

MEMORANDUM

TO: Laureen Borocharner, Chief, Engineering Division (USACE)
FROM: John Mitnik, Chief District Engineer (SFWMMD)
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau (SFWMMD)
DATE: October 18, 2018
SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for October 16, 2018 to October 22, 2018

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from October 16, 2018 to October 22, 2018. On October 15, 2018, the Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.24 feet NGVD, which places it within the Base Flow Sub-band of the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS). The Lake stage decreased by 0.01 feet during the preceding 7 days.

District October rainfall to date is below average (65% of average). District forecast (issued October 16) predicts below-average rainfall for the coming week. The prediction for the following week is for above-average rainfall NW of Lake Okeechobee and below-average rainfall for the remainder of the District.

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 Normal 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 October 8, 2018 to October 14, 2018, STA-1E received 600 acre-feet of Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases, STA-2 received 6,900 acre-feet and the A-1 FEB, STA 3/4 complex received 13,700 acre-feet. Lake Okeechobee releases sent to tide through the C-51 canal were approximately 500 acre-feet. Stage in WCA-1 is below regulation schedule. Stage in WCA-2A is above regulation schedules. WCA-3A stage is in Zone D of the regulation schedule. For the coming operational period, the USACE is requesting the SFWMMD 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 approximately 300 cfs over the past week with no contribution from Lake Okeechobee. The 7-day average salinity at the US1 Bridge is in the good range for adult oysters. Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged approximately 2,150 cfs over the past week with 1,030 cfs (48%) 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 at Cape Coral.

The lake stage is in the Base Flow Sub-band and the LORS release guidance is recommending Base Flow releases. The District recognizes the current release transition plan that USACE is executing at S-79 and the desire to manage the lake stage. Therefore, the District recommends continuation of releases at S-77 consistent with the established transition plan.