

# Lower St Johns River

## Weekly River Field Brief

2011 May 13

**Areas of Coverage:** SJR main stem from Astor to Mayport, including Lake George, Crescent Lake, Dunns Creek, Ocklawaha (near SJR), Hastings RSTs and tribs. Shoreline at mid section with F&W, including Julington Creek. Dates: May 9-12.

**Water quality:** Collected fractions: full WQ suite. Salinities were elevated south of Jacksonville. Salinity was recorded at 4.98 ppt at Hibernia point (near Black Creek) at a depth of 4.2 meters below surface.

**Weather/Rainfall events:** Above normal seasonal temperatures during day (+40 F total for week) and near seasonal at night (+ 2 F total for week). Rainfall recorded at 0 .00 for Jacksonville during the week.

**Algal/HAB:** No significant blooms or scum formations observed at sampling locations (note disclaimer at end). SJR team working with F&W team did, however, confirm some pockets of localized surficial blooms as reported last week by other partner entities at Julington Creek.

**Foam:** Observations of foam areas that ranged significantly in size and pattern.

**Fish Kills:** None observed.

**Wildlife:** Dolphin activity observed near Lions Club BR, Mill Cove, Dames Point Bridge, Mayport and north of NAS, south of Jacksonville. Dolphins' activity was observed further south than usual. Note that the salinity levels were higher than usual during the time of the dolphin sighting south of Jacksonville. Unusually large populations of jellyfish encountered at mouth of river Tuesday. A single specimen of a giant river prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) was captured by citizen in SJR in San Marco, just south of Jacksonville. This species is considered invasive to the SJR, and native to the Indo-Pacific.

**Special Note:** While performing a WQ run, a young, expired dolphin was encountered on Tuesday, May 10, floating near channel west of Dames Point Bridge. NOAA was contacted immediately, and they requested the SJR team to retrieve the expired dolphin and coordinate a rendezvous for the dolphin delivery. Dolphin was young, estimated to be 120 cm in length. Initial notes indicted a broken rostrum and some deterioration of carcass. The dolphin was retrieved by SJR team, packed in ice, and delivered to NOAA representatives. Photographs and notes of this event are available upon request.

**Other notes:** Midge exoskeletons observed near shore between Buckman and Palatka. Radiometer readings collected for Lake George.

**Projected areas of operation for next week:** Selected areas of SJR mainstem: Hastings RST's. and Ocklawaha River to Sharpes Ferry.

*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](mailto:rburks@sjrwmd.com). Your input is appreciated.

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