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M E M O R A N D U M

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

FROM: SFWMD Staff Environmental Advisory Team

DATE: May 3, 2023

SUBJECT: Weekly Environmental Conditions for Systems Operations

Summary

Weather Conditions and Forecast

The cold front which crossed through Florida on Sunday remains situated over the western tip of Cuba. The post-frontal air mass is very dry with slightly cooler temperatures which will rebound over the next few days. The mid-levels of the atmosphere will remain dry and stable and unresponsive to rainfall through the rest of the week. An additional cold front could dive southward into Florida on Wednesday night, but it is possible that it may never make it across SFWMD boundaries. Over the next few days, mid-level high pressure will build in over the southern Gulf of Mexico. This will result in the northward migration of the frontal remnants, which will return moisture to the region and might be enough to fuel afternoon shower and thunderstorm activity this weekend. Below normal rainfall is expected for the 7-day period ending next Tuesday morning. Above normal rainfall could occur during the week 2 period spanning 9-15 May.

Kissimmee

Releases were made as needed from East Lake Toho and Lake Toho to continue their recessions to their respective low pools on June 1. Weekly average discharges on April 30, 2023 at S-65 and S-65A were 340 cfs and 310 cfs, respectively. Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain of 0.08 ft was essentially unchanged from the previous week. The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River decreased from 7.8 mg/L last week to 7.5 mg/L for the week ending April 30, above both the potentially lethal level and the physiologically stressful range for largemouth bass and other sensitive species.

Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 14.33 feet NGVD on April 29, 2023, which is 0.06 feet higher than the previous week and 0.22 feet lower than a month ago. Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) increased from the previous week, going from 393 cfs to 511 cfs. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) also increased from the previous week, going from 434 cfs to 1,058 cfs. Recent satellite imagery (April 29, 2023) showed

very low to no bloom potential across the entire Lake region. The eighth wading bird survey of the season, conducted on April 27, 2023, reported no foraging birds on the lake.

Estuaries

Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 1,245 cfs over the past week with 0 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee. Mean surface salinities decreased at all sites within the estuary. Salinity in the middle estuary was in the optimal range (10-25) for adult eastern oysters.

Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged 1,758 cfs over the past week with 1,000 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee. Mean surface salinities remained the same at S-79 and Val I-75, Ft. Myers, and increased at the remaining sites. Salinities were in the optimal range (0-10) for tape grass in the upper estuary. Salinities were in the optimal range for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral (10-25) and in the upper stressed range at Shell Point and Sanibel (>25).

Stormwater Treatment Areas

For the week ending Sunday, April 30, 2023, 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 43,700 ac-feet. The total amount of inflows to the STAs in WY2023 is approximately 1,086,000 ac-feet. Most STA cells are at or near target stage, except STA-5/6 where cells are below target. STA-1E Western Flow-way is offline for post-construction vegetation grow in, STA-3/4 Eastern Flow-way is offline for vegetation rehabilitation/drawdown, and STA-2 Flow-way 2 is offline for post-construction vegetation grow in. 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. STA-1E Eastern Flow-way, STA-1W Northern Flow-way, STA-2 Flow-way 3, and STA-5/6 Flow-way 6 contain nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. This week, if 2008 LORS recommends Lake releases to the WCAs and conditions allow, releases will be sent to STA-2.

Everglades

Rates of stage change within many regions of the EPA remained in the optimal or fair range, but the recent reversals have impacted wading birds. There is little wading bird foraging within the WCAs or freshwater ENP with some occurring along the ecotone in southwest Everglades National Park. Many Wood Storks have abandoned nesting and more abandonment is anticipated. White Ibis nesting numbers remain low after many began abandoning nests several weeks ago, which has continued due to reversals. Taylor Slough stages fell last week but remain well above average and above ground. Average salinity increased slightly last week in Florida Bay but is very close to average for this time of year.

Biscayne Bay

Total inflow to Biscayne Bay averaged 697 cfs and the previous 30-day mean inflow averaged 768 cfs. The seven-day mean salinity was 25.5 at BBCW8 and 26.8 at BBCW10, both within the ideal salinity range for estuarine organisms in this region (salinity less than 35). Data provided by Biscayne National Park.

Supporting Information

Kissimmee Basin

Upper Kissimmee

On April 30, 2023, mean daily lake stages were 55.7 feet NGVD (0.6 feet below schedule) in East Lake Toho, 52.6 feet NGVD (0.7 feet below schedule) in Lake Toho, and 50.2 feet NGVD (1.2 feet below the approved temporary deviation schedule) in Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha (KCH) (**Table KB-1, Figures KB-1-3**).

Lower Kissimmee

For the week ending April 30, 2023, mean weekly discharge was 340 cfs at S-65 and 310 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly discharge from the Kissimmee River was 300 cfs at S-65D and 290 cfs at S-65E (**Table KB-2**). Mean weekly headwater stages were 46.3 feet NGVD at S-65A and 28.3 feet NGVD at S-65D on April 30, 2023. Mean weekly river channel stage of 32.9 ft NGVD on April 30, 2023 was the same as the previous week's mean (**Figure KB-4**). Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain of 0.08 ft for the week ending April 30, 2023 and was essentially unchanged from the previous week's mean (**Table KB-2, Figure KB-5**). The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River decreased from 7.8 mg/L the previous week to 7.5 mg/L for the week ending April 30, 2023 (**Table KB-2, Figure KB-6**).

Water Management Recommendations

Continue stage recessions in Lake Toho and East Lake Toho to their June 1 low pools. Maintain at least 300 cfs discharge at S-65A.

Table KB-1. Average discharge for the preceding seven days, Sunday’s average daily stage and Sunday’s average daily departure from KCOL flood regulation lines or temporary schedules. All data are provisional.

Water Body	Structure	Stage Monitoring Site	Weekly (7-Day) Average Discharge (cfs)	Sunday Lake Stage (feet NGVD) ^a	Schedule Type ^b	Sunday Schedule Stage (feet NGVD)	Sunday Departure from Regulation (feet)	
							4/30/23	4/23/23
Lakes Hart and Mary Jane	S-62	LKMJ	30	60.1	R	60.1	0.0	-0.2
Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel	S-57	S-57	0	60.2	R	60.4	-0.2	-0.4
Alligator Chain	S-60	ALLI	110	62.9	R	62.8	0.1	0.0
Lake Gentry	S-63	LKGT	190	60.3	R	60.3	0.0	0.0
East Lake Toho	S-59	TOHOE	180	55.7	R	56.3	-0.6	-0.8
Lake Toho	S-61	TOHOW S-61	560	52.6	R	53.3	-0.7	-0.8
Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha	S-65	KUB011 LKIS5B	340	50.2	T	51.4	-1.2	-0.3

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.

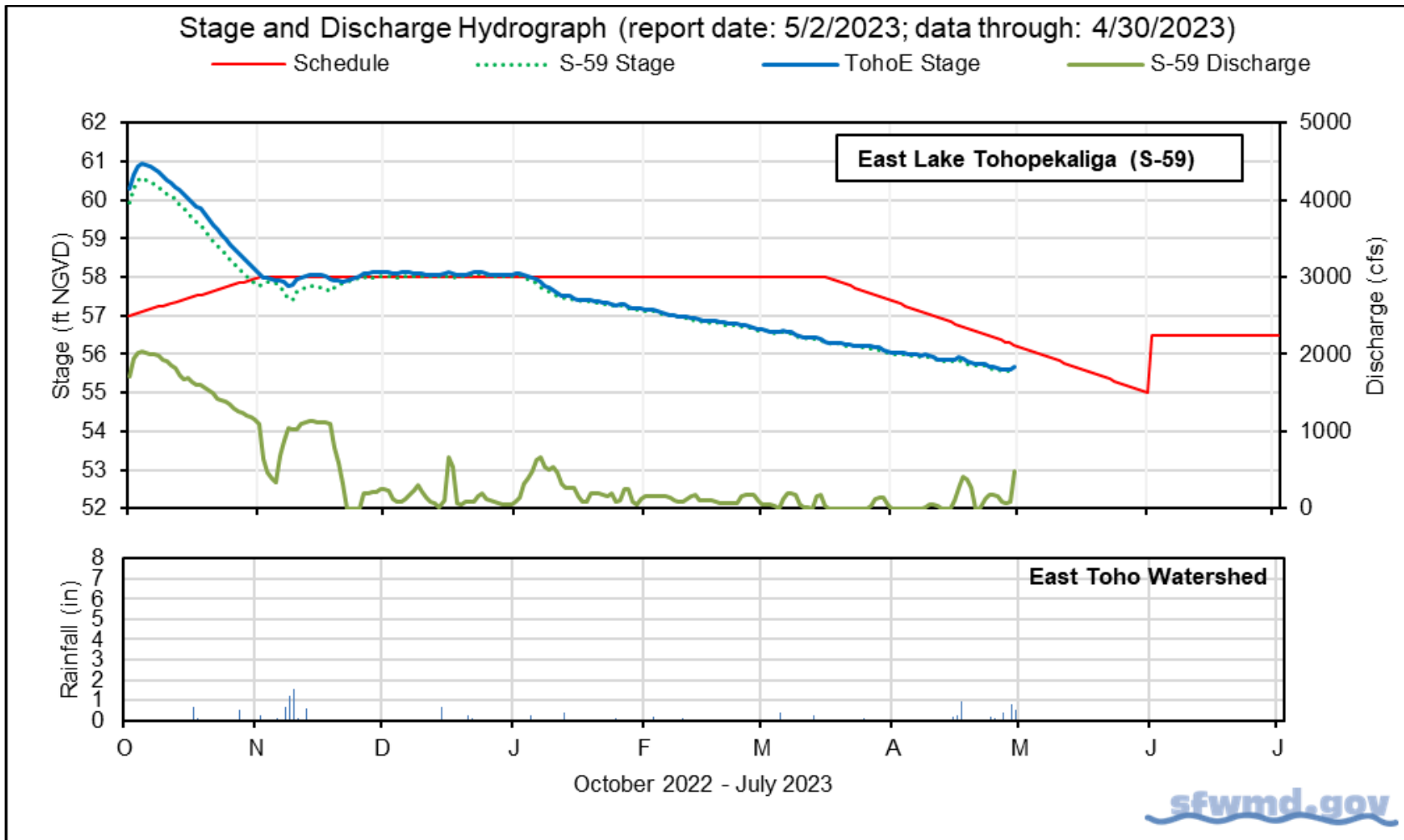


Figure KB-1. East Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

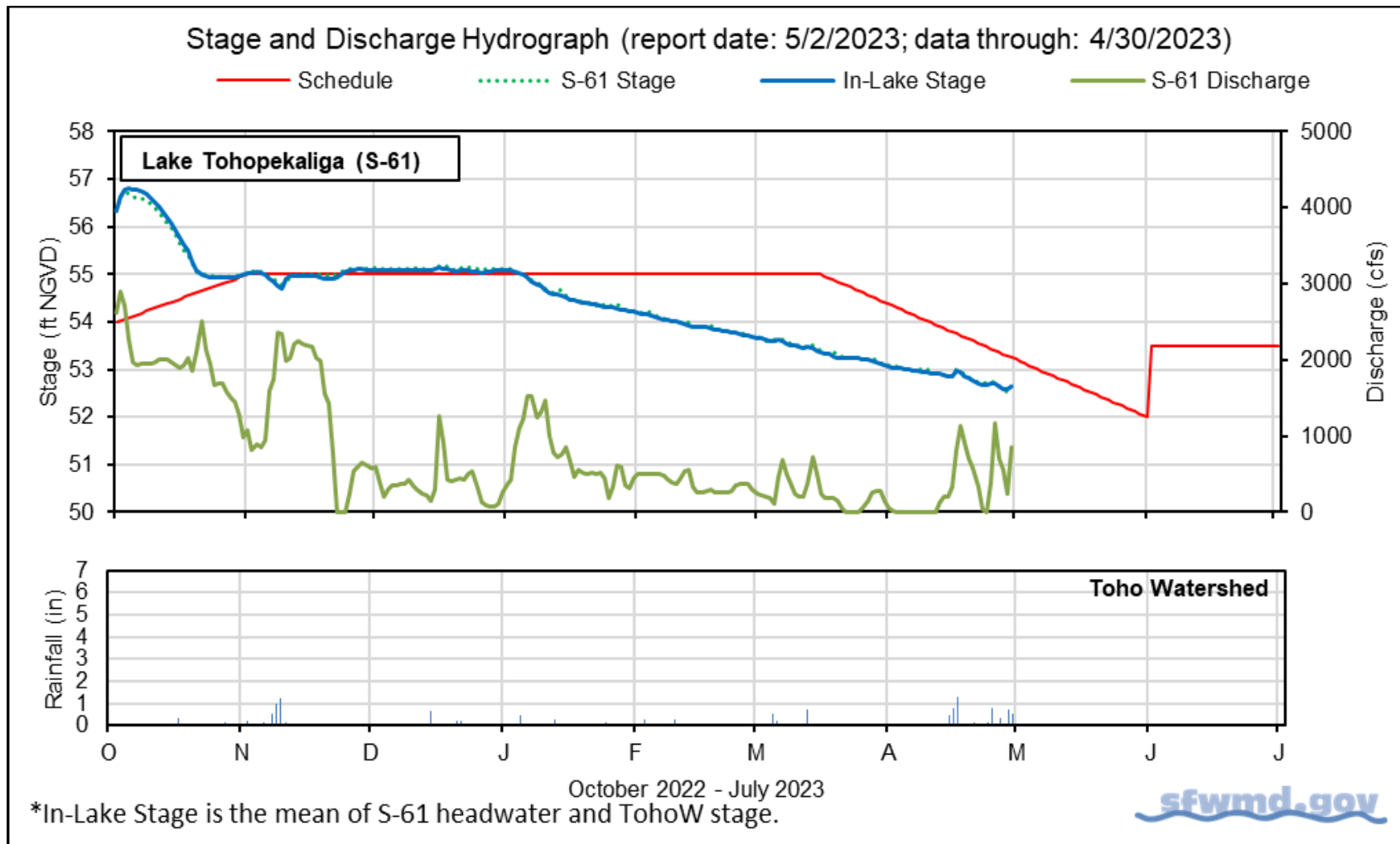


Figure KB-2. Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

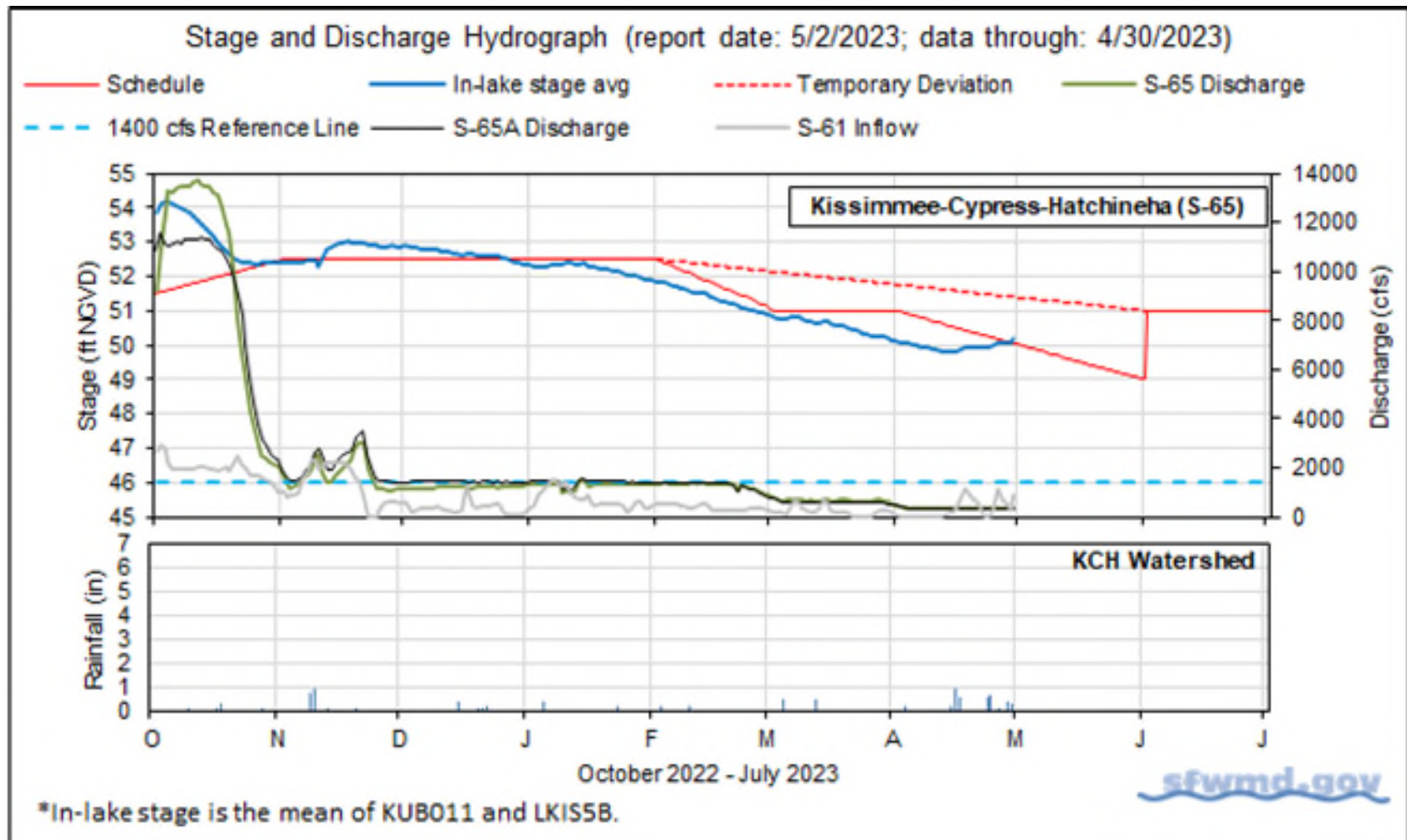


Figure KB-3. Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

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	Sunday Daily Average	Weekly Average for Previous Seven Day Periods			
		4/30/23	4/30/23	4/23/23	4/16/23	4/9/23
Discharge	S-65	330	340	340	350	370
Discharge	S-65A ^a	310	310	310	310	320
Headwater Stage (feet NGVD)	S-65A	46.3	46.3	46.4	46.4	46.4
Discharge	S-65D ^b	250	300	290	270	330
Headwater Stage (feet NGVD)	S-65D ^c	28.3	28.3	28.4	28.3	28.3
Discharge (cfs)	S-65E ^d	230	290	280	280	340
Discharge (cfs)	S-67	0	0	0	0	0
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L) ^e	Phase I, II/III river channel	7.4	7.5	7.8	6.9	6.1
River channel mean stage ^f	Phase I river channel	32.8	32.9	32.9	33.0	33.2
Mean depth (feet) ^g	Phase I floodplain	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.08

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.

