

MEMORANDUM

TO: Laureen Borochaner, Chief, Engineering Division (USACE)
FROM: John Mitnik, Chief District Engineer (SFWMD)
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau (SFWMD)
DATE: November 1, 2018
SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for October 30, 2018 to November 5, 2018

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from October 30, 2018 to November 5, 2018. On October 29, 2018, the Lake Okeechobee stage was 13.76 feet NGVD, which places it within the Base Flow Sub-band of the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS). The Lake stage decreased by 0.27 feet during the preceding 7 days.

District October rainfall to date is well below average (34% of average). District forecast (issued October 30) predicts below-average rainfall for the coming week and the following week.

Precipitation Outlook: The CPC precipitation outlook for November is for slightly increased chances (37%) of above-normal rainfall. The outlook for the 3-month windows from Nov-Jan to Mar-May is for 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 Dry category, Part C of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends “No releases to the WCAs”.

Over the 7-day period from October 22, 2018 to October 30, 2018, STA-1E received 3,300 acre-feet of Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases, STA-2 received 4,300 acre-feet and the A-1 FEB, STA 3/4 complex received 9,600 acre-feet. No Lake Okeechobee releases made it to tide through the C-51 canal. 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 utilizing Additional Operation Flexibility within LORS2008 Water Control Plan and is requesting the SFWMD to continue maximum practicable regulatory releases from the lake south 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 160 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 1,200 cfs over the past week with 650 cfs (54%) 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. Utilizing Additional Operation Flexibility within LORS2008 Water Control Plan, the USACE is implementing higher than Base Flow releases at S-79. The District recognizes USACE's desire to manage releases at S-77 to supplement the USACE's target releases at S-79, if necessary.