

MEMORANDUM

TO: Laureen Borochaner, Chief, Engineering Division (USACE)
FROM: John Mitnik, Chief District Engineer (SFWMD)
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau (SFWMD)
DATE: October 24, 2019
SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for October 22, 2019 to October 28, 2019

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from October 22, 2019 to October 28, 2019. On October 21, Lake Okeechobee stage was 13.50 feet NGVD, which places it within the Base Flow Sub-band of the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS). Lake stage increased by 0.03 feet during the preceding 7 days.

District October rainfall to date is above average (115% of normal). District rainfall forecast (issued October 23) predicts above-average (possibly well above-average) rainfall for this 7-day period and average to above-average rainfall for the following week.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent CPC precipitation outlooks for November 2019 calls for equal chances of above-normal, normal, or below-normal rainfall for south Florida. The CPC precipitation outlooks for all the 3-month windows from Nov 2019-Jan 2020 to Oct-Dec (2020) are for equal chances of above-normal, normal, or below-normal rainfall for south Florida.

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 Dry classification, Part C of the 2008 LORS suggests "No Releases to WCAs".

Over the 7-day period from October 14 to October 20, 2019, no Lake Regulatory releases were sent to the STAs, or to the Lake Worth Lagoon through the C-51 canal. Stage in WCA-1 is in Zone B below regulation schedule. Stage in WCA-2A is in Zone A of the regulation schedule. WCA-3A stage is in Zone D of the regulation schedule. For the coming operational period, the USACE is recommending the SFWMD not implement maximum practicable Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases south to the WCAs.

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

Total discharge to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged approximately 500 cfs over the past week with no releases 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 870 cfs over the past week with about 100 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee. Salinity conditions at Val I-75 remain in the good range for tape grass but are outside the preferred range at Ft. Myers. Salinity conditions for adult eastern oysters are in the good range at Cape Coral and in the fair range at the Sanibel and Shell Point locations.

The District, in coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), has considered the system conditions this week. The District recommends the USACE follow LORS2008, and that releases be reevaluated on a weekly basis in order to increase flexibility of decision making based on current conditions.