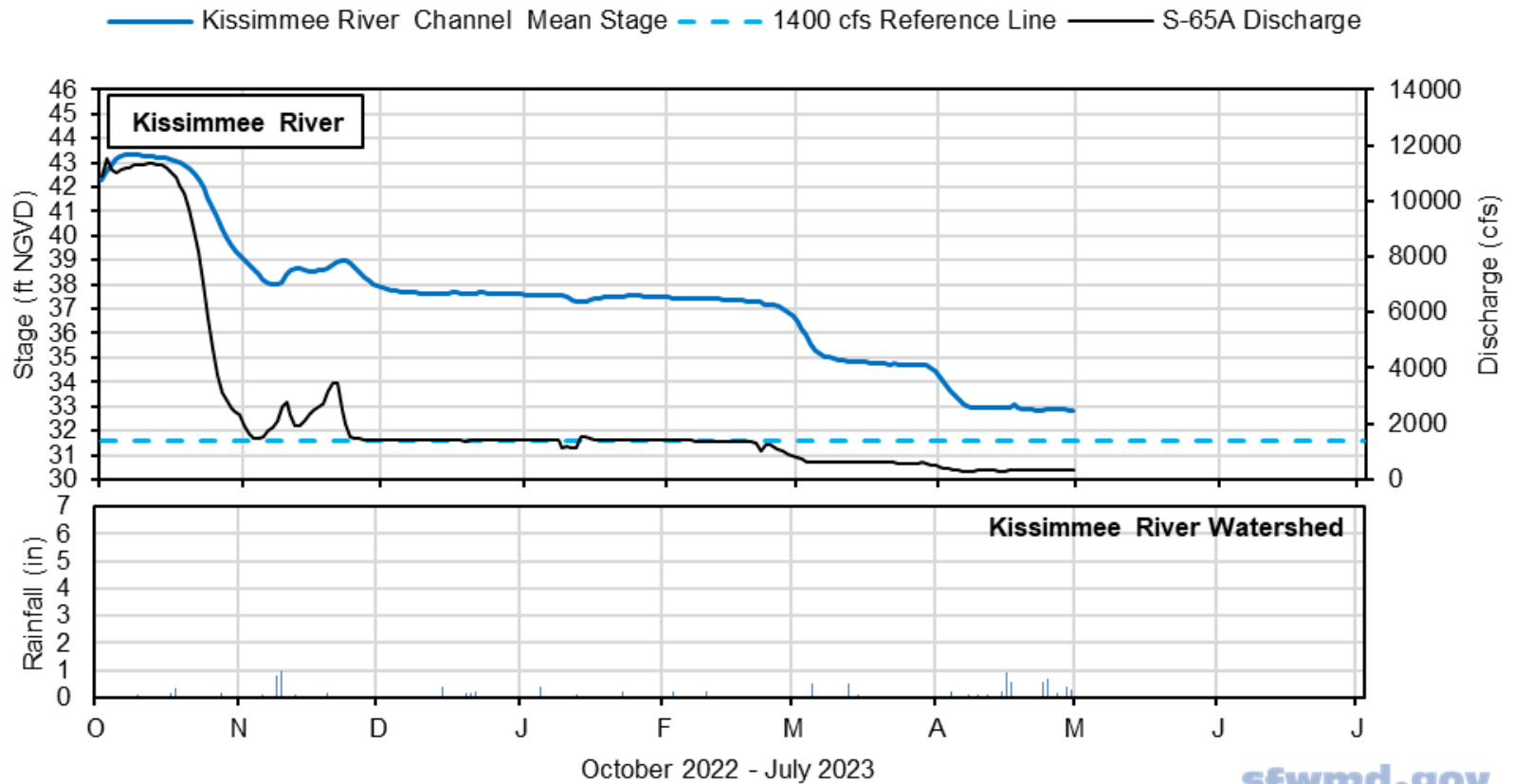
d. Combined discharge from S-65E and S-65EX1.

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

f. Mean of five river channel stations (PC62, KRDR02, KRBN, PC33, PC11) in the Phase I area.

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

Stage and Discharge Hydrograph (report date: 5/2/2023; data through: 4/30/2023)



*River Channel Stage is the average for PC62, KRDR02, KRBN, PC33, and PC11.



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

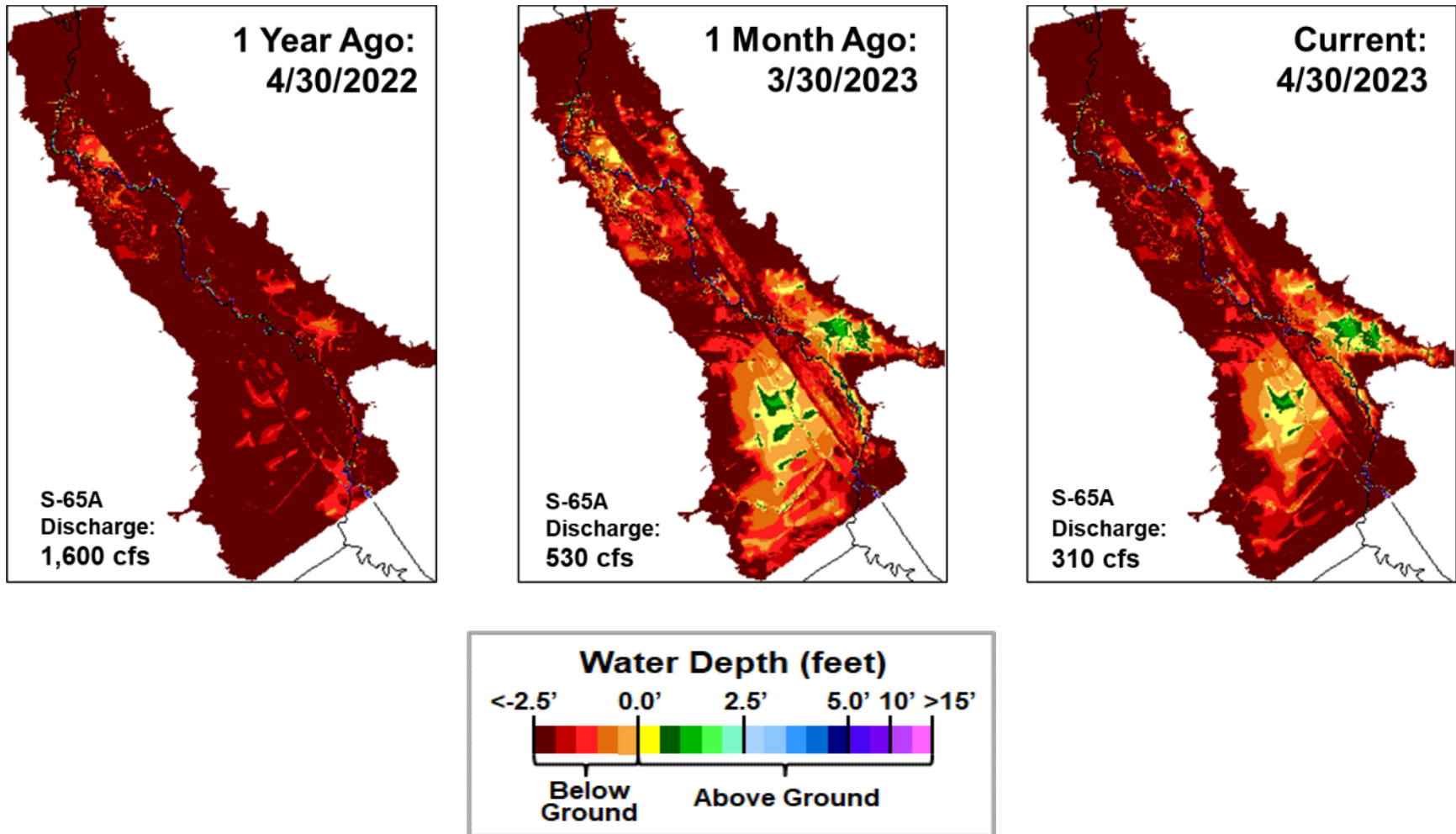
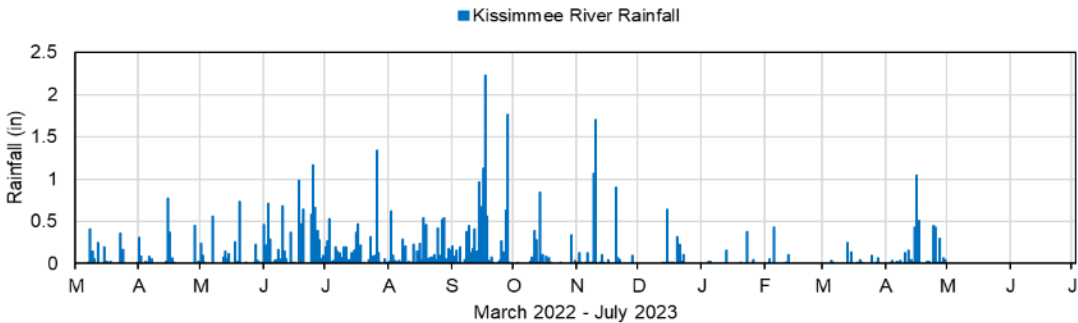
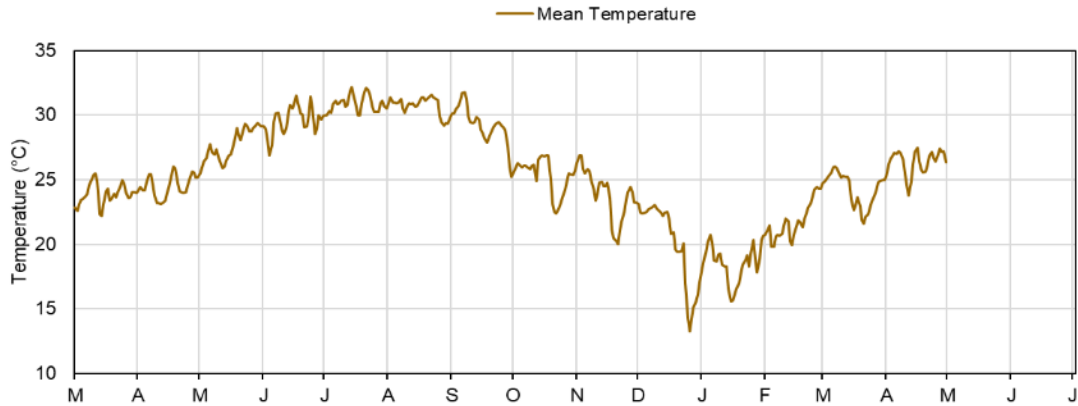
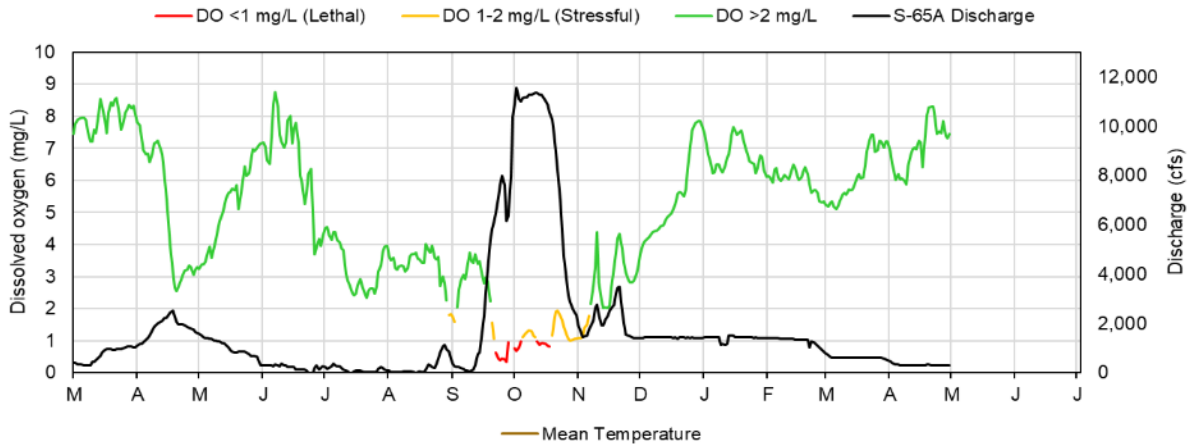


Figure KB-5. Phase I area Kissimmee River floodplain water depths (from left to right) one year ago, one month ago, and current.



Report Date: 5/2/2023; data are through: 4/30/2023



Figure KB-6. 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 four stations reporting this week. Rainfall values are daily totals for Kissimmee River (Pool BCD) AHED watershed.

Stage and Discharge Guidance for 2021-2022.

Zone	KCH Stage (ft NGVD)	S-65/S-65A Discharge*
A	Above regulation schedule line.	Flood control releases as needed with no limits on the rate of discharge change.
B1	In flood control buffer zone (0.5 ft below the schedule line).	Adjust S-65 discharge so that S-65A discharge is between 1400 cfs at the buffer zone line and 3000 cfs at the schedule line.
B2	Between the Flood Control Buffer and the 50.0 ft line.	Adjust S-65 discharge to maintain at least 1400 cfs at S-65A. Use ± 0.2 ft buffer (gray band) above and below the 50.0 ft line to decide when to begin ramping up to 1400 cfs or down to 300 cfs; do not continue reducing discharge if stage rises back to or above the threshold stage line.
B3	Between the 50.0 ft line and 49 ft.	Adjust S-65 discharge to maintain at least 300 cfs at S-65A.
B4	Between 48.5 ft to 49 ft.	Adjust S-65 discharge to maintain S-65A discharge between 0 cfs at 48.5 ft and 300 cfs at 49 ft.
C	Below 48.5 ft.	0 cfs.

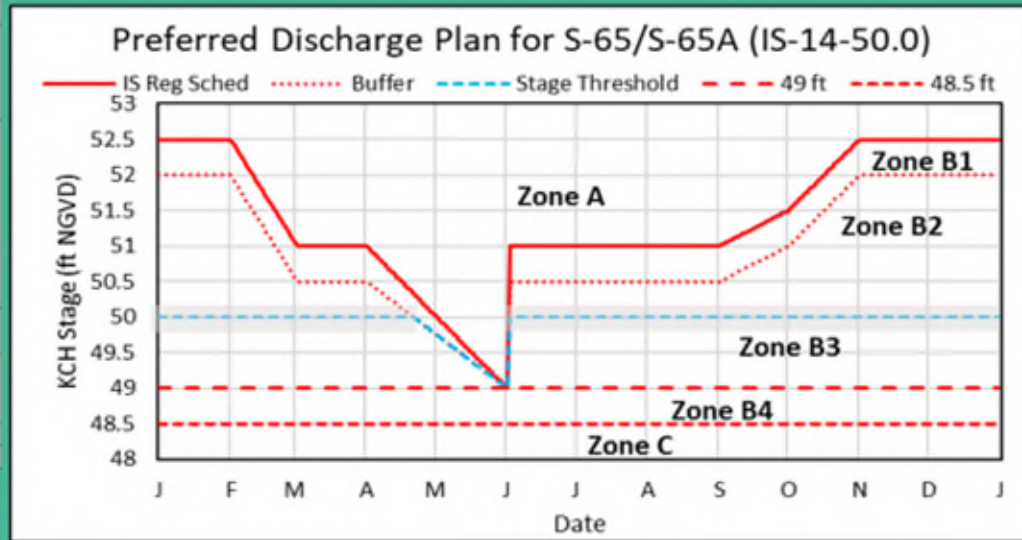
*Changes in discharge should not exceed limits in inset table below.

Table KB-3. Discharge Rate of Change Limits for S65/S65A (revised 1/14/19).

Q (cfs)	Maximum rate of INCREASE (cfs/day)	Maximum rate of DECREASE (cfs/day)
0-300	100	-50
301-650	150	-75
651-1400	300	-150
1401-3000	600	-600
>3000	1000	-2000

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2021-2022 Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A



Other Considerations

- When possible, limit lake ascension rate in the Jun 1 - Aug 15 window to 0.25 ft per 7 days in Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress, Hatchineha (S-65), East Toho (S-59) and Toho (S-61).
- If outlook is for extreme dry conditions meet with KB staff to discuss modifications to this plan.

Slide Revised 1/3/2022

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 14.33 feet NGVD on April 30, 2023, which is 0.06 feet higher than the previous week and 0.22 feet lower than a month ago (**Figure LO-1**). Lake stage remained in the Low sub-band (**Figure LO-2**) and was 0.32 feet above the upper limit of the ecological envelope (**Figure LO-3**). According to NEXRAD, 2.08 inches of rain fell directly on the Lake last week.

Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) increased slightly from the previous week, going from 393 cfs to 511 cfs. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) increased considerably from the previous week, going from 434 cfs to 1,058 cfs. Most of the inflow came from the Kissimmee River (C-38 Canal; 291 cfs). Outflows to the west via the S-77 structure averaged 998 cfs for the week. There were no outflows to the east via the S-308 structure nor to the south via the S-350 structures. **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 (April 29, 2023) from NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System showed very low to no bloom potential across the entire Lake region (**Figure LO-6**).

The eighth wading bird survey of the season was conducted on April 27, 2023. No foraging birds were recorded on the Lake despite active nesting colonies, which is the first time that has occurred since 2010 (**Figure LO-7**). Water levels during most of the 2023 surveys have been too high to provide suitable foraging habitat across much of the Lake, with all but the first March 2023 survey having numbers in the lowest quartile of the previous five years (**Figure LO-8**). Recent rain events caused a slight reversal in lake stages, likely reducing foraging conditions further.

