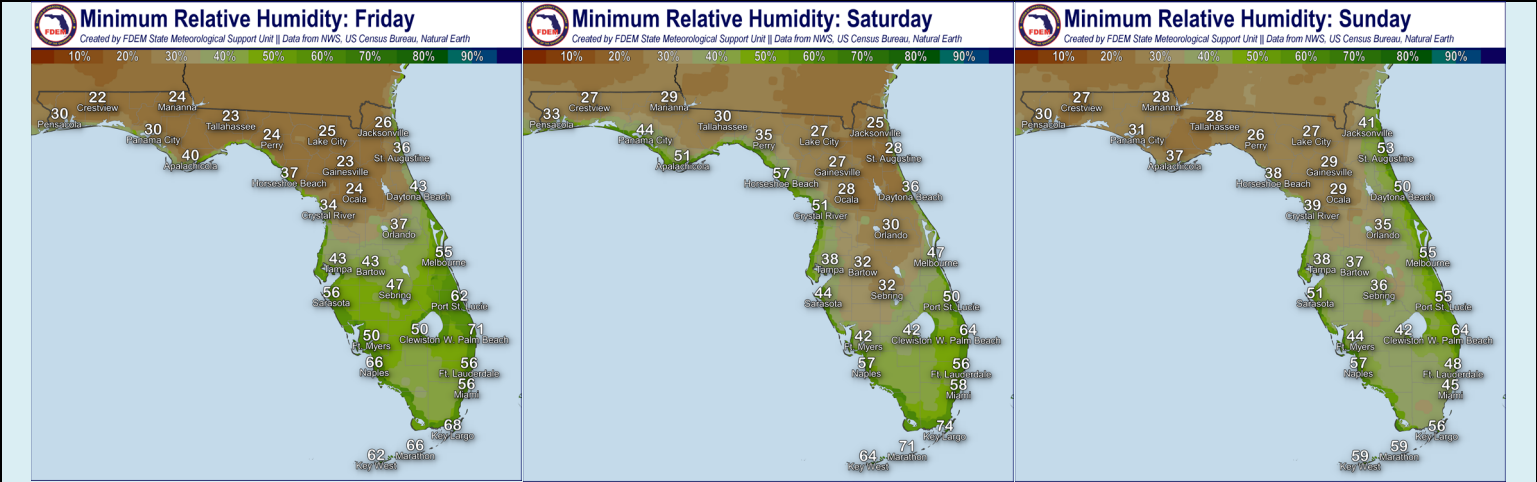
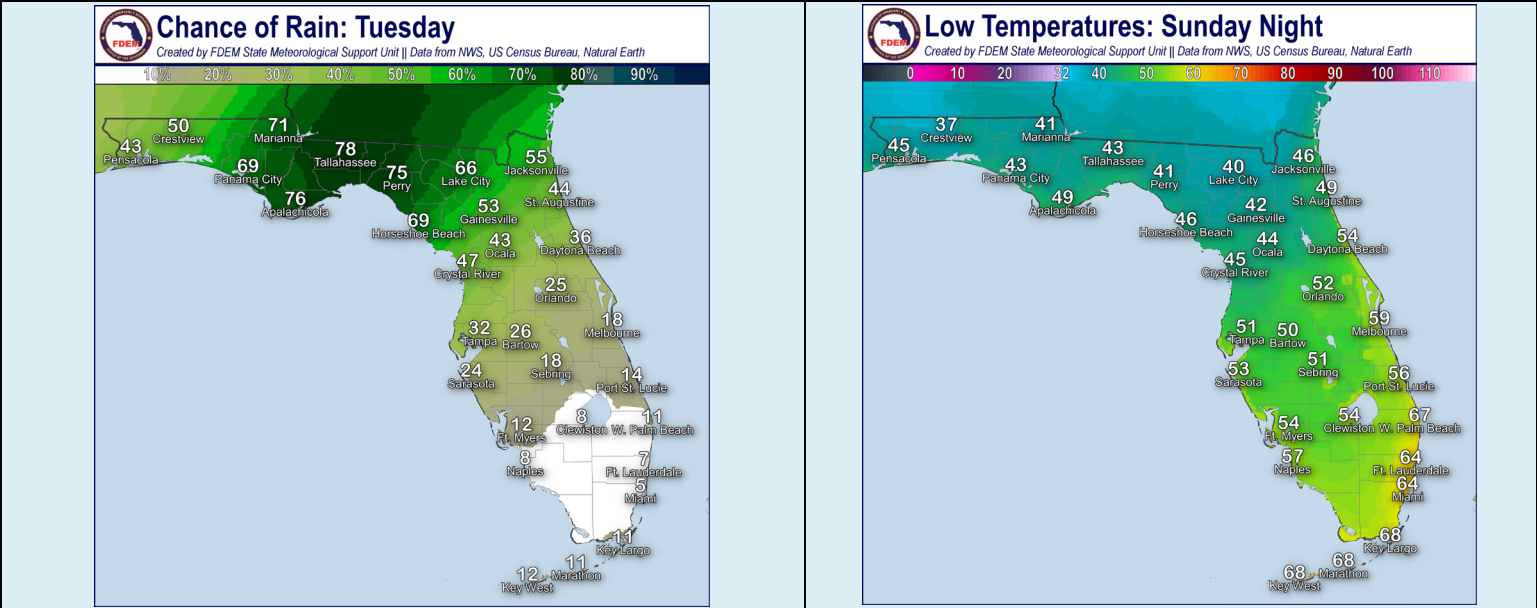


