

Red Tide Status - Florida Southwest Coast September 18, 2020

Present Status: The red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was observed at background concentrations in one sample collected offshore of Hillsborough County. *K. brevis* was not observed in samples collected from or offshore of Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, or Monroe counties.

In Southwest Florida over the past week, no fish kills suspected to be related to red tide were reported (please see <https://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/health/fish-kills-hotline>).

No reports of respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide were received over the past week.

Forecasts by the [USF-FWC Collaboration for Prediction of Red Tides](#) for Pinellas to northern Monroe counties predict variable movement of surface and subsurface waters over the next four days.

County	Date Collected	Alongshore Inshore	Offshore	Site Location	Collector
Pinellas					
-	09/10	not present	-	Philippe Park; NE of (Safety Harbor)	FWRI
-	09/10	not present	-	Philippe Park; NE of (Safety Harbor)	FWRI
-	09/10	not present	-	Cooper Point; E of (Old Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/14	not present	-	Clearwater Pass	FWRI
-	09/10	not present	-	High Point; 2 mi NE of (Old Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/10	not present	-	High Point; 2 mi NE of (Old Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/14	not present	-	Grand Bellagio Condo Docks (Old Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/10	not present	-	Big Island; 2.2 mi E of (Old Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/10	not present	-	Big Island; 2.2 mi E of (Old Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/10	not present	-	Weedon Island; E of (Old Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/14	not present	-	La Contessa Pier	FWRI
-	09/10	not present	-	Snell Isle; 2.3 mi SE of (Middle Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/14	not present	-	FWRI Peninsula; SE tip of (Bayboro Harbor)	FWRI
-	09/14	not present	-	FWRI Peninsula; SE tip of (Bayboro Harbor)	FWRI
-	09/14	not present	-	Eckerd College (Wallace Cove)	FWRI
-	09/14	not present	-	Mullet Key; Gulf Pier	FWRI

County	Date Collected	Alongshore Inshore	Offshore	Site Location	Collector
Hillsborough					
-	09/10	not present	-	Old Tampa Bay Park; 1.7 mi S of (Old Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/10	not present	-	C. Campbell Causeway; S of (Old Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/10	not present	-	C. Campbell Causeway; S of (Old Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/10	not present	-	Howard Frankland Bridge; N of (Old Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/10	not present	-	San Jose St; W of (Old Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/15	not present	-	Davis Islands (Hillsborough Bay)	FWRI-FWH
-	09/10	-	BACKGROUND	Mullet Key; 61 mi W of	FWRI
Manatee					
-	09/14	not present	-	Skyway Fishing Pier; South (Lower Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/14	not present	-	Fletcher Point (Lower Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/14	not present	-	Anna Maria Island Rod & Reel Pier (Lower Tampa Bay)	FWRI
-	09/14	not present	-	Palma Sola Bay Bridge	FWRI
-	09/14	not present	-	Longboat Pass Boat Ramp (Sarasota Bay)	FWRI
Sarasota					
-	09/15	not present	-	Longboat Key Beach	SCDH
-	09/14	not present	-	Sail Dock	MML
-	09/16	not present	-	Sail Dock	MML
-	09/16	not present	-	Sail Dock	MML
-	09/14	not present	-	Sail Dock	MML
-	09/14	not present	-	New Pass Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/11	not present	-	New Pass Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/16	not present	-	New Pass Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/15	not present	-	New Pass Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/11	not present	-	New Pass Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/14	not present	-	New Pass Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/16	not present	-	New Pass Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML

