

**Red Tide Status - Florida Northwest Coast
October 02, 2020**

Present Status: The red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was not observed in samples collected from or offshore of Okaloosa, Bay, Franklin, or Hernando counties.

No samples were analyzed this week from Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Gulf, Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Citrus, or Pasco counties.

County	Date Collected	Alongshore Inshore	Offshore	Site Location	Collector
Okaloosa					
-	09/28	-	not present	Santa Rosa Island; 8.4 mi S of	PC
-	09/28	not present	-	Brooks Bridge; W of (Santa Rosa Sound)	PC
Bay					
-	09/28	not present	-	Blind Alligator Bayou; E of (East Bay)	FDACS
-	09/28	not present	-	Cedar Point; NE of (East Bay)	FDACS
-	09/28	not present	-	Military Point; W of (East Bay)	FDACS
-	09/30	not present	-	Shell Point; E of (West Bay)	FDACS
-	09/30	not present	-	Cedar Hammock; W of (West Bay)	FDACS
-	09/30	not present	-	Coon Point; 1.1 mi SW of (West Bay)	FDACS
Franklin					
-	09/30	not present	-	Sikes Cut; SE of	FDEP-ANERR
-	09/30	not present	-	West Pass; NE of (Apalachicola Bay)	FDEP-ANERR
-	09/30	not present	-	St. Vincent Point; E of (Apalachicola Bay)	FDEP-ANERR
-	09/30	not present	-	Old St. George Island Causeway; E of (St. George Sound)	FDEP-ANERR
-	09/29	not present	-	Millender Street; S of (St. George Sound)	FDEP-CPAP
-	09/24	not present	-	Millender Street; S of (St. George Sound)	FDEP-CPAP
Hernando					
-	09/24	-	not present	Lemon Grove Island; 6 mi W of	FWRI
-	09/24	-	not present	Pine Island; 18 mi W of	FWRI

Note: FDEP-ANERR = FDEP - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve; FDEP-CPAP = FDEP - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserve; FDACS = Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; FWRI = FWC-Fish and Wildlife Research Institute; PC = Private Citizen - Volunteer Program

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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