Disclaimer: Information contained in the report addresses environmental conditions only and is not the official South Florida Water Management District operations recommendation or decision.

# MEMORANDUM

TO: John Mitnik, Assistant Executive Director, Executive Office Staff

**FROM:** SFWMD Staff Environmental Advisory Team

**DATE:** June 22, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Weekly Environmental Conditions for Systems Operations

#### Summary

#### Weather Conditions and Forecast

The quantitative precipitation forecast (QPF) on Wednesday is dry with some rain confined to the Florida Keys as a stable air mass takes hold across the SFWMD. The unusual late-June drying is most likely to extend into Thursday, making for a rare day of no measurable total SFWMD rainfall. On Friday, an increase of available moisture will favor interior and western rains during the afternoon and evening, with many model solutions showing a decent amount of rain over the Kissimmee Valley. This weekend, a large increase in rain coverage and total rainfall is expected beginning on Saturday. The heavy rains could result in localized significant rainfall accumulations in some areas. A low pressure emerging over the Gulf of Mexico has some chance of transitioning into a tropical cyclone, but gradually moving away from the District. An extended period of high available moisture and instability across Florida in association with this weather feature are forecast to result in several days of greater-than-normal rainfall through early next week. While the details are lacking as far where and how much, confidence of increased rainfall from Saturday through Monday is rated as medium or high. For the week ending next Tuesday morning, total SFWMD rainfall is likely to be below the long-term average of around two inches, this despite the uptick in rainfall late in the forecast period.

#### Kissimmee

Flow at S-59 and S-61 is being adjusted to allow stage to rise slowly in East Toho and Toho, respectively. Flow at S-65/S-65A is being reduced below minimum for the Kissimmee River (300 cfs) to slow the stage decline in KCH. Water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain has remained fairly steady with a mean depth of 0.31 feet as of June 19, 2022. The concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River declined slightly, with an average of 7.4 mg/L for the week ending on June 19, 2022; the decline may be due in part to rising water temperatures.

# Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 12.94 feet NGVD on June 19, 2022, with water levels 0.29 feet higher than a month ago (**Figure LO-1**). Lake stage on June 19, 2022 was in the Base Flow sub-band (**Figure LO-2**) and 0.37 feet above the ecological envelope (**Figure LO-3**). This was the second week Lake stage has been above ecological envelope, after 22 weeks within it. Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) decreased from the previous week, going from 978 cfs to 661 cfs. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) increased, going from 0 cfs to 46 cfs. The most recent satellite image (June 20, 2022) from the NOAA cyanobacteria monitoring product derived from EUMETSAT's Sentinel 3 OLCI sensor showed that bloom potential is high in Fisheating Bay (western part of the Lake) and along the northwestern and southwestern shoreline of the Lake.

# Estuaries

Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 628 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Mean salinities decreased at HR1 and US1 over the past week but remained the same on the surface and increased on the bottom at A1A Bridge. Salinity in the middle estuary was within the optimal range (10-25) for adult eastern oysters.

Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged 4,331 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from the Lake. Mean salinities remained the same at S-79, increased at Val I-75, and decreased at all other sites within the estuary over the past week. Salinities were in the optimal range (0-10) for tape grass in the upper estuary. Salinities were within the optimal range for oysters at Shell Point, in the stressed range at Sanibel, and in the damaging range at Cape Coral.

# **Stormwater Treatment Areas**

For the week ending Sunday, June 19, 2022, no Lake Okeechobee water was delivered to the FEBs/STAs. The total amount of Lake releases sent to the FEBs/STAs in WY2023 (since May 1, 2022) is approximately 12,400 ac-feet. The total amount of inflows to the STAs in WY2023 is approximately 267,000 ac-feet. Most STA cells are above target stage, except STA-5/6 cells that are near or below target. STA-1E Western Flow-way is offline for post-construction vegetation grow in. Additionally, STA-3/4 Eastern Flow-way is offline for vegetation rehabilitation/drawdown, STA-2 Flow-way 2 is offline for construction activities, and STA-5/6 Flow-way 4 is offline for vegetation management activities. Operational restrictions are in effect in STA-1E Central and Eastern Flow-ways, STA-1W Eastern, Western, and Northern Flow-ways, and STA-2 Flow-ways 3 and 4 for vegetation management activities. This week, there is no capacity for Lake releases in the STAs.

