

Red Tide Status - Florida Southwest Coast

August 21, 2026

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

County	Date Collected	Coastal or Offshore*	<i>Karenia brevis</i> Levels	Sample Depth (m)	Site Location	Collector
Pinellas	08/14	Offshore	BACKGROUND	1.9	Sunset Beach; 115 mi W of	USF
Pinellas	08/14	Offshore	BACKGROUND	2.4	Three Rooker Island; 53 mi W of	USF
Pinellas	08/16	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Tom Stuart Causeway; N of (Boca Ciega Bay)	CS
Pinellas	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	1.5	Rabbit Key; W of (Anclote Anchorage)	FWRI
Pinellas	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Wallace Cove (Boca Ciega Bay)	FWRI
Pinellas	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	4.1	FWRI Peninsula; SE tip of (Bayboro Harbor)	FWRI
Pinellas	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	FWRI Peninsula; SE tip of (Bayboro Harbor)	FWRI
Pinellas	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Rabbit Key; W of (Anclote Anchorage)	FWRI
Pinellas	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Mullet Key; Gulf Pier	FWRI
Pinellas	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	La Contessa Pier	FWRI
Pinellas	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Clearwater Beach Pier 60	FWRI
Pinellas	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Country Club Road North; SW of (Boca Ciega Bay)	FWRI
Pinellas	08/18	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Bay Pines Terrace; NE of (Hurricane Hole)	SPC
Pinellas	08/18	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Bay Pines Terrace; E of (Boca Ciega Bay)	SPC
Pinellas	08/18	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Dunedin Municipal Marina (Clearwater Harbor)	USCGA

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Pinellas	08/18	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Speckled Trout Marina (St. Joseph Sound)	USCGA
Pinellas	08/19	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	North Shore Park Beach (Middle Tampa Bay)	CoSP
Pinellas	08/19	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Spa Beach (Middle Tampa Bay)	CoSP
Pinellas	08/19	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Lassing Park (Middle Tampa Bay)	CoSP
Pinellas	08/19	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Maximo Park (Lower Tampa Bay)	CoSP
Pinellas	08/19	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Treasure Island Beach	CoSP
Pinellas	08/20	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Bill Young; W of (Hurricane Hole)	SPC
Pinellas	08/20	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Ford; W of (Boca Ciega Bay)	SPC
Manatee	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Palma Sola Bay Bridge	FWRI
Manatee	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Longboat Pass Boat Ramp (Sarasota Bay)	FWRI
Manatee	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.3	Fletcher Point (Lower Tampa Bay)	FWRI
Manatee	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Skyway Fishing Pier; South (Lower Tampa Bay)	FWRI
Manatee	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Anna Maria Island Rod & Reel Pier (Lower Tampa Bay)	FWRI
Sarasota	08/13	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Blind Pass Beach; E of (Lemon Bay)	FDACS
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Service Club Park	SCDH
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Brohard Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	North Jetty	SCDH
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Manasota Beach	SCDH

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Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Venice Fishing Pier; N of	SCDH
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Venice Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Nokomis Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Turtle Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Siesta Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	South Lido Park	SCDH
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Lido Beach Casino	SCDH
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	North Lido Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Ringling Causeway	SCDH
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Longboat Key Beach	SCDH
Sarasota	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Blind Pass Beach	SCDH
Charlotte	08/13	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Gasparilla Pass	FDACS
Charlotte	08/13	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Tom Adams Bridge; S of (Lemon Bay)	FDACS
Charlotte	08/13	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Garfield Court; SW of (Placida Harbor)	FDACS
Charlotte	08/13	Coastal	Not Present	0.2	Stump Pass (Lemon Bay)	FDACS
Charlotte	08/19	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Boca Grande Pier (Gasparilla Sound)	ChCPRCR
Charlotte	08/19	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Englewood Beach	ChCPRCR
Lee	08/19	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Alison Hagerup Beach Park	LCEL
Lee	08/19	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Tarpon Bay Road Beach	LCEL

County	Date Collected	Coastal or Offshore*	<i>Karenia brevis</i> Levels	Sample Depth (m)	Site Location	Collector
Lee	08/19	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Lighthouse Beach	LCEL
Lee	08/19	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Lynn Hall Park	LCEL
Lee	08/19	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Lovers Key State Park	LCEL
Lee	08/19	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Bonita Beach Park	LCEL
Collier	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	South Marco Beach	CCPCD
Collier	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Seagate	CCPCD
Collier	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Naples Pier	CCPCD
Collier	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Vanderbilt Beach	CCPCD
Collier	08/17	Coastal	Not Present	0.5	Barefoot Beach State Preserve	CCPCD
Monroe	08/13	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	East Bahia Honda Key; 12 mi N of	FWRI-Crustaceans
Monroe	08/13	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	East Bahia Honda Key; 10 mi N of	FWRI-Crustaceans
Monroe	08/13	Offshore	Not Present	0.5	East Bahia Honda Key; 8.9 mi NE of	FWRI-Crustaceans
Monroe	08/13	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: ChCPRCR = Charlotte Co Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources; CoSP = City of St. Petersburg; CCPCD = Collier County Pollution Control and Prevention Department; CS = Community Scientist; FDACS = Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; FWRI = FWC-Fish and Wildlife Research Institute; FWRI-Crustaceans = FWRI-Crustacean Group; LCEL = Lee County Environmental Lab; SCDH = Sarasota County Department of Health; SPC = St. Petersburg College; USF = University of South Florida; 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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