

Lower St Johns River

Weekly River Field Brief

2011 May 27

Areas of Coverage: SJR main stem from Astor to Mayport, including Lake George, Crescent Lake, Dunns Creek, Ocklawaha (near SJR), Hastings RSTs and Doctors Lake. SAV at Orangedale and Scratch Ankle. Sampling dates: May 22-26. Information coverage dates: May 20-26.

Surface Water quality: Collected fractions: full WQ suite. Salinities continue to increase south of Jacksonville. Salinity was recorded at 7.31 ppt at Hibernia point (near Black Creek), 7.60 ppt at Doctors Lake, and 3.99 ppt at Shands Bridge, south of Green Cove Springs.

Weather/Rainfall events: Hot and dry. Transition from a week earlier, which tied record lows to near record highs this week. Above normal temperatures compared to average seasonal during day (+51 F total for week) and near seasonal average at night (+ 5 F total for week). Rainfall recorded at 0 .00 for Jacksonville during the week.

Algal/HAB: No significant blooms or scum formations were observed at sampling locations (note disclaimer at end).

Foam: Observations of foam areas that ranged significantly in both size and pattern, primarily between Shands Bridge and Fuller Warren.

Fish Kills: None observed along SJR mainstem from Astor to Mayport. Single fish including a gar and a shad observed towards Lake George.

Wildlife: Manatee activity (2 confirmed) observed at Doctors Lake (5/25/11) during sampling event.

Dolphin activity continues to extend southward of normal areas where frequent sightings occur. Dolphin activity observed at Mayport, Dames Point Bridge, Mill Cove (east and west), Trout River, Lions Club BR, Matthews Bridge, and off Lake Marco, south of San Marco.

Cannonball Jellyfish (*Stomolophus meleagris*) observed in unusually large numbers at the mouth of the SJR. Densities estimated at approximately 4 per sq meter.

A Great Blue Heron was rescued from the water at a seawall in San Marco. The adult male was captured and transported to a veterinarian clinic, and has since been transferred to BEAKS rehab facility. Full recovery and reintroduction are expected within the week..

Large numbers of Least Terns observed feeding at west Mill Cove area. More captures of suspected invasive prawns (*Macrobrachium* sp) were collected, and are currently pending shipment to FWRI for taxonomy and archival. Midge exoskeletons observed at Crescent Lake.

Other notes: Radiometer readings collected for Lake George, and Crescent Lake.

Unconfirmed Citizen Reports: (*reported directly to SJRWMD team, but no confirmation available*)

1. Loon captured from San Marco area and described as having little response to the capture, reportedly expired during the transfer to veterinary clinic.
2. Single large redfish reported floating in river south of Jacksonville.
3. Reported large numbers of small mullet running near Doctors Lake.

Projected areas of operation for next week: Selected areas of SJR mainstem. Hastings RST's.

Disclaimer: Field notes are collected at scheduled areas during sampling events. Complete shoreline surveys are usually not logistically feasible unless a 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. If you would like to discontinue these emails, please let me know.

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