# Everglades

Ascension rates slowed again this week, with most of the EPA falling within the good or fair range for rate of change. The rapid ascension in WCA-2A slowed this week, a good

thing as higher than average stages within the recently burned northern area could slow or alter healthy plant recovery. Stages fell in Taylor slough last week but remain well above average. Salinities on average increased slightly last week in Florida Bay but remain below the 25th percentile for this time of year, conditions remain ideal to move water south as rains continue.

## **Biscayne Bay**

Total inflow to Biscayne Bay averaged 1,409 cfs and the previous 30-day mean inflow averaged 2,265 cfs. The seven-day mean salinity was 15.7 at BBCW8 and 13.9 at BBCW10, both below the preferred maximum salinity of 35 for these sites. Salinity data provided as a courtesy by Biscayne National Park.

# **Supporting Information**

## Kissimmee Basin

## Upper Kissimmee

On June 19, 2022, lake stages were 54.9 feet NGVD (1.6 feet below schedule) in East Lake Toho, 52.3 feet NGVD (1.2 feet below schedule) in Lake Toho, and 48.4 feet NGVD (2.6 feet below schedule) in Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha (KCH) (**Table KB-1**, **Figures KB-1-3**).

#### Lower Kissimmee

Discharges to the Kissimmee River on June 19, 2022 were 70 cfs at S-65 and 130 cfs at S-65A; discharges from the Kissimmee River were 220 cfs at S-65D and 190 cfs at S-65E (**Table KB-2**). Headwater stages were 46.4 feet NGVD at S-65A and 26.3 feet NGVD at S-65D on June 19, 2022. The concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River declined slightly in the last week, with an average of 7.4 mg/L for the week ending on June 19, 2022; the decline may be due in part to rising water temperatures (**Table KB-2**, **Figure KB-5**). Over the week ending June 19, 2022, Kissimmee River mean stage has been fairly steady (**Figure KB-5**) as was water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain, which had a mean depth of 0.31 feet as of June 19, 2022 (**Figure KB-6**).

#### Water Management Recommendations

When possible, limit stage ascension rates in Lakes East Toho, Toho and KCH to a preferred maximum of 0.5 ft/14 days. With stage in KCH rising after Monday's rainfall, hold current discharge at S-65A (~125 cfs) while conditions are reassessed.

**Table KB-1.** Average discharge for the preceding seven days and Sunday's average daily stage and departures from KCL flood regulation or temporary schedules. All data are provisional.

Water Body	Structure	Stage Monitoring Site	7-Day Average Discharge (cfs)			Schedule Stage (feet NGVD)	Departure from Regulation (feet)	
							6/19/22	612/22
Lakes Hart and Mary Jane	S-62	LKMJ	0	59.3	R	60.0	-0.7	-0.6
Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel	S-57	S-57	0	59.9	R	61.0	-1.1	-1.0
Alligator Chain	S-60	ALLI	0	62.1	R	63.2	-1.1	-1.1
Lake Gentry	S-63	LKGT	0	59.5	R	61.0	-1.5	-1.4
East Lake Toho	S-59	TOHOE	0	54.9	R	56.5	-1.6	-1.6
Lake Toho	S-61	TOHOW S-61	0	52.3	R	53.5	-1.2	-1.2
Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha	S-65	KUB011 LKIS5B	209	48.4	R	51.0	-2.6	-2.5

a. Names of in-lake monitoring sites and structures used to determine lake stage. If more than one site is listed, an average is reported.

b. A: projected recession line; R: USACE regulation schedule; S: temporary recession target line; T: temporary schedule; NA: not applicable or not available.



Figure KB-1. East Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge and rainfall.



Figure KB-2. Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge and rainfall.



Figure KB-3. Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha regulation schedule, stage, discharge and rainfall.

 Table KB-2. One- and seven-day average discharge and stage at Lower Kissimmee basin structures, river channel dissolved oxygen concentrations and water depths in the Phase I area floodplain. All data are provisional.