| Friday, February 28, 2025 | | | | | 5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| No Threat | | Low Threat | | Moderate Threat | | High Threat | | |
| Day | Lightning | Tornado | Damaging Wind | Hail | Flash Flooding | Fire Weather | Freezing (Overnight) | Rip Currents |
| Fri | | | | | | North FL Interior Peninsula | | Statewide West Coast |
| Sat | | | | | | N & Central FL Interior South FL | | Locally Statewide West Coast |
| Sun | | | | | | North FL & Locally Statewide | Locally Iso. North FL | E-Coast & Locally FL Panhandle West Coast |
| Mon | | | | | | Locally Statewide | | East Coast FL Panhandle West Coast |
| Tue | North Florida Central FL | Locally Iso. North FL | North FL | Iso. North FL | Locally Iso. North FL | Locally Iso. Interior Peninsula | | Statewide Locally West Coast |



Chance of Rain: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday



Chance of Rain: Tuesday Forecast Low Temperatures: Sunday Night



...Mostly Dry and Sunny Conditions Expected This Weekend Into Early Next Week...Rain Chances Return Early to Mid-Next Week Ahead of the Next Cold Front...Strong to Severe Thunderstorms May be Possible; However, *There Is Uncertainty In the Forecast and Updates Can Be Expected*...Breezy Winds to Gradually Strengthen Later This Weekend Into Next Week...Temperatures Remain Relatively Cool Across Much of the State Through the Forecast Period...Elevated Wildfire Conditions Expected Across North Florida With Sensitive to Locally Elevated Wildfire Conditions Southward Across the Peninsula Through the Weekend; Red Flag Conditions Not Expected At This Time...Sensitive to Locally Elevated Wildfire Conditions Linger Nearly Statewide Into Early Next Week...Hazardous Beach and Boating Conditions Expected to Develop Nearly Statewide Early Next Week...Low to Moderate Risk For Rip Currents Statewide Today and Saturday, Increasing to A Moderate to High Risk Along the Florida Panhandle and East Coast Late This Weekend Into Early Next Week...

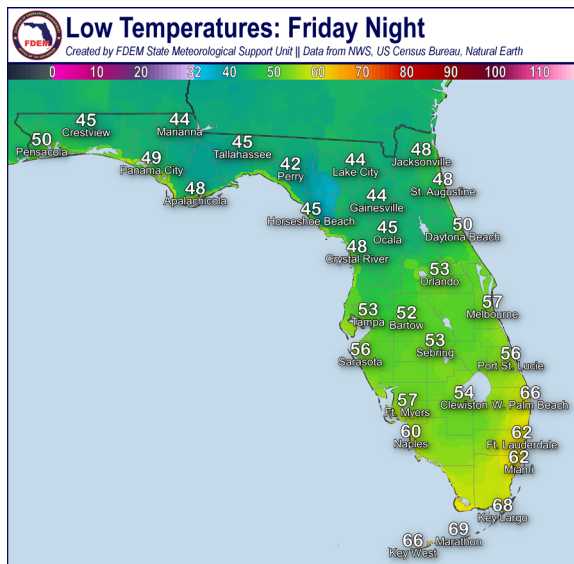
Friday – Sunday:

A cold front will continue to sink southward through Central Florida this morning before stalling just south of Lake Okeechobee. High pressure will build in across the northern Gulf today and into Saturday in the wake of a cold front, giving way to mostly dry conditions and sunny skies across the Sunshine State (near 0-5% chance of rain). Another dry frontal passage is expected Saturday night (near 0-5% chance of rain). After the cold front passage, high pressure will build over the Eastern U.S. Sunday into Monday, gradually shifting eastward but maintaining mostly dry and sunny conditions through the remainder of the weekend and into early next week (near 0-5% chance of rain).

High temperatures across North Florida will continue to rise into the middle to upper 70s with upper 60s to low 70s along the coastlines and just inland today and Saturday but remain in the middle 60s to low 70s across the entire region Sunday afternoon. High temperatures across the rest of the state will continue to rise into the middle 70s to low 80s over the next 3 days. Northerly to northwesterly winds up to 10 mph with gusts up to 15 mph can be expected today, turning more westerly on Saturday and back northerly Sunday but continuing to remain near 5-10 mph with gusts upwards of 10-15 mph. Breezy winds, especially along coastlines, may cause daytime temperatures to feel a few degrees cooler than their actual each day.

Elevated wildfire conditions can be expected across North Florida in the afternoons as dry air allows **relative humidity values to fall near or below critical thresholds (20-45%)**. **Sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** will spread southward through Central Florida with **sensitive wildfire conditions** reaching through South Florida as dry air filtering in behind the cold fronts **drags relative humidity values down to near 30-45%** in the afternoons.

North Florida can expect low temperatures to generally remain in the 40s tonight and Saturday, falling back into the **upper 30s** to middle 40s Sunday night behind the next cold front. Patchy areas of **frost** cannot be ruled out. Breezy winds continuing into the overnight hours may cause **temperatures to feel like** they are in the **middle 30s** to low 40s across much of North Florida Sunday night into early Monday morning. Low temperatures will remain in the 50s across Central Florida, middle 50s to middle 60s across South Florida, and middle to upper 60s along the Keys throughout the forecast period. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** will be possible across portions of the state each night into the following morning hours.

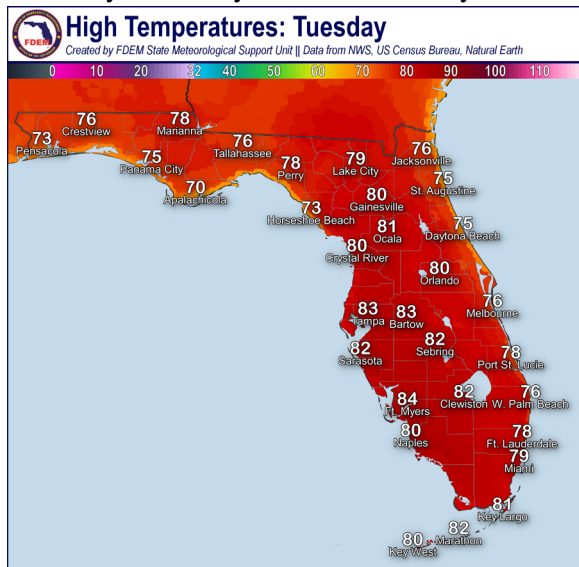


Monday – Tuesday:

High pressure over the Eastern U.S. will begin to shift eastward into the Western Atlantic early next week as the next frontal system takes shape over the Midwest U.S. and pushes northeastward. High pressure will maintain mostly dry conditions across the state Monday and along the Peninsula and Keys Monday night (near 0-10% chance of rain). Uncertainty in the forecast increases Monday night through mid-week as an active weather pattern is forecast to develop with a cold front being dragged towards and through Florida by the frontal system taking shape over the Midwest U.S.