Changes in Water Depth

1 Month Ago:
03/31/2023

Current:
04/30/2023

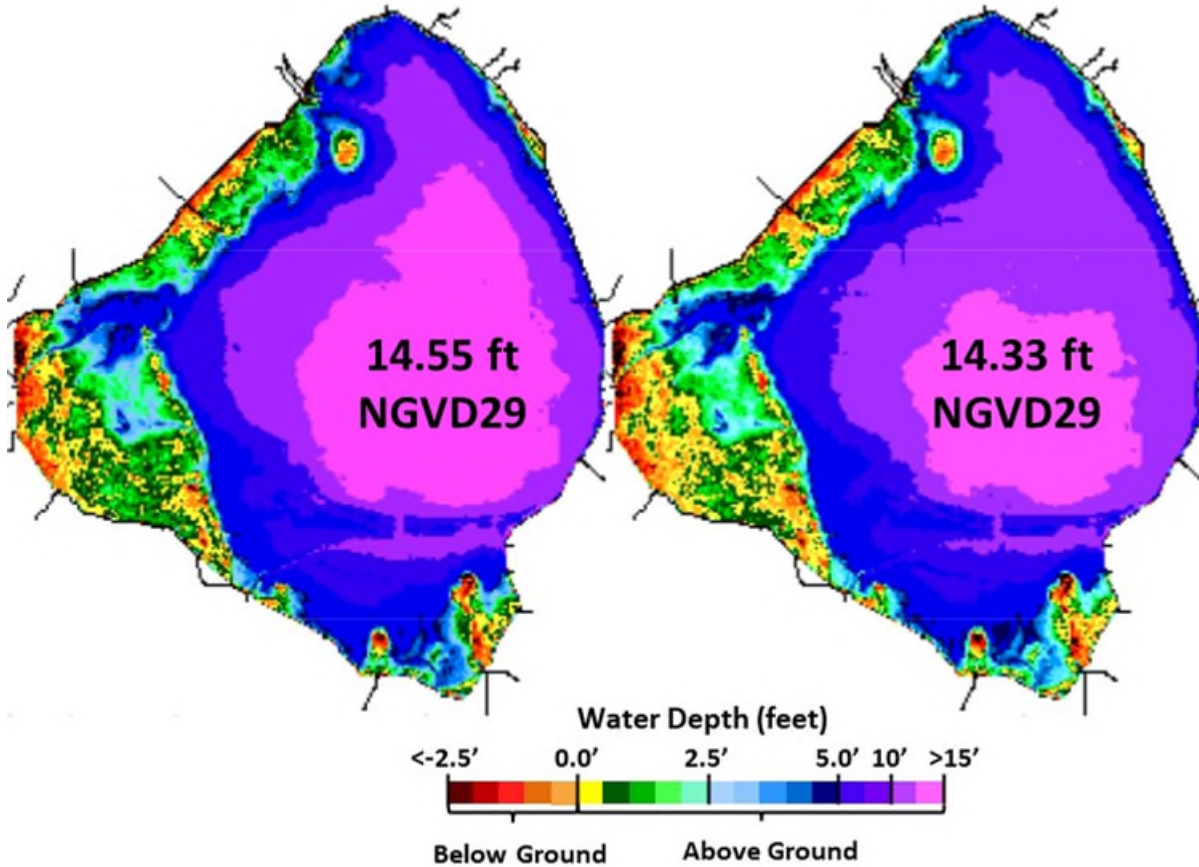


Figure LO-1. Lake Okeechobee water depth estimates based on South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

Lake Okeechobee Water Level History and Projected Stages

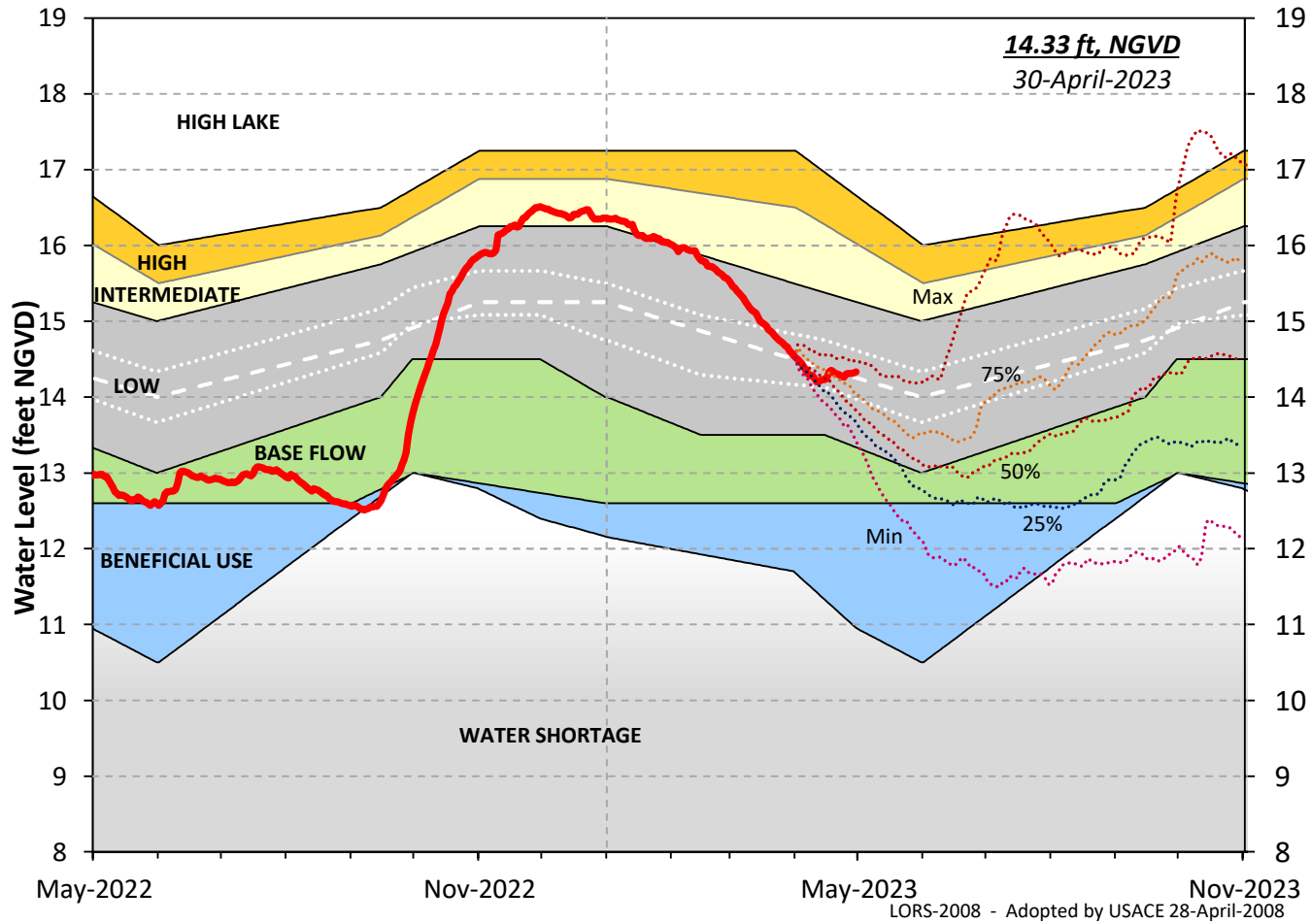


Figure LO-2. Recent Lake Okeechobee stages with projected stages based on a dynamic position analysis.

Lake Okeechobee Stage vs Ecological Envelope

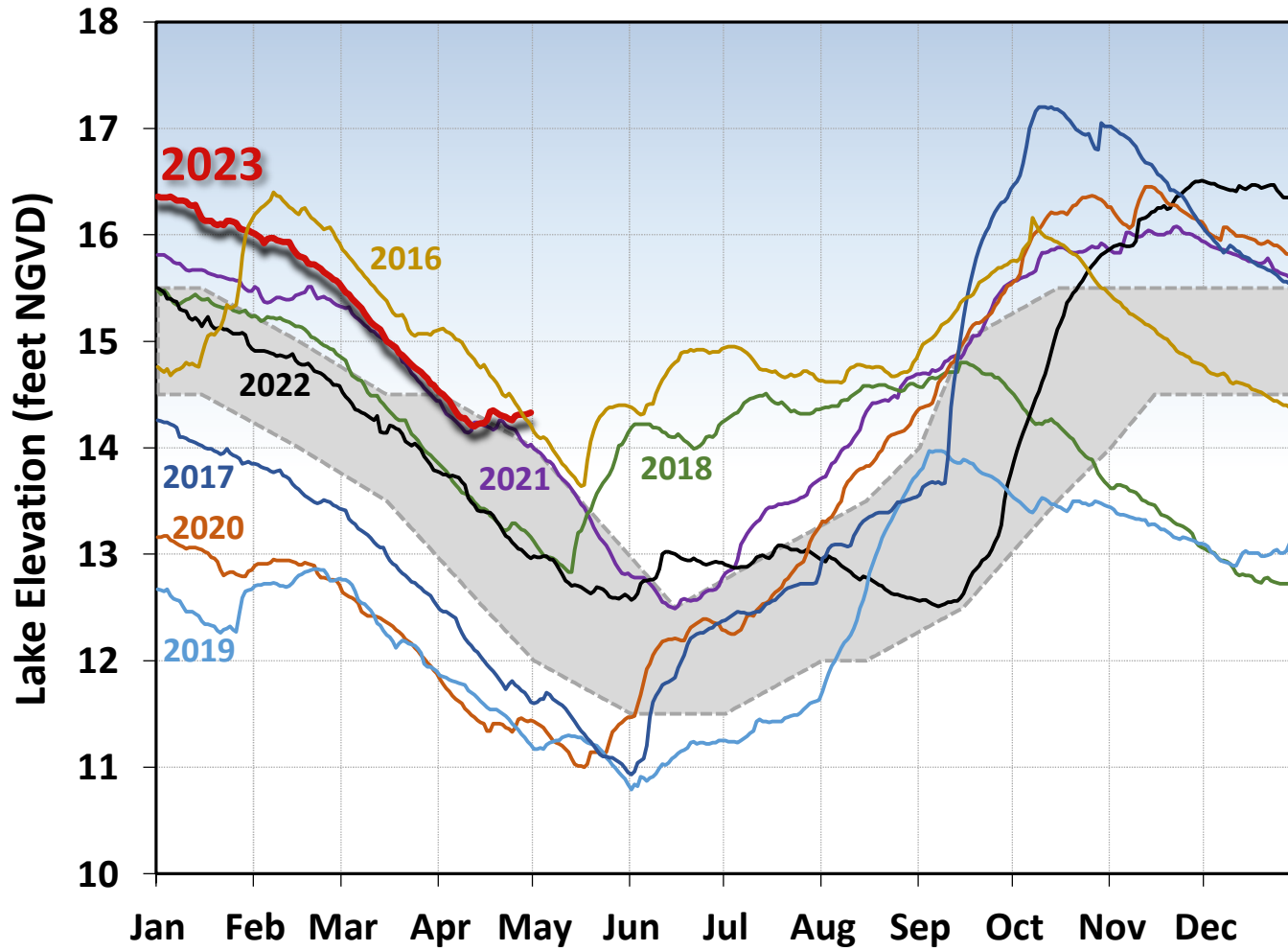


Figure LO-3. The prior seven years of annual stage hydrographs for Lake Okeechobee in comparison to the ecological envelope.

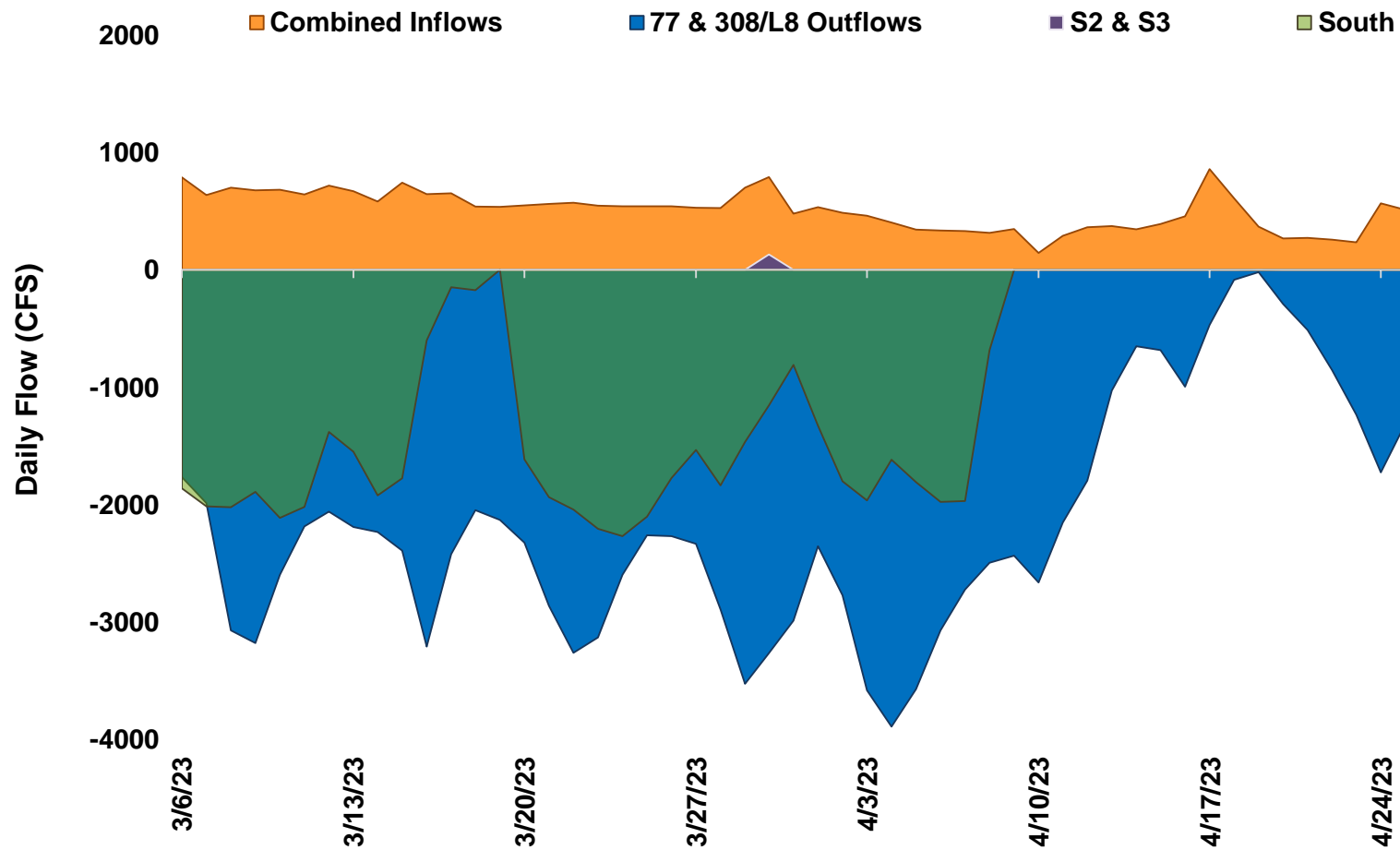


Figure LO-4. Major inflows (orange) to and outflows east and west (blue) from Lake Okeechobee. Outflows south are shown in green. Flows into Lake Okeechobee from the L-8 canal through S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) or from the C-44 canal through the S-308 are included as inflows. Conversely, flows from 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.

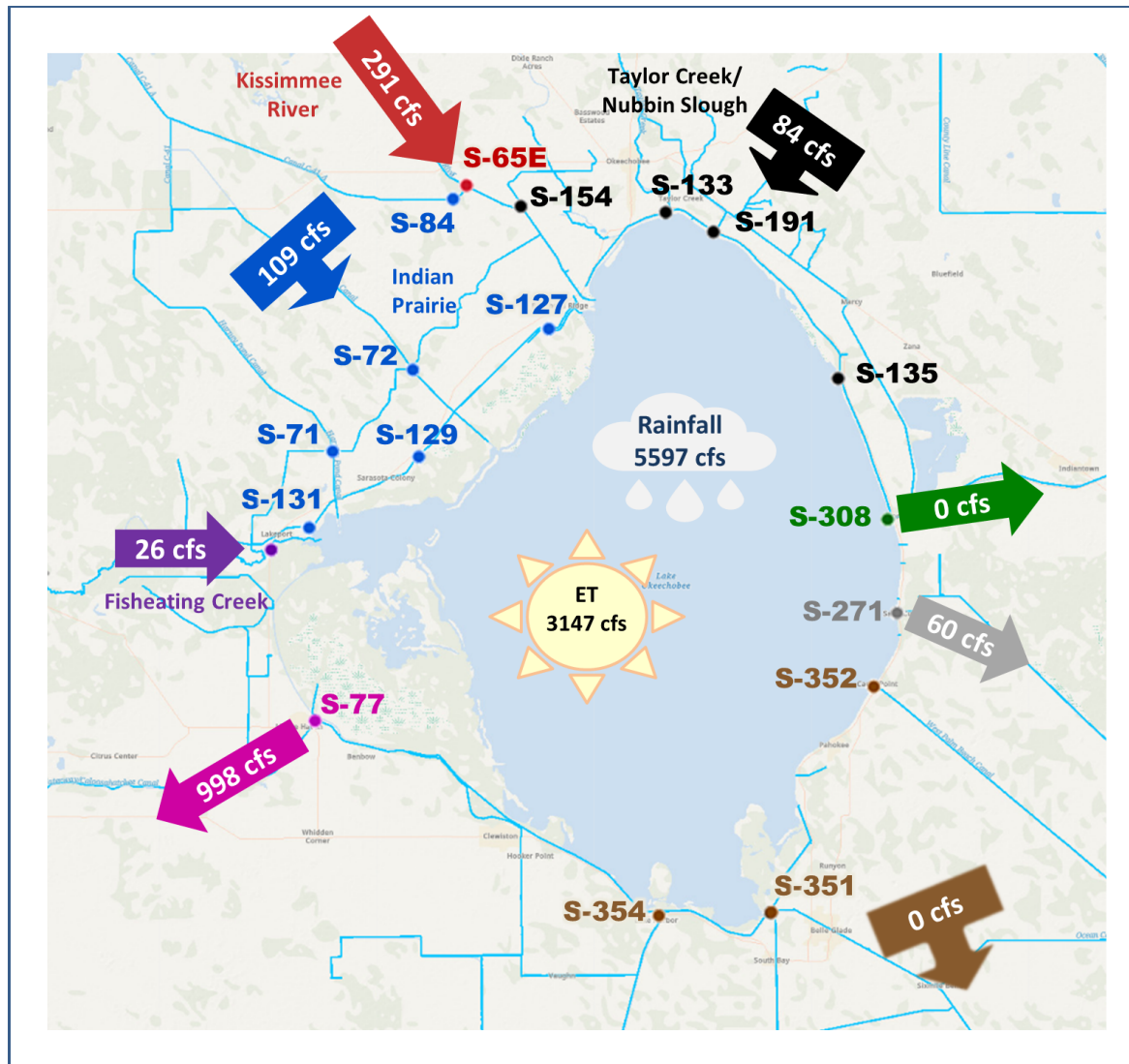


Figure LO-5. Inflows into Lake Okeechobee from Indian Prairie basins, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek, and outflows to the west via S-77, to the east via S-308, to the south via S-351, S-352, S-354, and to southeast via S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) for the week of April 24 - 30, 2023.

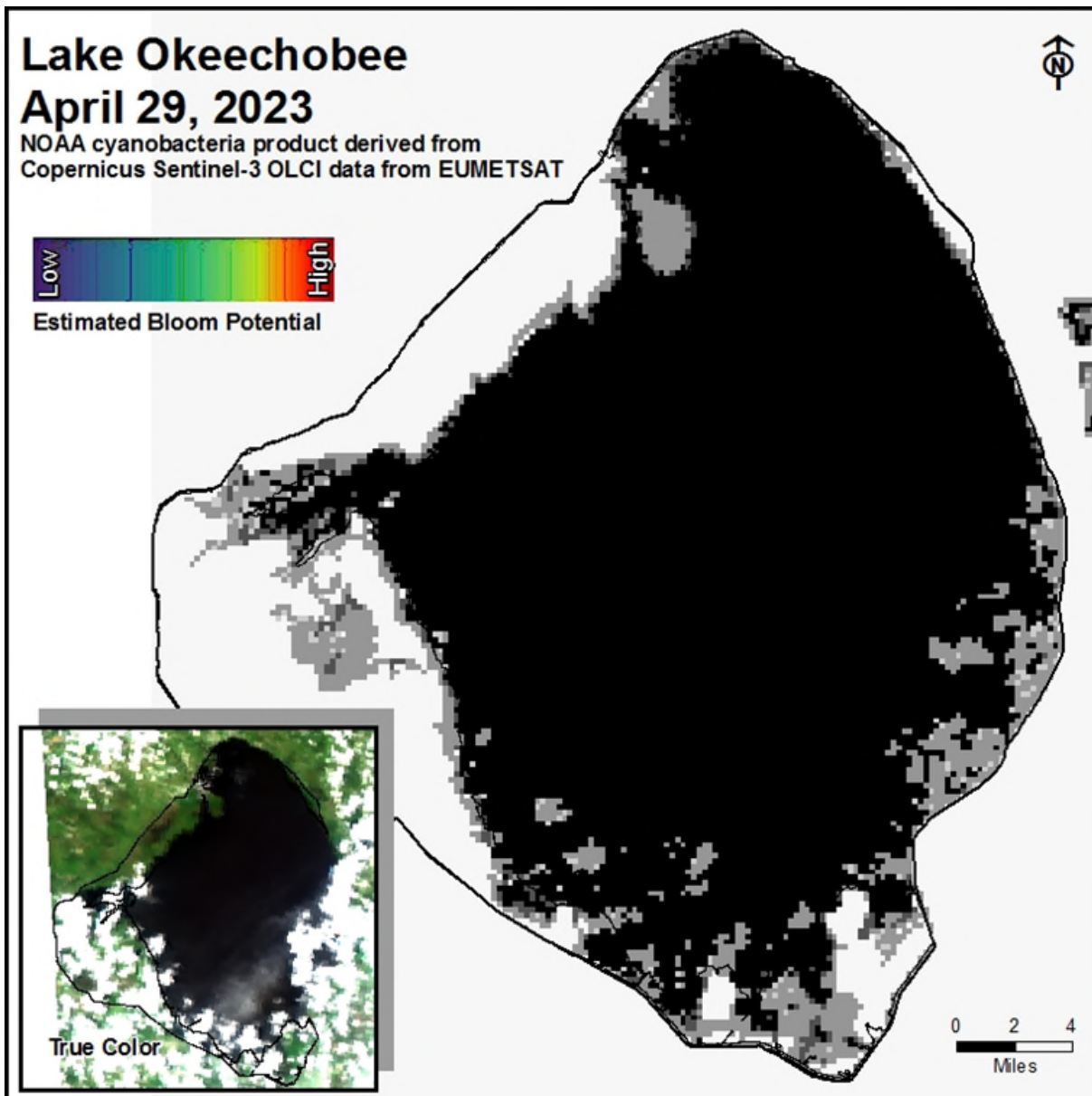


Figure LO-6. Cyanobacteria bloom potential on April 29, 2023, based on NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover.