Metric	Location	Daily Average	Average for Previous Seven Day Periods				
		6/19/22	6/19/22	6/12/22	6/5/22	5/29/22	
Discharge	S-65	70	210	340	340	850	
Discharge	S-65Aª	130	190	300	310	730	
Headwater Stage (feet NGVD)	S-65A	46.4	46.4	46.3	46.3	46.3	
Discharge	S-65D <sup>b</sup>	220	310	330	480	870	
Headwater Stage (feet NGVD)	S-65D°	26.3	26.6	26.8	26.8	26.8	
Discharge (cfs)	S-65E <sup>d</sup>	190	300	330	420	770	
Discharge (cfs)	S-67	0	0	0	0	0	
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L) <sup>e</sup> Phase I, II/III river channel		6.0	7.4	7.9	7.1	6.7	
Mean depth (feet) <sup>f</sup>	Phase I floodplain	0.31	0.28	0.27	0.26	0.33	

a. Combined discharge from main and auxiliary structures.

b. Combined discharge from S-65D, S-65DX1 and S-65DX2.

c. Average stage from S-65D and S-65DX1.

d. Combined discharge from S-65E and S-65EX1.

e. Dissolved oxygen is the average of values from sondes KRBN, PC62, PC33, PD62R and PD42R.

f. One-day spatial average obtained from the South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).



Figure KB-4. Kissimmee River stage, discharge and rainfall.

Discharge (cfs)	Maximum Rate of Increase (cfs/day)	Maximum Rate of Decrease (cfs/day)
0-300	100	-50
301-650	150	-75
651-1,400	300	-150
1,401-3,000	600	-600
>3,000	1,000	-2,000

 Table KB-3. Discharge rate of change limits for S65/S-65A (revised 1/14/19).



**Figure KB-5.** Restored Kissimmee river channel mean daily dissolved oxygen concentration (mg/L), S-65A discharge (cfs), temperature (°C) and rainfall (inches). Dissolved oxygen (DO) and temperature are mean daily values averaged for PC62, KRDR02, KRBN, PC33, PC11, PD62R, and PD42R with an average of five stations reporting this week. Rainfall values are daily totals for Kissimmee River (Pool BCD) AHED watershed.



**Figure KB-6.** Phase I area Kissimmee River floodplain water depths (from left to right) one year ago, one month ago and current.



Figure KB-7. IS-14-50 Discharge Plan for S65/S65A with discharge rate of change limits (revised 1/14/19).

### Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 12.94 feet NGVD on June 19, 2022, with water levels 0.29 feet higher than a month ago (**Figure LO-1**). Lake stage was in the Base Flow sub-band (**Figure LO-2**) and 0.37 feet above the ecological envelope last week (**Figure LO-3**). Lake stage rose above the ecological envelope on June 8, 2022, after spending 22 weeks within it. According to NEXRAD, 0.29 inches of rain fell directly on the Lake last week, which was over 3 inches less than the previous week.

Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) decreased from the previous week, going from 978 cfs to 661 cfs. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) increased, going from 0 cfs to 46 cfs. Highest inflow came from the Kissimmee River/C-38 Canal through the S-65E structure (297 cfs). There was no outflow south through the S-350 structures, or to the west (via S-77) or east (via S-308) last week. An average daily outflow of 46 cfs from the Lake to the L-8 canal was recorded at S-271, although 4 days of flow data from that structure are currently unavailable, and therefore flows are subject to change. **Figures LO-4 and LO-5** show the combined average daily inflows and outflows for the Lake over the past eight weeks, and average inflows and outflows last week, respectively. These data are provisional and are subject to change.

The most recent satellite image (June 20, 2022) from the NOAA cyanobacteria monitoring product derived from EUMETSAT's Sentinel 3 OLCI sensor showed that bloom potential is high in Fisheating Bay (western part of the Lake), and the northwestern and southwestern shorelines of the Lake. The bloom potential remains as a moderate risk in the northern region of the Lake (**Figure LO-6**).



Figure LO-1. Lake Okeechobee water depth estimates based on South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

# **Changes in Water Depth**



Lake Okeechobee Water Level History and Projected Stages

Figure LO-2. Recent Lake Okeechobee stages with projected stages based on a dynamic position analysis.



**Figure LO-3.** The prior six years of annual stage hydrographs for Lake Okeechobee in comparison to the ecological envelope.



**Figure LO-4.** Major inflows (orange) to and outflows east and west (blue) from Lake Okeechobee. Outflows south are shown in green. Flows into Lake Okeechobee from the L-8 canal through S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) or from the C-44 canal through the S-308 are included as inflows. Conversely, flows from Lake Okeechobee into the L-8 or C-44 canals are included with outflows. Inflows are shown as positive values; outflows are negative. Outflows through the S-77 (Caloosahatchee) and S-308 (C-44 Canal) structures are based on downstream gauges to include flows to lock openings for navigation..



