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

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: June 3, 2026

SUBJECT: Weekly Environmental Conditions for Systems Operations

Summary

Weather Conditions and Forecast

A cold front will approach central Florida by Wednesday morning. Enhanced moisture may support widespread showers and thunderstorms on Wednesday, particularly from Lake Okeechobee southward. There remains some uncertainty regarding the amount and location of the Wednesday rainfall. By Thursday, the frontal boundary is forecast to continue southward through the region, allowing drier conditions to develop north and east of Lake Okeechobee. The greatest rain chances are in areas along and south of the front, including portions of the southern coasts and Florida Keys where deeper moisture is expected to remain. From Friday into the weekend, mid-level drying and stabilization are expected. This may cause the frontal boundary to clear the region, allowing an anomalously dry continental air mass to overspread south Florida. This air mass may contain mid-level relative humidities below 10%, which would result in much below average daily rainfall totals. Moisture levels may begin to recover early next week as the dry air mass modifies and shifts eastward, potentially allowing a return to a more typical wet-season rainfall pattern. For the 7-day period ending next Tuesday morning, below average total SFWMD weekly rainfall is expected.

Kissimmee

Snail kite nesting season stage recessions in East Lake Toho and Lake Toho ended on May 31, 2026, with stage in both lakes at the low pool of their respective schedules. Releases from Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha followed the Headwaters Revitalization Schedule Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan. Weekly average discharge on May 31, 2026, was 360 cfs at S-65 and 300 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain remained unchanged at 0.33 feet. The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River remained unchanged at 7.1 mg/L, which is above both the potentially lethal level of 1.0 mg/L and the stressful level of 2.0 mg/L for Florida bass and other species.

Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 9.88 feet NAVD88 (11.19 ft NGVD29) on May 31, 2026, which was 0.04 feet lower than the previous week and 0.45 feet lower than a month ago. Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) decreased from 230 cfs the previous week to 220 cfs. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) decreased from 1,920 cfs the previous week to 870 cfs. The most recent non-obscured satellite image from May 29, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate to high cyanobacteria potential in Fisheating Bay and along much of the Indian Prairie shoreline. Provisional phytoplankton results from the May 11-13 sampling event showed none of the 28 phytoplankton samples had detectable levels of cyanotoxins, while 6 samples had chlorophyll *a* values greater than 40 µg/L, indicating bloom level concentrations.

Estuaries

Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 365 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Mean surface salinities decreased at all sites in the estuary. Salinity in the middle estuary was in the optimal range range (10–25) for adult eastern oysters.

Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary averaged 526 cfs over the past week with 123 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee. Over the past week, surface salinities increased at Val I-75, Cape Coral, and Sanibel, and decreased at the remaining sites in the estuary. Salinities were in the optimal range (0–10) for tape grass in the upper estuary at S-79, in the stressed range (10–15) at Val I-75, and in the damaging range (≥15) at Ft. Myers. Salinities were in the upper stressed range (>25) for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and at Sanibel.

Stormwater Treatment Areas

For the week ending Sunday, May 31, 2026, 100 ac-feet of Lake Okeechobee water was delivered to the FEBs/STAs. The total amount of Lake releases sent to the FEBs/STAs in WY2027 is approximately 5,600 ac-feet. The total amount of inflows to the STAs in WY2027 is approximately 20,000 ac-feet. Most online STA treatment cells are at or near target stage. STA-1E Central Flow-way is offline for post-construction activities. STA-1W Eastern Flow-way is offline for vegetation management activities. Operational restrictions are in effect in STA-1E Western Flow-way, STA-2 Flow-way 2 and 4, and STA-3/4 Eastern Flow-way for vegetation management activities. The following areas contains nests of Migratory Bird Treat Act protected species: STA-1E Central Flow-way; STA-1W Northern Flow-way, Eastern Flow-way, and Cells 6 and 7 of Expansion 1; STA-2 Flow-ways 1 and 4; and STA-5/6 Flow-way 3. This week, if LOSOM recommends Lake releases to the WCAs and conditions allow, releases will be sent to STA-2, STA 3/4 and STA-5/6.

Everglades

The Everglades Protection Area (EPA) received near average rainfall last week, but some areas to the south had very high local maxima. Portions of WCA-3A and Everglades National Park (ENP) received over 6 inches of rainfall during the week. Stage change reversed in central WCA-3A with depths returning to above ground near site 64, while stage continued to fall in the south. Recession rates in WCA-2A slowed last week. In general, in the northern portion of the EPA (WCA-1/WCA-2A) water depths are near or

above average relative to the past 20 years, while WCA-3A and WCA-3B continue to have below-average water depths as they have for most of the last year. WCA-2A continues to dry down and is below average in the far north. Dry conditions have ecological consequences both system wide and within the central Everglades, including reducing already-limited prey populations, increasing the risk of damaging wildfires, enhanced peat oxidation, and potential ridge and slough degradation. Wading bird nesting is occurring only in WCAs 1 and -2A, with 2026 being the 5th year in a row of below average nesting and the lowest nesting effort in 30 years. In Taylor Slough, most stages increased last week and remain above the recent averages for this time of year. Average Florida Bay salinity increased last week and remains above its recent average. Salinities in the central and western regions are near and above the hypersalinity threshold, respectively.

Supporting Information

Kissimmee Basin

Upper Kissimmee

On May 31, 2026, mean daily lake stages were 54.0 feet NAVD88 (0.0 feet at schedule) in East Lake Toho, 51.0 feet NAVD88 (0.0 feet at schedule) in Lake Toho, and 48.0 feet NAVD88 (2.3 feet below the Increment 1 Temporary Deviation schedule) in Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha (KCH) (**Table KB-1**, **Figures KB-1-3**).

Lower Kissimmee

For the week ending May 31, 2026, mean weekly discharge was 360 cfs at S-65 and 300 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly discharge from the Kissimmee River was 340 cfs at S-65D and 220 cfs at S-65E (**Table KB-2**). Mean weekly headwater stages were 45.2 feet NAVD88 at S-65A and 28.2 feet NAVD88 at S-65D. Mean weekly river channel stage decreased by 0.1 feet to 30.7 feet NAVD88 (**Figure KB-4**). Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain remained unchanged at 0.33 feet (**Table KB-2**, **Figure KB-5**). The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River remained unchanged at 7.1 mg/L from the previous week (**Table KB-2**, **Figure KB-6**).

Water Management Recommendations

Allow stage in East Lake Toho and Lake Toho to rise with rainfall and, to the extent possible, limit the ascension rate to no more than 0.5 feet/14 days. In KCH, follow the Headwaters Revitalization Schedule (HRS) Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A (**Figure KB-7**). With KCH stage in Zone B4, target flows of 300 cfs; if stage increases into Zone B3, target flows between 300 and 1,400 cfs at S-65A using the Increment 1 Interpolation Tool to determine discharge relative to stage in KCH. If stage declines into Zone B5, target flows of 150 cfs.

Table KB-1. Average discharge for the preceding seven days, Sunday's average daily stage and Sunday's average daily departure from Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (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 NAVD88)[a]	Schedule Type[b]	Sunday Schedule Stage (feet NAVD88)	Sunday Departure from Regulation (feet)	
							5/31/26	*5/24/26*
Lakes Hart and Mary Jane	S-62	LKMJ	7	58.5	R	58.4	0.1	0.1
Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel	S-57	S-57	0	58.9	R	58.9	0.0	0.0
Alligator Chain	S-60	ALLI	49	60.9	R	60.9	0.0	0.0
Lake Gentry	S-63	LKGT	88	58.4	R	58.4	0.0	0.0
East Lake Toho	S-59	TOHOE	190	54.0	R	54.0	0.0	-0.1
Lake Toho	S-61	TOHOW S-61	540	51.0	R	51.0	0.0	-0.1
Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha	S-65	KUB011 LKIS5B	360	48.0	T	50.3	-2.3	-2.4

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.