Wading Bird Foraging Locations April 27, 2023

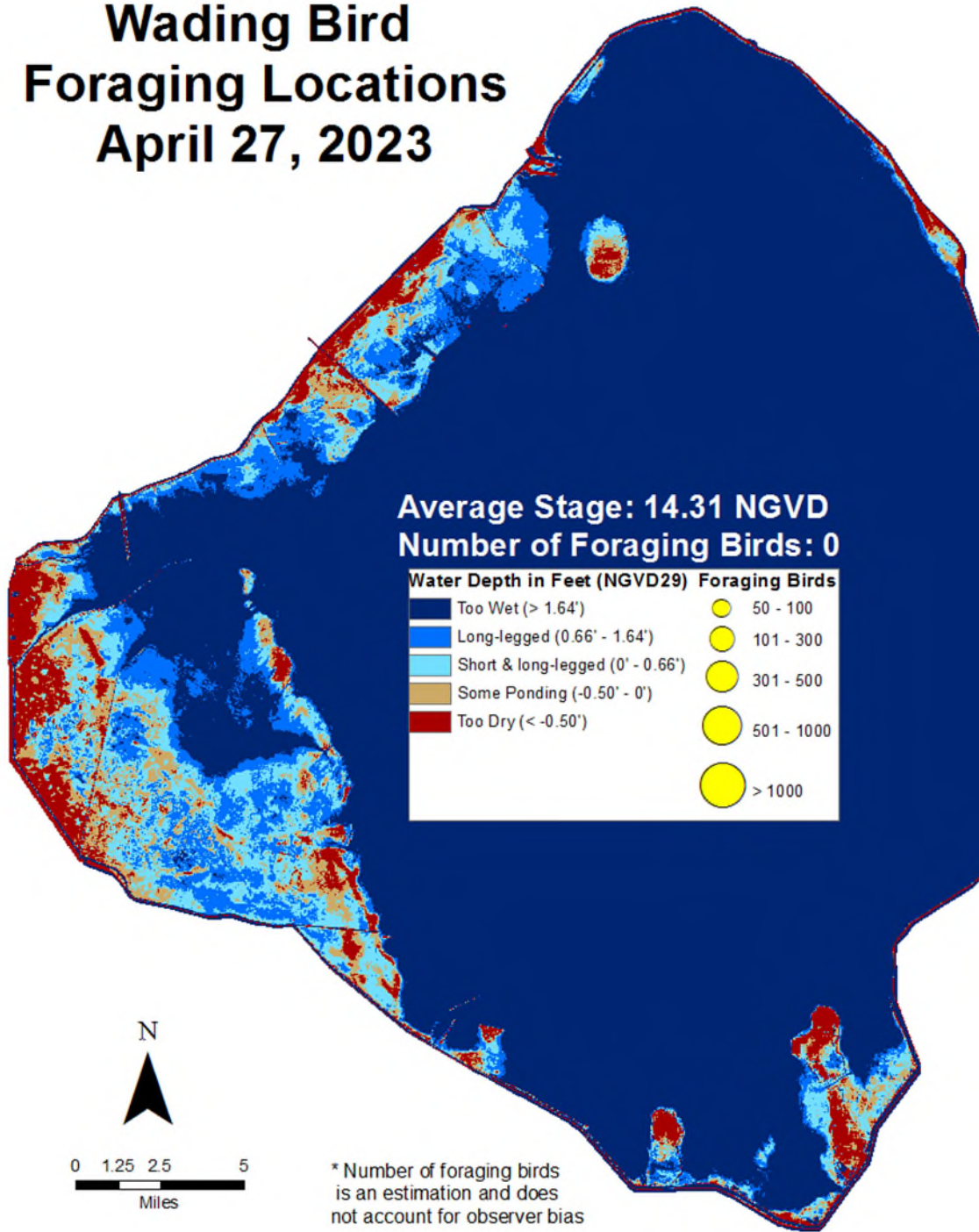


Figure LO-7. Results from the Wading Bird surveys conducted on April 27, 2023. Image shows the location of flocks and the estimated total number of birds seen actively foraging on Lake Okeechobee.

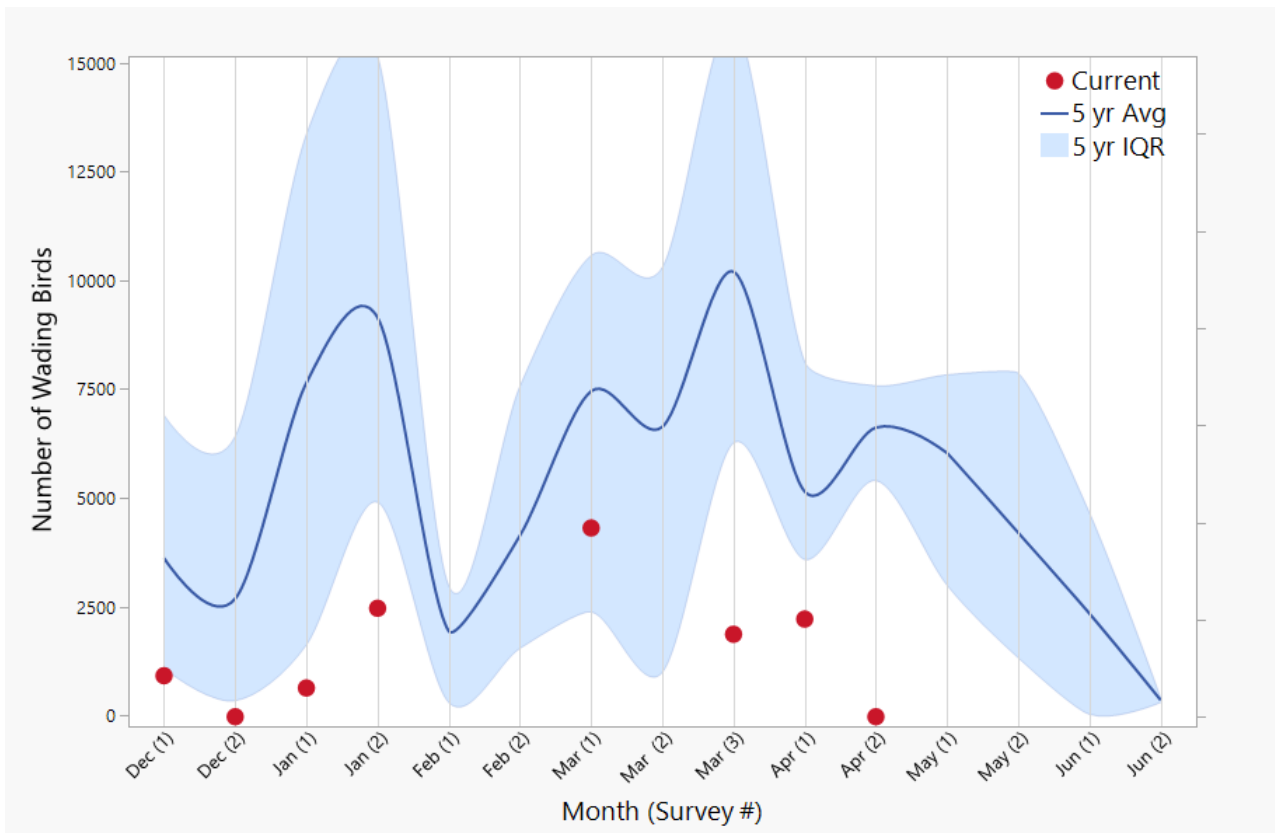


Figure LO-8. Results from the 2023 Wading Bird surveys (red dots) relative to the interquartile range (shaded area) and the average (blue line) of the previous five years (2018-2022).

Estuaries

St. Lucie Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was 1,245 cfs (**Figures ES-1 and ES-2**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 729 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from the contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-2**.

Over the past week, salinities decreased at all sites within the estuary (**Table ES-1 and Figure ES-3**). The seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge was 15.3. 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 (FWRI) was 0.08 spat/shell for March, which is normal for this time of year (**Figure ES-5**).

Caloosahatchee River Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary was 1,758 cfs (**Figures ES-6 and ES-7**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 1,966 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 increased at the remaining sites in the estuary (**Table ES-2 and Figures ES-8 and ES-9**). The seven-day 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 in the stressed range at Shell Point and Sanibel (**Figure ES-10**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rate reported by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute was 0.07 spat/shell at Iona Cove and 0.33 spat/shell at Bird Island for March, which is normal for this time of year (**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, 2013¹) coupled with a linear reservoir model for the tidal basin. Model scenarios included pulse releases at S-79 ranging from 0 to 1,500 cfs, and a steady release at 2,000 cfs with estimated tidal basin inflows of 39 cfs. Model results from all scenarios predict daily salinity to be 1.9 or lower and the 30-day moving average surface salinity to be 0.5 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.

¹ 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 April 28, 2023, that *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide dinoflagellate, was observed at bloom concentrations in one sample collected from Lee County and one sample from Collier County over the past week. On the east coast, red tide was not observed in samples from St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, or Miami-Dade counties.

Water Management Recommendations

Lake stage is in the Low Sub-Band. Tributary conditions are Near Normal. The LORS2008 release guidance suggests up to 3,000 cfs release at S-79 to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary and up to 1,170 cfs release at S-80 to the St. Lucie Estuary.

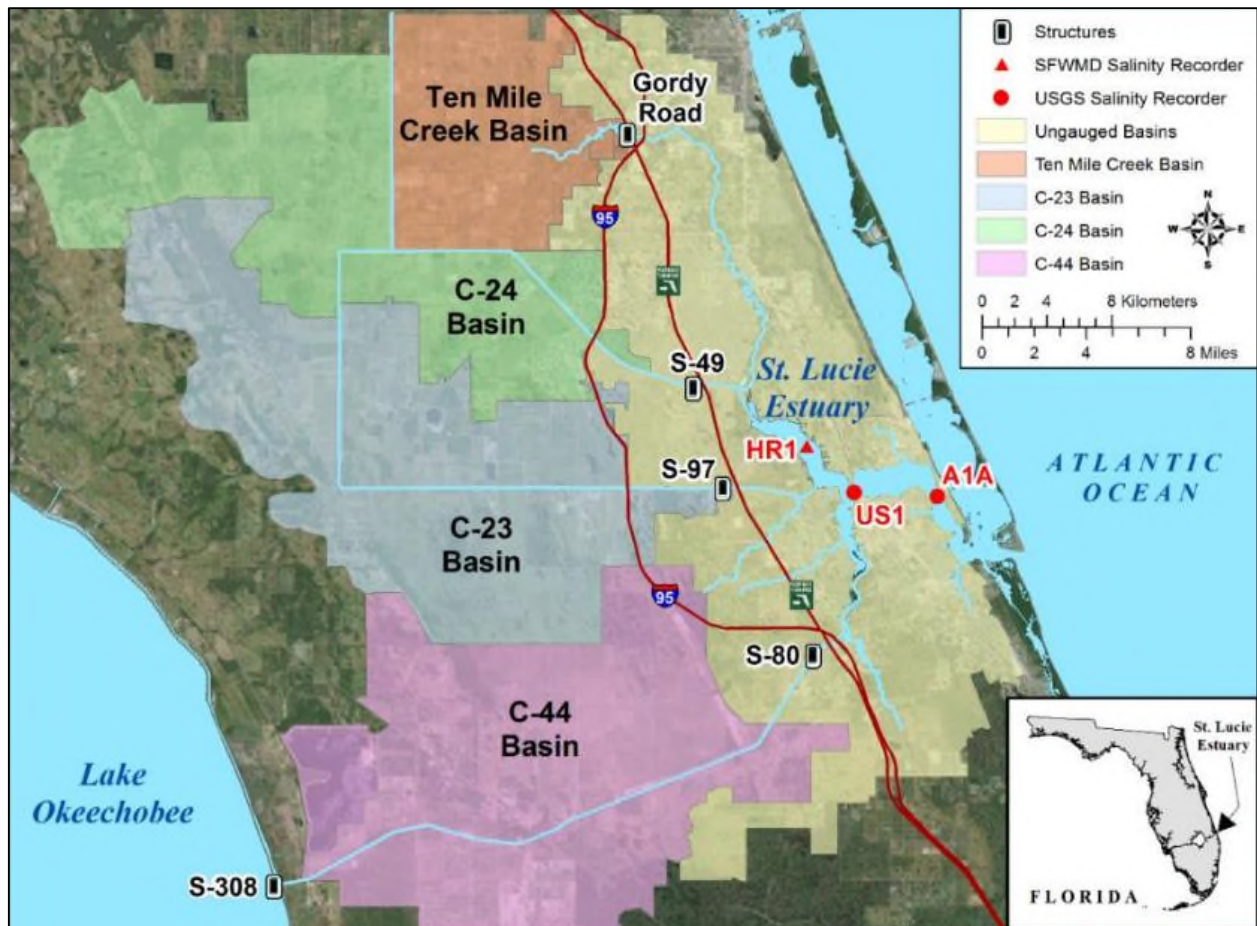


Figure ES-1. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

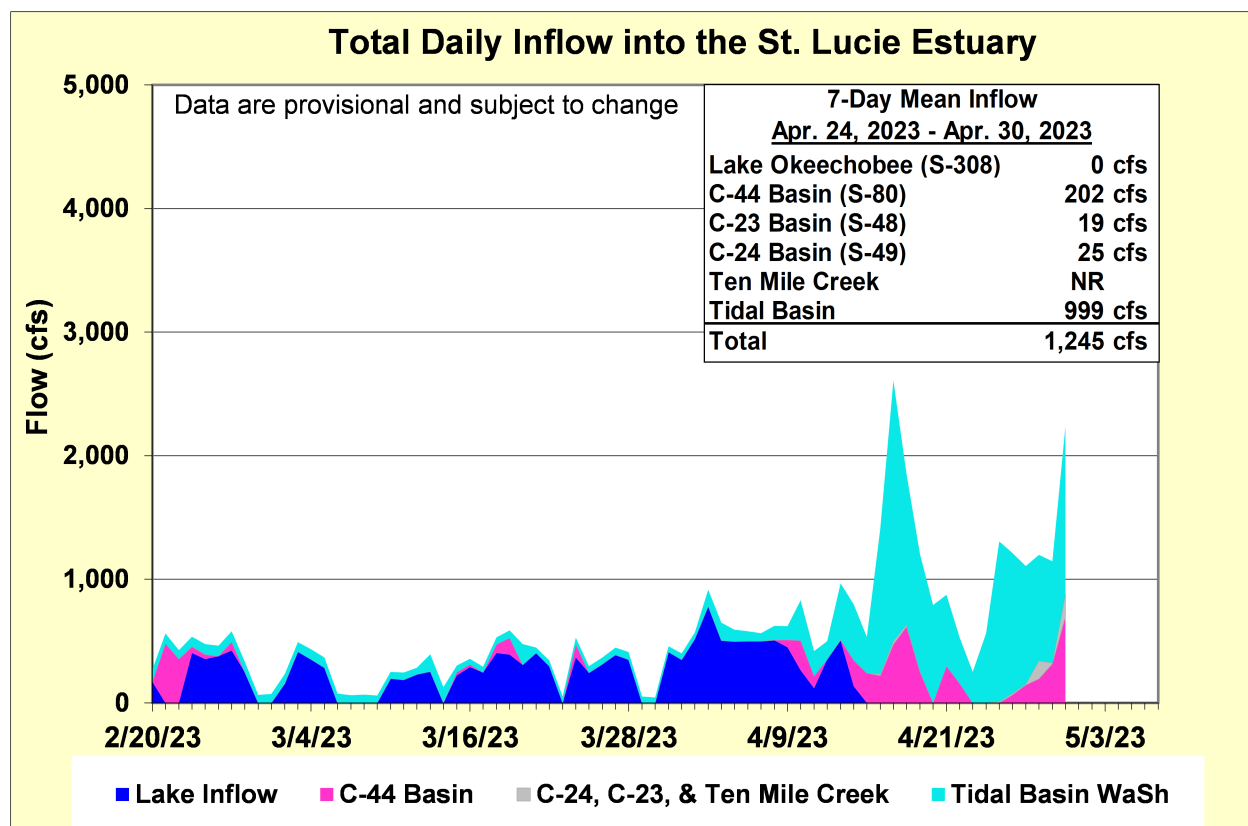


Figure ES-2. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-44, C-23, C-24, Ten Mile Creek, and Tidal Basins into the St. Lucie Estuary.