**Figure LO-5.** Inflows into Lake Okeechobee from Indian Prairie basins, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek, and outflows to the west via S-77, to the east via S-308, to the south via S-351, S-352, S-354, and to southeast via S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) for the week of June 13 - 19, 2022.



Figure LO-6. Cyanobacteria bloom potential on June 20, 2022 based on NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover.

## Estuaries

#### St. Lucie Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was 628 cfs (**Figures ES-1** and **ES-2**) and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 835 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from the contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-2**.

Over the past week, salinities increased at the A1A Bridge site and decreased at HR1 and US1 Bridge sites (**Table ES-1** and **Figure ES-3**). The seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge was 16.0. Salinity conditions in the middle estuary were estimated to be within the optimal range for adult eastern oysters (**Figure ES-4**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rate reported by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute was 5.0 spat/shell for May (**Figure ES-5**).

#### Caloosahatchee River Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary was 4,331 cfs (**Figures ES-6** and **ES-7**) and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 3,310 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from the contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-7**.

Over the past week, salinities remained the same at S-79 and Val I-75 and decreased at the remaining sites in the estuary (**Table ES-2** and **Figures ES-8** and **ES-9**). The sevenday mean salinities (**Table ES-2**) were in the optimal range (0-10) for tape grass in the upper estuary. The seven-day mean salinity values were within the optimal range for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral and Shell Point, and in the stressed range at Sanibel (**Figure ES-10**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rate reported by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute was 13.7 spat/shell at Iona Cove and 3.9 spat/shell at Bird Island in May (**Figures ES-11 and ES-12**).

Surface salinity at Val I-75 was forecasted for the next two weeks, using an autoregression model (Qiu and Wan, 2013<sup>1</sup>) coupled with a linear reservoir model for the tidal basin. Model scenarios included pulse releases at S-79 ranging from 0 to 1500 cfs, and steady releases at 2,000 cfs with estimated tidal basin inflows of 645 cfs. Model results from all scenarios predict daily salinity to be 0.6 or lower and the 30-day moving average surface salinity to be 0.3 or lower at Val I-75 at the end of the two-week period (**Table ES-3** and **Figure ES-13**). This keeps predicted salinities in the upper estuary within the optimal salinity range (0-10) for tape grass.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Qui, C., and Y. Wan. 2013. Time series modeling and prediction of salinity in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary. *Water Resources Research* 49:5804-5816.

#### Red Tide

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute reported on June 17, 2022, that *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide dinoflagellate, was not observed at bloom concentrations in any samples collected within the District region and was only observed at very low concentrations in one sample from offshore Lee County. On the east coast, red tide was not observed in any samples from Palm Beach County.

#### Water Management Recommendations

Lake stage is in the Base Flow Sub-Band. Tributary conditions are wet. The LORS2008 release guidance suggests up to 450 cfs release at S-79 to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary and up to 200 cfs release at S-80 to the St. Lucie Estuary.



Figure ES-1. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.



**Figure ES-2.** Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-44, C-23, C-24, Ten Mile Creek, and Tidal Basins into the St. Lucie Estuary.

**Table ES-1.** Seven-day mean salinity at oyster monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary. Current means are in bold font; previous week's means are in parentheses. The envelope reflects the optimum salinity range for adult eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) in the estuary. Data are provisional.

Sampling Site	Surface	Bottom	Optimum Envelope
HR1 (North Fork)	<b>8.1</b> (10.9)	<b>13.4</b> (17.4)	10.0 – 25.0
US1 Bridge	<b>15.1</b> (17.4)	<b>16.9</b> (18.9)	10.0 – 25.0
A1A Bridge	<b>24.0</b> (23.7)	<b>27.3</b> (25.9)	10.0 – 25.0



Figure ES-3. Mean daily salinity at the A1A, US1 and HR1 sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.



**Figure ES-4.** Seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge in the St. Lucie Estuary.



**Figure ES-5.** Mean oyster recruitment at the Rio oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at US1 Bridge.



Figure ES-6. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.