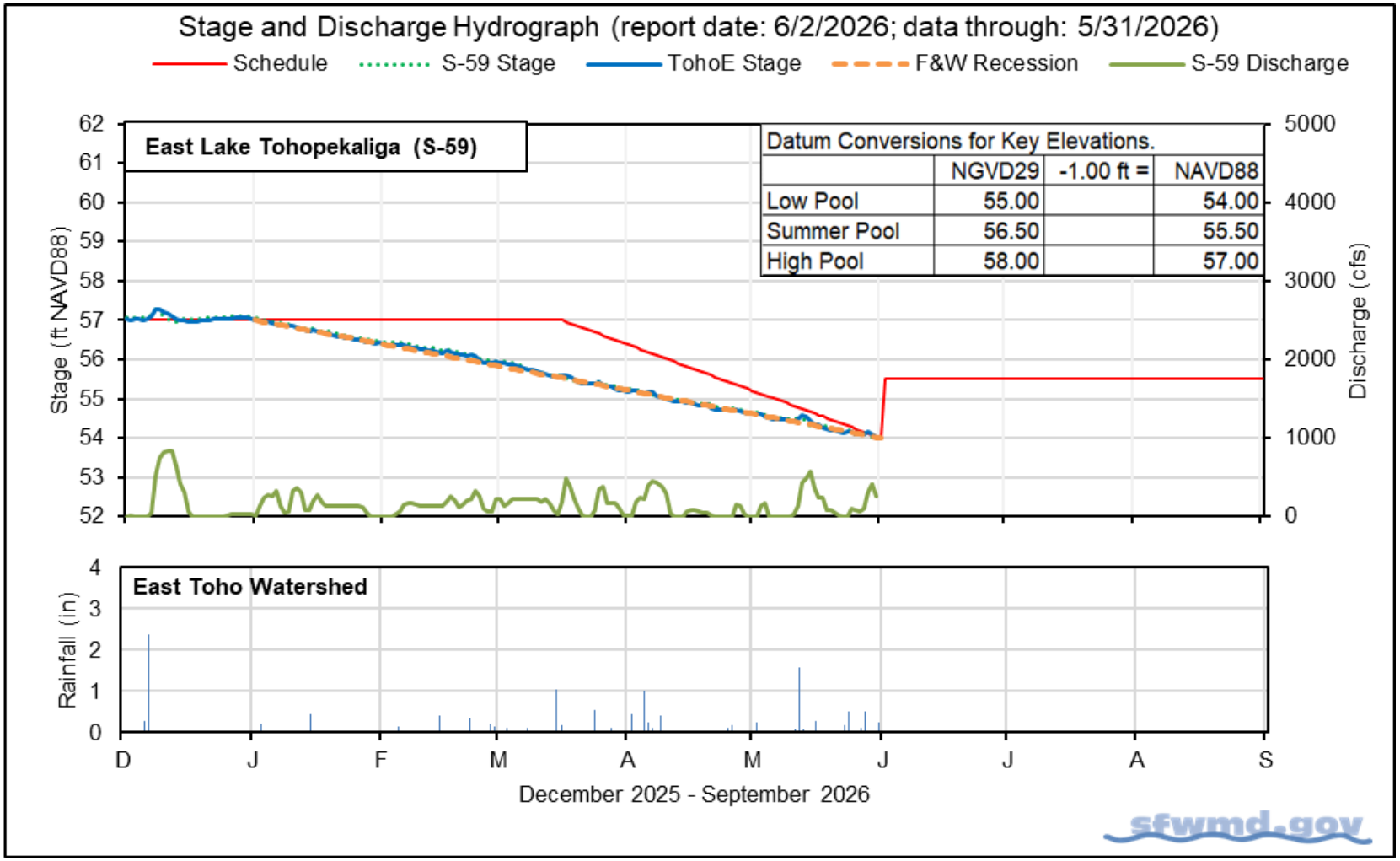


Figure KB-1. East Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

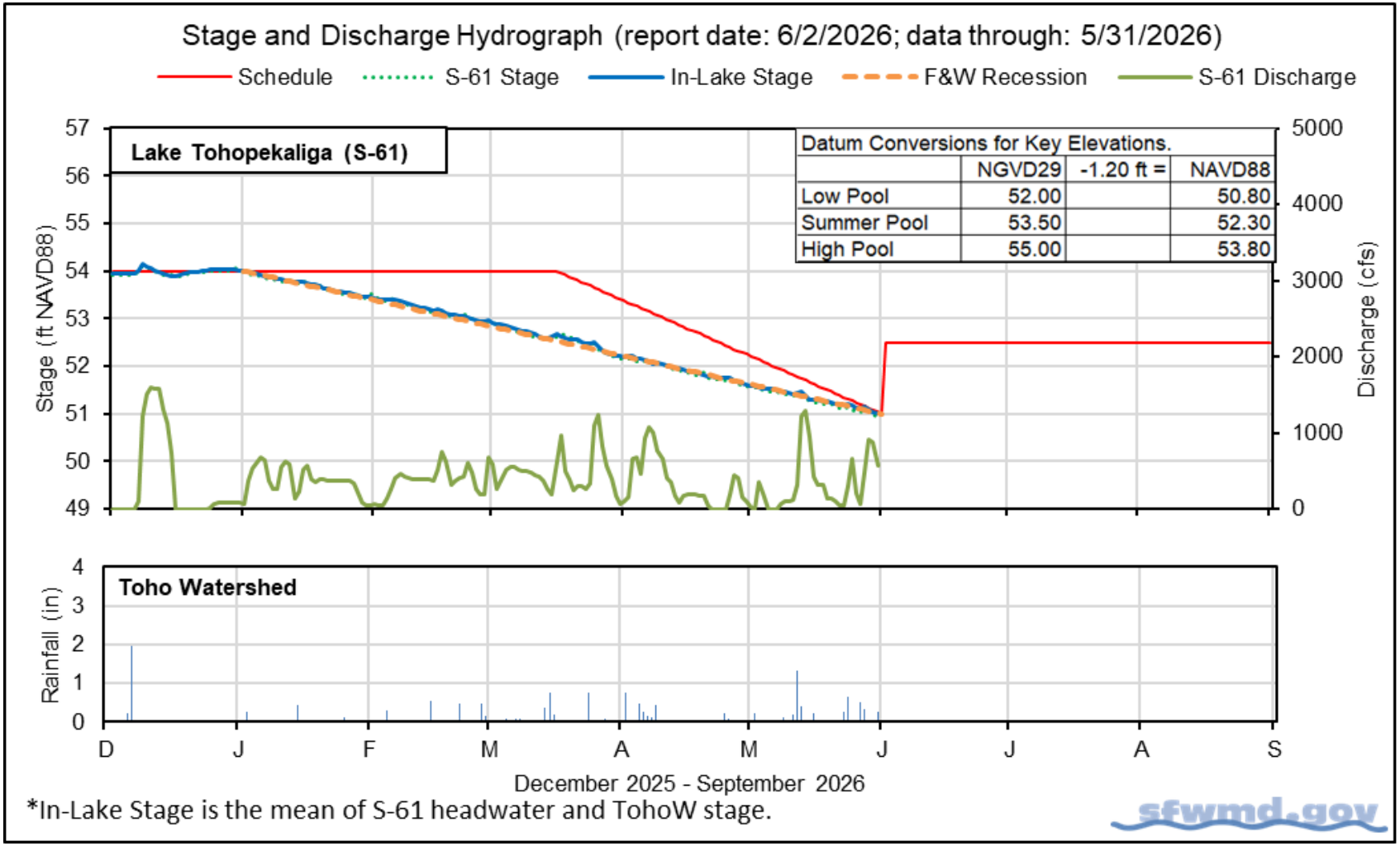


Figure KB-2. Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

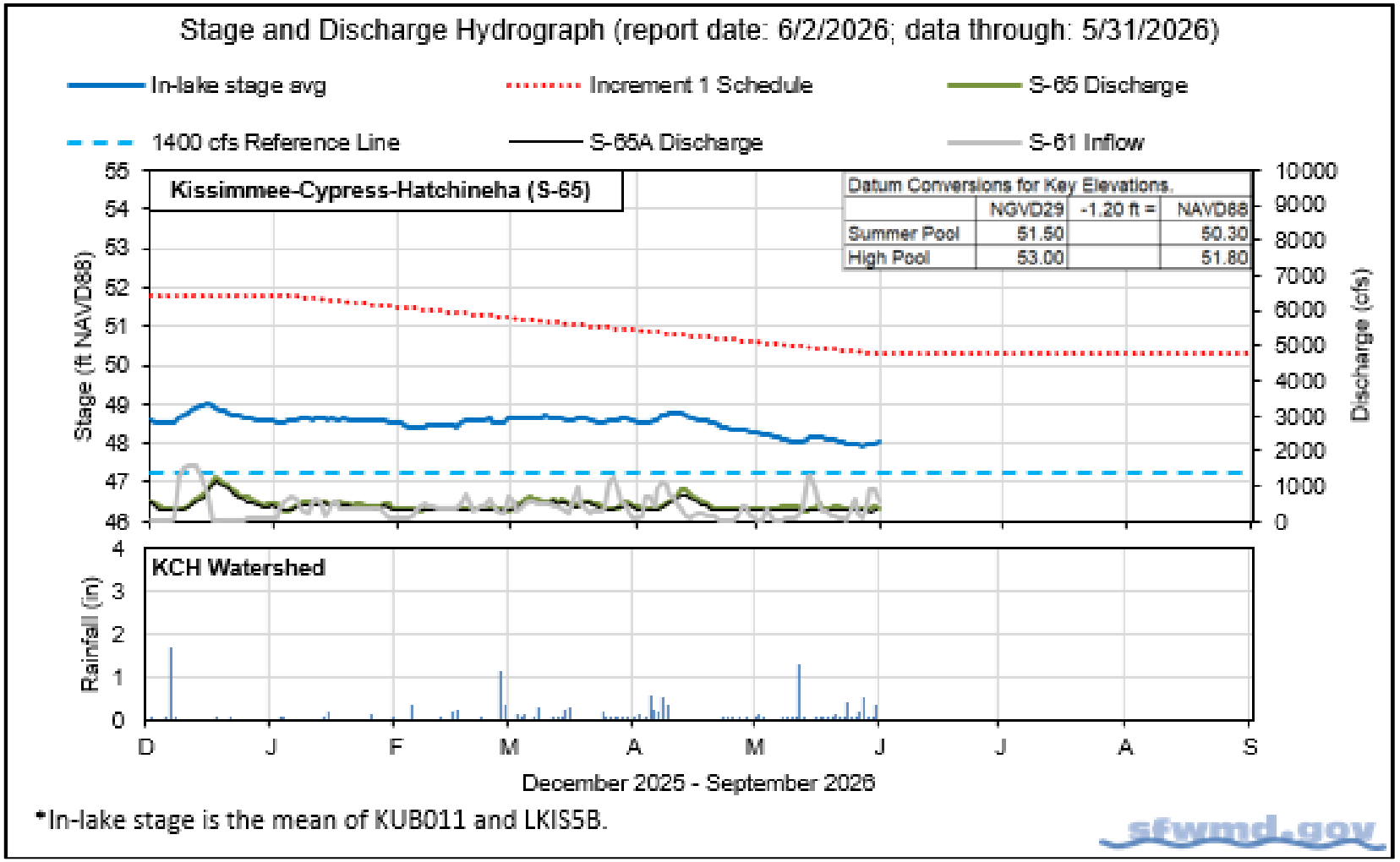


Figure KB-3. Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

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			
		5/31/26	5/31/26	5/24/26	5/17/26	5/10/26
Discharge	S-65	330	360	380	370	390
Discharge	S-65A[a]	310	300	320	320	310
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65A	45.3	45.2	45.2	45.3	45.2
Discharge	S-65D[b]	330	340	350	350	330
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65D[c]	24.5	28.2	28.2	28.3	28.2
Discharge (cfs)	S-65E[d]	230	220	210	240	250
Discharge (cfs)	S-67	0	0	0	0	0
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)[e]	Phase I, II/III river channel	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.8	8.4
River channel mean stage (feet NAVD88)[f]	Phase I river channel	30.7	30.7	30.8	30.8	30.7
Mean depth (feet)[g]	Phase I & II/III floodplain	0.32	0.33	0.33	0.33	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. 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).

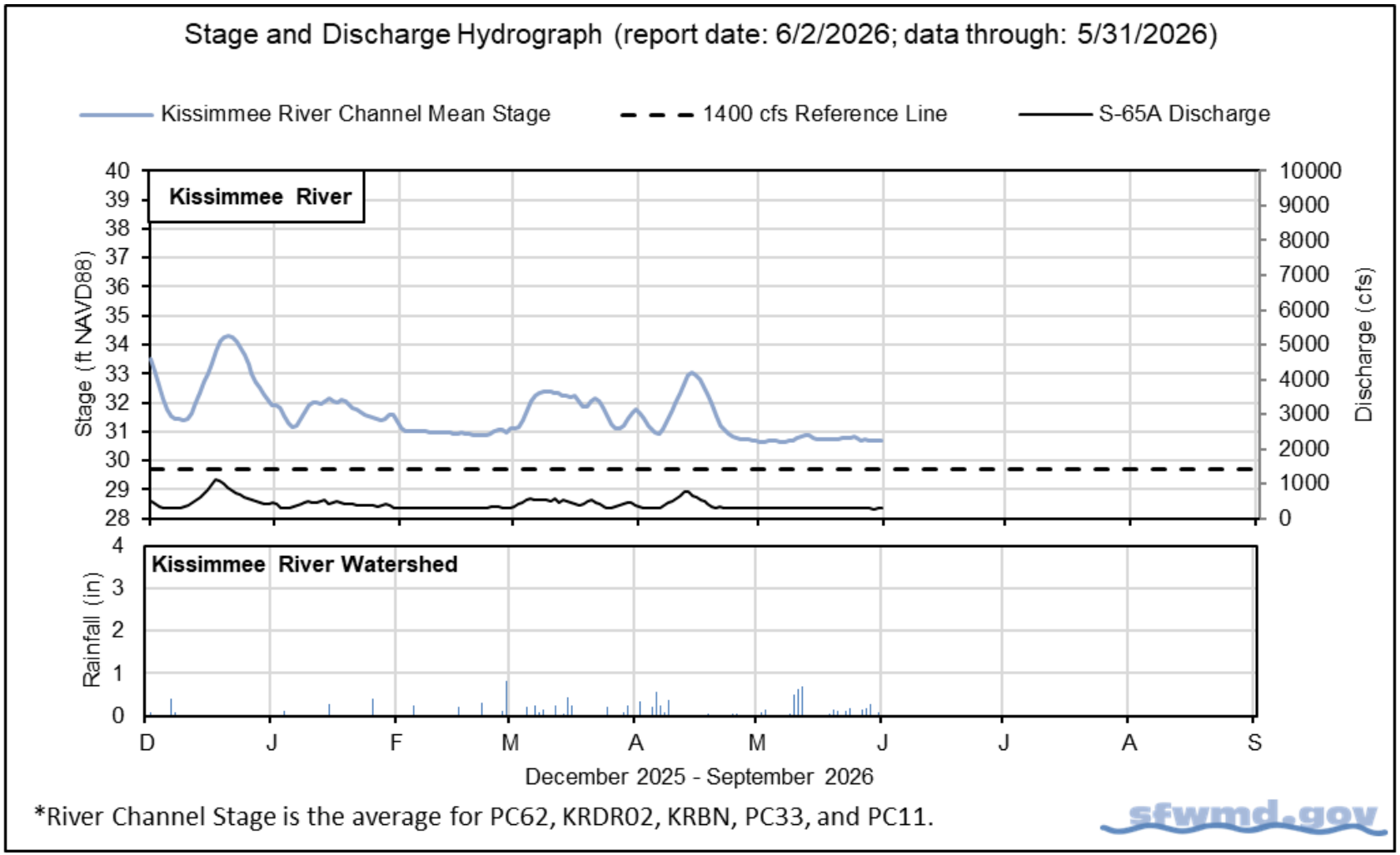


Figure KB-4. Kissimmee River stage, discharge, and rainfall.

