

Red Tide Status - Florida Southwest Coast September 18, 2026

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

County	Date Collected	Coastal or Offshore*	<i>Karenia brevis</i> Levels	Sample Depth (m)	Site Location	Collector
Pinellas	09/10	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Bay Pines Terrace; E of (Boca Ciega Bay)	SPC
Pinellas	09/10	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Bay Pines Terrace; NE of (Hurricane Hole)	SPC
Pinellas	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Wallace Cove (Boca Ciega Bay)	FWRI
Pinellas	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Mullet Key; Gulf Pier	FWRI
Pinellas	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	La Contessa Pier	FWRI
Pinellas	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	FWRI Peninsula; SE tip of (Bayboro Harbor)	FWRI
Pinellas	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.1	Ft. De Soto North Beach tidal lagoon	FWRI
Pinellas	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Country Club Road North; SW of (Boca Ciega Bay)	FWRI
Pinellas	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	4.2	FWRI Peninsula; SE tip of (Bayboro Harbor)	FWRI
Pinellas	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Speckled Trout Marina (St. Joseph Sound)	USCGA
Pinellas	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Dunedin Marina (St. Joseph Sound)	USCGA
Pinellas	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Bunces Pass	CS
Pinellas	09/14	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	Bunces Pass; 1.1 mi W of	CS
Pinellas	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Clearwater Beach Pier 60	FWRI
Pinellas	09/15	Coastal	Not Present	0.1	Bill Young; W of (Hurricane Hole)	SPC
Pinellas	09/15	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Ford; W of (Boca Ciega Bay)	SPC

County	Date Collected	Coastal or Offshore*	<i>Karenia brevis</i> Levels	Sample Depth (m)	Site Location	Collector
Pinellas	09/16	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Treasure Island Beach	CoSP
Pinellas	09/16	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Maximo Park (Lower Tampa Bay)	CoSP
Pinellas	09/16	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Lassing Park (Middle Tampa Bay)	CoSP
Pinellas	09/16	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Spa Beach (Middle Tampa Bay)	CoSP
Pinellas	09/16	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	North Shore Park Beach (Middle Tampa Bay)	CoSP
Pinellas	09/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Bay Pines Terrace; E of (Boca Ciega Bay)	SPC
Pinellas	09/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Bay Pines Terrace; NE of (Hurricane Hole)	SPC
Hillsborough	09/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Parkers Landing Drive; canal S of	FDEP
Manatee	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Skyway Fishing Pier; South (Lower Tampa Bay)	FWRI
Manatee	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Fletcher Point (Lower Tampa Bay)	FWRI
Manatee	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Palma Sola Bay Bridge	FWRI
Manatee	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Longboat Pass Boat Ramp (Sarasota Bay)	FWRI
Manatee	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Anna Maria Island Rod & Reel Pier (Lower Tampa Bay)	FWRI
Sarasota	09/11	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Osprey Fishing Pier; NW of (Little Sarasota Bay)	CS
Sarasota	09/11	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Dunmore Dr; W of (Little Sarasota Bay)	CS
Sarasota	09/12	Coastal	BACKGROUND	0.5	Midnight Pass	CS
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	North Lido Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	1	Albee Road West; S of (ICW)	CS

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Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Longboat Key Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Ringling Causeway	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Manasota Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Brohard Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	1	Nokomis Beach	CS
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Blind Pass Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Venice Fishing Pier; N of	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Service Club Park	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Venice Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	North Jetty	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Nokomis Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Turtle Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Siesta Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	South Lido Park	SCDH
Sarasota	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Lido Beach Casino	SCDH
Charlotte	09/16	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	Stump Pass; 6.3 mi W of	CS
Charlotte	09/16	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	Stump Pass; 1.8 mi S of	CS
Lee	09/15	Coastal	Not Present	1.1	Porpoise Point Island; SW of (Matlacha Pass)	FDEP-CHAP
Lee	09/15	Coastal	Not Present	0.9	Ben Coleman Keys (Matlacha Pass)	FDEP-CHAP

County	Date Collected	Coastal or Offshore*	<i>Karenia brevis</i> Levels	Sample Depth (m)	Site Location	Collector
Lee	09/15	Coastal	Not Present	1.2	Deer Stop Keys; SW of (Matlacha Pass)	FDEP-CHAP
Collier	09/10	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Round Key; N of (Fakahatchee Pass)	FDACS
Collier	09/10	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Coon Key; S of (Gullivan Bay)	FDACS
Collier	09/10	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Cape Romano; S of (Gullivan Bay)	FDACS
Collier	09/10	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Shell Key; S of (Gullivan Bay)	FDACS
Collier	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Barefoot Beach State Preserve	CCPCD
Collier	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Vanderbilt Beach	CCPCD
Collier	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Seagate	CCPCD
Collier	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	South Marco Beach	CCPCD
Collier	09/14	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Naples Pier	CCPCD
Monroe	09/10	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	East Bahia Honda Key; 8.9 mi NE of	FWRI-Crustaceans
Monroe	09/10	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	East Bahia Honda Key; 10 mi N of	FWRI-Crustaceans
Monroe	09/10	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	East Bahia Honda Key; 12 mi N of	FWRI-Crustaceans
Monroe	09/10	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	West Bahia Honda Key; 14 mi N of	FWRI-Crustaceans

*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: CoSP = City of St. Petersburg; CCPCD = Collier County Pollution Control and Prevention Department; CS = Community Scientist; FDEP-CHAP = FDEP - Charlotte Harbor 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; SCDH = Sarasota County Department of Health; SPC = St. Petersburg College; USCGA = US Coast Guard Auxiliary

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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