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)	8.9 (12.6)	11.4 (14.2)	10.0 – 25.0
US1 Bridge	14.6 (15.4)	16.0 (16.4)	10.0 – 25.0
A1A Bridge	22.9 (24.1)	26.0 (27.1)	10.0 – 25.0

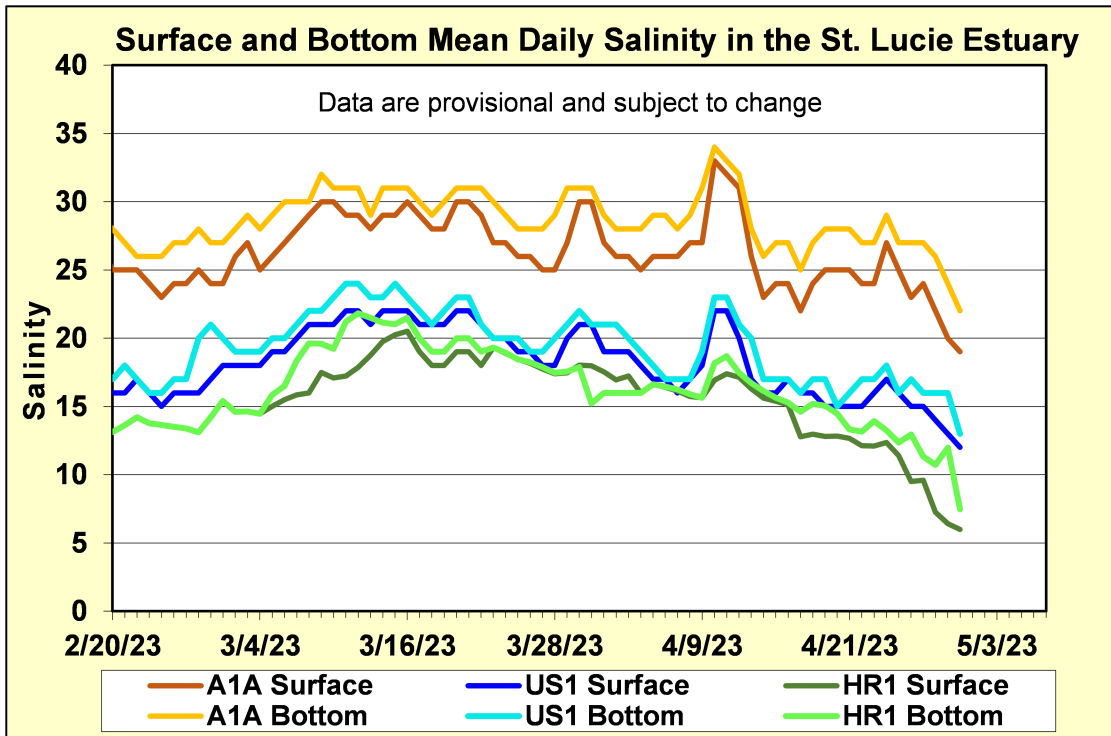


Figure ES-3. Mean daily salinity at the A1A, US1 and HR1 sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

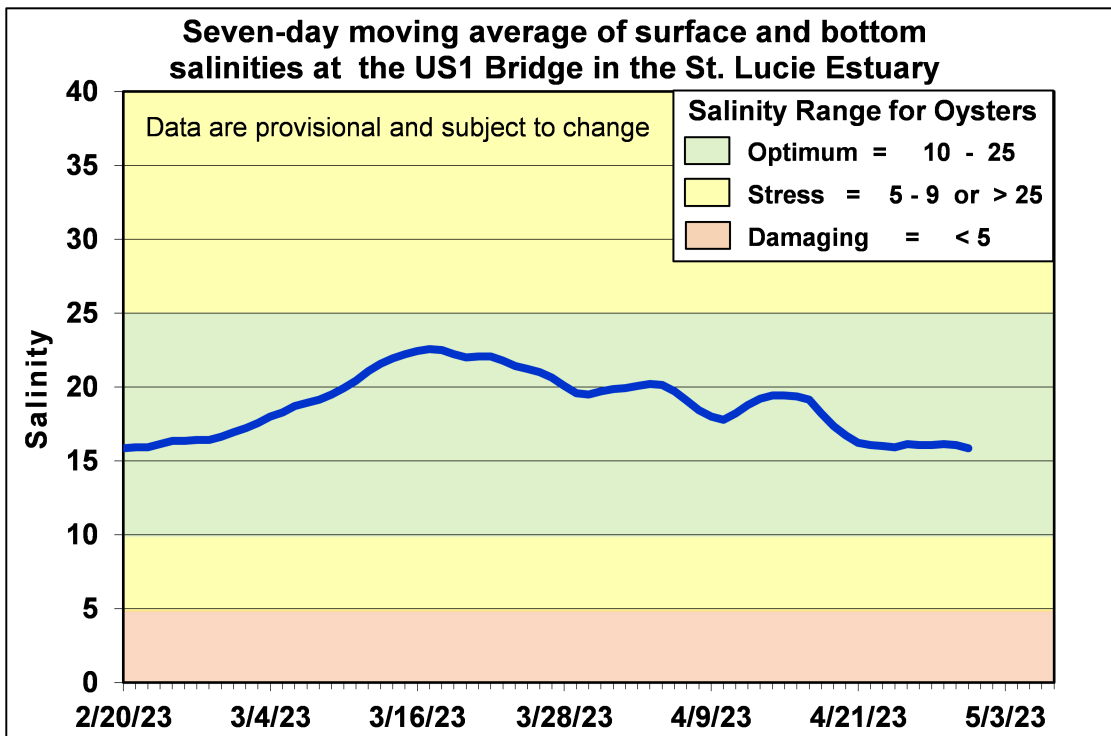


Figure ES-4. Seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge in the St. Lucie Estuary.

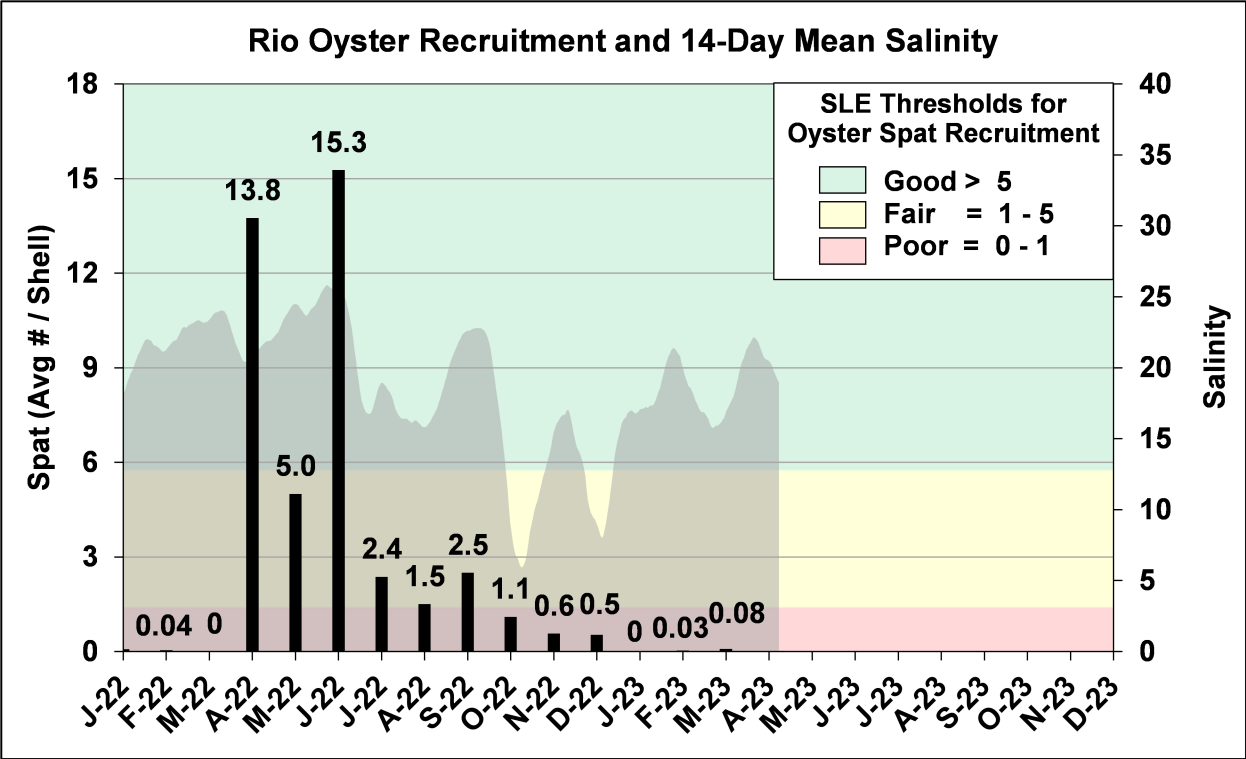


Figure ES-5. Mean oyster recruitment at the Rio oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at US1 Bridge.

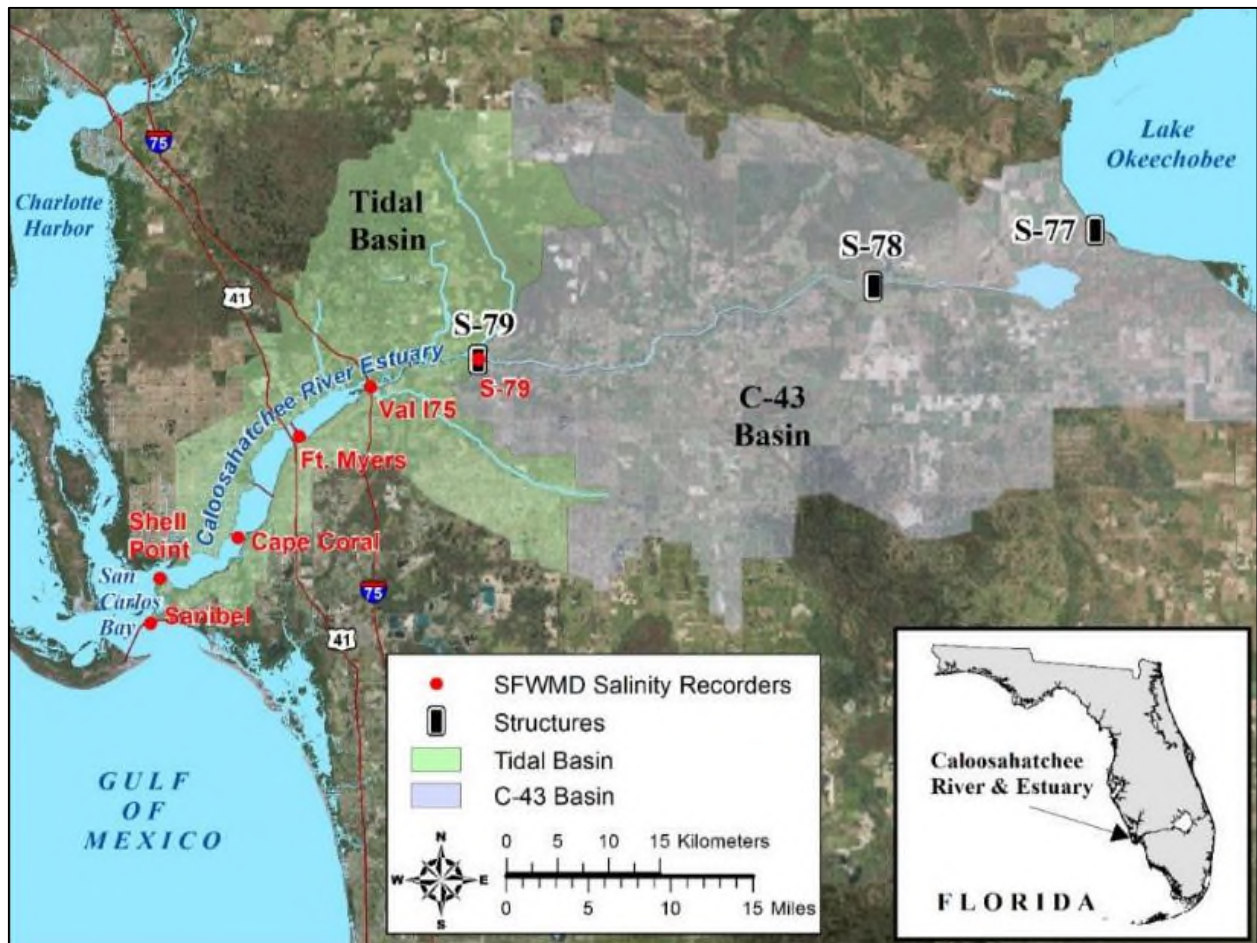


Figure ES-6. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

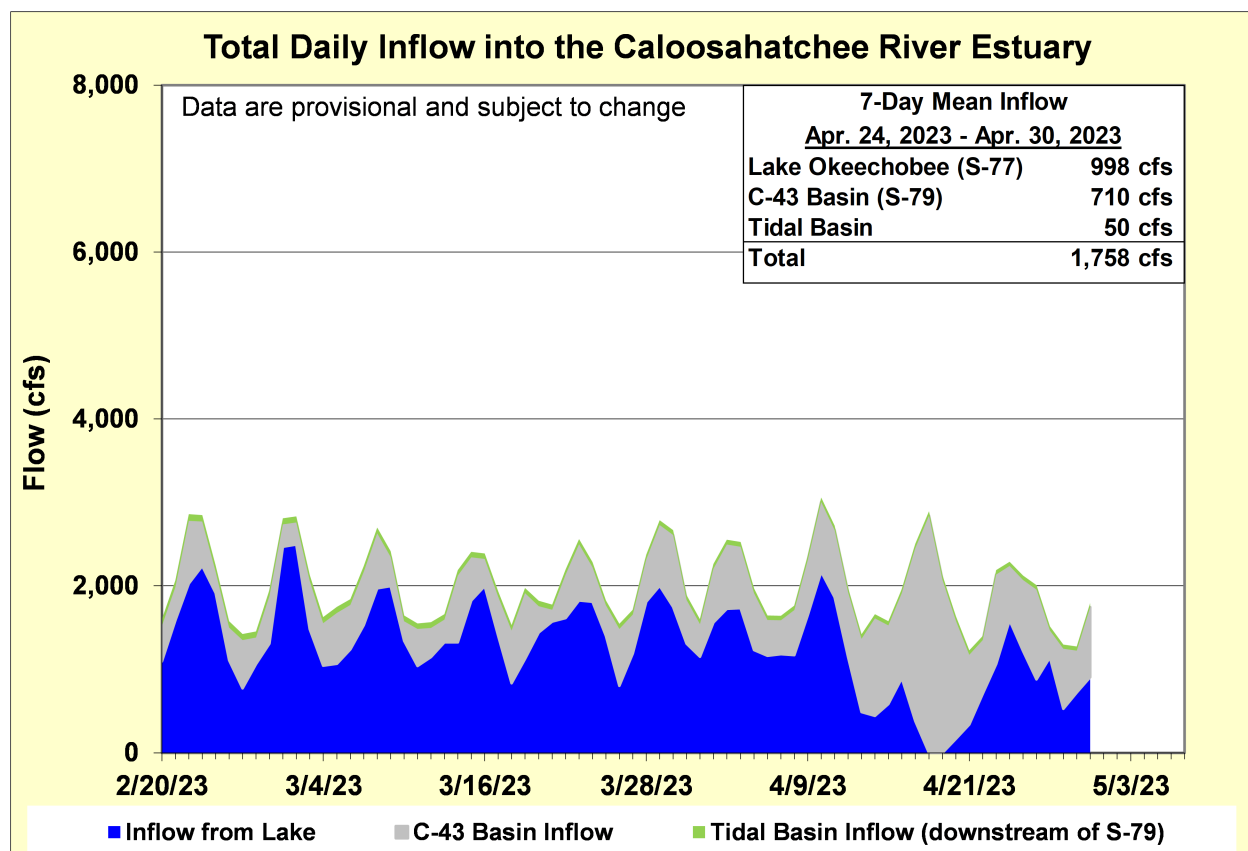


Figure ES-7. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee, and runoff from the C-43 and Tidal basins into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

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)	0.2 (0.2)	0.2 (0.2)	0.0 – 10.0
Val I-75	0.3 (0.3)	0.3 (0.3)	0.0 – 10.0
Fort Myers Yacht Basin	5.2 (4.9)	6.2 (6.3)	0.0 – 10.0
Cape Coral	13.9 (12.6)	15.8 (14.7)	10.0 – 25.0
Shell Point	29.2 (27.6)	29.8 (28.3)	10.0 – 25.0
Sanibel	35.0 (33.5)	34.6 (33.2)	10.0 – 25.0

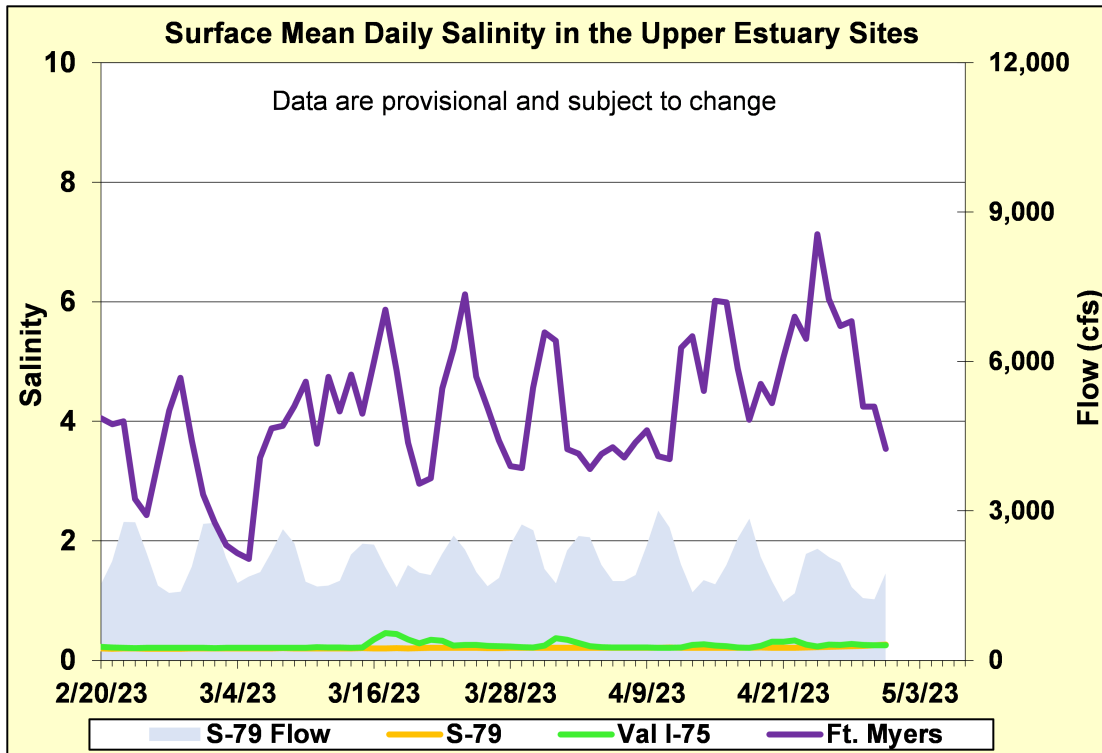


Figure ES-8. Mean daily salinity at upper Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