Figure ES-7. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee, and runoff from the C-43 and Tidal basins into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

**Table ES-2.** Seven-day mean salinity at six monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary. Current means are in bold font; previous week's means are in parentheses. The envelope in the upper estuary sites is for the protection of tape grass and the envelope in the lower estuary is the optimum salinity range for adult eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*). Data are provisional.

Sampling Site	Surface	Bottom	Optimum Envelope
S-79 (Franklin Lock)	<b>0.2</b> (0.2)	<b>0.2</b> (0.2)	0.0 - 10.0
Val I-75	<b>0.3</b> (0.2)	<b>0.3</b> (0.2)	0.0 - 10.0
Fort Myers Yacht Basin	<b>0.3</b> (0.9)	<b>0.3</b> (1.4)	0.0 - 10.0
Cape Coral	<b>2.9</b> (5.4)	<b>4.0</b> (5.8)	10.0 – 25.0
Shell Point	<b>17.4</b> (17.8)	<b>19.8</b> (19.9)	10.0 – 25.0
Sanibel	<b>26.0</b> (27.3)	<b>27.6</b> (29.0)	10.0 – 25.0



Figure ES-8. Mean daily salinity at upper Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.



**Figure ES-9.** Mean daily surface salinity at lower Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.



**Figure ES-10.** Seven-day moving average of surface and bottom salinities at Cape Coral, Shell Point and Sanibel monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.



Figure ES-11. Mean oyster recruitment at the Iona Cove oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Cape Coral.



Figure ES-12. Mean oyster recruitment at the Bird Island oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Shell Point.

Scenario	Simulated S-79 Flow (cfs)	Tidal Basin Runoff (cfs)	Daily Salinity	30-Day Mean Salinity
А	0	645	0.6	0.3
В	450	645	0.3	0.3
С	800	645	0.3	0.2
D	1000	645	0.3	0.2
E	1500	645	0.3	0.2
F	2000	645	0.3	0.2

**Table ES-3.** Predicted salinity at Val I-75 in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary at the end of theforecast period for various S-79 flow release scenarios.

#### Caloosahatchee River Estuary Flows and Salinity Observed and Forecast Salinity at Val I-75 S-79 = 0 cfs & TBR = 645 cfs



Figure ES-13. Forecasted Val I-75 site surface salinity assuming no pulse release at S-79.

## **Stormwater Treatment Areas**

**STA-1E:** STA-1E Western Flow-way is offline for post-construction vegetation grow in. Operational restrictions are in place in STA-1E Central and Eastern Flow-ways for vegetation management activities. Online treatment cells are above target stage and vegetation in the flow-ways is stressed and highly stressed. The 365-day phosphorus loading rates (PLRs) are high for the Eastern Flow-way and very high for the Central Flow-way (**Figure S-1**).

**STA-1W:** Operational restrictions are in place in STA-1W Western, Eastern, and Northern Flow-ways for vegetation management activities. Treatment cells are above target stage. Vegetation in the flow-ways is stressed and highly stressed. The 365-day PLRs for the Northern and Western, and Eastern Flow-ways are at or below 1.0 g/m<sup>2</sup>/year (**Figure S-2**).

**STA-2:** STA-2 Flow-way 2 is offline for construction activities. Operational restrictions are in place in STA-2 Flow-ways 3 and 4 for vegetation management activities. Online treatment cells are above target stage. Vegetation in Flow-ways 1 and 3 is stressed, and in Flow-ways 2, 4 and 5 is highly stressed. The 365-day PLRs for Flow-ways 1, 4 and 5 are below 1.0 g/m<sup>2</sup>/year. The 365-day PLR for Flow-way 3 is high (**Figure S-3**).

**STA-3/4:** STA-3/4 Eastern Flow-way is offline for vegetation rehabilitation/drawdown. Online treatment cells are above target stage. Vegetation in the Eastern and Central Flow-ways is highly stressed and in the Western Flow-way is stressed. The 365-day PLRs for the Central and Western Flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m<sup>2</sup>/year (**Figure S-4**).

**STA-5/6:** STA-5/6 Flow-way 4 is offline for vegetation management activities. Treatment cells are near or below-target stage. All treatment cells have highly stressed vegetation conditions except Flow-ways 7 and 8 which are healthy. The 365-day PLRs for most flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m<sup>2</sup>/year, except Flow-way 5 which is high. (**Figure S-5** and **S-6**).