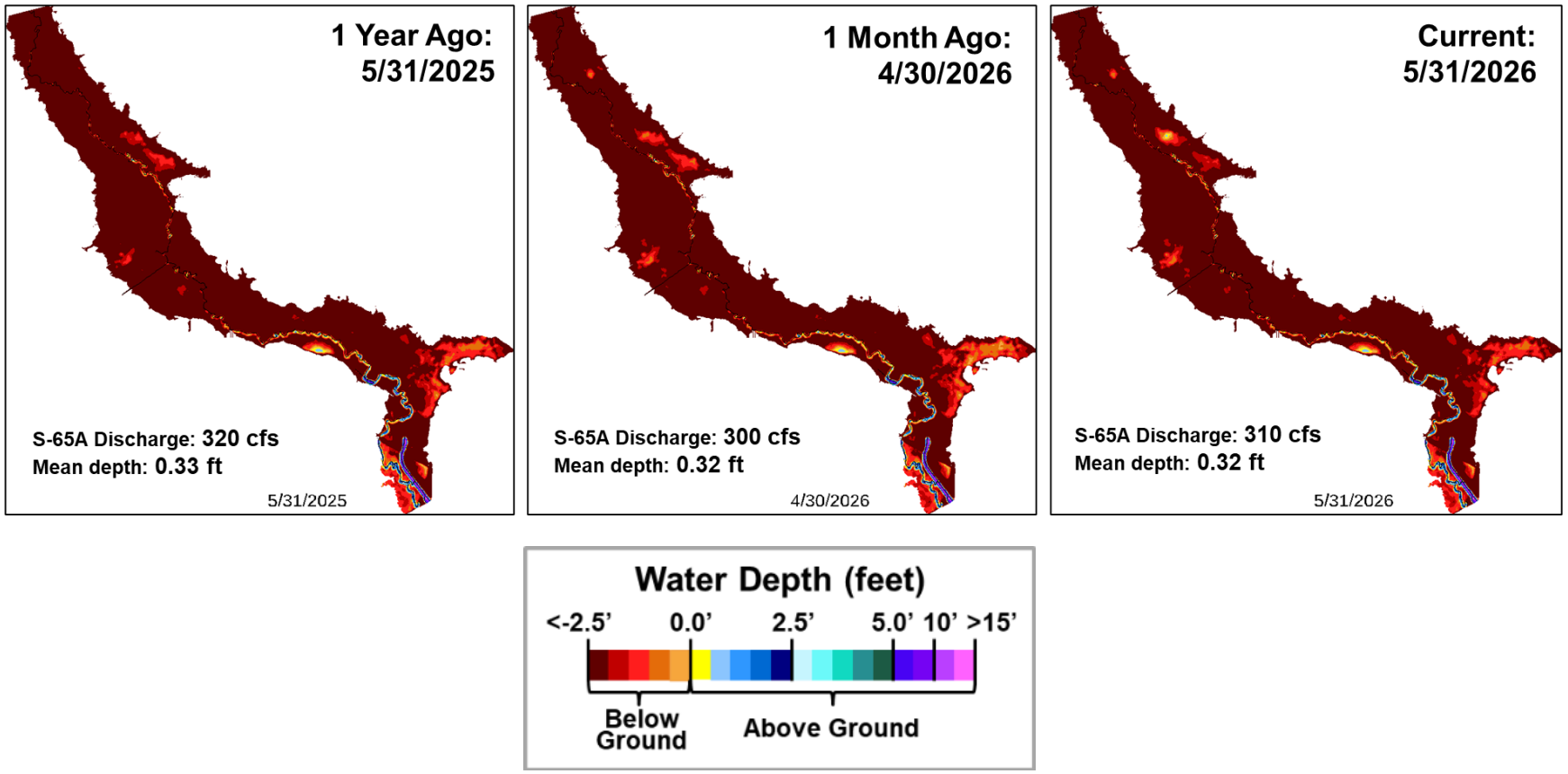
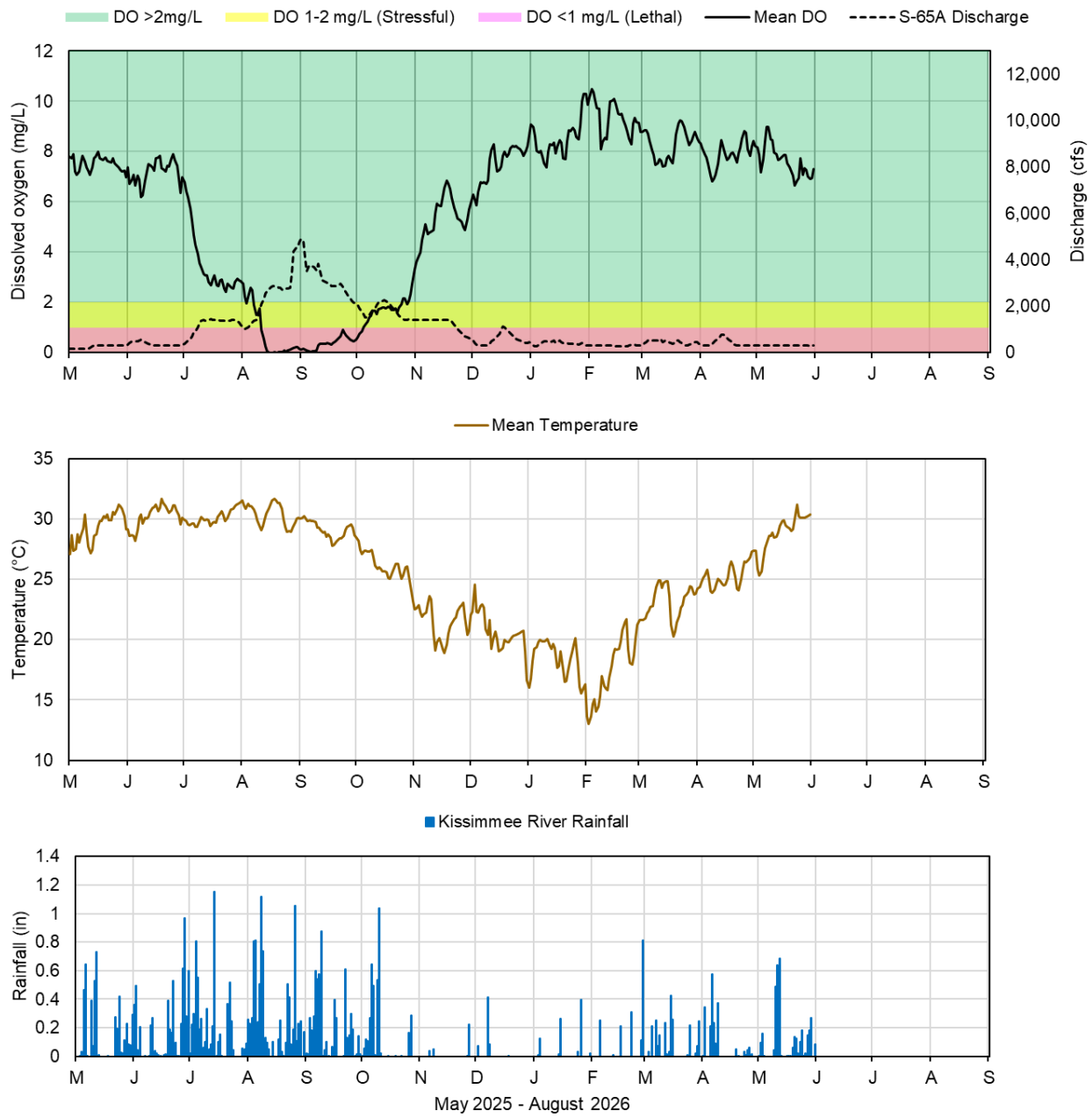


Figure KB-5. Phase I-II-III area Kissimmee River floodplain water depths (from left to right) one year ago, one month ago, and current.



Report Date: 6/2/2026; data are through: 5/31/2026

sfwmd.gov

Figure KB-6. 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.

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

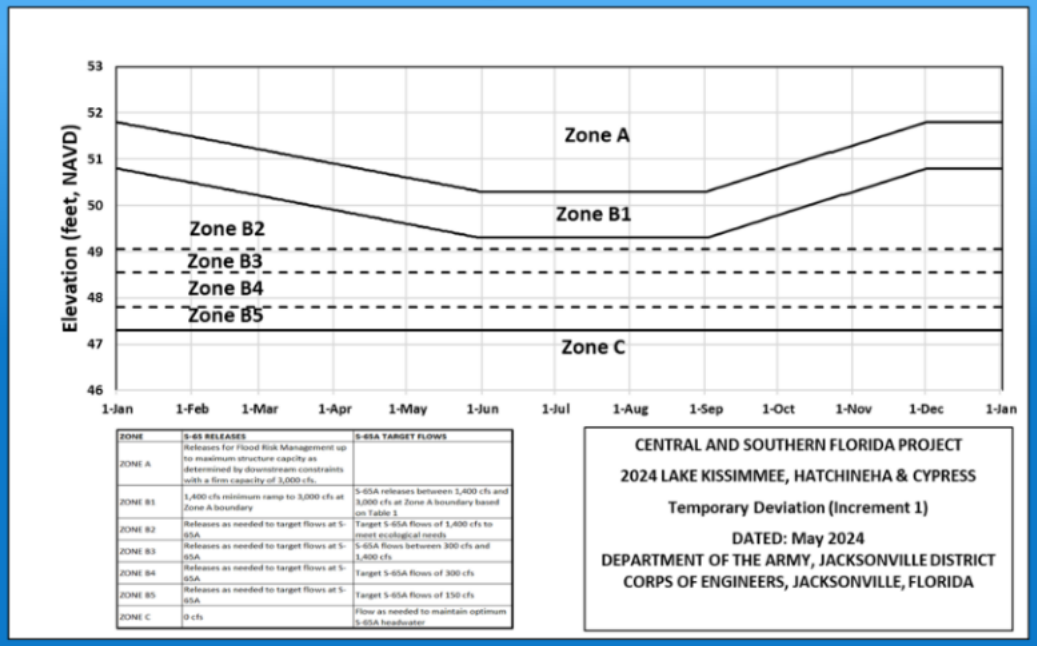
HRS Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A

Discharge Guidance for Increment I Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan		
ZONE	**S-65 RELEASES**	**S-65A TARGET FLOWS**
ZONE A	Releases for Flood Risk Management up to maximum structure capcity as determined by downstream constraints with a firm capacity of 3,000 cfs.	
ZONE B1	1,400 cfs minimum ramp to 3,000 cfs at Zone A boundary	S-65A releases between 1,400 cfs and 3,000 cfs at Zone A boundary based on Table 1
ZONE B2	Releases as needed to target flows at S-65A	Target S-65A flows of 1,400 cfs to meet ecological needs
ZONE B3	Releases as needed to target flows at S-65A	S-65A flows between 300 cfs and 1,400 cfs
ZONE B4	Releases as needed to target flows at S-65A	Target S-65A flows of 300 cfs
ZONE B5	Releases as needed to target flows at S-65A	Target S-65A flows of 150 cfs
ZONE C	0 cfs	Flow as needed to maintain optimum S-65A headwater

Table KB-3. Maximum Rate of Change Limits for S-65A

MAXIMUM Release Rate of Chane Limits for S-65A. **In general recommended rates of change will be slower than shown in this table.**

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



CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA PROJECT
2024 LAKE KISSIMMEE, HATCHINEHA & CYPRESS
Temporary Deviation (Increment 1)
DATED: May 2024
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

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.

sfwmd.gov

Slide Revised 7/29/2024

10

Figure KB-7. Headwaters Revitalization Schedule (HRS) Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A.

Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 9.88 feet NAVD88 (11.19 feet NGVD29) on May 31, 2026, which was 0.04 feet lower than the previous week and 0.45 feet lower than a month ago (**Figure LO-1**). Lake stage is in Zone D of the regulation schedule, is 0.69 feet above the water shortage management band (**Figure LO-2**) and 0.33 feet below the ecological envelope (**Figure LO-3**). According to NEXRAD, 1.38 inches (approximately 51,500 ac-feet) of rain fell directly over the lake during the previous week, and 1.26 inches (approximately 36,200 ac-feet) were lost to evapotranspiration.

Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) decreased from 230 cfs the previous week to 220 cfs. The only notable inflow came from the Kissimmee River (220 cfs via S-65E(X1)). Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) decreased from 1,920 cfs the previous week to 870 cfs. The largest release was to the south through the S-351 structure (370 cfs). **Figures LO-4 and LO-5** show the combined average daily inflows and outflows for the lake over the past eight weeks, and the average inflows and outflows last week, respectively.

In the most recent non-obscured satellite image from May 29, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate to high cyanobacteria potential in Fisheating Bay and along much of the Indian Prairie shoreline. (**Figure LO-6**).

