

## Red Tide Status - Florida Southwest Coast September 11, 2026

**Present Status:** The red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was not observed in samples collected from or offshore of Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, or Collier counties. No samples from Monroe County were analyzed this week.

| County   | Date Collected | Coastal or Offshore* | <i>Karenia brevis</i> Levels | Sample Depth (m) | Site Location                                   | Collector |
|----------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Pinellas | 09/03          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.2              | Ford; W of (Boca Ciega Bay)                     | SPC       |
| Pinellas | 09/03          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.2              | Bill Young; W of (Hurricane Hole)               | SPC       |
| Pinellas | 09/07          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Mullet Key; Gulf Pier                           | FWRI      |
| Pinellas | 09/07          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Wallace Cove (Boca Ciega Bay)                   | FWRI      |
| Pinellas | 09/07          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Country Club Road North; SW of (Boca Ciega Bay) | FWRI      |
| Pinellas | 09/07          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 4.7              | FWRI Peninsula; SE tip of (Bayboro Harbor)      | FWRI      |
| Pinellas | 09/07          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | FWRI Peninsula; SE tip of (Bayboro Harbor)      | FWRI      |
| Pinellas | 09/07          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | La Contessa Pier                                | FWRI      |
| Pinellas | 09/07          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Clearwater Beach Pier 60                        | FWRI      |
| Pinellas | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.6              | Rabbit Key; N of (Anclote Anchorage)            | FWRI      |
| Pinellas | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.2              | Bill Young; W of (Hurricane Hole)               | SPC       |
| Pinellas | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.2              | Ford; W of (Boca Ciega Bay)                     | SPC       |
| Pinellas | 09/08          | Offshore             | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Pass-A-Grille Beach; 33 mi W of                 | FWRI      |
| Pinellas | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Rabbit Key; N of (Anclote Anchorage)            | FWRI      |
| Pinellas | 09/08          | Offshore             | Not Present                  | 28               | Pass-A-Grille Beach; 33 mi W of                 | FWRI      |

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|--------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Pinellas     | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | North Shore Park Beach (Middle Tampa Bay)       | CoSP      |
| Pinellas     | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Spa Beach (Middle Tampa Bay)                    | CoSP      |
| Pinellas     | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Lassing Park (Middle Tampa Bay)                 | CoSP      |
| Pinellas     | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Maximo Park (Lower Tampa Bay)                   | CoSP      |
| Pinellas     | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Cooper Point; E of (Old Tampa Bay)              | FWRI      |
| Pinellas     | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Philippe Park; NE of (Safety Harbor)            | FWRI      |
| Pinellas     | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Weedon Island; E of (Old Tampa Bay)             | FWRI      |
| Pinellas     | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Snell Isle; 2.3 mi SE of (Middle Tampa Bay)     | FWRI      |
| Pinellas     | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Treasure Island Beach                           | CoSP      |
| Pinellas     | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | High Point; 2 mi NE of (Old Tampa Bay)          | FWRI      |
| Pinellas     | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Big Island; 2.2 mi E of (Old Tampa Bay)         | FWRI      |
| Pinellas     | 09/10          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.2              | Bay Pines Terrace; NE of (Hurricane Hole)       | SPC       |
| Pinellas     | 09/10          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.2              | Bay Pines Terrace; E of (Boca Ciega Bay)        | SPC       |
| Hillsborough | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Old Tampa Bay Park; 1.7 mi S of (Old Tampa Bay) | FWRI      |
| Hillsborough | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | San Jose St; W of (Old Tampa Bay)               | FWRI      |
| Hillsborough | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Howard Frankland Bridge; N of (Old Tampa Bay)   | FWRI      |
| Hillsborough | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | C. Campbell Causeway; S of (Old Tampa Bay)      | FWRI      |
| Manatee      | 09/07          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Fletcher Point (Lower Tampa Bay)                | FWRI      |