For definitions on STA operational language see glossary following figures.



	STA-1E Flow-Way Status			As of 6/19/2022	STA-1E Flow & Phosphorus Concentration			
				Stage Based: Relative to Target Stage (TS)		7	20 day	205 days
Flow-	Vegetation	365-day P Loading Rate	Online /	Deep Water Level (> 2.8' above TS)		7-day	28-day	365-day
Way Status (below 1.	(below 1.0 g P /m²/yr is optimal)	w 1.0 g P /m²/yr Restrictions	High Water Level (1.5' – 2.8' above TS)	Total Inflow, ac-ft	7,280	44,223	212,023	
	$\leftarrow$	•		0.2' – 1.5' above TS	Lake Inflow, ac-ft	0	N/A	2,800
Eastern	$\leftarrow / \rightarrow$	Vegetation 1.0 Wanagement	•	Target Stage (TS +/- 0.2')	Total Outflow, ac-ft	6,359	40,068	179,069
Central		<b>Q</b>	Vegetation	Low Water Level (<0.2' below TS) Depth / Area Based: Percent of Area Dry	Inflow Conc., ppb	118	124	119
		1.0	rehabilitation	0-25% Dry 50-75% Dry	Outflow Conc., ppb	26	22	22
Western	Western Offline, post-construction grow in starting 3/28/2022			25-50% Dry 75-100% Dry	Includes Preliminary D			

Figure S-1. STA-1E Weekly Status Report



Figure S-2. STA-1W Weekly Status Report



Figure S-3. STA-2 Weekly Status Report



	STA-3/4 Flow-Way Status			As of 6/19/2022	STA-3/4 Flow & Phosphorus Concentratio			ntration
				Stage Based: Relative to Target Stage (TS)		7 days	20 day	205 days
Flow-	Vegetation	365-day P Loading Rate	Online /	Deep Water Level (> 2.8' above TS)		7-day	28-day	365-day
Way	Way Status (below 1.0 g P /m²/yr	(below 1.0 g P /m²/yr is optimal)	Offline / Restrictions	High Water Level (1.5' – 2.8' above TS)	Total Inflow, ac-ft	18,071	75,801	389,713
				0.2' – 1.5' above TS	Lake Inflow, ac-ft	0	N/A	6,600
Eastern	Eastern Offline, vegetation management drawdown as of 3/1/2021			Target Stage (TS +/- 0.2')	Total Outflow, ac-ft	33,501	69,986	353,630
Central	<>	•	Online	Low Water Level (<0.2' below TS) Depth / Area Based: Percent of Area Dry	Inflow Conc., ppb	128	108	93
		1.0 O		0-25% Dry 50-75% Dry	Outflow Conc., ppb	14	15	15
Western	$\leftarrow / \rightarrow$		Online	25-50% Dry 75-100% Dry	Includes Preliminary D	ata		

Figure S-4. STA-3/4 Weekly Status Report


Figure S-5. STA-5/6 Weekly Status Report (Flow-ways 1 - 5)

# STA-5/6 Weekly Status Report – 6/13/2022 through 6/19/2022





Figure S-6. STA-5/6 Weekly Status Report (Flow-ways 6 - 8)