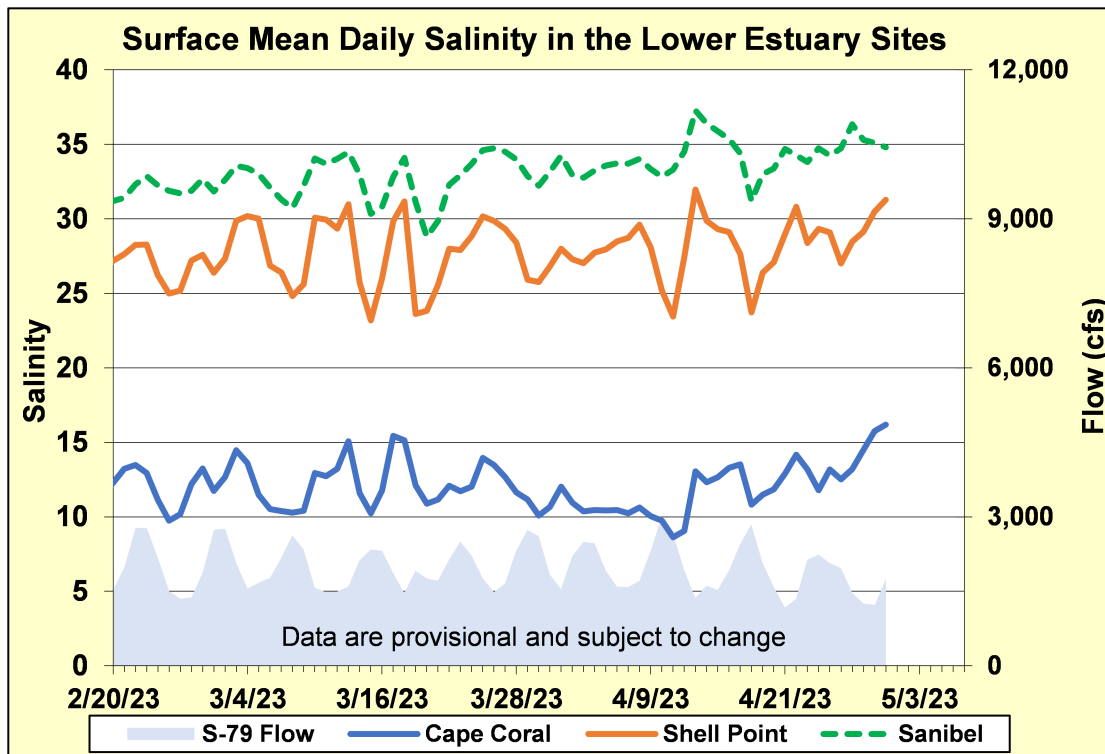


Figure ES-9. Mean daily surface salinity at lower Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

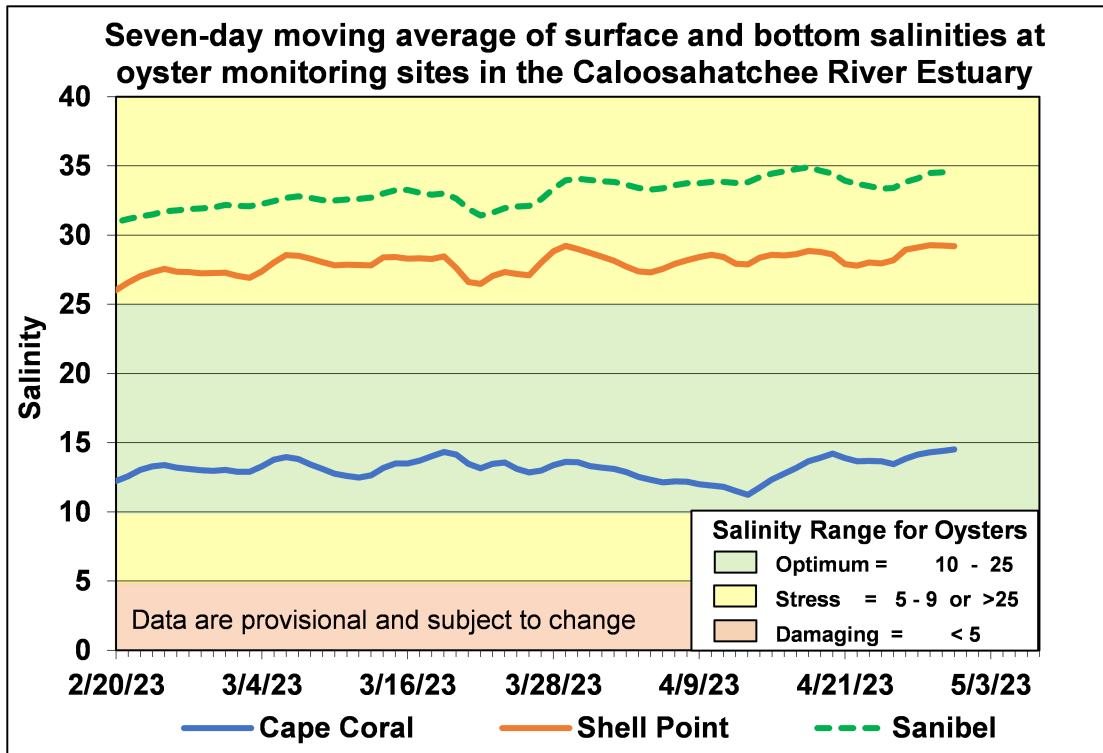


Figure ES-10. Seven-day moving average of surface and bottom salinities at Cape Coral, Shell Point and Sanibel monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

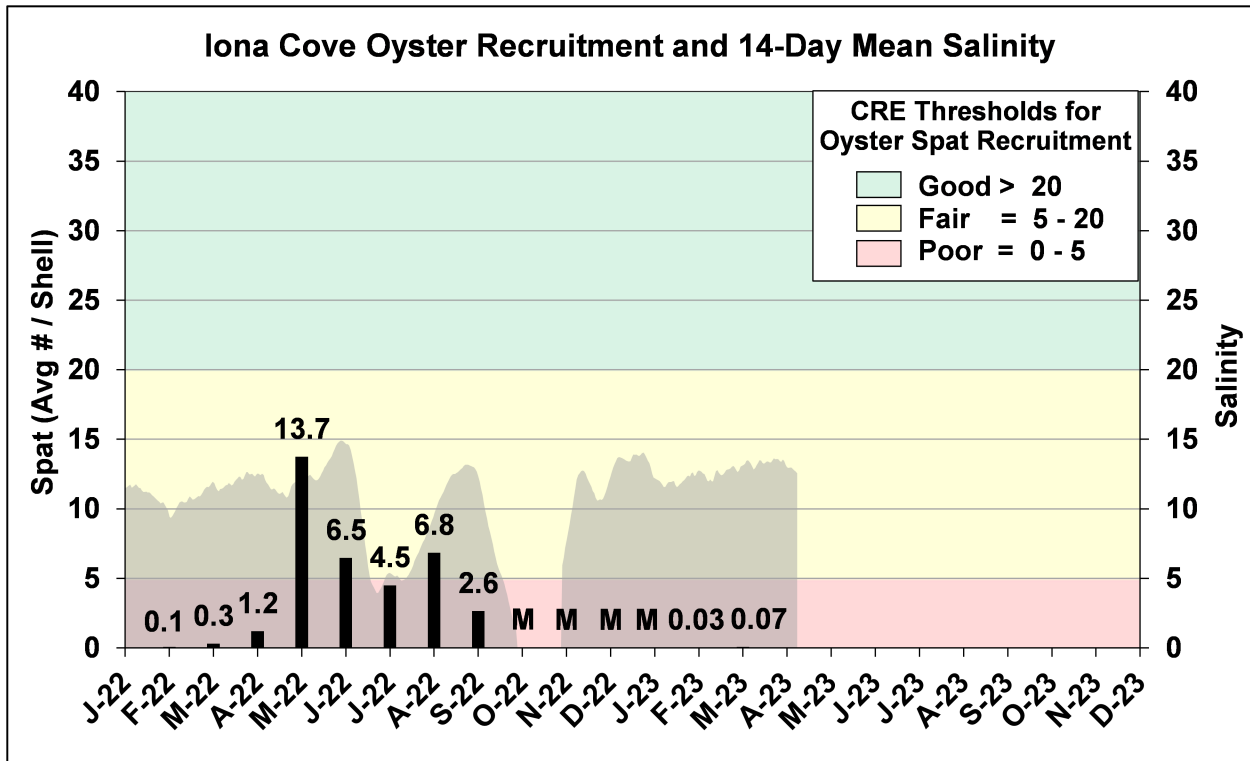


Figure ES-11. Mean oyster recruitment at the Iona Cove oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Cape Coral.

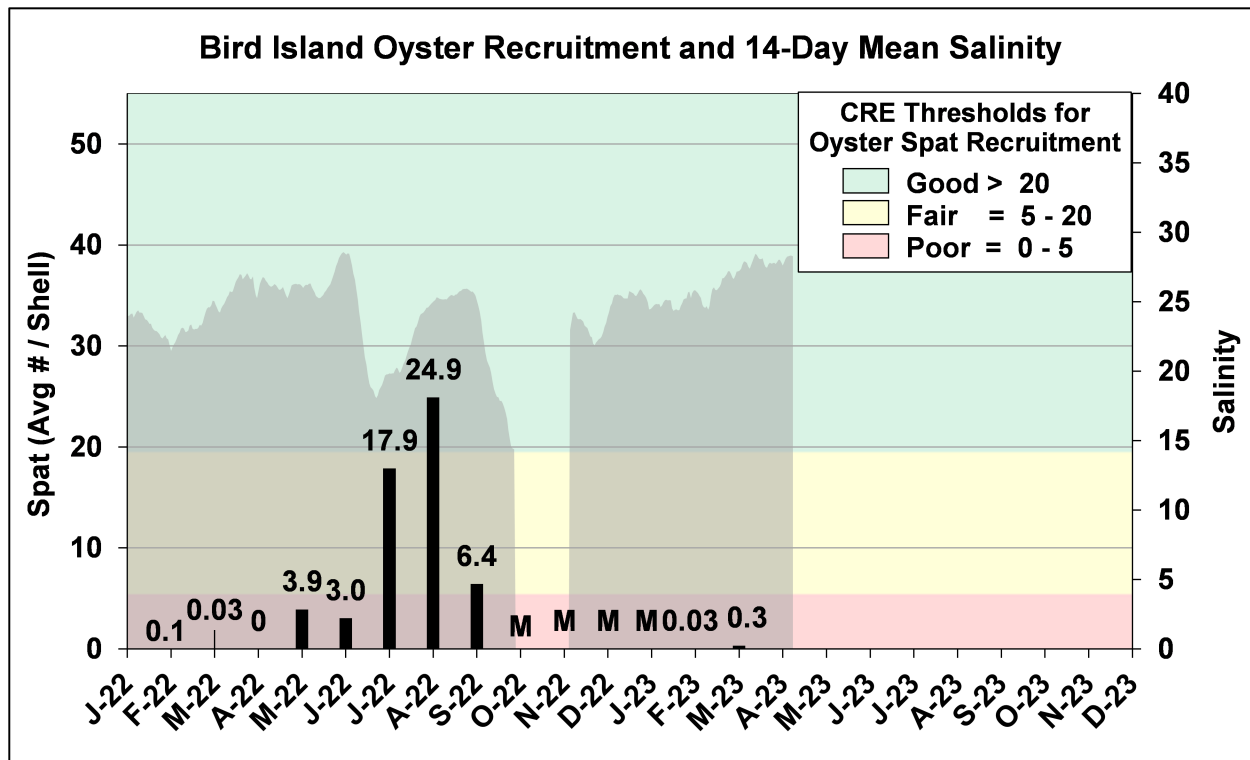


Figure ES-12. Mean oyster recruitment at the Bird Island oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Shell Point.

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

Scenario	Simulated S-79 Flow (cfs)	Tidal Basin Runoff (cfs)	Daily Salinity	30-Day Mean Salinity
A	0	39	1.9	0.5
B	450	39	1.0	0.4
C	750	39	0.6	0.4
D	1,000	39	0.4	0.3
E	1,500	39	0.3	0.3
F	2,000	39 </tr		

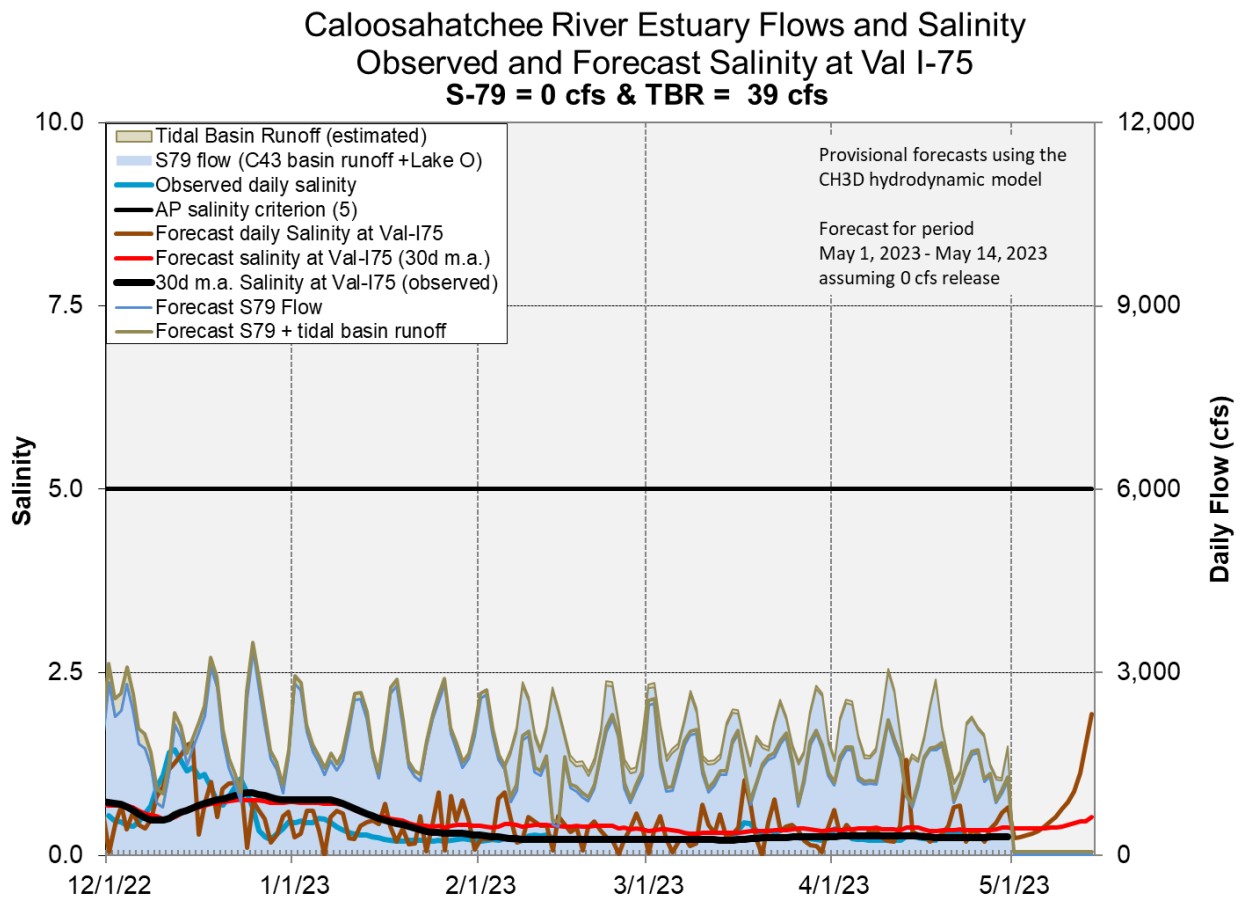


Figure ES-13. Forecasted Val I-75 site surface salinity assuming no pulse release at S-79.

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. The Eastern Flow-way contains nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. Online treatment cells are at or near target stage. Vegetation in the flow-ways is stressed and highly stressed. The 365-day phosphorus loading rate (PLR) for the Eastern Flow-way is below 1.0 g/m²/year. The 365-day PLR for the Central Flow-way is high (**Figure S-1**).

STA-1W: Operational restrictions are in place in STA-1W Western, Eastern, and Northern Flow-ways for vegetation management activities. The Northern Flow-way contains nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. Treatment cells are at target stage. Vegetation in the flow-ways is stressed and highly stressed. The 365-day PLR for the Eastern Flow-way is below 1.0 g/m²/year. The 365-day PLRs for the Northern and Western Flow-way are high (**Figure S-2**).

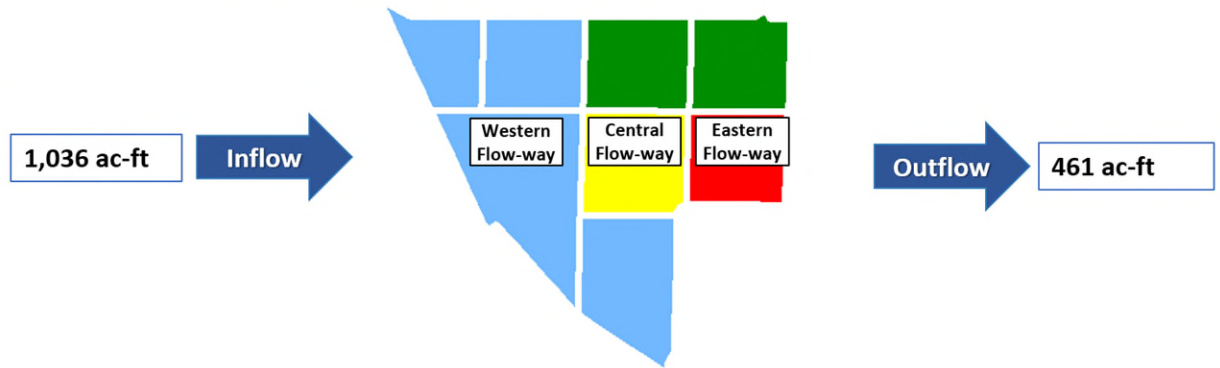
STA-2: STA-2 Flow-way 2 is offline for post-construction vegetation grow in. Operational restrictions are in place in STA-2 Flow-ways 3 and 4 for vegetation management activities. Flow-way 3 contains nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. Online treatment cells are at or near target stage. 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 4 and 5 are below 1.0 g/m²/year. The 365-day PLR for Flow-ways 1 and 3 are high (**Figure S-3**).

STA-3/4: STA-3/4 Eastern Flow-way is offline for vegetation rehabilitation/drawdown. Online treatment cells are at or 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/m²/year (**Figure S-4**).

STA-5/6: All flow-ways in STA-5/6 are online. Most treatment cells are below target stage. Flow-way 6 contains nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. 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 at or below 1.0 g/m²/year, except Flow-ways 3 which is high (**Figure S-5 and S-6**).

For definitions on STA operational language see glossary following figures.