The routine water quality and phytoplankton monitoring sampling trips are now on the bloom season (May-Oct) twice per month sampling schedule. Provisional phytoplankton results from the May 11-13 sampling event showed none of the 28 phytoplankton samples collected had detectable levels of cyanotoxins, and 13 of the samples were dominated by *Microcystis* (**Figure LO-7**). Six of the 28 water quality samples had chlorophyll *a* values greater than 40 µg/L, indicating bloom level concentrations, while 7 samples had values between 20 and 40 µg/L (**Figure LO-7**).

Note: All data presented in this report are provisional and are subject to change.

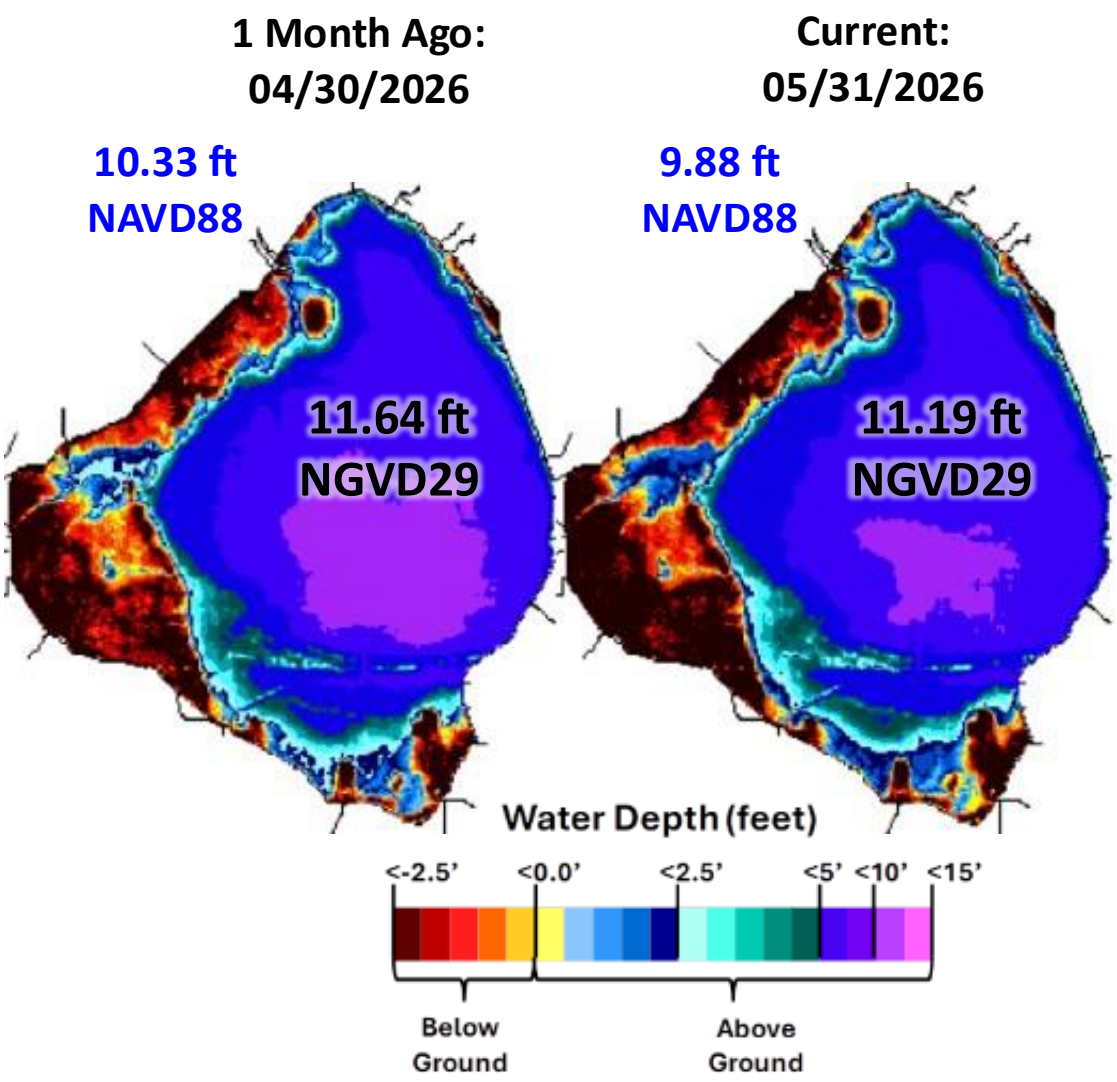


Figure LO-1. Lake Okeechobee water depth estimates based on South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

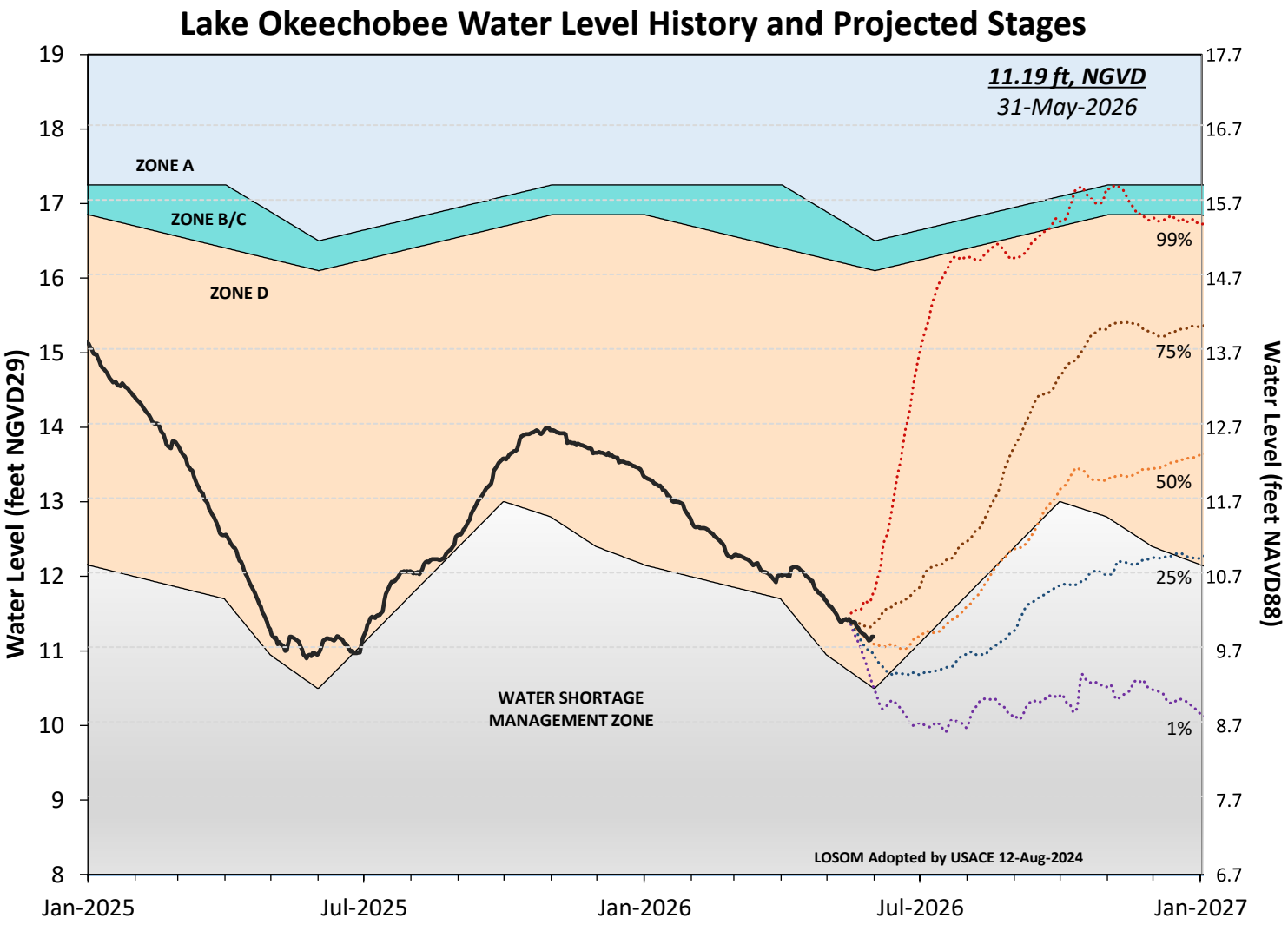


Figure LO-2. Recent Lake Okeechobee stages with projected stages based on a conditional position analysis. Note: stages are in NGVD29, approximate NAVD88 values are shown for reference.

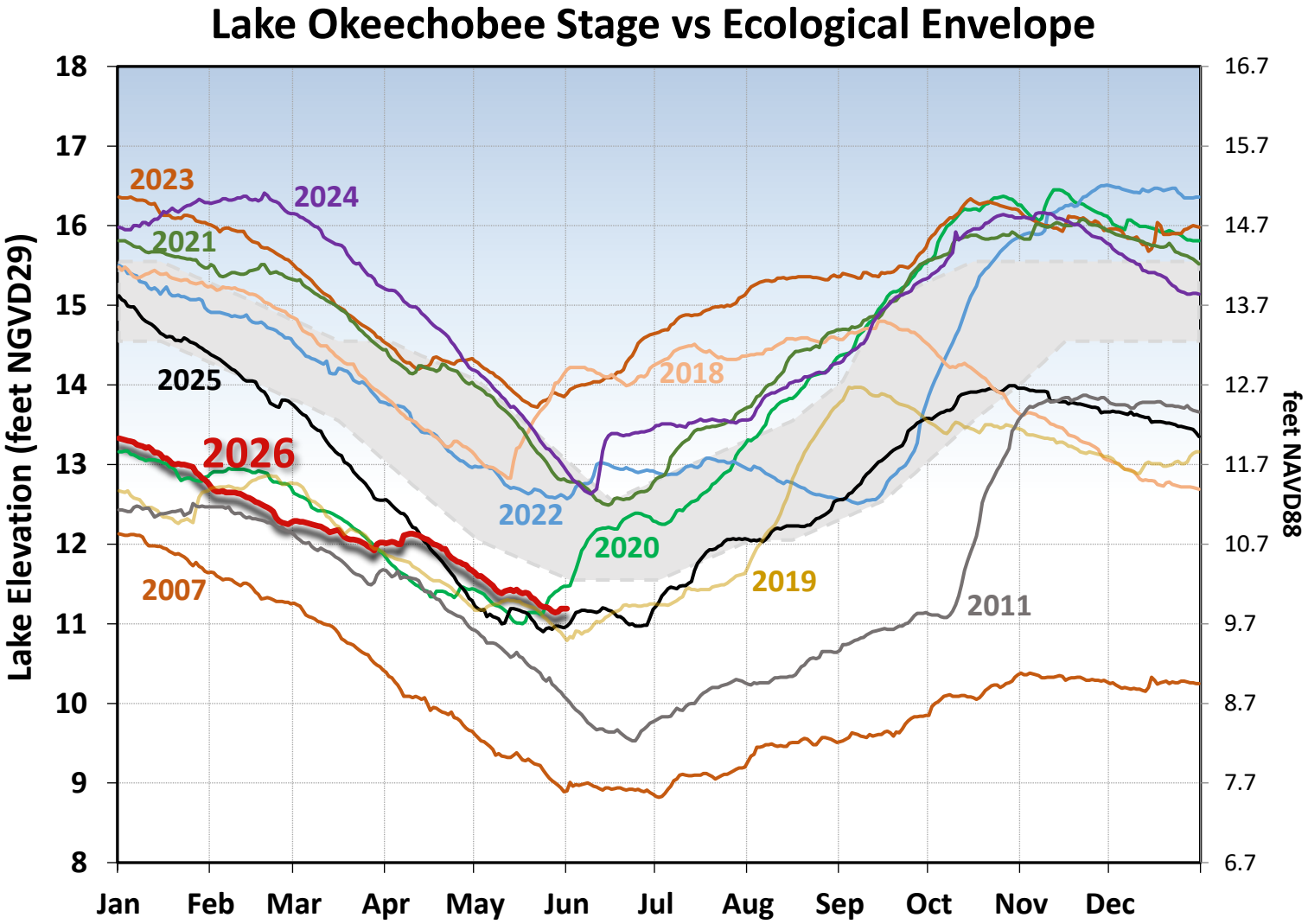


Figure LO-3. The current and select prior year's annual lake stage hydrographs in comparison to the Lake Okeechobee ecological envelope (light grey).