County	Date Collected	Alongshore Inshore	Offshore	Site Location	Collector
-	09/17	not present	-	New Pass Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/10	not present	-	New Pass Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/15	not present	-	Marina Jack (Sarasota Bay)	USF
-	09/14	not present	-	Bay Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/16	not present	-	Bay Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/11	not present	-	Bay Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/11	not present	-	Bay Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/14	not present	-	Bay Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/15	not present	-	Bay Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/16	not present	-	Bay Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/17	not present	-	Bay Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/10	not present	-	Bay Dock (Sarasota Bay)	MML
-	09/15	not present	-	Ringling Causeway	SCDH
-	09/15	not present	-	St. Armands Key; N of (Pansy Bayou)	USF
-	09/15	not present	-	North Lido Beach	SCDH
-	09/15	not present	-	Lido Beach Casino	SCDH
-	09/15	not present	-	South Lido Park	USF
-	09/15	not present	-	South Lido Park	SCDH
-	09/15	not present	-	Siesta Beach	SCDH
-	09/15	not present	-	Turtle Beach	SCDH
-	09/15	not present	-	Nokomis Beach	SCDH
-	09/15	not present	-	North Jetty	SCDH
-	09/15	not present	-	Venice Beach	SCDH
-	09/15	not present	-	Service Club Park	SCDH
-	09/15	not present	-	Venice Fishing Pier	SCDH
-	09/15	not present	-	Brohard Beach	SCDH
-	09/15	not present	-	Manasota Beach	SCDH
-	09/15	not present	-	Blind Pass Beach	SCDH
Charlotte					
-	09/16	not present	-	Englewood Beach	ChCPRCR
-	09/16	not present	-	Boca Grande Pier (Gasparilla Sound)	ChCPRCR
Lee					
-	09/16	not present	-	Boca Grande Pass	FDACS
-	09/16	not present	-	Little Bokeelia Island; N of (Charlotte Harbor)	FDACS
-	09/16	not present	-	Mondongo Island; W of (Pine Island Sound)	FDACS

County	Date Collected	Alongshore Inshore	Offshore	Site Location	Collector
-	09/15	not present	-	Ben Coleman Keys (Matlacha Pass)	FDEP
-	09/15	not present	-	Porpoise Point Island; SW of (Matlacha Pass)	FDEP
-	09/16	not present	-	Captiva Pass	FDACS
-	09/16	not present	-	Captiva Rocks; SW of (Pine Island Sound)	FDACS
-	09/16	not present	-	Hemp Key; S of (Pine Island Sound)	FDACS
-	09/16	not present	-	Cork Island; W of (Pine Island Sound)	FDACS
-	09/15	not present	-	Deer Stop Keys; SW of (Matlacha Pass)	FDEP
-	09/16	not present	-	Redfish Pass; 1.8 mi E of (Pine Island Sound)	FDACS
-	09/16	not present	-	Redfish Pass (Pine Island Sound)	FDACS
-	09/16	not present	-	Regla Island; W of (Pine Island Sound)	FDACS
-	09/16	not present	-	Buck Key; 1.9 mi NE of (Pine Island Sound)	FDACS
-	09/16	not present	-	South Seas Plantation Entrance	LCEL
-	09/16	not present	-	York Island; W of (Pine Island Sound)	FDACS
-	09/16	not present	-	Buck Key; S of (Blind Pass)	FDACS
-	09/16	not present	-	Lynn Hall Park	LCEL
-	09/16	not present	-	Lighthouse Beach	LCEL
-	09/16	not present	-	Tarpon Road Beach	LCEL
-	09/14	not present	-	Big Carlos Pass	PC
-	09/16	not present	-	Lovers Key State Park	LCEL
-	09/14	not present	-	Hogue Channel	PC
-	09/16	not present	-	Bonita Beach Park	LCEL
Collier					
-	09/10	not present	-	Barefoot Beach State Preserve	CCPCD
-	09/10	not present	-	Vanderbilt Beach	CCPCD
-	09/10	not present	-	Seagate	CCPCD
-	09/10	not present	-	Naples Pier	CCPCD
-	09/10	not present	-	South Marco Beach	CCPCD
Monroe					
-	09/10	-	not present	West Bahia Honda Key; 13 mi N of	FWRI

County	Date Collected	Alongshore Inshore	Offshore	Site Location	Collector
-	09/10	-	not present	East Bahia Honda Key; 12 mi N of	FWRI
-	09/15	-	not present	Big Spanish Key; 9 mi N of	FWRI
-	09/15	-	not present	Big Spanish Key; 8 mi N of	FWRI
-	09/10	-	not present	East Bahia Honda Key; 10 mi N of	FWRI
-	09/15	-	not present	Harbor Key; 5.8 mi N of	FWRI
-	09/10	-	not present	East Bahia Honda Key; 8.9 mi NE of	FWRI
-	09/15	-	not present	Harbor Key; 4.2 mi NW of	FWRI

