

Wildlife: Manatee activity (3 confirmed) observed near Bolles, traveling upstream (5/28). Dolphin activity observed at downtown Jacksonville and San Marco (5/28). Large daytime midge swarms noted at Palatka BR during day. Mullet activity noted at Riverdale, center stream.

Other notes: None.

Citizen Reports:

Unconfirmed Citizen Reports: (*reported directly to SJRWMD team but no confirmation available*): None.

Citizen reports through other organizations: Foam accumulation observed north shore between Acosta and Fuller Warren Bridge (photos) from St Johns River Keeper (SJRK). Low water levels reported near Goodby's Creek (SJRK).

Projected areas of operation for next week: SJR main stem from Astor to Mayport, including Lake George, Crescent Lake, Dunns Creek, Ocklawaha (near SJR), Hastings RSTs, Julington Creek and Doctors Lake.

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. Your input is appreciated.

Robert Storm Burks-SJRWMD