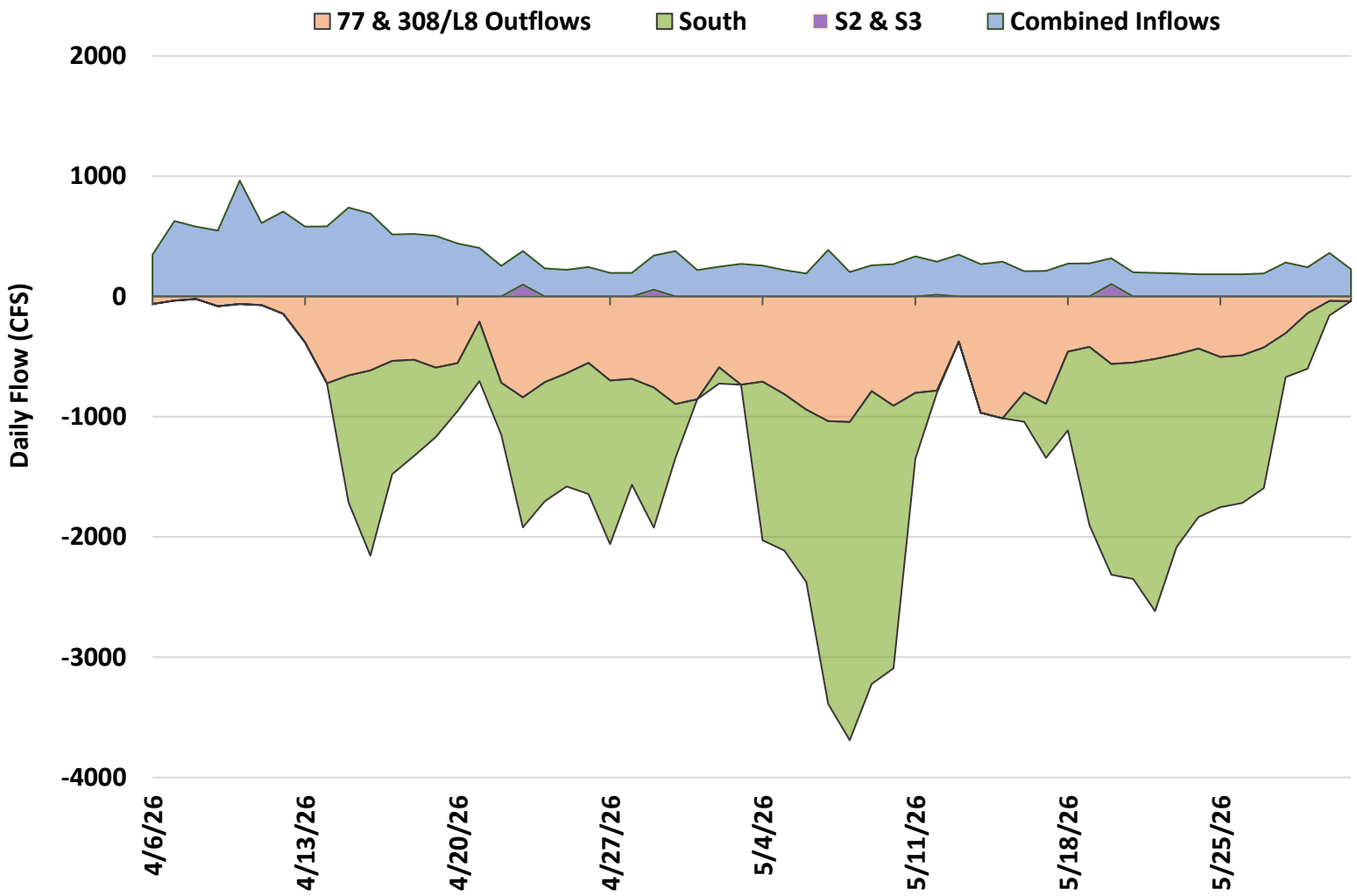


Figure LO-4. Major inflows (orange) to and outflows east and west (blue) from Lake Okeechobee. Outflows south are shown in green. Flows into Lake Okeechobee from the L-8 canal through S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) or from the C-44 canal through the S-308 are included as inflows. Conversely, flows from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

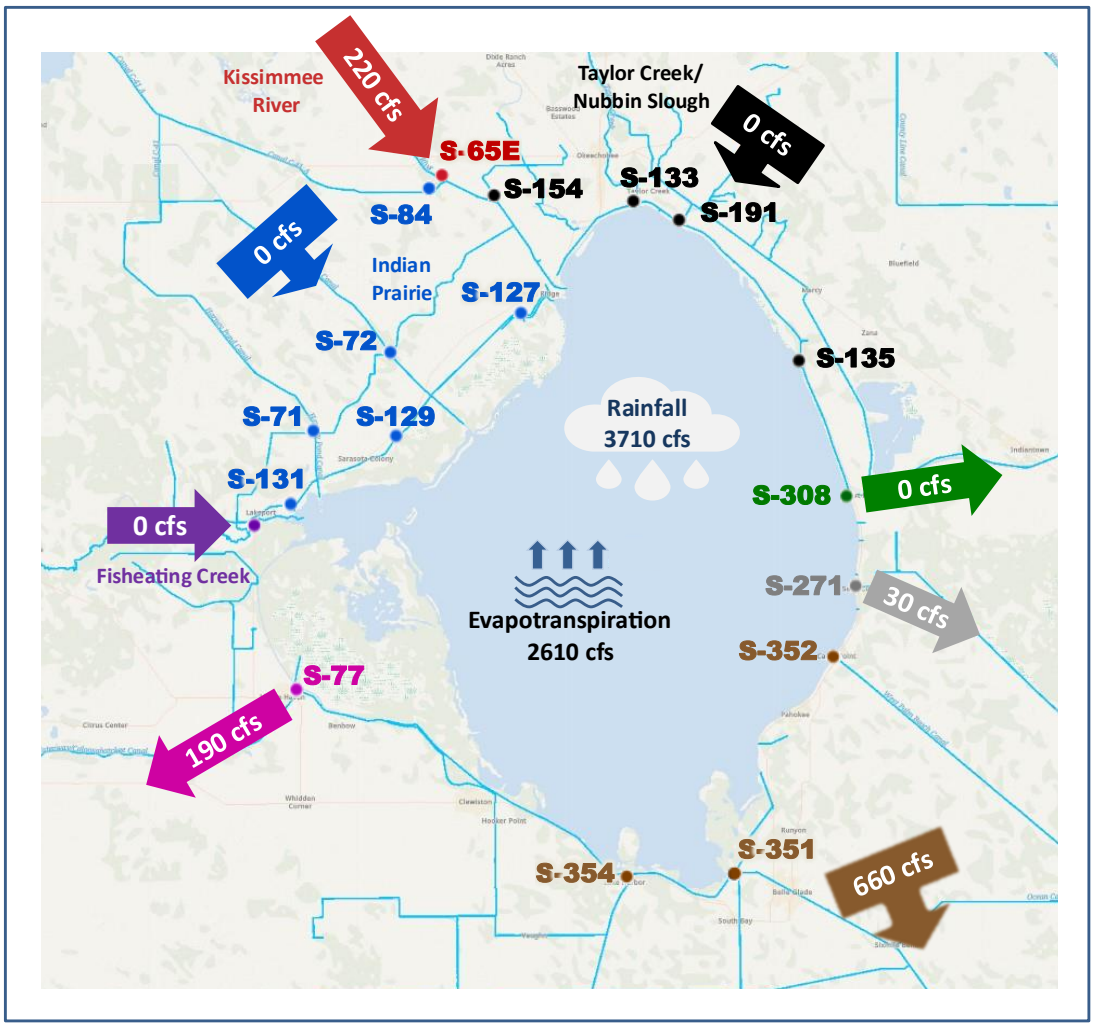


Figure LO-5. Inflows into Lake Okeechobee from Indian Prairie basins, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek (currently no flow data available for FECR), and outflows to the west via S-77, to the east via S-308, to the south via S-351, S-352, S-354, and to southeast via S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) for the week of May 25 - 31, 2026.

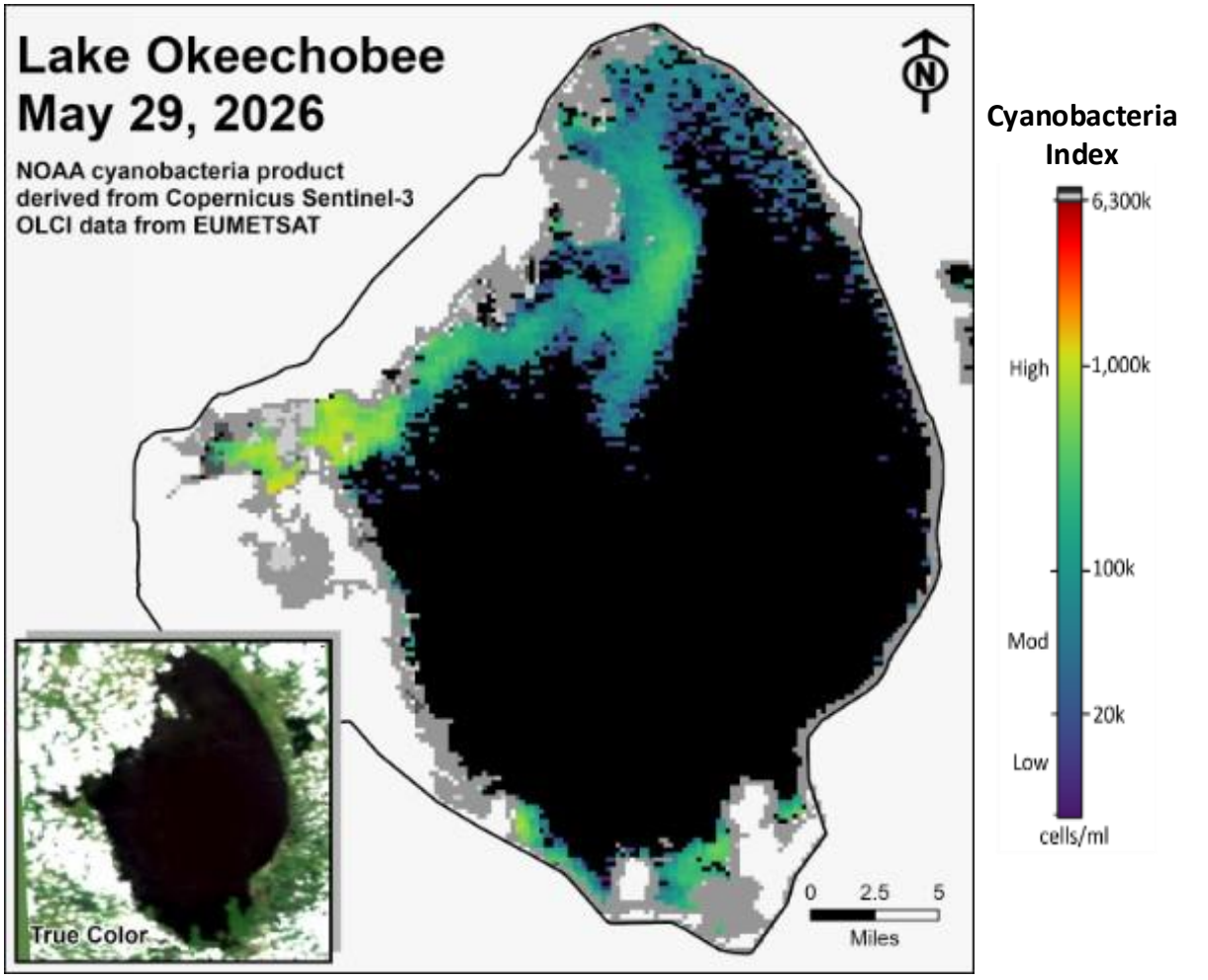


Figure LO-6. Cyanobacteria bloom index level on Lake Okeechobee, based on NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover. *Provisional NOAA image, subject to change*.

