# Red Tide Status - Florida Southwest Coast
## January 05, 2024

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

No reports of fish kills suspected to be related to red tide were received in Southwest Florida over the past week. For more details, please visit https://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/health/ and https://visitbeaches.org/.

Respiratory irritation was not reported in Southwest Florida over the past week. For recent and current information at individual beaches, please visit https://visitbeaches.org/ and for forecasts that use FWC and partner data, please visit https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/science-areas/habs/hab-forecasts/gulf-of-mexico/.

Forecasts by the USF-FWC Collaboration for Prediction of Red Tides for Pinellas County to northern Monroe County predict net northwestern movement of surface waters and variable transport of subsurface waters in most areas over the next 3.5 days.

| County | Date Collected | Alongshore Inshore | Offshore | Site Location | Collector |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Pinellas** | | | | | |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Clearwater Beach Pier 60 | FWRI |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Via Cipriani; dock S of (Old Tampa Bay) | FWRI |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | La Contessa Pier | FWRI |
| - | 12/30 | not present | - | Tom Stuart Causeway; N of (Boca Ciega Bay) | PC |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | North Shore Park Beach (Middle Tampa Bay) | CoSP |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Country Club Road North; SW of (Boca Ciega Bay) | FWRI |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Spa Beach (Middle Tampa Bay) | CoSP |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Treasure Island Beach | CoSP |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | FWRI Peninsula; SE tip of (Bayboro Harbor) | FWRI |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | FWRI Peninsula; SE tip of (Bayboro Harbor) | FWRI |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Lassing Park (Middle Tampa Bay) | CoSP |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Wallace Cove (Boca Ciega Bay) | FWRI |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Maximo Park (Lower Tampa Bay) | CoSP |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Mullet Key; Gulf Pier | FWRI |

| County | Date Collected | Alongshore Inshore | Offshore | Site Location | Collector |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Manatee** | | | | | |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Skyway Fishing Pier; South (Lower Tampa Bay) | FWRI |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Anna Maria Island Rod & Reel Pier (Lower Tampa Bay) | FWRI |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Palma Sola Bay Bridge | FWRI |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Longboat Pass Boat Ramp (Sarasota Bay) | FWRI |
| **Sarasota** | | | | | |
| - | 01/03 | - | not present | Stephens Point; NW of (Sarasota Bay) | MML |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Longboat Key Beach | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | - | not present | Quick Point; N of (Sarasota Bay) | MML |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | New Pass Dock (Sarasota Bay) | FWRI |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | New Pass Dock (Sarasota Bay) | MML |
| - | 12/29 | not present | - | New Pass Dock (Sarasota Bay) | MML |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | New Pass Dock (Sarasota Bay) | MML |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Bay Dock (Sarasota Bay) | MML |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Bay Dock (Sarasota Bay) | MML |
| - | 12/29 | not present | - | Bay Dock (Sarasota Bay) | MML |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Ringling Causeway | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | - | not present | Island Park; SW of (Sarasota Bay) | MML |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | North Lido Beach | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Lido Beach Casino | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | South Lido Park | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | - | not present | Philippe Creek; Canal W of | MML |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Siesta Beach | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Turtle Beach | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | - | not present | Spanish Point; S of (Little Sarasota Bay) | MML |
| - | 01/03 | - | not present | Mid-Blackburn Bay | MML |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Nokomis Beach | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | North Jetty | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | - | not present | Venice Marina Park; NW of (ICW) | MML |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Venice Beach | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Service Club Park | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Venice Fishing Pier; N of | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Brohard Beach | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Caspersen Beach | SCDH |

| County | Date Collected | Alongshore Inshore | Offshore | Site Location | Collector |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Manasota Beach | SCDH |
| - | 01/03 | - | not present | Forked Creek; NW of (Lemon Bay) | MML |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Blind Pass Beach | SCDH |
| **Charlotte** | | | | | |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Englewood Beach | ChCPRCR |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Boca Grande Pier (Gasparilla Sound) | ChCPRCR |
| **Lee** | | | | | |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Alison Hagerup Beach Park | LCEL |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Lynn Hall Park | LCEL |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Lighthouse Beach | LCEL |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Tarpon Bay Road Beach | LCEL |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Lovers Key State Park | LCEL |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Bonita Beach Park | LCEL |
| **Collier** | | | | | |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Barefoot Beach State Preserve | CCPCD |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Vanderbilt Beach | CCPCD |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Seagate | CCPCD |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Naples Pier | CCPCD |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Aquamarine Avenue; canal N of | PC |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | Good Fortune II Boat Dock (Rookery Bay) | PC |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Collier Boulevard Boating Park (Flotilla Passage) | RBNERR |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Lee Avenue; docks NE of (Big Marco Pass) | RBNERR |
| - | 12/30 | not present | - | North Marco Island Beach | PC |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Goodland Bridge; SE end (Goodland Bay) | RBNERR |
| - | 12/30 | not present | - | Marco Island Beach | PC |
| - | 01/03 | not present | - | Caxambas Park (Caxambas Bay) | RBNERR |
| - | 01/02 | not present | - | South Marco Beach | CCPCD |

**Note:** ChCPRCR = Charlotte Co Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources; CoSP = City of St. Petersburg; CCPCD = Collier County Pollution Control and Prevention Department; FWRI = FWC-Fish and Wildlife Research Institute; LCEL = Lee County Environmental Lab; MML = Mote Marine Laboratory; PC = Private Citizen - Volunteer Program; RBNERR = Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; SCDH = Sarasota County Department of Health

**Key for Results**

| Description | *Karenia brevis* abundance | Possible effects (*Karenia brevis* 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.

## 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 in the Gulf of Mexico. A report of conditions and additional information appears on the Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast website.

Outreach and social media products about Florida red tide are available for viewing and download.

## 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 Web site or calling a field office.

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