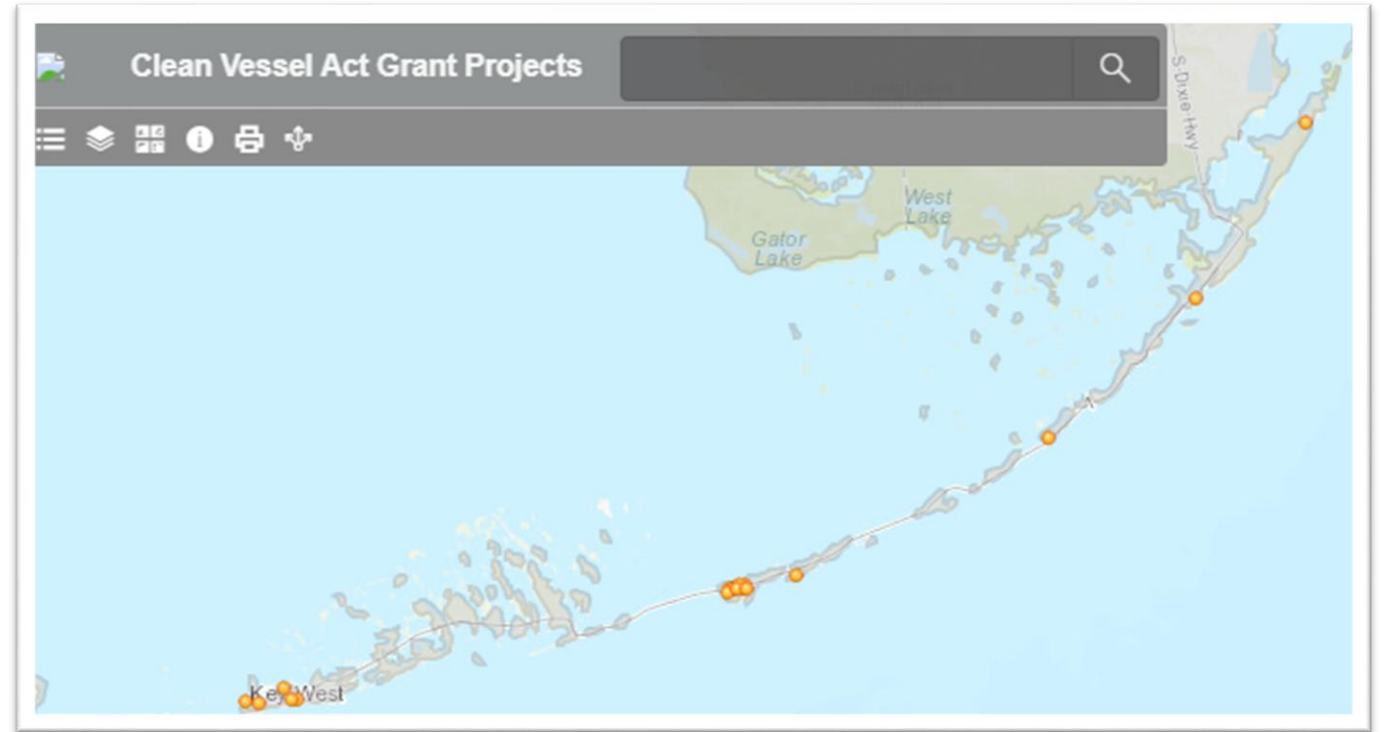


Florida Department of Health Marine Water Quality

Carla A. Fry PhD, MSN, RN
Administrator & Health Officer



- Human Contaminant Enterococcus
- Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
- Sargassum or “Brown Tide”
- Chemicals, plastic/trash



Healthy Beaches Program

Florida Statute 514.023 – “Adopt & enforce rules to protect the health, safety, and welfare of persons using beach waters”

[Florida Healthy Beaches Program | Florida Department of Health](#)