Collection Date: May 11-13, 2026

Station	CHL*a* (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA
FEBIN	*NS*	*NS*	*NS*
FEBOUT	87.2	BDL	*Raphi/Plank*
KISSR0.0	33.0	BDL	*Microcys*
L005	26.9	BDL	*mixed*
LZ2	30.0	BDL	*mixed*
KBARSE	28.9	BDL	*Microcys*
RITTAE2	*NS*	*NS*	*NS*
PELBAY3	*NS*	*NS*	*NS*
POLE3S	17.3	BDL	*Dolichos*
LZ25A	*NS*	*NS*	*NS*
PALMOUT	16.8	BDL	*Dolic/Plank*
PALMOUT1	11.9	BDL	*Microcys*
PALMOUT2	8.7	BDL	*Microcys*
PALMOUT3	9.0	BDL	*mixed*
POLESOUT	68.7	BDL	*Micro/Raphi*
POLESOUT1	45.3	BDL	*Microcys*
POLESOUT2	40.2	BDL	*Microcys*
POLESOUT3	43.6	BDL	*mixed*
EASTSHORE	35.6	BDL	*Microcys*
NES135	16.7	BDL	*Microcys*
NES191	20.0	BDL	*Microcys*

Station	CHL*a* (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA
L001	33.7	BDL	*Microcys*
L004	9.3	BDL	*mixed*
L006	4.3	BDL	*mixed*
L007	6.1	BDL	*mixed*
L008	46.5	BDL	*Microcys*
LZ30	10.8	BDL	*Microcys*
LZ40	9.2	BDL	*mixed*
CLV10A	19.8	BDL	*Microcys*
NCENTER	15.0	BDL	*mixed*
S308C	13.8	BDL	*Micro/Dinop*
S77	25.0	BDL	*Micro/Raphi*

- SFWMD considers >40 µg/L Chlorophyll *a* an algal bloom
- BDL – Below Detectable Limit of **0.2** µg/L (Cyl = 0.1 µg/L)
- ND – No Dominant taxa
- F – Flagged Sample
- NS – Not Sampled
- Station bold font – crew observed possible BGA
- Chlorophyll *a* (CHL*a*) analyzed by SFWMD
- Toxin & Taxa analyzed by FDEP:
  Microcys = Microcystis; Raphi = Raphidiopsis; Planktol = Planktolyngbya; Dolicho = Dolichospermum; Pseud = Pseudanabaena; Dinop = Dinophyceae

Toxins include cylindrospermopsin and/or microcsytins

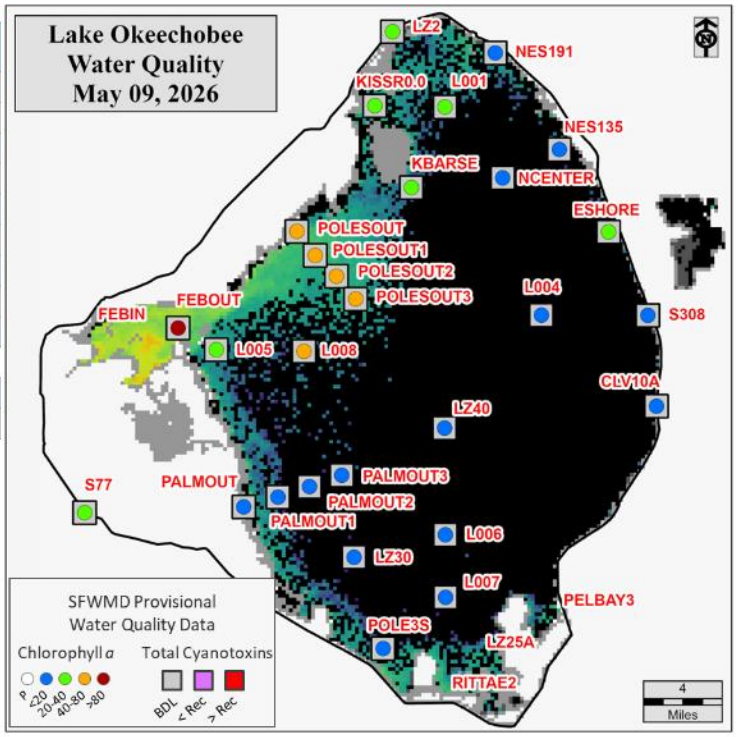


Figure LO-7. Dominant taxa, cyanotoxins (µg/L) and chlorophyll *a* (µg/L) concentration data from May 11-13, 2026. Sampling locations, chlorophyll *a*, and total toxin concentrations are overlaid on the May 9, 2026, image from NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover.

Estuaries

St. Lucie Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was 365 cfs (**Figures ES-1** and **ES-2**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 298 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-2**.

Over the past week, surface salinities decreased at all sites in 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 19.5. 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) for May was 0.4 spat/shell at Rio, which is a decrease from the previous month (**Figure ES-5**).

Caloosahatchee River Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary was 526 cfs (**Figures ES-6** and **ES-7**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 341 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from the contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-7**.

Over the past week, surface salinities increased at Val I-75, Cape Coral, and Sanibel, and decreased 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 at S-79, in the stressed range (10–15) at Val I-75, and in the damaging range (≥15) at Ft. Myers. The seven-day mean salinity values were within the upper stressed range (>25) for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel (**Figure ES-10**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rates reported by the FWRI in May were 1.9 spat/shell at Iona Cove and 5.6 spat/shell at Bird Island, which is an increase and a decrease from the previous month, respectively (**Figures ES-11 and ES-12**).

Surface salinity at Val I-75 was forecast for the next two weeks using an autoregression model (Qiu and Wan, 2013[1]) coupled with a linear reservoir model for the tidal basin. Model scenarios included pulse releases at S-79 ranging from 450 to 2,000 cfs, with estimated tidal basin inflows of 45 cfs. Model results from all scenarios predict daily salinity to be 10.2 or lower and the 30-day moving average surface salinity to be 9.9 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 if S-79 flows are above 450 cfs.

[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 FWRI reported on May 29, 2026, that *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide dinoflagellate, was not observed at bloom concentrations in any samples collected within the District region.

Water Management Recommendations

Lake stage is in Zone D. Current climatological conditions are normal and hydrological conditions are dry. The LOSOM release guidance suggests up to 2,000 cfs release at S-79 to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary and no releases at S-80 to the St. Lucie Estuary.

Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels

The minimum flows and levels (MFL) for the Caloosahatchee River Estuary is a 30-day moving average flow of 457 cfs or greater at S-79. The current 30-day average flow at S-79 is 341 cfs (**Figure ES-14),** which is an exceedance.

The MFL for the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River is a) flows at Lainhart Dam maintained at 35 cfs or greater and b) the 20-day moving average salinity of 2 or less at River Mile (RM) 9.2. An exceedance occurs when flows decline below 35 cfs for more than 20 consecutive days or when the 20-day moving average salinity at River Mile 9.2 exceeds 2. The current daily average flow at Lainhart Dam is 23 cfs and has been below the MFL for 8 consecutive days **(Figure ES-15)**. The 20-day average salinity at RM 9.2 is 0.8 **(Figure ES-16)**.