STA-1E Weekly Status Report – 4/24/2023 through 4/30/2023



STA-1E Flow-Way Status				As of 4/30/2023		STA-1E Flow & Phosphorus Concentration			
Flow-Way	Vegetation Status Healthy ----- Stressed ←-----→	365-day P Loading Rate (below 1.0 g P /m ² /yr is optimal)	Online / Offline / Restrictions	Stage Based: Relative to Target Stage (TS)			7-day	28-day	365-day
Eastern	← →	 1.0	Vegetation management / Avian nesting	Deep Water Level (> 2.8' above TS)	High Water Level (1.5' – 2.8' above TS)	Total Inflow, ac-ft	1,036	2,972	124,456
Central	← →	 1.0	Vegetation rehabilitation	0.2' – 1.5' above TS	Target Stage (TS +/- 0.2')	--Lake Inflow, ac-ft	0	N/A	2,200
Western	Offline, post-construction grow in starting 3/28/2022			0.2' – 0.5' below TS	0.5' – 1.0' below TS	Total Outflow, ac-ft	461	1,221	100,966
				Low Water Level (1.0' – 1.2' below TS)	Extreme Low Water (> 1.2' below TS)	Inflow Conc., ppb	191	166	117
						Outflow Conc., ppb	20	32	25
						Includes Preliminary Data			

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

STA-1W Weekly Status Report – 4/24/2023 through 4/30/2023



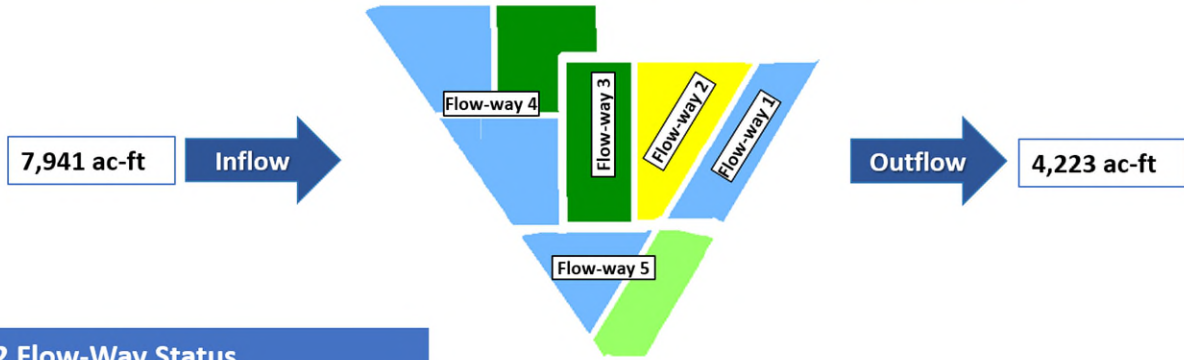
STA-1W Flow-Way Status			
Flow-Way	Vegetation Status Healthy --- Stressed	365-day P Loading Rate (below 1.0 g P /m ² /yr is optimal)	Online / Offline / Restrictions
Northern	← →	1.0	Vegetation management / Avian Nesting
Western	← →	1.0	Vegetation management
Eastern	← →	1.0	Vegetation management
Cell 7	← →	N/A	Online
Cell 8	← →	N/A	Construction

As of 4/30/2023	
Stage Based: Relative to Target Stage (TS)	
	Deep Water Level (> 2.8' above TS)
	High Water Level (1.5' – 2.8' above TS)
	0.2' – 1.5' above TS
	Target Stage (TS +/- 0.2')
	0.2' – 0.5' below TS
	0.5' – 1.0' below TS
	Low Water Level (1.0' – 1.2' below TS)
	Extreme Low Water (> 1.2' below TS)

STA-1W Flow & Phosphorus Concentration				
	7-day	28-day	365-day	
Total Inflow, ac-ft	4,892	10,613	152,330	
--Lake Inflow, ac-ft	0	N/A	9,100	
Total Outflow, ac-ft	6,852	10,928	158,365	
Inflow Conc., ppb	129	149	199	
Outflow Conc., ppb	21	21	20	
Includes Preliminary Data				

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

STA-2 Weekly Status Report – 4/24/2023 through 4/30/2023



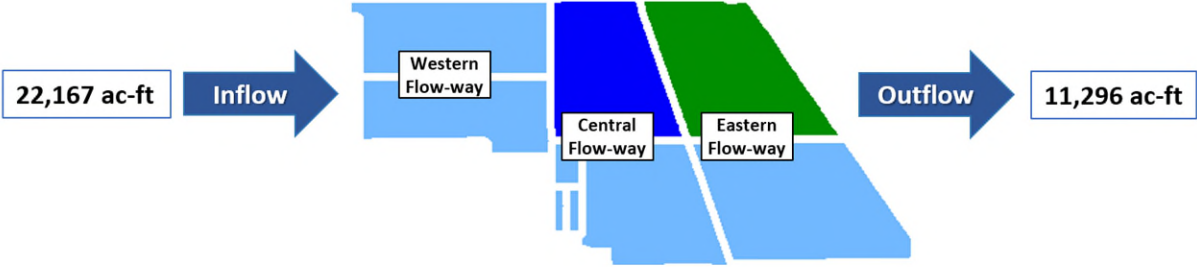
STA-2 Flow-Way Status			
Flow-Way	Vegetation Status Healthy ----- Stressed	365-day P Loading Rate (below 1.0 g P /m ² /yr is optimal)	Online / Offline / Restrictions
1	← Healthy →	1.0	Online
2	Offline, post-construction grow in starting 1/23/2023		
3	← Healthy →	1.0	Veg Rehab / Avian nesting
4	← Stressed →	1.0	Vegetation Rehab
5	← Healthy →	1.0	Online

As of 4/30/2023	
Stage Based: Relative to Target Stage (TS)	
Deep Water Level (> 2.8' above TS)	Dark Purple
High Water Level (1.5' – 2.8' above TS)	Blue
0.2' – 1.5' above TS	Light Blue
Target Stage (TS +/- 0.2')	Green
0.2' – 0.5' below TS	Light Green
0.5' – 1.0' below TS	Yellow
Low Water Level (1.0' – 1.2' below TS)	Orange
Extreme Low Water (> 1.2' below TS)	Red

STA-2 Flow & Phosphorus Concentration			
	7-day	28-day	365-day
Total Inflow, ac-ft	7,941	17,115	328,666
--Lake Inflow, ac-ft	0	N/A	29,500
Total Outflow, ac-ft	4,223	13,134	347,138
Inflow Conc., ppb	44	51	112
Outflow Conc., ppb	16	17	29
Includes Preliminary Data			

Figure S-3. STA-2 Weekly Status Report

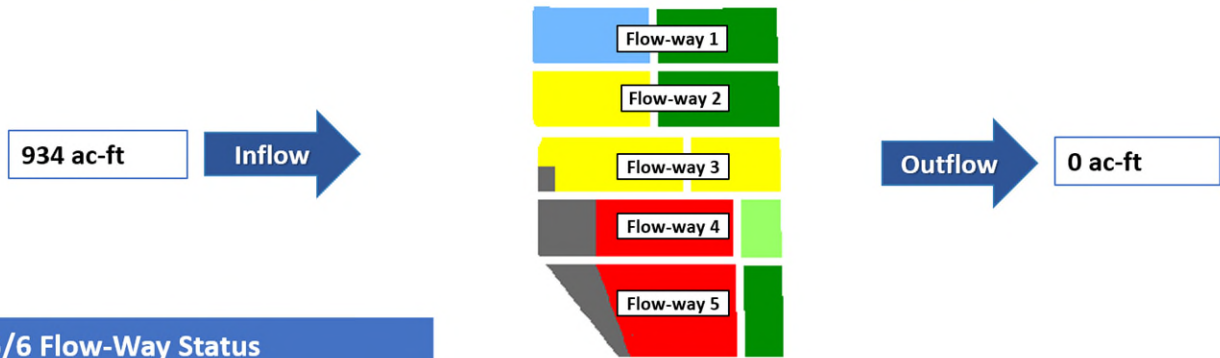
STA-3/4 Weekly Status Report – 4/24/2023 through 4/30/2023



STA-3/4 Flow-Way Status				As of 4/30/2023		STA-3/4 Flow & Phosphorus Concentration			
Flow-Way	Vegetation Status Healthy ----- Stressed	365-day P Loading Rate (below 1.0 g P /m ² /yr is optimal)	Online / Offline / Restrictions	Stage Based: Relative to Target Stage (TS) 			7-day	28-day	365-day
Eastern	Offline, vegetation management drawdown as of 3/1/2021					Total Inflow, ac-ft	22,167	27,045	326,700
Central			Online			--Lake Inflow, ac-ft	0	N/A	2,800
Western			Online			Total Outflow, ac-ft	11,296	11,476	302,946
						Inflow Conc., ppb	51	80	92
						Outflow Conc., ppb	19	19	16
Includes Preliminary Data									

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

STA-5/6 Weekly Status Report – 4/24/2023 through 4/30/2023



STA-5/6 Flow-Way Status

Flow-Way	Vegetation Status Healthy ----- Stressed	365-day P Loading Rate (below 1.0 g P /m ² /yr is optimal)	Online / Offline / Restrictions
1	← →		Online
2	← →		Online
3	← →		Online
4	← →		Online
5	← →		Online

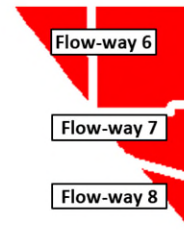
As of 4/30/2023	
Stage Based: Relative to Target Stage (TS)	
	Deep Water Level (> 2.8' above TS)
	High Water Level (1.5' – 2.8' above TS)
	0.2' – 1.5' above TS
	Target Stage (TS +/- 0.2')
	0.2' – 0.5' below TS
	0.5' – 1.0' below TS
	Low Water Level (1.0' – 1.2' below TS)
	Extreme Low Water (> 1.2' below TS)

STA-5/6 Flow & Phosphorus Concentration

	7-day	28-day	365-day
Total Inflow, ac-ft	934	939	153,411
--Lake Inflow, ac-ft	0	N/A	0
Total Outflow, ac-ft	0	0	148,182
Inflow Conc., ppb	130	131	288
Outflow Conc., ppb	N/A	N/A	40
Includes Preliminary Data			

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

STA-5/6 Weekly Status Report – 4/24/2023 through 4/30/2023



STA-5/6 Flow-Way Status				As of 4/30/2023	
Flow-Way	Vegetation Status Healthy ----- Stressed ←-----→	365-day P Loading Rate (below 1.0 g P /m ² /yr is optimal)	Online / Offline / Restrictions	Stage Based: Relative to Target Stage (TS)	
				Color	Range
6	←-----→	1.0	Avian Nesting		Extreme Low Water (> 1.2' below TS)
7	←-----→	1.0	Online		High Water Level (1.5' – 2.8' above TS)
8	←-----→	1.0	Online		Target Stage (TS +/- 0.2')

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, $\mu\text{g/L}$ or ppb. Inflow concentration refers to the flow-weighted 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 365-day 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

Another wet week within the EPA with rainfall amounts greater to the north. WCA-1: Last week stage at the 1-8C rose and then fell. The average on Sunday was 0.47 feet above the falling Zone A1 regulation line. WCA-2A: Stage also rose then fell last week at the 2–17 gauge. The average on Sunday was 1.27 feet above the flat regulation line. WCA-3A: The Three Gauge Average stage was relatively flat last week. The average stage was 0.49 feet below the falling regulation line on Sunday. WCA-3A North: At gauge 62 (Northwest corner) stage rose and then receded late last week, the average on Sunday was 0.83 feet below the flat Upper schedule line (**Figures EV-1 through EV-4**).

Water Depths

The SFWDAT illustrates current stages in the EPA remain low in the west, but the spatial extent of areas with below ground conditions has contracted significantly in northwestern WCA-3A and northern BCNP. Depths in eastern WCA-3A South, along the L-67s, remain ponded. Hydrologic connectivity strengthened in SRS and in Taylor Slough in ENP. Comparing current WDAT water depths to one month ago conditions within the EPA continues to trend wetter especially in central BCNP and northern WCA-3A. Looking back a year ago, conditions are wetter in the east especially in northeastern WCA-3A, and dryer in western BCNP as the rains began earlier last year in that region (**Figure EV-5 and Figure EV-6**). Comparing current conditions to the 20-year average on May 1: Depths remain above average in central Big Cypress Basin (but are below ground) and the northern half WCA-3A, benefitting the ecology of those typically over-dried regions (**Figure EV-7**).

Taylor Slough and Florida Bay

Total weekly rainfall averaged 0.8 inches in Taylor Slough and Florida Bay over the past week (Monday-Sunday) based on the 18 gauges used for this report. Rainfall ranged from 0.2 inches at Royal Palm Lake in northeastern Taylor Slough to 1.7 inches at Taylor River (TR). Stages across Taylor Slough decreased, averaging a decrease of -0.08 feet and ranging from a decrease of -0.26 feet at Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB) in northern Taylor Slough to -0.01 feet at Craighead Pond (CP) in the southwestern Slough (**Figure EV-8 and Figure EV-9**). Water levels at nearly all sites remain aboveground and Taylor Slough water levels are above the historical average for this time of year by $+7.7$ inches, following the heavy rains 2-3 weeks ago, compared to before the Florida Bay initiative (starting in 2017), a decrease of -2.1 inches from last week.

Average Florida Bay salinity was 34.5, $+0.5$ higher than the previous week. Salinity changes ranged from -0.9 in Garfield Bight (GB) to $+3.1$ in Joe Bay (JB), in the western and eastern nearshore, respectively (**Figure EV-8**). As of 4/30, salinity remains within the IQR for the Eastern, Central and Western regions of the bay (**Figure EV-10**). Florida Bay salinity is $+0.1$ above its historical average for this time of year, down -0.4 from last week.

Water Management Recommendations

Balancing inflows and outflows, allowing for a natural rate of stage change has ecological benefit as we transition to the wet season (i.e. WCA-2A). Flows into the northern perimeter of WCA-3A would be most ecologically beneficial if balanced among the northern structures, or up to the capacity of the smaller structures (i.e. S150 and G404) with the rest of required discharges be made up with the larger structure (i.e. S8). When possible, moderating ascension rates would help apple snail reproduction as their eggs do not remain viable if they are submerged by rising stage. As conditions remain at the 90th percentile in SRS, when water is available flow through Taylor slough has ecological benefit downstream. Individual regional recommendations can be found in **Table EV-2**.

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

Everglades Region	Rainfall (inches)	Stage change (feet)
WCA-1	2.90	+0.13
WCA-2A	2.27	+0.09
WCA-2B	1.83	+0.00
WCA-3A	1.24	+0.00
WCA-3B	0.99	-0.02
ENP	0.79	+0.01

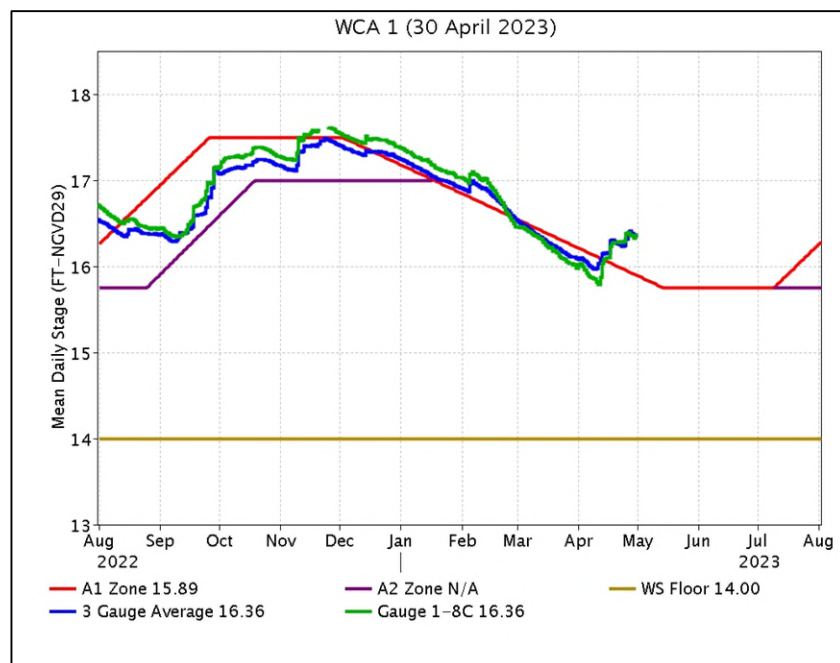


Figure EV-1. WCA-1 stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

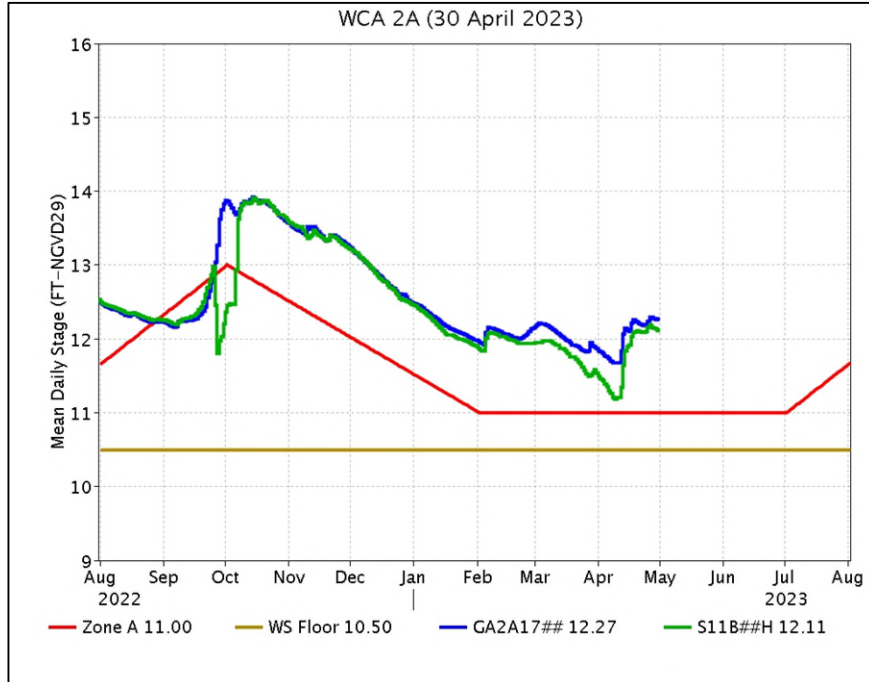


Figure EV-2. WCA-2A stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

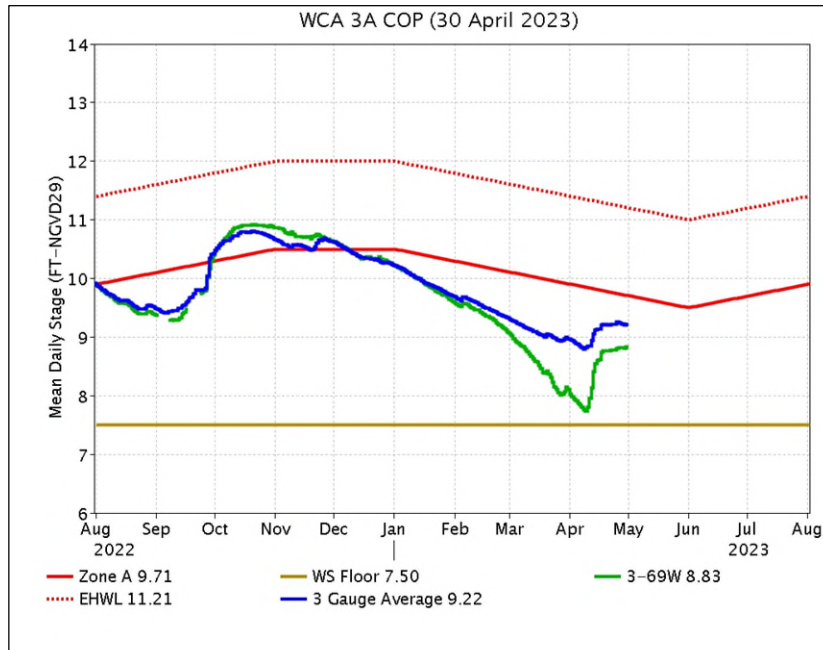


Figure EV-3. WCA-3A stage hydrographs (three-gauge average, 3-69W) and regulation schedule.

