Senator Bill Nelson toured South Florida to see firsthand the impact of the blue-green algae traveling down 60 of the 70-mile Caloosahatchee River.

Senator Nelson said things are already moving near the LaBelle area to create the C-43 reservoir which will store water, especially needed on the western coast during the dry season.

Senator Nelson also previewed a possible announcement from the Army Corps of Engineers of an early completion date for improvements to the Herbert Hoover Dike.

The improvements make it possible for the Lake to hold more water safely. The dike is now expected to be finished in 2022.

Calusa Waterkeeper John Cassani said it's the worst he's ever seen.

"We're a little in shock mode right now and just trying to learn what we can do," he said.

While Senator Nelson focused on active efforts and projects, he said there's little that can be done to stop the toxic blue-green algae moving down the river.
"Short-term we’re going to have a problem like this from time to time," he said. "Unless we can get the corps of engineers not to release much water and that is what we’ve asked them."

The Senate passed bills to offer disaster aid to those impacted, but the house still must approve the measure.

Senator Nelson is also working to ensure that disaster funding set aside for relief after the hurricane be used to help support the reservoir project south of the lake.

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