Note: ChCPRCR = Charlotte Co Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources; CCPCD = Collier County Pollution Control and Prevention Department; FDACS = Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; FDEP = Florida Department of Environmental Protection; FWRI = FWC-Fish and Wildlife Research Institute; FWRI-FWH = FWRI-Fish and Wildlife Health; LCEL = Lee County Environmental Lab; MML = Mote Marine Laboratory; PC = Private Citizen - Volunteer Program; SCDH = Sarasota County Department of Health; USF = University of South Florida

Key for Results

Description	<i>Karenia brevis</i> abundance	Possible effects (<i>Karenia brevis</i> only)
NOT PRESENT-BACKGROUND	0 - 1,000 cells/L	no effects anticipated
VERY LOW	> 1,000 - 10,000 cells/L	possible respiratory irritation; shellfish harvesting closures when cell abundance equals or exceeds 5,000 cells/L
LOW	> 10,000 - 100,000 cells/L	respiratory irritation; shellfish harvesting closures; possible fish kills; probable detection of chlorophyll by satellites at upper range of cell abundance
MEDIUM	> 100,000 - 1,000,000 cells/L	respiratory irritation; shellfish harvesting closures; probable fish kills; detection of surface chlorophyll by satellites
HIGH	> 1,000,000 cells/L	as above, plus water discoloration

Red Tide-Related Hotlines and Information Sources

Latest Red Tide Status Report by Phone

Call (866) 300-9399 at anytime from anywhere in Florida toll-free to hear a recording about red tide conditions throughout the state. FWRI updates the recording each Friday by 5 p.m. Callers outside of Florida can dial (727) 502-4952. Standard calling charges apply.

Fish and Wildlife Hotlines and Reporting Contacts

[FWRI Fish Kill Hotline](#)

The FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) maintains this hotline through a federally funded project to survey fish-related diseases and mortalities.

Call (800) 636-0511 (toll-free) to report fish kills, diseased fish, or fish with other abnormalities. Leave a detailed report and contact information on the recorded message. A biologist will contact the caller, usually the following workday, if more information is needed. Please do not call the FWRI Fish Kill Hotline to request dead fish cleanup; local municipalities are responsible for dead fish cleanup, usually only on public beaches.

[FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline](#): (888) 404-3922 (toll-free)

If you find a dead, sick, or injured manatee or sea turtle, or you would like to report a wildlife law violation, please call FWC's 24-hour Wildlife Alert Number.

Hotlines and Reporting Sites for Effects on Humans

Florida Poison Information Center: (800) 222-1222 (toll-free)

If you would like to report health issues related to exposure to red tide, please call the Florida Poison Information Center at 800-222-1222. Additional information on the health effects of Florida red tide can be found on the [Florida Department of Health](#) website.

Information Sources

Mote Marine Laboratory's [Beach Conditions Report](#) provides up-to-date information about the effects of red tide on Florida Gulf coast beaches, including reports of dead fish, respiratory irritation among beachgoers, water color, and wind direction. The site also provides information on red drift algae and rip currents.

At the **University of South Florida (USF) College Of Marine Science**, the [Collaboration for the Prediction of Red Tides](#) uses [forecast models](#) to track and predict harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the southeastern United States and reports current conditions. Experimental products include *Karenia* flag maps of bloom locations and 4.5-day HAB trajectory forecasts. The center is a cooperative venture with the FWC.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) uses satellite imagery, field observations, and buoy data to assess harmful algal blooms in the Gulf of Mexico. A report of conditions and additional information appears on the [NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System](#) website.

[START: Solutions to Avoid Red Tide](#) is a nonprofit group committed to scientific research and educational outreach on the impacts of Harmful Algae Blooms.

[Outreach and social media products](#) about Florida red tide are available for viewing and download.

Shellfish Harvesting Closures

To protect public health, the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute's Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) group closely monitors the status of *K. brevis* on Florida's coasts, providing technical support to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), the agency that regulates approved

shellfish harvesting areas. Before harvesting in Florida waters, determine open or closed status by visiting the Department's [Division of Aquaculture](#) Web site or calling a field office.

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