

MEMORANDUM

TO: Laureen Borochaner, Chief, Engineering Division (USACE)
FROM: John Mitnik, Chief District Engineer (SFWMD)
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau (SFWMD)
DATE: October 4, 2018
SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for October 2, 2018 to October 8, 2018

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from October 2, 2018 to October 8, 2018. On October 3, 2018, the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.46 feet NGVD, which places it within the Base Flow Sub-band of the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS). The Lake stage decreased by 0.20 feet during the preceding 7 days.

District September rainfall was below average (71% of average). District forecast (issued October 2) predicts below-average rainfall for the coming week and above-average rainfall for the following week.

Precipitation Outlook: The CPC precipitation outlook for October is for equal chances of above-normal, normal, or below normal rainfall. The outlook for the 3-month windows from Oct-Dec to March-May is increased chances (45%) of above normal rainfall. The April-June window has a slightly increased chance of above normal rainfall (37%). All periods starting with the May-Jul window show equal chances of above-normal, normal, or below normal rainfall.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the Base Flow Sub-band, the Tributary Hydrologic Conditions in the Wet category and the Multi-Seasonal Lake Okeechobee Net Inflow outlook in the Wet category, Part C of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "Up to maximum practicable releases to the WCAs if desirable or with minimum Everglades impacts". Otherwise no releases.

Over the 7-day period from September 24, 2018 to September 30, 2018, STA-1W received 400 acre-feet of Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases, STA-1E received 2,100 acre-feet, STA-2 received 3,700 acre-feet and the A-1 FEB, STA 3/4 complex received 12,500 acre-feet. Lake Okeechobee releases sent to tide through the C-51 canal were approximately 1,600 acre-feet. Stage in WCA-1 is below regulation schedule. Stages in WCA-2A and WCA-3A are above their respective regulation schedules. For the coming operational period, the USACE is requesting the SFWMD make maximum practicable regulatory releases from the lake south to the WCAs. The District and USACE will continue to evaluate the capacity in the system to send lake water to the WCAs.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the Base Flow Sub-band, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance suggests: "S-79 up to 450 cfs and S-80 up to 200 cfs".

Total discharge to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged around 1,450 cfs over the past week with 1,070 cfs (74%) coming from Lake Okeechobee. The 7-day average salinity at the US1 Bridge is in the fair range for adult oysters. Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged approximately 3,750 cfs over the past week with 1,600 cfs (43%) coming from the Lake. Salinity conditions between Val I-75 and Ft. Myers remain good for tape grass. Salinity conditions are in the good range for adult oysters at Shell Point and in the poor range at Cape Coral.

The District recommends that the Corps follows the LORS 2008 Regulation Schedule to reduce discharges by terminating discharges at S-80 and implementing a three-week transition plan to reduce discharges at S-79 to at least 650 cfs. Discharges should be implemented in a pulse release to allow the estuaries a rest period in between releases.