### Basic Concepts and Definitions for STA Weekly Status Report

- Inflow: Sum of flow volume at all inflow structures to an STA.
- Lake Inflow: Portion of the STA total inflow volume that originates from Lake Okeechobee.
- Outflow: Sum of flow volume at outflow structures from an STA.
- Total Phosphorus (TP): Total mass of phosphorus in all its forms; including particulate, dissolved, etc.
- Inflow Concentration: TP concentration is the mass of TP in micrograms per liter of water, μg/L or ppb. Inflow concentration refers to the flowweighted mean TP from all inflow structures over a period of time.
- Outflow Concentration: The flow-weighted mean TP from all outflow structures over a period of time. The outflow concentration represents the reduction of inflow TP achieved by STA treatment of the inflow water.
- WQBEL: The STA outflow concentration that is required upon completion of the Restoration Strategies projects by December 2025. The outflow concentration shall not exceed 13 ppb as an annual flow weighted mean in more than 3 out of 5 water years on a rolling basis and shall not exceed 19 ppb as an annual flow weighted in any water year.
- Flow-Way (FW): One or more treatment cells connected in series. Cells typically have emergent aquatic vegetation (EAV) in the front portion of the flow-way followed by a mix of EAV and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)
- Vegetation Status: Healthy means the vegetation condition is good and will allow the STA to perform as designed. Stressed means the vegetation is showing signs of poor health, such as browning or areas of vegetation die-off, or the cell contains undesirable vegetation such as floating exotic vegetation requiring treatment. The TP reduction capability of the STA is affected when the vegetation condition is poor.
- Phosphorus Loading Rate (PLR): Mass of inflow TP in grams, divided by total treatment area of STA in square meters, per year. In general, a 365day value of less than 1.0 is needed for an STA to perform optimally. A PLR of 2.0 is considered very high and a PLR of 3.0 is considered extremely high. The TP reduction capability of the STA is affected when the PLR is high, very high and extremely high.
- Online: Online status means the FW can receive and treat inflow.
- Online with Restriction: The FW can receive and treat inflow, but the amount of flow or water level may be limited temporarily. For example, a vegetation rehabilitation effort may require reduced flows through an area while the new plants are establishing, or nesting by protected species may require a certain water level not to be exceeded.
- Offline: The FW is unable to receive and treat inflow due to repairs, construction, or other prohibitive reasons.
- **Depth**: Difference between the average surface water level in a cell and the average ground elevation in that cell. Target depths, or depths between flow events, are between 1.25 ft to 1.5 ft. As depth approaches or drops below zero, an increasing percentage of the cell is considered dry and STA conditions deteriorate. An increase in depth above target depth is expected with increasing flow. However, as depth increases much above the target depth and is sustained over a period of time, it can be detrimental to vegetation health and overall STA treatment performance.
- Note: The data provided in this summary report were developed using a combination of provisional and quality-assured flow and water quality data. In some cases, best professional judgment was used to estimate missing data and revise questionable data. Values provided are not considered final but are appropriate for use in STA operational decision-making.

# Everglades

### Water Conservation Area Regulation Schedules

WCA-1: Stage at the 1-8C fell over the week. The average on Sunday was 0.68 feet above the flat Zone A1 regulation line. WCA-2A: Stage rose throughout the week at the S11B headwater last week. The average at that gauge on Sunday was 0.70 feet above the flat regulation line. WCA-3A: Last week the Three Gauge Average stages continued to ascend along the Zone A regulation line. The average stage was 0.10 feet above the rising regulation line on Sunday. WCA-3A: Stage change flattened at gauge 62 (Northwest corner) last week, the average on Sunday was 0.28 feet below the rising Upper schedule line. (**Figures EV-1** through **EV-4**).

## Water Depths

Comparing current WDAT water depths to the depth one month ago, stages are significantly deeper across South Florida. Looking back one year, the EPA is deeper, significantly so eastern WCA-3A. (Figure EV-5). Comparing current WDAT water depths to the depth one month ago, stages are significantly deeper across South Florida. Looking back one year, the EPA is deeper, significantly so in BCNP and to the east and west of Shark River Slough in ENP. (Figure EV-6). Comparing current depths to the past 20 years, WCA-3A North is now above the 50th percentile but in the east water depths remain below ground. The typically flooded area in eastern WCA-3A South along the L-67s is now at or below the 50th percentile. Most of ENP is above the 90th percentile. (Figure EV-7).

## Taylor Slough and Florida Bay

Taylor Slough received 0.00 inches of rain in the past week. Stages in Taylor Slough started to decrease, with an average decrease of -0.151 feet (**Figure EV-8** and **Figure EV-9**). Individual stage gauge changes ranged from -0.370 at Taylor Slough Bridge in the northern slough area to +0.08 feet at EVER6, east of Taylor Slough. The Slough is now 13.6 inches higher than its historical average for this time of year (pre-Florida Bay initiative which started in 2017). Conditions are highly favorable for moving water downstream through the Slough this year as the rains continue.

Florida Bay salinity average increased only +0.3 over the week ending in 6/19. However, salinities in nearshore northeastern Florida Bay continued to decline. Individual station changes throughout the bay ranged from -6.20 to +10.1 (**Figure EV-8**). The largest increase was in Trout Cove (TC), which followed by greatly diminished inflows over the past week, and negative flows (i.e., tidal and wind inflows from the south) on 6/19. Eastern and Western Florida Bay salinities had slight increases, that reversed on 6/19, lowering salinities below the 25th percentile. Central Florida Bay salinities have remained below the 25th percentile (**Figure EV-10**). The Bay is 6.76 lower than its historical average for this time of year.