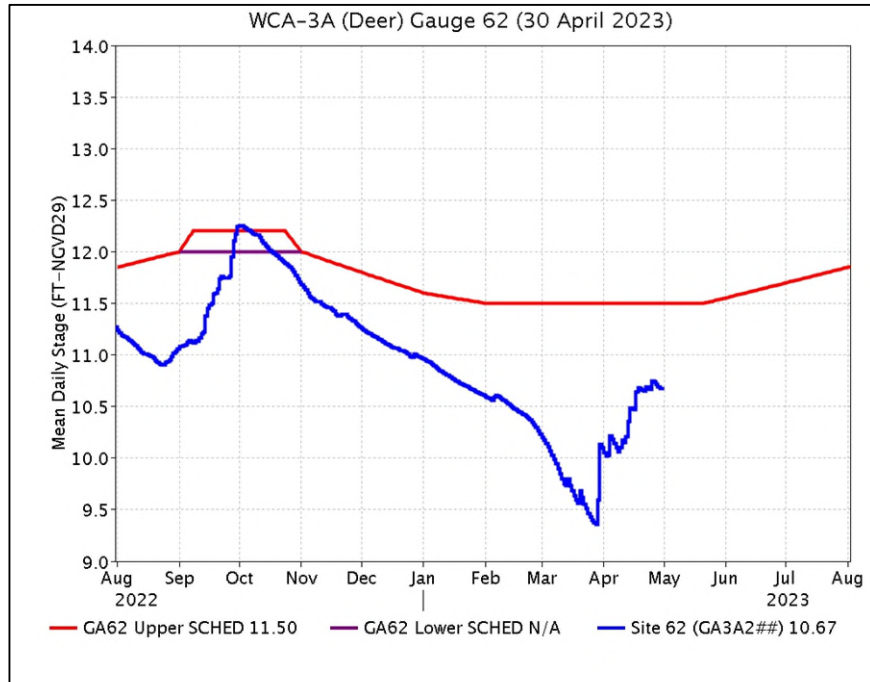


Figure EV-4. WCA-3A stage hydrograph (Deer gauge; Site 62) and CA62 regulation schedule.

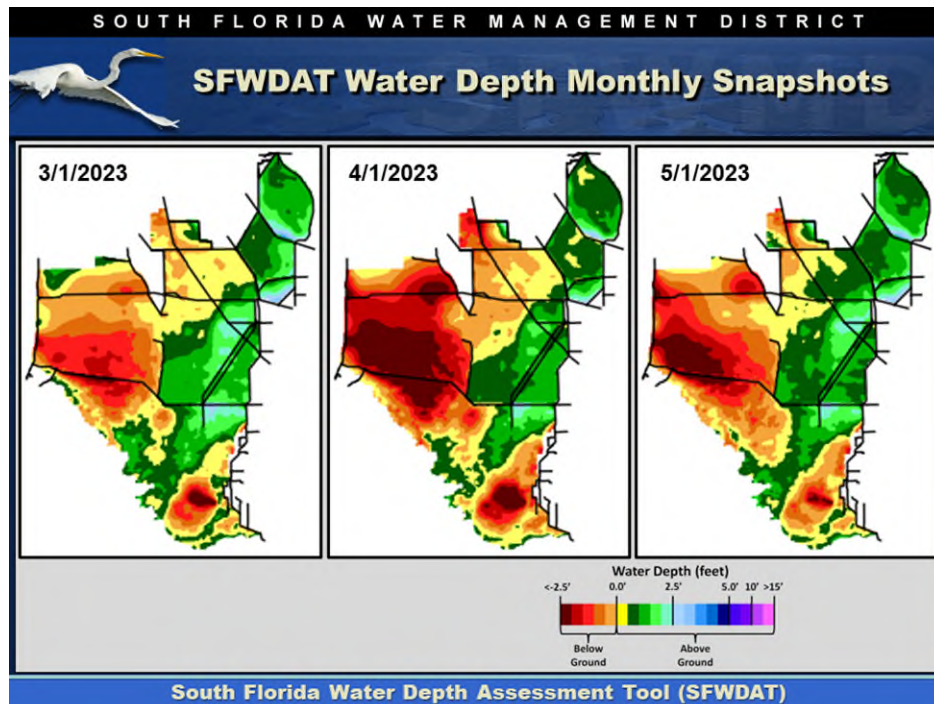


Figure EV-5. Everglades water depths from two months ago (left), one month ago (center) and present (right), based on SFWDAT.

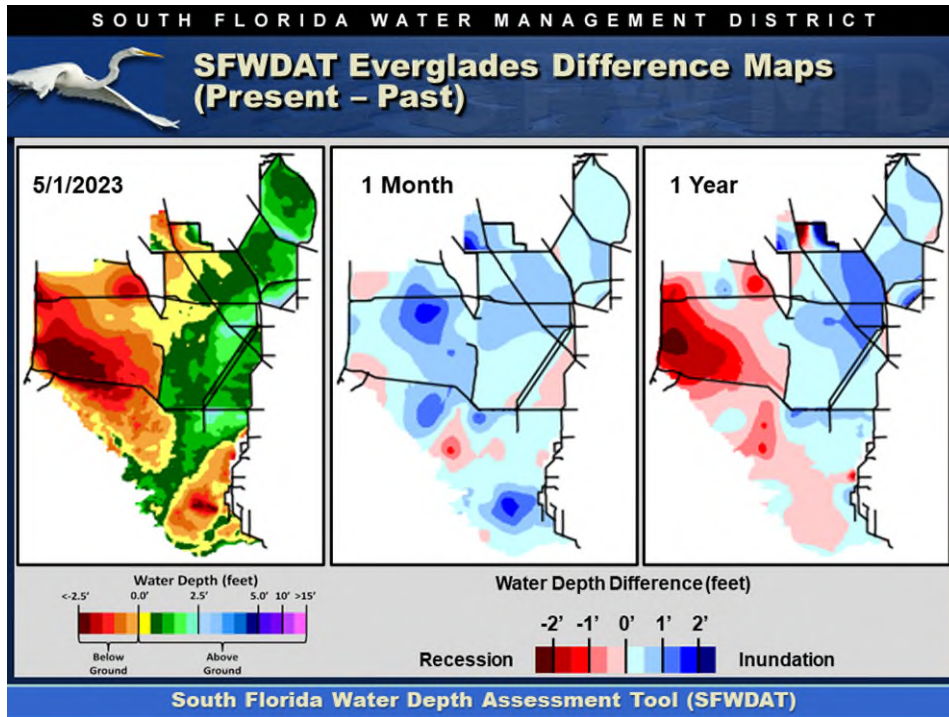


Figure EV-6. Present Everglades water depths (left) and water depth changes from one month (center) and one year (right) ago, based on SFWDAT.

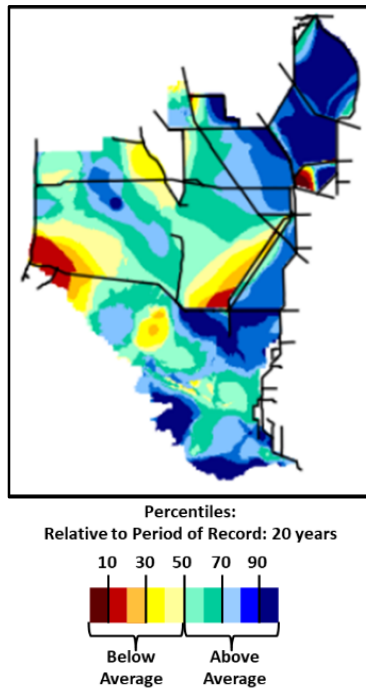


Figure EV-7. Present water depths (4/23/2023) compared to the day of year average over the previous 20 years.

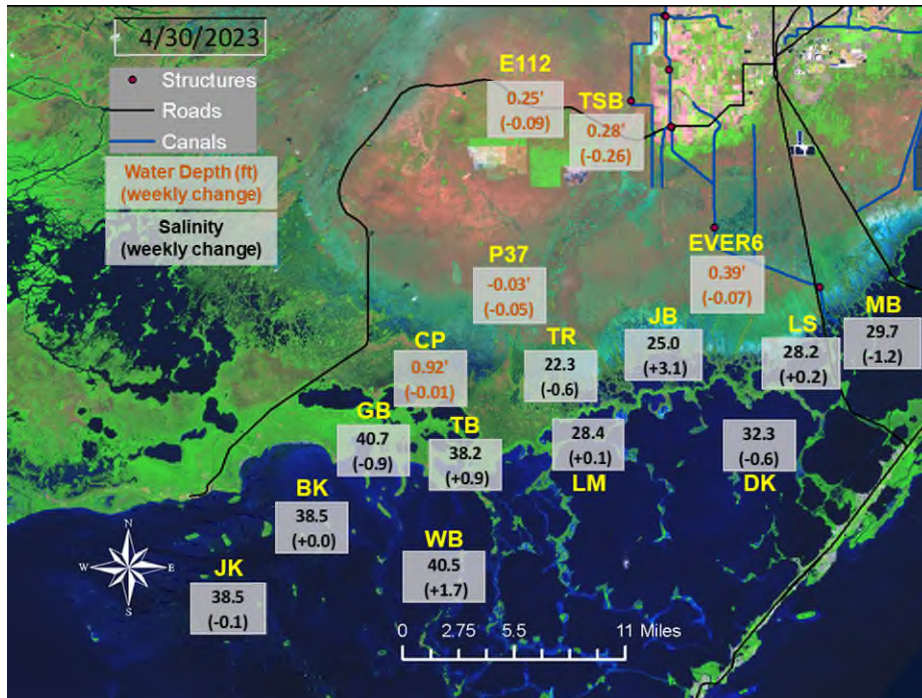


Figure EV-8. Taylor Slough water depths with changes since a week ago and Florida Bay salinities with changes since a week ago.

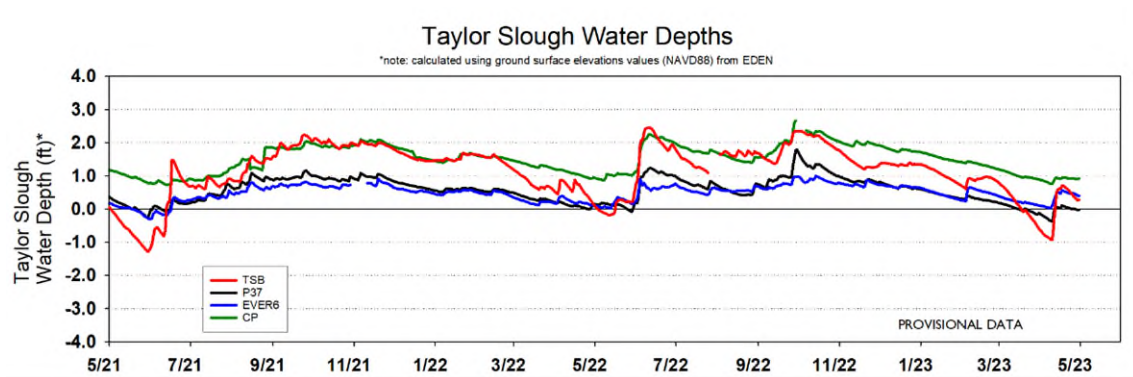


Figure EV-9. Taylor Slough water depth time series.

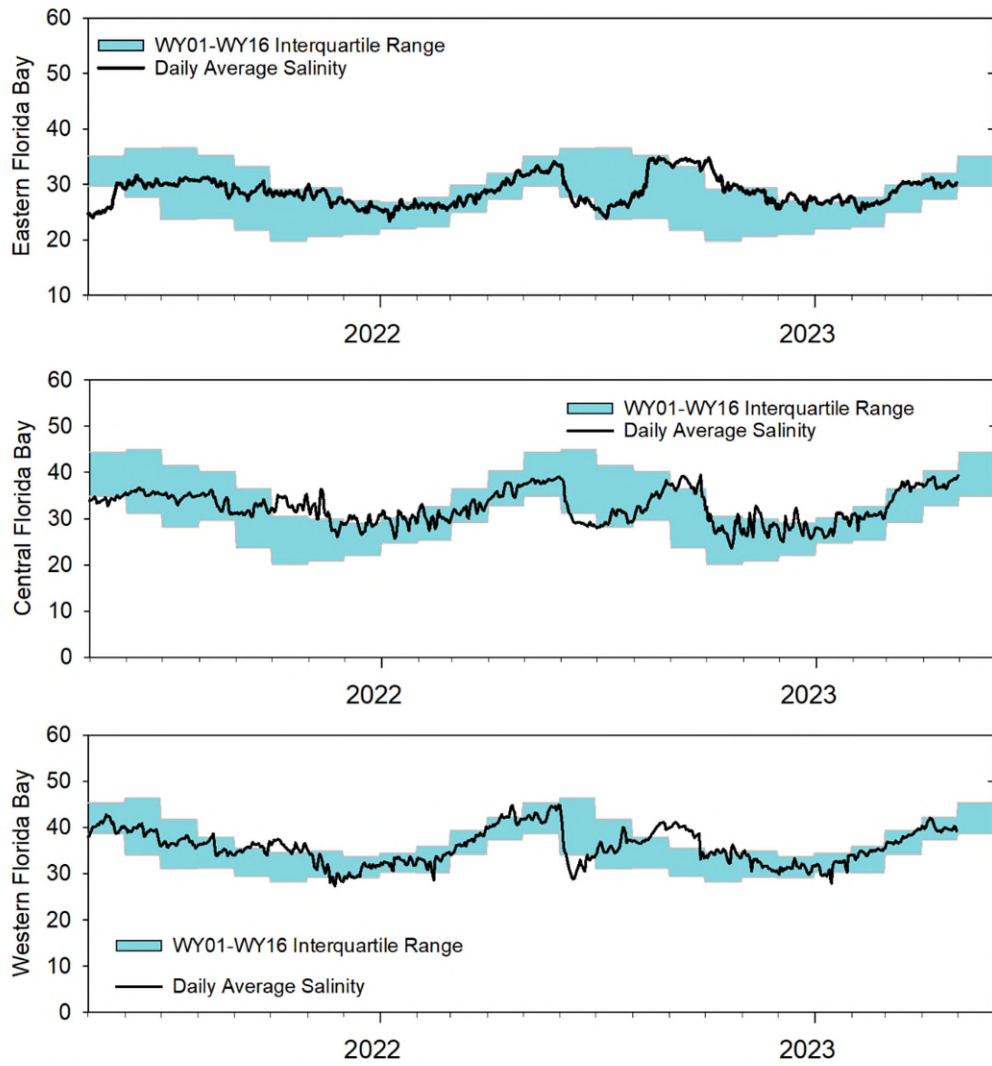


Figure EV-10. Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges.

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

SFWMD Everglades Ecological Recommendations, May 2, 2023 (red is new)			
	Weekly change	Recommendation	Reasons
WCA-1	Stage increased by 0.13'	Allow water to flow south from this basin until the regulation schedule is reached. Recession rate of less than 0.05' per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Assist in creating conditions acceptable for Rx burn.
WCA-2A	Stage increased by 0.09'	Balance inflows and outflows. Allow water to flow south from this basin until 0.5 foot above the regulation schedule. Recession rate of less than 0.05' per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-2B	Stage increased by 0.01'	Conserve water in this basin as possible. Ascension rate of less than 0.36' per two weeks.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NE	Stage increased by 0.04'	Conserve water in this basin as possible. Ascension rate of less than 0.36' per two weeks.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NW	Stage increased by 0.01'	Conserve water in this basin as possible. Ascension rate of less than 0.36' per two weeks.	
Central WCA-3A S	Stage was unchanged	Conserve water in this basin as possible. Recession rate of less than 0.10' per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
Southern WCA-3A S	Stage decreased by 0.03'		
WCA-3B	Stage decreased by 0.02'	Ascension rate of less than 0.36' per two weeks.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
ENP-SRS	Stage increased by 0.01'	Make discharges to ENP according to COP and TTF protocol while adaptively considering upstream and downstream ecological conditions.	Protect within basin and upstream habitat and wildlife.
Taylor Slough	Stage changes ranged from -0.26' to -0.01'	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater buffer for downstream conditions.
FB- Salinity	Salinity changes ranged from -0.9 to +3.1	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to maintain low salinity buffer and promote water movement.

Biscayne Bay

As shown in **Figure BB-1**, mean total inflow to Biscayne Bay was 697 cfs, and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 768 cfs. The seven-day mean salinity was 25.5 at BBCW8 and 26.8 at BBCW10, both within the ideal salinity range for estuarine organisms in this region (salinity less than 35). Data were provided by Biscayne National Park.

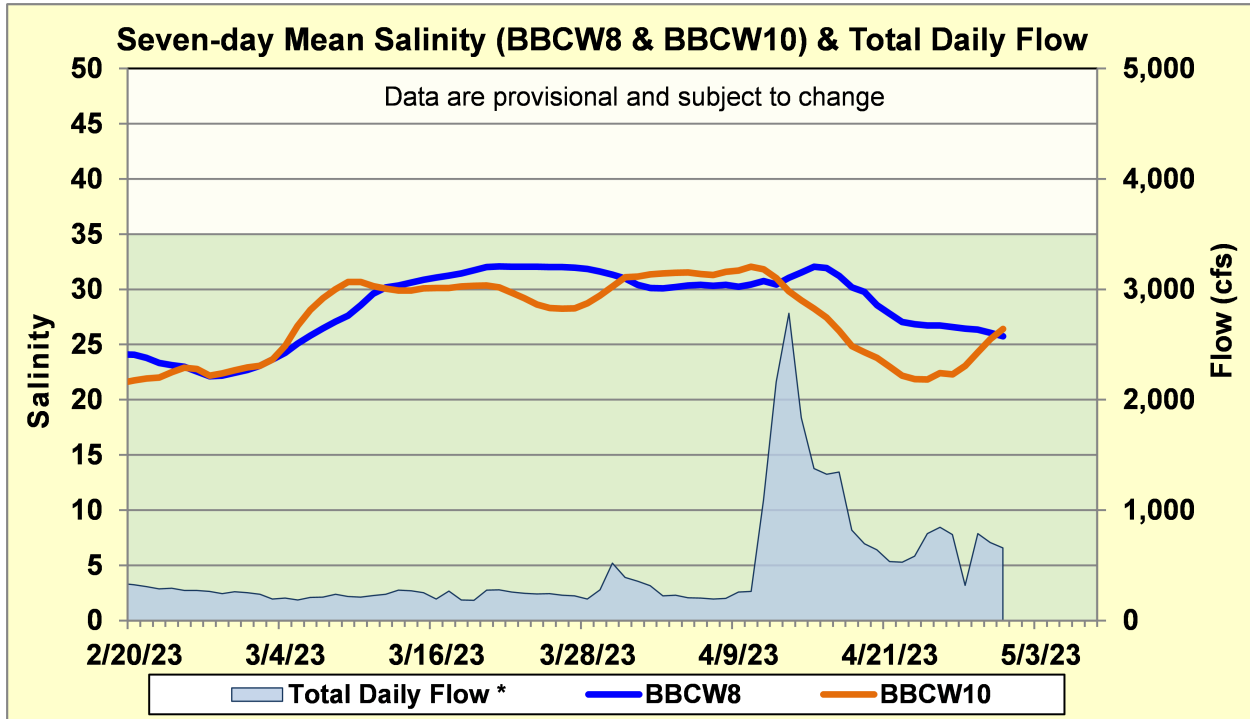


Figure BB-1. Seven-day mean salinity at BBCW8 and BBCW10 and total daily flow in Biscayne Bay. Total daily flow was calculated using flow from structures S20G, S20F, S21, S21A, S123, and S700P.