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| Manatee  | 09/07          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Palma Sola Bay Bridge                               | FWRI      |
| Manatee  | 09/07          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Anna Maria Island Rod & Reel Pier (Lower Tampa Bay) | FWRI      |
| Manatee  | 09/07          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Skyway Fishing Pier; South (Lower Tampa Bay)        | FWRI      |
| Manatee  | 09/07          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Longboat Pass Boat Ramp (Sarasota Bay)              | FWRI      |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Manasota Beach                                      | SCDH      |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Blind Pass Beach                                    | SCDH      |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | The Bay Park; W of (Sarasota Bay)                   | CS        |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Whitaker Bayou; W of (Sarasota Bay)                 | CS        |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Bishops Point; E of (Sarasota Bay)                  | CS        |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | South Lido Park                                     | SCDH      |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Longboat Key Beach                                  | SCDH      |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Ringling Causeway                                   | SCDH      |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Venice Fishing Pier; N of                           | SCDH      |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Lido Beach Casino                                   | SCDH      |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Brohard Beach                                       | SCDH      |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Siesta Beach                                        | SCDH      |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Nokomis Beach                                       | SCDH      |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | North Jetty                                         | SCDH      |
| Sarasota | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Venice Beach                                        | SCDH      |

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|-----------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Sarasota  | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Service Club Park                           | SCDH      |
| Sarasota  | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | North Lido Beach                            | SCDH      |
| Charlotte | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Punta Gorda Boat Ramp (Charlotte Harbor)    | FDEP-CHAP |
| Charlotte | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.2              | Sandfly Key; NE of (Gasparilla Sound)       | FDACS     |
| Charlotte | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.2              | Gasparilla Pass                             | FDACS     |
| Charlotte | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.2              | Catfish Creek; mouth of (Gasparilla Sound)  | FDACS     |
| Charlotte | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.2              | Bull Key; NW of (Bull Bay)                  | FDACS     |
| Charlotte | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.2              | Hog Island; S of (Charlotte Harbor)         | FDACS     |
| Charlotte | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Englewood Beach                             | ChCPRCR   |
| Charlotte | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 1.4              | Sister Ponds Creek; E of (Charlotte Harbor) | FDEP-CHAP |
| Charlotte | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.2              | GDC Cove; mouth of (Myakka River)           | FDACS     |
| Charlotte | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 1.8              | Cotton Key; W of (Charlotte Harbor)         | FDEP-CHAP |
| Charlotte | 09/09          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Boca Grande Pier (Gasparilla Sound)         | ChCPRCR   |
| Lee       | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Matanzas Pass (Estero Bay)                  | FDEP-EBAP |
| Lee       | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Mound House Dock (Estero Bay)               | FDEP-EBAP |
| Lee       | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Estero River; upstream                      | FDEP-EBAP |
| Lee       | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.2              | Captiva Pass                                | CS        |
| Lee       | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Burnt Store Marina (Charlotte Harbor)       | FDEP-CHAP |
| Lee       | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Carl Johnson Park Boat Ramp (Estero Bay)    | FDEP-EBAP |

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|---------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Collier | 09/04          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.1              | Marco Island Beach            | CS        |
| Collier | 09/04          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.1              | Marco Beach                   | CS        |
| Collier | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | South Marco Beach             | CCPCD     |
| Collier | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Naples Pier                   | CCPCD     |
| Collier | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Seagate                       | CCPCD     |
| Collier | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Vanderbilt Beach              | CCPCD     |
| Collier | 09/08          | Coastal              | Not Present                  | 0.5              | Barefoot Beach State Preserve | CCPCD     |

\*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:** ChCPRCR = Charlotte Co Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources; CoSP = City of St. Petersburg; CCPCD = Collier County Pollution Control and Prevention Department; CS = Community Scientist; FDEP-CHAP = FDEP - Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve; FDEP-EBAP = FDEP - Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve; FDACS = Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; FGCU = Florida Gulf Coast University; FWRI = FWC-Fish and Wildlife Research Institute; SCDH = Sarasota County Department of Health; SPC = St. Petersburg College

## 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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