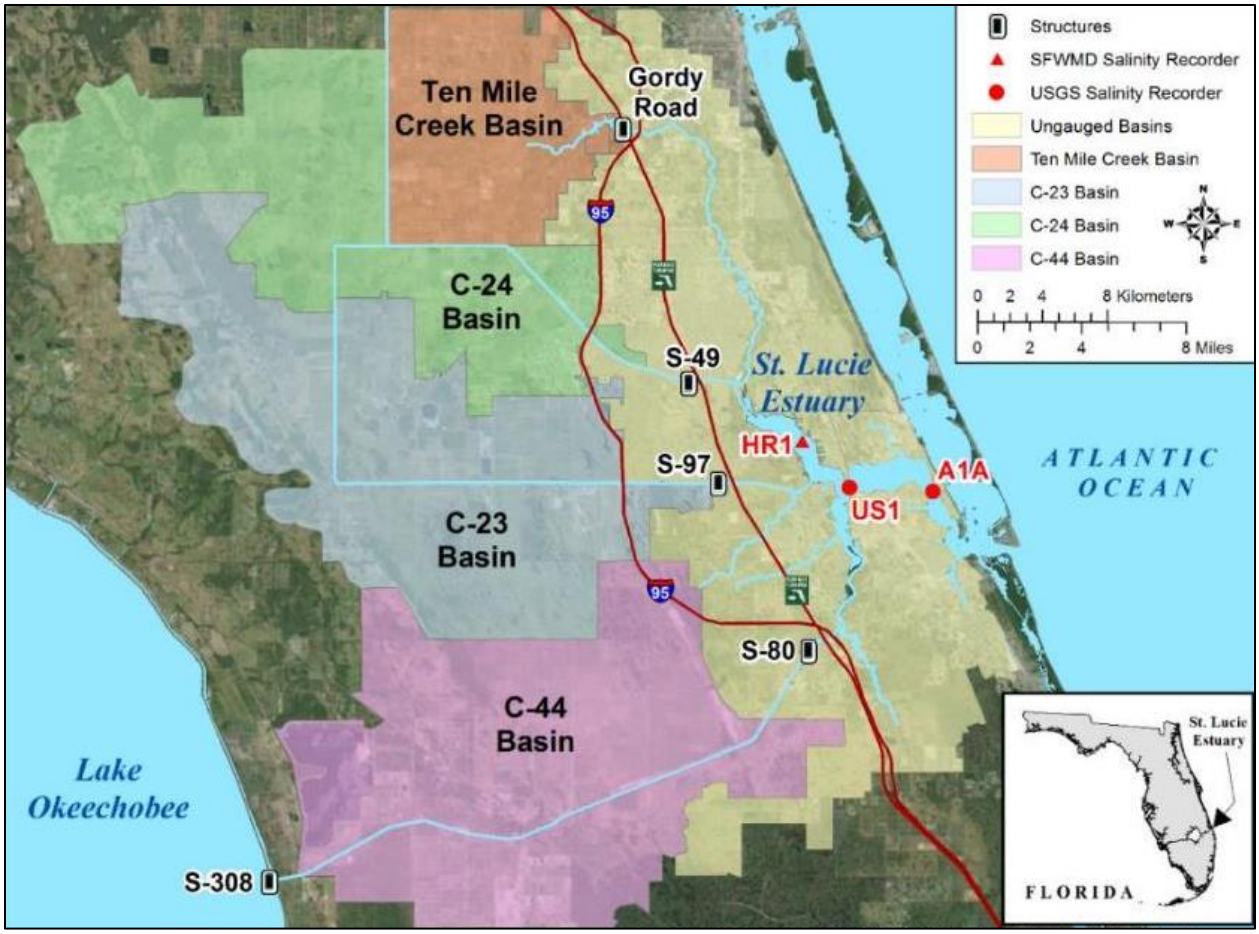


Figure ES-1. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

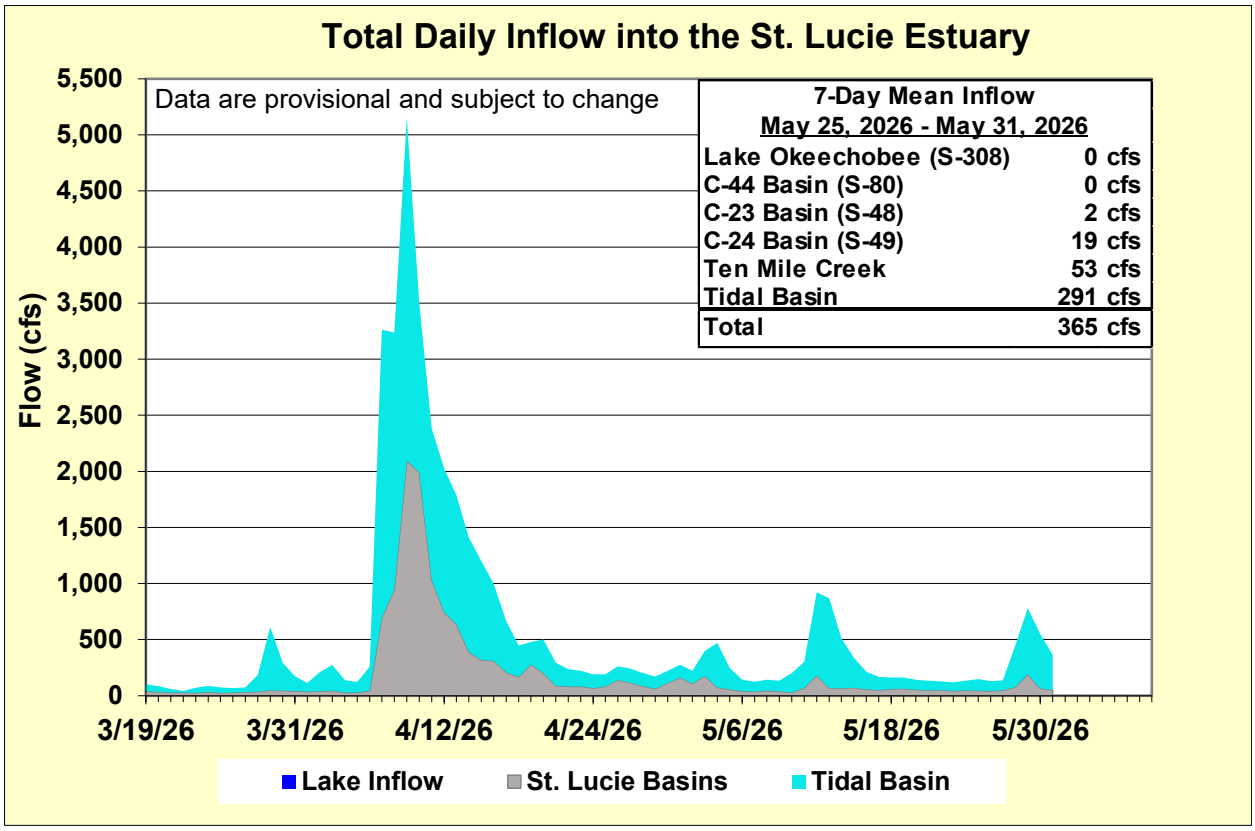


Figure ES-2. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-44, C-23, C-24, Ten Mile Creek, and Tidal Basins into the St. Lucie Estuary.

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)	**12.0** (14.3)	**16.5** (17.2)	10.0 – 25.0
US1 Bridge	**18.6** (20.1)	**20.4** (20.6)	10.0 – 25.0
A1A Bridge	**27.3** (28.4)	**29.4** (29.4)	10.0 – 25.0

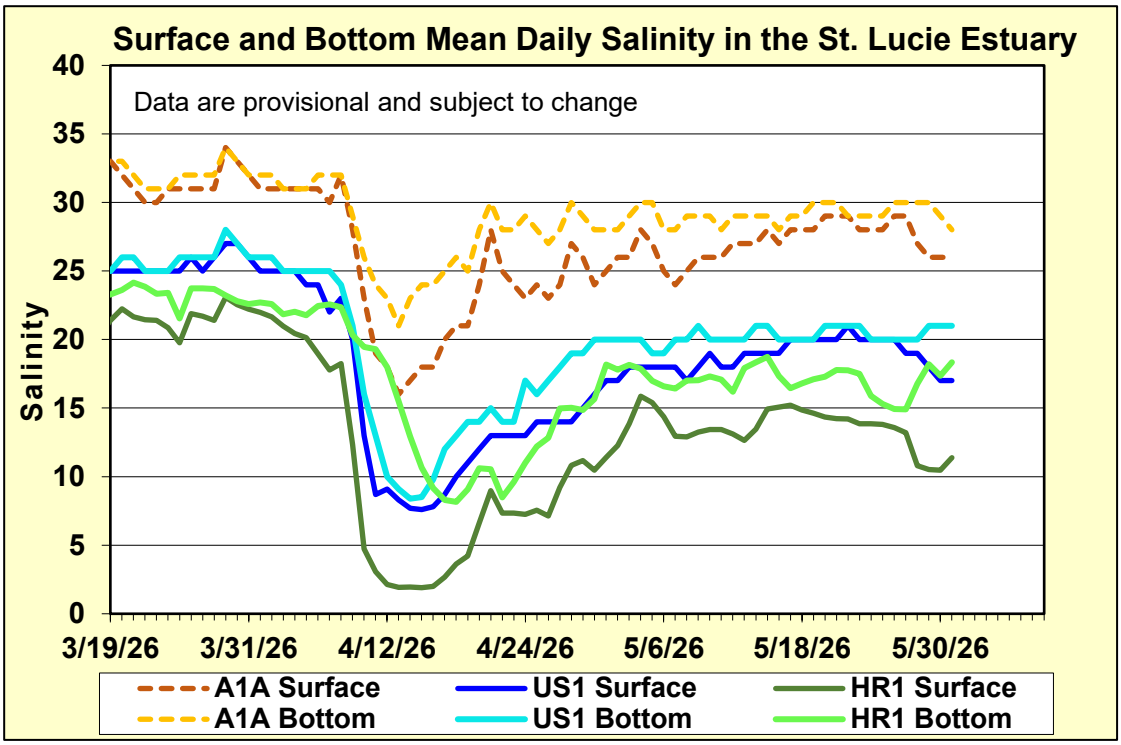


Figure ES-3. Mean daily salinity at the A1A, US1, and HR1 sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

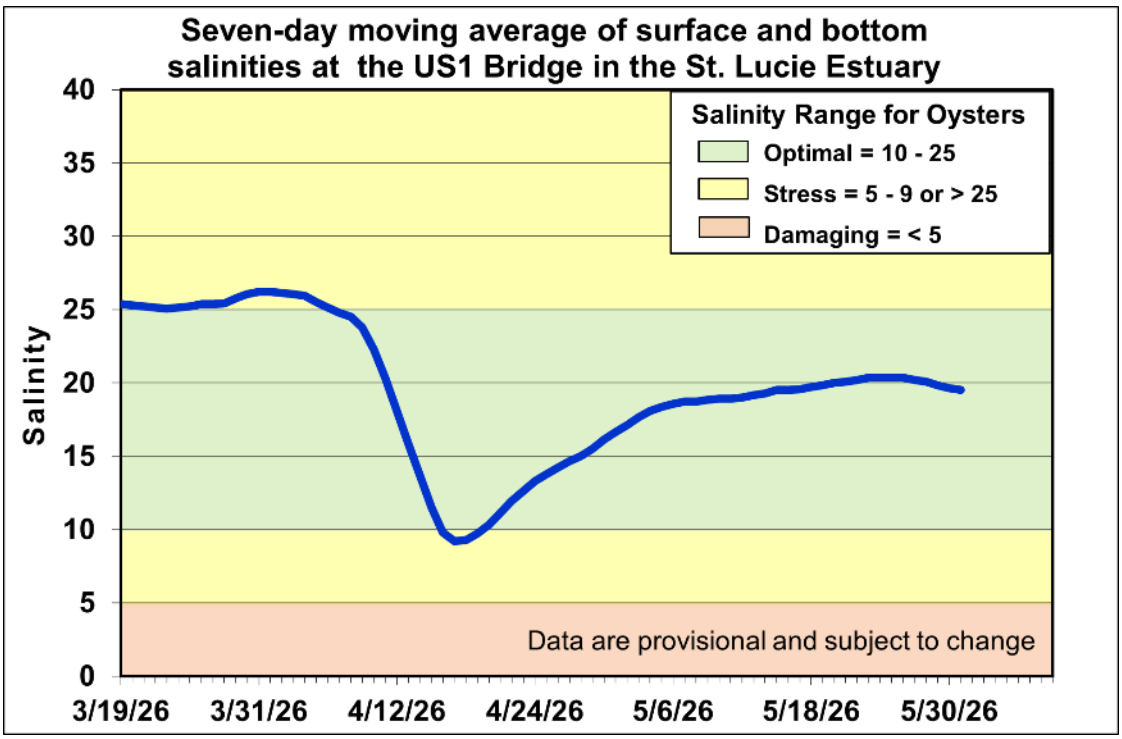


Figure ES-4. Seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge in the St. Lucie Estuary.

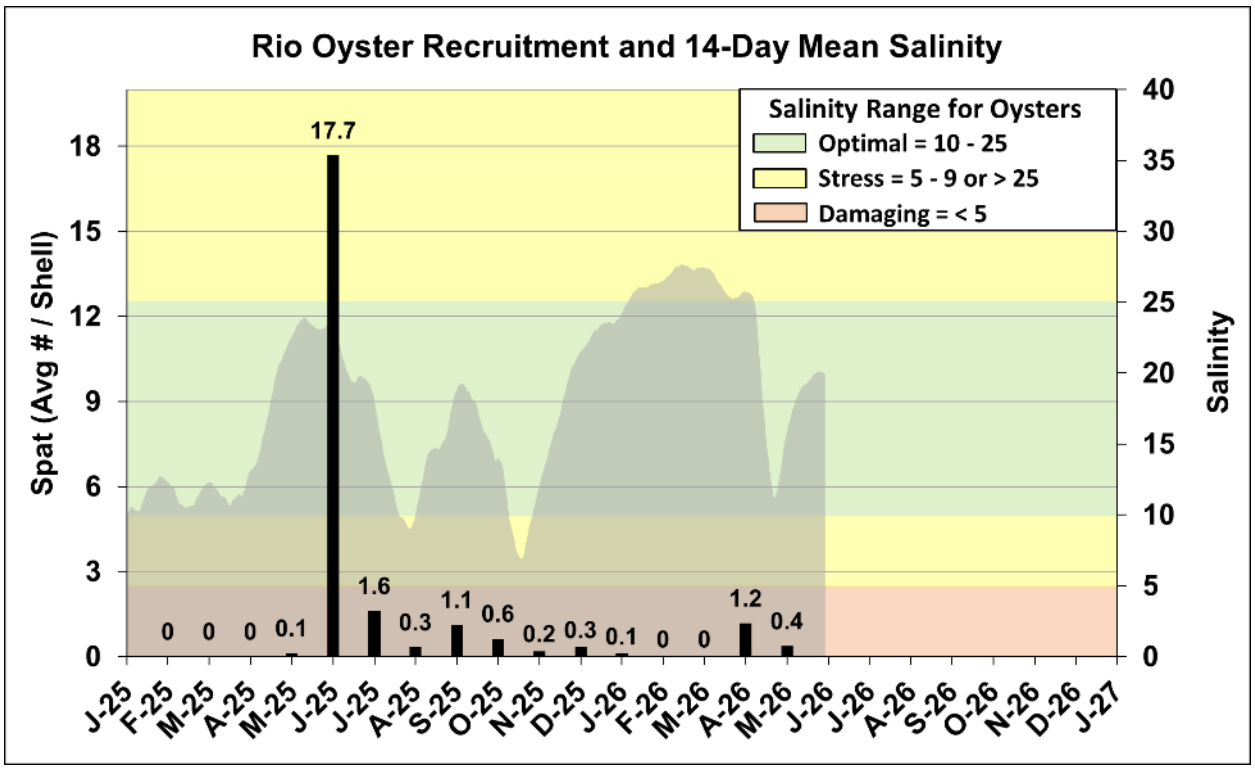


Figure ES-5. Mean oyster recruitment at the Rio oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at US1 Bridge.