Rain chances will begin to increase along the Panhandle and spread eastward across North Florida ahead of the cold front around mid-week (50-80% chance of rain). Rain chances are also forecast to increase across Central Florida (15-35% chance of rain). While there is no severe weather outlooked across Florida for Tuesday at this time, the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is currently outlooking a **15% Probability (Equivalent to a Slight Risk – level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** to the west of Florida. SPC is outlooking a **15% Probability (Equivalent to a Slight Risk – level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** across portions of the Northeastern Panhandle, Big Bend, and eastward along and north of the I-10 corridor Wednesday. *While specifics are uncertain at this time range, preliminary indications are timing around mid-week and threats including damaging winds with tornadoes possible. Given the uncertainty surrounding the timing, placement, and potential impacts of this activity, updates to the forecast can be expected over the next several days as timing and threats are refined.*

High temperatures will remain in the upper 60s to middle 70s across North Florida Monday afternoon, rising back into the middle 70s to low 80s Tuesday with cooler conditions likely along coastal areas. The rest of the state will likely see high temperatures in the middle 70s to low 80s Monday and Tuesday. Easterly to southeasterly winds near 5-10 mph with gusts near 10-15 mph are forecast



Monday, turning more Southeasterly to southerly Tuesday and strengthening to near 10-15 mph with **gusts upwards of 15-25 mph** possible. Some areas along the Panhandle may see **gusts reach upwards of 25-30 mph** Tuesday and Tuesday night. **Sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** will persist across much of the state into early next week as lingering dry air continues to pull **relative humidity values down to near 30-50%** in the afternoons.

Low temperatures will remain in the upper 40s to middle 50s across North Florida, middle 50s to low 60s across Central and South Florida, and middle 60s to low 70s along the Southeast Coast and Keys Monday night. Warmer overnight conditions can be expected Tuesday night with low temperatures currently forecast to remain in the upper 50s to middle 60s nearly statewide with low to middle 70s along the Southeast Coast and Keys.

Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no risk of flash flooding over the next 3-4 days. Mostly dry conditions and clear skies are expected statewide throughout the weekend as high pressure prevails today and Saturday, a dry cold front moves through Saturday night, and high pressure rebuilds Sunday into Monday. Uncertainty in the forecast increases around mid-week as an active weather pattern is forecast to develop with a cold front being dragged towards and through Florida. Rain chances may begin to increase along the Panhandle and spread eastward across North Florida ahead of the cold front around mid-week. Rain chances are also forecast to increase across Central Florida around mid-week. While heavy rainfall is not currently a primary concern, *there is uncertainty surrounding the timing, placement, and potential impacts of this activity. Updates to the forecast can be expected over the next several days as timing and threats are refined.* Localized instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water**, especially over urban



and low-lying/poor drainage areas, cannot be ruled out. Widespread rainfall totals are currently forecast to remain below 1" with **locally higher totals** near 1" possible over the next 5 days. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center [website](#).

Several rivers along the Big Bend remain within Action Stage (bank-full) as water levels continue to gradually decline following rises with recent heavy rainfall. Riverine flooding is not expected. There are no additional riverine concerns over the next 3-5 days. Locally heavy rainfall possible across North Florida mid-next week may introduce rises in water levels along rivers and waterways in the region; however, riverine flooding is not expected at this time. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

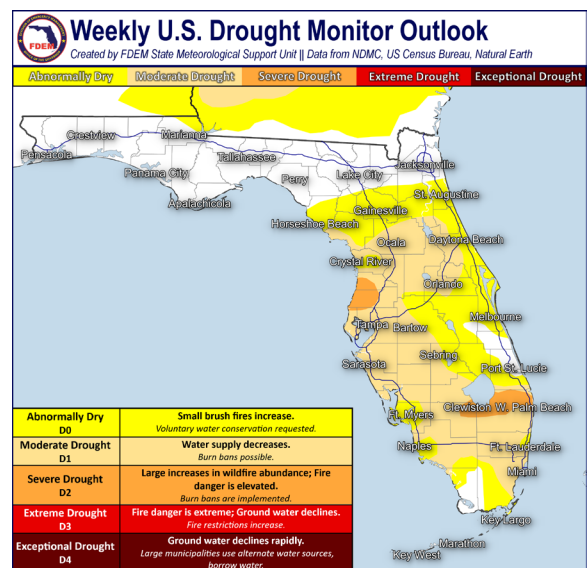
Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.80 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.73 feet below normal. Lake elevations have fallen by about 0.05 feet over the past week and about 0.68 feet over the past 30 days. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking above normal temperatures and above normal rainfall statewide over the next week or so which may allow water levels to hold relatively steady or increase slightly.

