

# Lower St Johns River

## Weekly River Field Brief

2011 April 9-14

**Areas of Coverage:** *Limited range due to scheduled temporary District laboratory closure.*

SJR main stem and select shores from south of Palatka to north of Shands (fisheries expansion effort with FWC). Ocklawaha River (below Rodman to Sharpes Ferry, including Silver River (synchronized WQ effort with FDEP). Hasting RSTs (maintenance/data collection).

**Water quality:** Temps ranged from approx 19C to 24C along Ocklawaha. Dissolved Oxygen at Sharpes Ferry measured at 0.49 mg/l @ 1.3 m depth. This low number is typical for this site and depth. Filtering normal.

**Weather/Rainfall events:** High heat Sat-Mon. Record heat recorded Monday. Cold front with some rain passed through Tues. Seasonal temperatures Tues-Thurs.

**Algal/HAB:** No significant blooms or scum formations observed at sampling locations (note disclaimer at end). Filamentous algae observed along western shore south of Palatka.

**Foam:** No significant foam events observed at areas of operation (limited).

**Fish Kills:** None observed.

**Wildlife:** Dolphin activity (7) observed opposite Landings-Jacksonville (Sat), docks of JU (2) (Thurs). Manatee observed south of Palatka on west shore (2) Monday, Black Creek at mouth (5)(Monday).

Hundreds of large (approx 40 mm) tadpoles observed at boat launch for Silver River (Tues).

Hundreds of small catfish (average approx 17 mm) entangled in filamentous algae collected south of Palatka along western shore. Positive ID is pending at the time of this report, but believed to be *Ameiurus catus* or *Ictalurus punctatus*.

**Other notes:** None.

**Projected areas of operation for next week:** Limited due to temporary District Lab shutdown. Hastings RSTs. Limited parameter WQ sampling along SJR main stem from Doctors Lake south to Lake George, including Crescent Lake.

*Disclaimer: Field events are at scheduled areas during sampling events. Shoreline surveys are usually not logistically feasible, as our main stem range is approximately 110 miles.*

For questions, comments or suggestions on improving the usefulness of these weekly updates, please email me @ [rburks@sjrwmd.com](mailto:rburks@sjrwmd.com). Your input is appreciated.

Robert Storm Burks-SJRWMD