### Water Management Recommendations

Balancing inflows with outflows in WCA-2A in a way that helps to moderate the recent ascension in that basin would have ecological benefit in particular to the area most recently impacted by wildfire. If conditions allow, distributing flows both into the northern perimeter of WCA-3A and making use of the S-150 is ecologically better than using the northwestern structures alone, as conditions remain dry in parts of eastern WCA-3A North. Flows into the northern WCA-3A that safely build depth in that sub-basin have an ecological benefit. Continued rain and freshwater flows to the Taylor Slough area have prolonged the hydroperiod there, if stage can be maintained it will help expedite deliveries to the south during the wet season. Individual regional recommendations can be found in **Table EV-2**.



Table EV-2. Previous week's rainfall and water depth changes in Everglades basins.

Figure EV-1. WCA-1 stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.



**Figure EV-2.** WCA-2A stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.



Figure EV-3. WCA-3A stage hydrographs (three-gauge average, S-333 headwater) and regulation schedule.



Figure EV-4. WCA-3A stage hydrograph (Deer gauge; Site 62) and CA62 regulation schedule.



Figure EV-5. Everglades water depths from two months ago (left), one month ago (center) and present (right), based on SFWDAT.



**Figure EV-6.** Present Everglades water depths (left) and water depth changes from one month (center) and one year (right) ago, based on SFWDAT.



**Figure EV-7.** Present water depths (6/12/2022) compared to the day of year median over the previous 20 years.



Figure EV-8. Taylor Slough water depths with changes since a week ago and Florida Bay salinities with changes since a week ago.



Figure EV-9. Taylor Slough water depth time series.



**Figure EV-10.** Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges.

SFWMD Everglades Ecological Recommendations, June 21, 2022 (red is new)			
of white Everylades Ecological Recommendations, oune 21, 2022 (red is new)			
Area	Weekly change	Recommendation	Reasons
WCA-1	Stage decreased by 0.16'	Maintain an ascension of less than 0.5 feet per two weeks.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-2A	Stage increased by 0.17'	Maintain an ascension of less than 0.5 feet per two weeks.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-2B	Stage decreased by 0.09'	Maintain an ascension of less than 0.5 feet per two weeks.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NE	Stage increased by 0.30'	Moderate ascension to less than 0.5 feet per two weeks. Conserve water in this basin, while letting the water move south when conditions allow.	Protect within basin peat soils, and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NW	Stage increased by 0.01'	Maintain an ascension of less than 0.5 feet per two weeks. Conserve water in this basin letting the water move south when conditions allow.	
Central WCA-3A S	Stage increased by 0.17'	Maintain an ascension of less than 0.5 feet per two weeks, letting the water move south when conditions allow.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Foraging and nesting wading birds.
Southern WCA-3A S	Stage increased by 0.11'		
WCA-3B	Stage increased by 0.07'	Maintain an ascension of less than 0.5 feet per two weeks in this basin, letting the water move south when conditions allow.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Lower fire risk.
ENP-SRS	Stage increased by 0.11'	Make discharges to ENP according to COP and TTFF protocol while adaptively considering upstream and downstream ecological conditions.	Protect within basin and upstream habitat and wildlife.
Taylor Slough	Salinity changes ranged -14.4 to -0.60	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater buffer for downstream conditions.
FB- Salinity	Salinity changes ranged -12.0 to -1.8	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to maintain low salinity buffer and promote water movement.

 Table EV-2.
 Weekly water depth changes and water management recommendations

### **Biscayne Bay**

As shown in **Figure BB-1**, mean total inflow to Biscayne Bay was 1409 cfs and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 2265 cfs. The seven-day mean salinity was 15.7 at BBCW8 and 13.9 at BBCW10, both below the preferred maximum salinity of 35 for these sites. Data provided by Biscayne National Park.



**Figure BB-1.** Seven-day mean salinity at BBCW8 and BBCW10 and total daily flow in Biscayne Bay. Total daily flow was calculated using flow from structures S20G, S20F, S21, S21A, S123, and S700P.