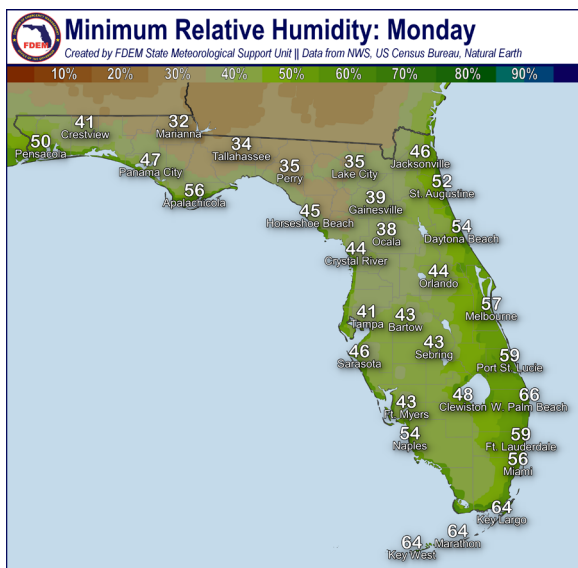
Fire Weather:

Some needed precipitation was observed across much of Florida this week, accompanied by cooler-than-normal weather. *Abnormally Dry (emerging drought)* conditions were removed from the Panhandle of Florida on this week's [Drought Monitor](#) update (valid 2/27) while **severe and moderate drought** were improved in Central Florida. However, **moderate drought** expanded slightly in South Florida despite heavy rainfall observed in some areas earlier in the week. Rainfall deficits over the past 30 days remain near 1-2" with locally higher pockets of 2-4" in the Eastern Panhandle, across North-Central Florida, and along Southeast Florida. 60-day rainfall deficits remain near 2-4" through the Peninsula with locally higher totals near 4-5" along Southeast Florida. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking above normal temperatures and above normal rainfall statewide over the next week or so. Further improvements in drought conditions may be possible over the next week if sufficient rainfall is observed over drought-stricken areas.

[The Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **299 (+6)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **8** Florida counties (Broward, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Mostly dry conditions and clear skies are expected statewide throughout the weekend as high pressure prevails today and Saturday, a dry cold front moves through Saturday night, and high pressure rebuilds Sunday into Monday. Uncertainty in the forecast increases around mid-week as an active weather pattern is forecast to develop with a cold front being dragged towards and through Florida. Rain chances may begin to increase along the Panhandle and spread eastward across North Florida ahead of the cold front around mid-week. Rain chances are also forecast to increase across Central Florida around mid-week. *Thunderstorms may be capable of producing frequent lightning and erratic, gusty winds.* Northerly to northwesterly winds up to 10 mph with gusts up to 15 mph can be expected today, turning more westerly on Saturday and back northerly Sunday but continuing to remain near 5-10 mph with gusts upwards of 10-15 mph. Easterly to southeasterly winds near 5-10 mph with gusts near 10-15 mph are forecast Monday, turning more Southeasterly to southerly Tuesday and strengthening to near 10-15 mph with **gusts upwards of 15-25 mph** possible. Some areas along the Panhandle may see **gusts reach upwards of 25-30 mph** Tuesday and Tuesday night. **Elevated wildfire conditions**