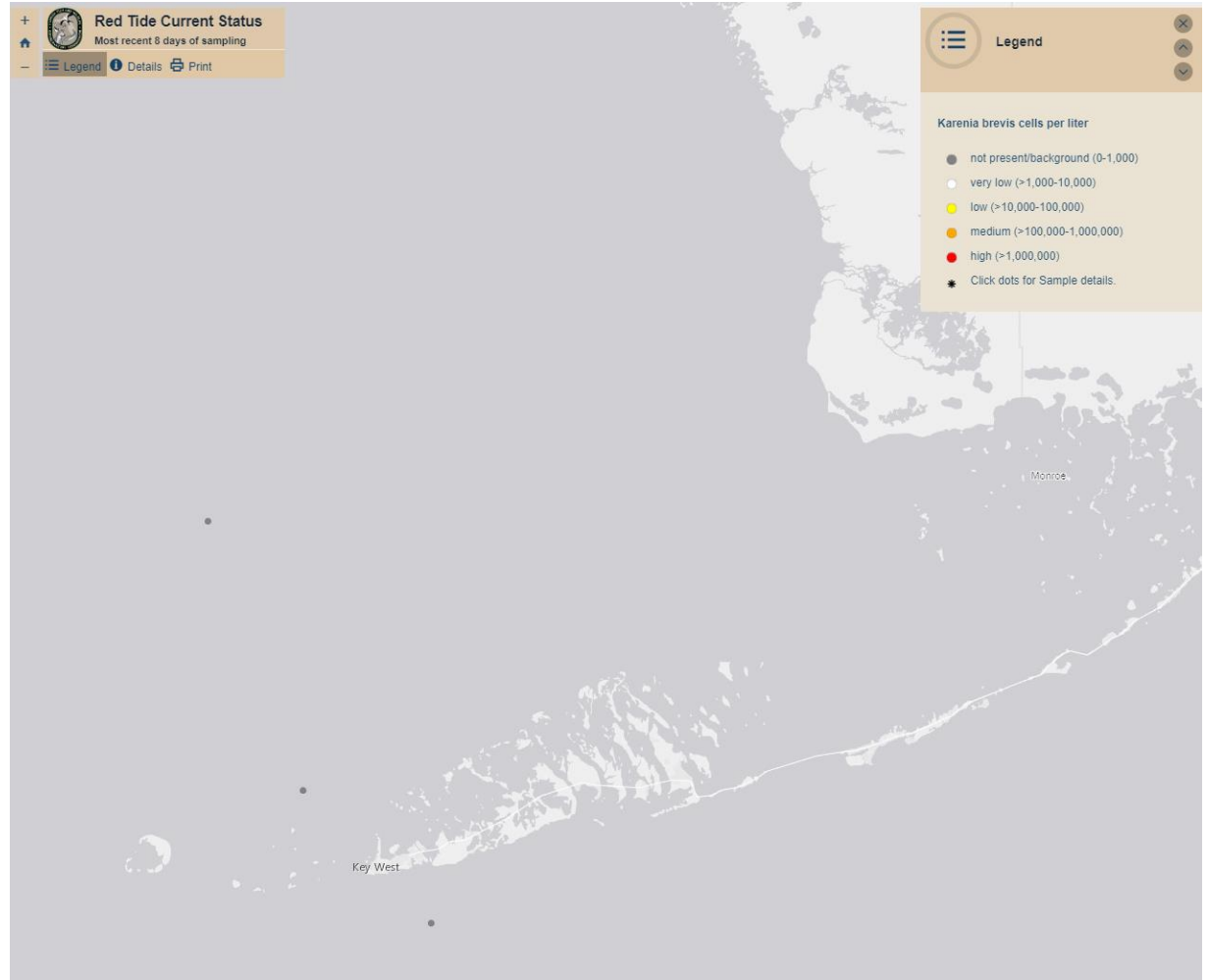
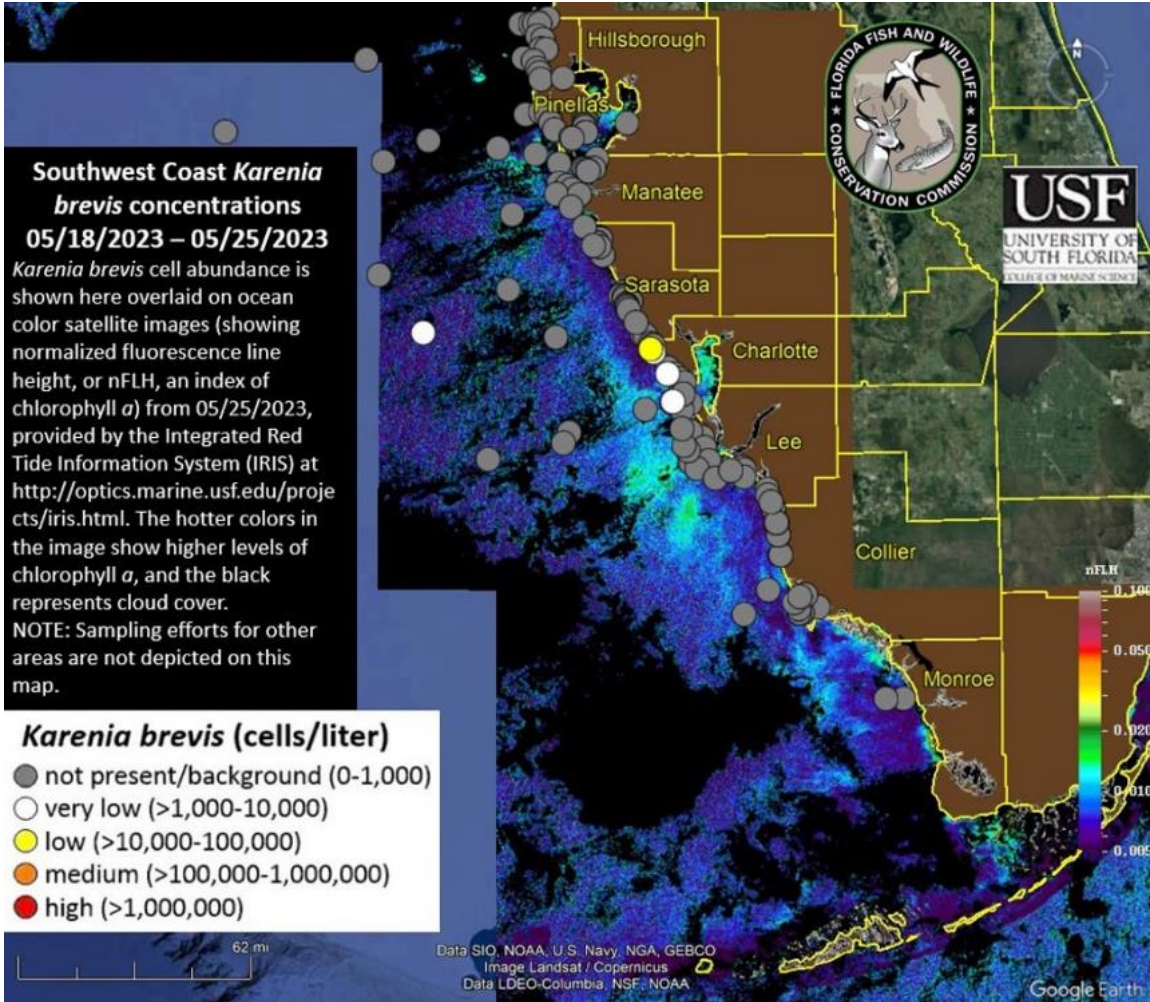
Water quality classifications based on United States Environmental Protection Agency's criteria:

Good 0-35 Enterococcus sp. per 100 ml of marine water

Moderate 36-70 Enterococcus sp. per 100 ml of marine water

Poor 71 or Greater Enterococcus sp. per 100 ml of marine water

An Advisory is issued for a beach that samples in the "Poor" range of the EPA standards.





- Episodic Blooms
- Not inherently toxic
- Accumulation and degradation
- Noxious odor/Hydrogen sulfide gas
- Can harbor heavy metals/marine life/debris

COLLECTING PIECES OF PLASTIC CAN SAVE...

AN EAGLE =
4
PIECES
COLLECTED

A PENGUIN =
5
PIECES
COLLECTED

AN ALBATROSS =
88
PIECES
COLLECTED

A DOLPHIN =
6
PIECES
COLLECTED

A TURTLE =
13
PIECES
COLLECTED

A BASS =
25
PIECES
COLLECTED

A WHALE =
59
PIECES
COLLECTED

Search Products that Meet the Safer Choice Standard

Busque productos que cumplan con la norma Safer Choice

Looking for safer cleaning and other products? Use the search box below to find products that meet the Safer Choice Standard.

A downloadable spreadsheet of Safer Choice-certified products list is also available on [EPA Envirofacts](#).

Search Safer Choice-Certified Products

Product or Company Name (Optional)

Home



Show only:

- Fragrance-free products¹
- Products with outdoor uses²

Automatic Dishwasher Detergents



- Florida Department of Health (FDOH)
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)

Mission - *Promote, protect and improve the health of all people in the state of Florida*

State level - Monitor results from FWC & relay HAB information to local county health departments

Local level - Issue Caution/Health Alert when criteria are met

Education - Advice on how to mitigate HAB-related illnesses and potential health effects

- Website
- Presentations
- Outreach

Tracking - Collect near-real time exposure data from emergency departments and poison control centers. Evaluate data during HAB events to assess acute health impact of red tide blooms.

FDEP

Lead agency for blue-green algae, financial assistance and guidance for clean-up of dead animals after HAB incidents, assist in sampling for red tide when needed

FWC

Lead agency for marine resource issues, lead agency for red tide monitoring/testing, lead agency of the Florida HAB Task Force, provides HAB updates on sampling status

FDACS

Lead agency of food safety for shellfish, regulates licensed harvesting areas, opens/closes sites based on HABs, assists with foodborne illness investigations, assists in sampling around harvest areas when requested by FWC

- Don't litter
- Use facilities
- Don't discharge waste
- Report violations
- Dispose of medications properly
- Adhere to Advisory Signage
- Don't enter water with open cuts or scrapes
- Wear water shoes



- [Volunteer Opportunities • Environmental Nonprofit Organization \(oceanblueproject.org\)](#)
- [Search Products that Meet the Safer Choice Standard | US EPA](#)
- [M.C.S.O. - Drug Drop Off \(keysso.net\)](#)
- [Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](#)
- [Protecting Florida Together](#)
- [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | FWC \(myfwc.com\)](#)
- [Water Topics | Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#)
- [What is a red tide? \(noaa.gov\)](#)
- [Algal Bloom Dashboard | Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#)
- [Laboratories that Analyze for Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxins | US EPA](#)
- [COASTS | Search \(state.fl.us\)](#)
- [Vibrio vulnificus | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](#)

QUESTIONS?

Carla A. Fry PhD, Administrator

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The logo for Florida Health is a circular graphic. The top half of the circle is a teal color. The bottom half shows a sunset over the ocean, with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and water. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds. The text 'Florida HEALTH' is overlaid on the bottom half of the circle in a white, sans-serif font. 'Florida' is in a larger font size than 'HEALTH', which is in all caps.

Florida
HEALTH