

Red Tide Status - Florida Northwest Coast

September 4, 2026

Present Status: The red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was observed at background concentrations in one sample collected from Franklin County. *Karenia brevis* was not observed in samples collected from or offshore of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, Wakulla, Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Citrus, or Pasco counties. No samples from Okaloosa, Jefferson, or Hernando counties were analyzed this week.

County	Date Collected	Coastal or Offshore*	<i>Karenia brevis</i> Levels	Sample Depth (m)	Site Location	Collector
Escambia	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Pensacola Beach Pier	ECR
Escambia	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Fishing Bend	ECR
Escambia	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Palafox Pier (Pensacola Bay)	ECR
Santa Rosa	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Navarre Pier	NBMSS
Santa Rosa	09/02	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Trout Bayou; 1.2 mi SW of (Escambia Bay)	FDACS
Santa Rosa	09/02	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Garcon Point; 1.8 mi W of (Pensacola Bay)	FDACS
Santa Rosa	09/02	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Butchpen Cove; 1.7 mi N of (Pensacola Bay)	FDACS
Walton	09/01	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Motes Point; S of (Choctawhatchee Bay)	FDACS
Walton	09/01	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Harstvedt Road; NE of (Choctawhatchee Bay)	FDACS
Walton	09/01	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Basin Bayou; S of (Choctawhatchee Bay)	FDACS
Bay	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Bonita Bay Park (East Bay)	CS
Bay	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Earl Gilbert Park Boat Ramp (East Bay)	CS
Bay	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Bob George Park Boat Ramp (Watson Bayou)	CS
Gulf	08/28	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	St. Joseph State Park Beach	FWRI-Mollusks

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Gulf	08/28	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Salinas Park	FWRI-Mollusks
Gulf	08/28	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Mexico Beach	FWRI-Mollusks
Gulf	08/28	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Windmark Beach	FWRI-Mollusks
Gulf	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Eagle Harbor; 2.7 mi N of (St. Joseph Bay)	FWRI-Mollusks
Gulf	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Pig Island; 0.7 mi E of (St. Joseph Bay)	FWRI-Mollusks
Gulf	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Blacks Island; E of (St. Joseph Bay)	FWRI-Mollusks
Gulf	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Mid-St. Joseph Bay	FWRI-Mollusks
Gulf	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Patton Bayou; W of (St. Joseph Bay)	FWRI-Mollusks
Gulf	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Eagle Harbor; SE of (St. Joseph Bay)	FWRI-Mollusks
Franklin	08/28	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	St. George Island State Park	FWRI-Mollusks
Franklin	08/28	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Lighthouse Beach	FWRI-Mollusks
Franklin	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Alligator Harbor Boat Ramp	FDACS
Franklin	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.1	Millender Street; S of (St. George Sound)	FDEP-CPAP
Franklin	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Spring Street; SE of (St. George Sound)	FDACS
Franklin	09/01	Coastal	Not Present	1.5	Old St. George Island Causeway; E of (St. George Sound)	FDEP-ANERR
Franklin	09/01	Coastal	BACKGROUND	0.5	Sikes Cut; SE of	FDEP-ANERR
Franklin	09/01	Coastal	Not Present	1.5	St. Vincent Point; E of (Apalachicola Bay)	FDEP-ANERR
Franklin	09/01	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Long Point; S of (East Bay)	FDEP-ANERR
Franklin	09/01	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	West Pass; NE of (Apalachicola Bay)	FDEP-ANERR

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Franklin	09/01	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Mid-Apalachicola Bay	FDEP-ANERR
Wakulla	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Wakulla Beach (Goose Creek Bay)	FDACS
Wakulla	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Shell Point Beach (Apalachee Bay)	FDACS
Taylor	08/27	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	Steinhatchee River; 8.6 mi SW of	FWRI-Crustaceans
Dixie	08/27	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	Bird Island; 2.2 mi W of	FWRI-Crustaceans
Levy	08/31	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	Deadmans Key; 8.3 mi SW of	FWRI-Crustaceans
Levy	08/31	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	Deadmans Key; 2.5 mi SW of	FWRI-Crustaceans
Levy	09/01	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	Bird Creek Beach; 2.8 mi W of	FWRI-Crustaceans
Levy	09/01	Offshore	Not Present	0.1	Turtle Creek Bay; 3 mi W of (Waccasassa Bay)	FDEP
Citrus	09/01	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Bungalow Pass; S of	FWRI-Crustaceans
Pasco	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Rabbit Key; NW of (Anclote Anchorage)	FWRI
Pasco	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	1.4	Baileys Bluff Estates; N of (Anclote Anchorage)	FWRI
Pasco	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Baileys Bluff Estates; N of (Anclote Anchorage)	FWRI
Pasco	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.9	Robert K. Rees Memorial Park; W of	FWRI
Pasco	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Robert K. Rees Memorial Park; W of	FWRI
Pasco	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.8	Rabbit Key; NW of (Anclote Anchorage)	FWRI
Pasco	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Rocky Creek; 1.1 mi W of	FWRI

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Pasco	08/31	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Rocky Creek; 1.1 mi W of	FWRI

*Coastal samples, including all estuarine samples, are collected within 1 mile of the coastline. Offshore samples are collected 1 or more miles from the coastline.

Note: CS = Community Scientist; ECR = Escambia County Reef; FDEP-ANERR = FDEP - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve; FDEP-CPAP = FDEP - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserve; FDACS = Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; FDEP = Florida Department of Environmental Protection; FWRI = FWC-Fish and Wildlife Research Institute; FWRI-Crustaceans = FWRI-Crustacean Group; FWRI-Mollusks = FWRI-Mollusks; NBMS = Navarre Beach Marine Science Station

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 to hear a recording about red tide conditions throughout the state. FWRI updates the recording each Friday by 5 p.m. 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.

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](#) website or calling a field office.

Information Sources

Mote Marine Laboratory's [Beach Conditions Reporting System](#) 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. A report of regional conditions and additional information appears on the [Gulf Coast Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast](#) website.

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

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