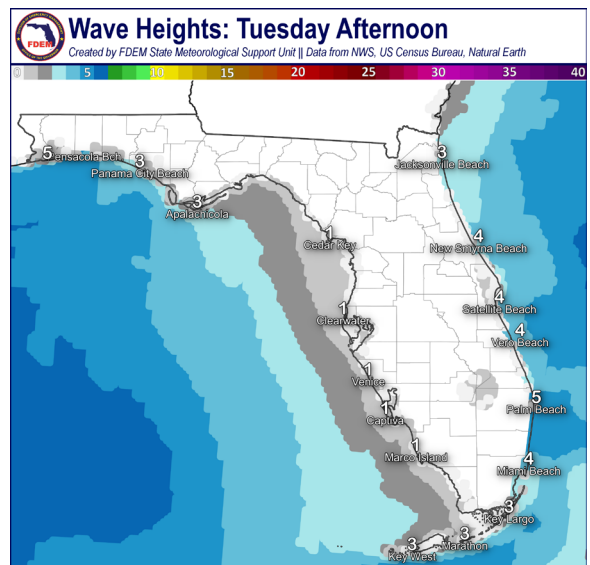
are anticipated across North Florida through the weekend as dry air filtering southward behind the recent cold front pulls **relative humidity values to fall near or below critical thresholds (20-45%)**. **Red Flag conditions** are not currently expected due to only lightly breezy winds forecast over the next few days. **Sensitive wildfire conditions** will spread southward through interior portions of Central and South Florida as dry air allows **relative humidity values to fall to near 35-50%** this afternoon over drought-stricken areas. **Sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** will persist across much of the state into early next week as lingering dry air continues to pull **relative humidity values down to near 30-50%** in the afternoons. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** possible across portions of the state over the next few days *may further reduce visibility where there are ongoing wildfires*. According to the

[Florida Forest Service fire dashboard](#), there are 29 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 940.18 acres (as of 1:56 PM EST).

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

A **moderate risk for rip currents** will persist along numerous Florida Panhandle and East Coast beaches today. A low risk can be expected elsewhere. A **moderate to locally high risk** will likely persist along the Florida Panhandle and East Coast Saturday, increasing to a **moderate to high-risk** Sunday and Monday and to a **high-risk** Tuesday. West Coast beaches will continue to see a low to **moderate risk** through the forecast period. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Florida's East Coast can expect wave heights to return to **near 2-4'** this afternoon and **near 1-3'** tonight in the wake of a cold front. Similarly, Florida Panhandle beaches will likely see wave heights return to **near or below 1-2'** by this afternoon. All other Florida beaches will continue to see calm marine conditions with **wave heights near or below 1-2'** throughout the day. Relatively calm beach and boating conditions will continue statewide into the weekend. **Wave heights near or below 1'** can be expected along the Florida Panhandle, West Coast, and Keys Saturday, increasing to **near 1-2'** with **locally 3' waves** possible further offshore Sunday. **2-3' waves** along the East Coast Saturday will build to **near 2-5'** Sunday afternoon as winds begin to strengthen. **Poor to hazardous beach and boating conditions** will begin to develop nearly statewide early next week as the next frontal system approaches. Building ocean swells are forecast to raise **wave heights to near 3-6'** along Florida's Atlantic Coast early next week. **1-3' waves** are forecast to generally persist along the Florida Panhandle Monday afternoon, increasing to **near 2-5'** by Tuesday afternoon. Wave heights **near 1-3'** are currently expected to prevail along the West Coast. High Surf Advisories may be issued around mid-next week as ocean swells continue to develop.



Coastal flooding is not expected over the next 5 days; however, lingering **astronomically high tides** from the recent New Moon may lead to instances of **elevated water levels (0.25-0.75' above normally dry ground)** near and at times of high tide over the next few days. Additional instances of



elevated tides may be possible near and at times of high tide by mid-week as the next frontal system approaches, allowing breezy winds and ocean swells to develop along Florida's coastlines. **Instances of minor coastal flooding** and **minor coastal erosion** cannot be ruled out.

Red Tide has been observed in **39** samples collected from Florida's Gulf Coast (valid 2/26). Background to **low concentrations** have been observed in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, and Bay Counties. Background to **medium concentrations** have been observed offshore of Monroe County. *Fish kills and respiratory irritation have been reported from and/or offshore of Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Lee, Collier, and Monroe Counties.* Net southern to southwestern movement of surface waters and net southeastern transport of subsurface waters is forecast in most areas from Pinellas County to northern Monroe County over the next 3-4 days.

As of 2/19, **Blue-Green Algae** was observed on partially obscured satellite imagery of Lake Okeechobee with widely scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** primarily in nearshores of the lake. Partially obscured satellite imagery of the St. Johns River from 2/14 showed sparse low to **moderate bloom potential** on visible portions of Lake George and the mainstem of the St. Johns River downstream to Jacksonville, Florida. Satellite imagery from 2/16 and 2/15 is partially obscured by cloud cover but shows no visible bloom potential throughout visible portions of the Caloosahatchee Estuary and the St. Lucie Estuary.

[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

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For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful weekend!

Melissa James, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

