

Sutton, Kaitlyn

From: JOSEPH DWYER <dwyerjc@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 3:48 PM
To: Sutton, Kaitlyn
Subject: Saint Lucie Water Quality

I moved to south Florida in 1962 and left for work in 1997. During most of that time, I lived near the Intracoastal Waterway and the Loxahatchee River. I don't recall ever having issues with toxic algae blooms. I retired and moved back to Port Saint Lucie in 2015 and we have had two major blooms since then. I think this is a problem that is more than just the releases of water from Lake O. We need to limit the release of nutrients upstream of the lake as well as from the agricultural areas around the lake. Any microbiologist (I have a B.A. in Microbiology) will tell you that excessive nutrients create the opportunity for the blooms. However, the blooms are not the only environmental issue for the lagoon. Dumping huge volumes of fresh water in a short period of time reduces the salinity of the lagoon. This kills the oysters and the sea grasses that are necessary for the health of the ecosystem. The problem will not be easy to solve, but limiting the nutrients going into the lake and setting limits on the volume of fresh water released over a period of time will reduce the damage that is done to the ecosystem. Thank you for listening.