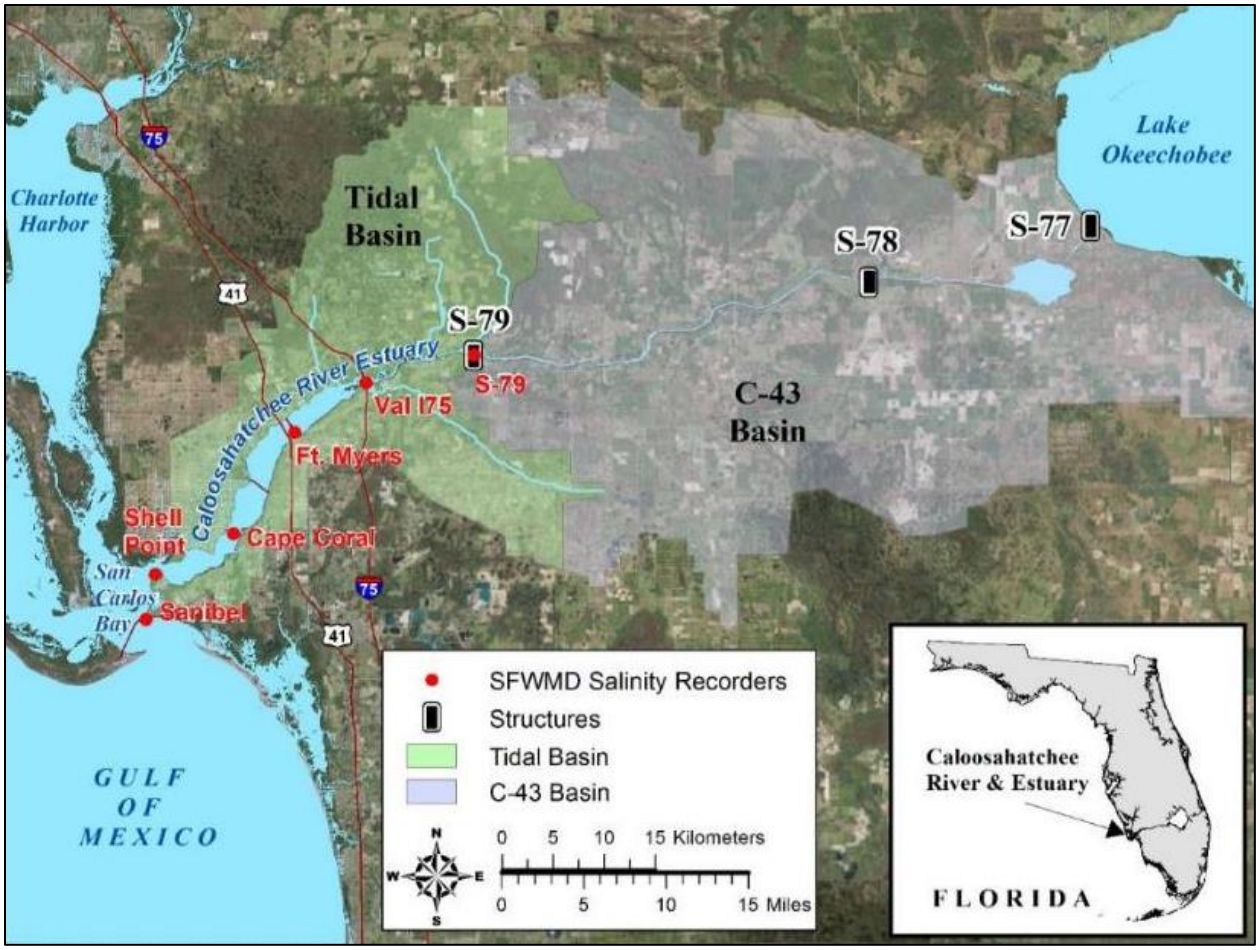


Figure ES-6. Basins, water control structures, and salinity monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

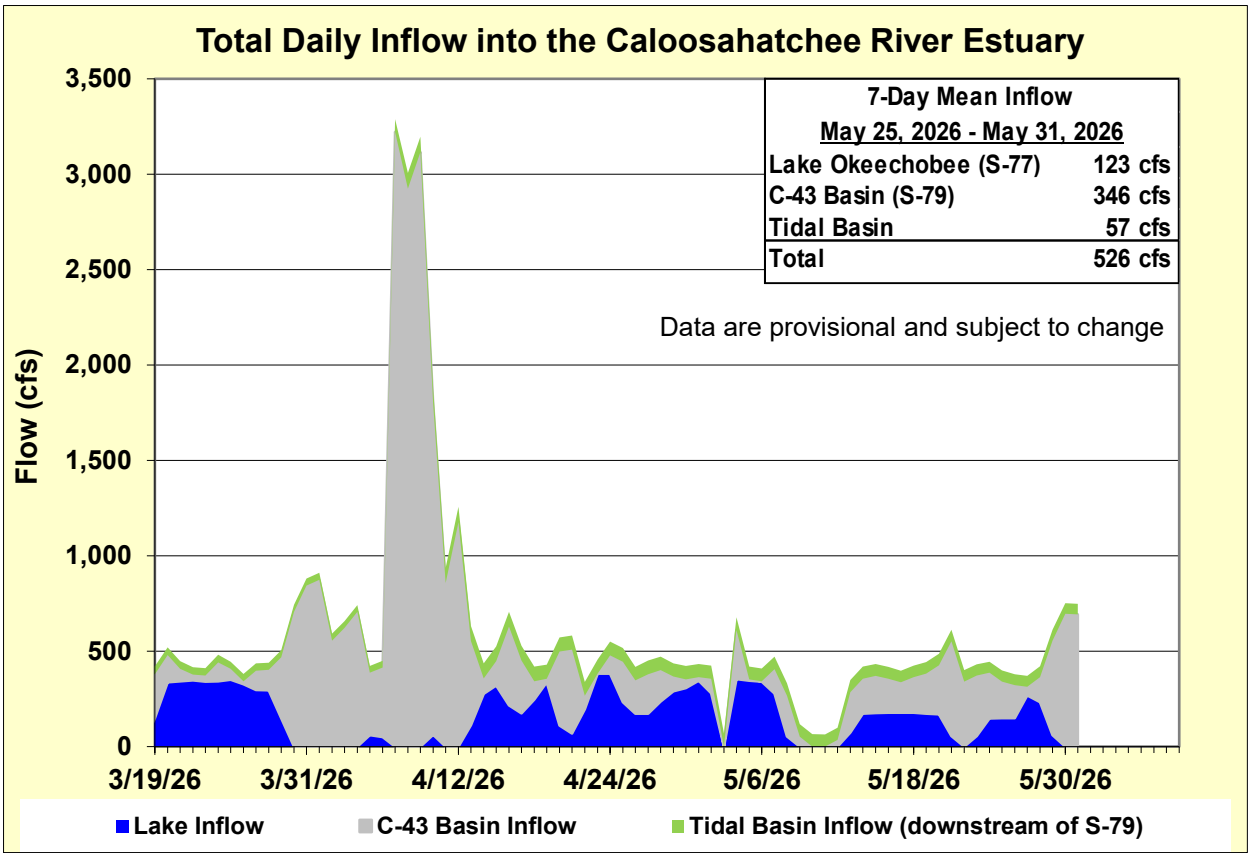


Figure ES-7. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee, and runoff from the C-43 and Tidal basins into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

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)	**8.4** (8.6)	**9.0** (9.6)	0.0 – 10.0
Val I-75	**11.3** (9.8)	**11.7** (12.5)	0.0 – 10.0
Fort Myers Yacht Basin	**16.9** (18.0)	**17.9** (20.3)	0.0 – 10.0
Cape Coral	**25.2** (25.1)	**26.0** (26.3)	10.0 – 25.0
Shell Point	**35.4** (35.8)	**35.1** (35.1)	10.0 – 25.0
Sanibel	**37.5** (37.0)	**39.0** (38.5)	10.0 – 25.0

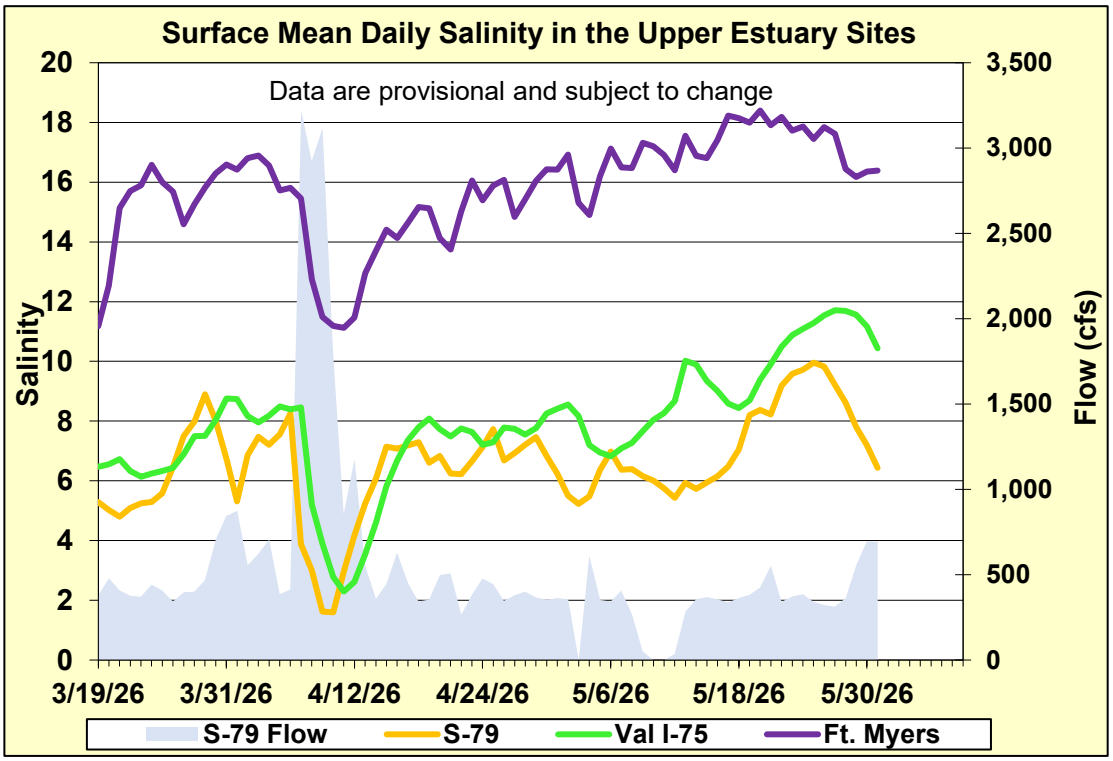


Figure ES-8. Mean daily salinity at upper Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

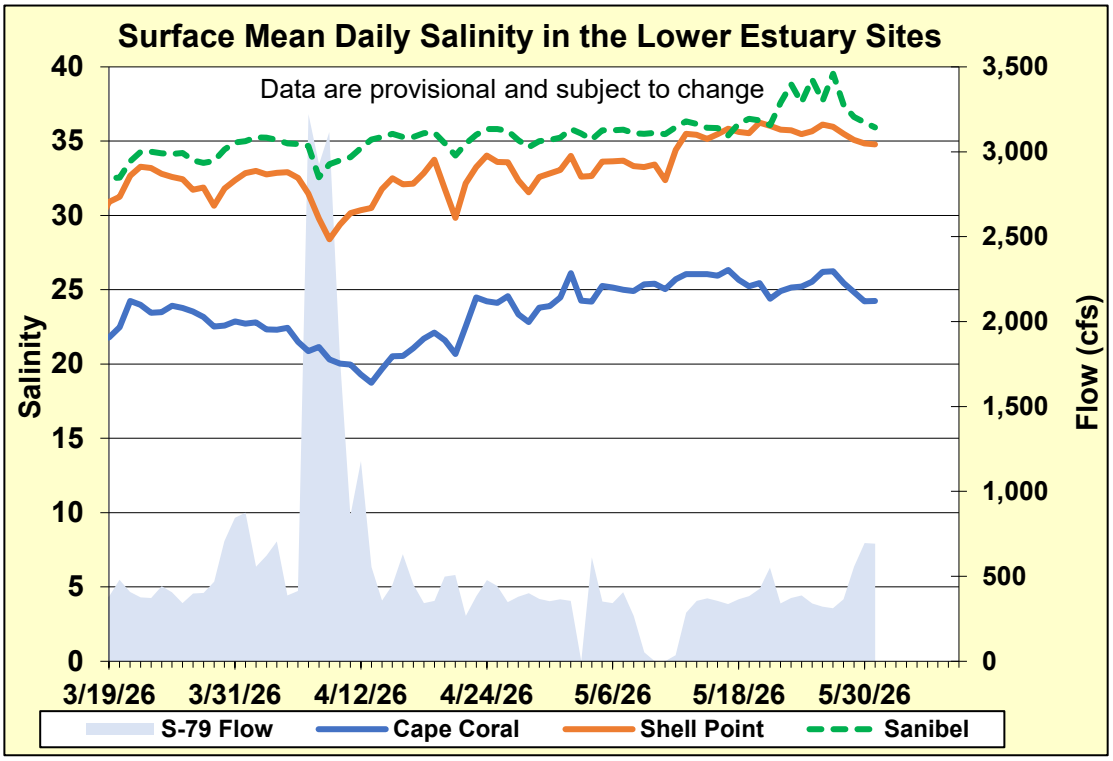


Figure ES-9. Mean daily surface salinity at lower Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

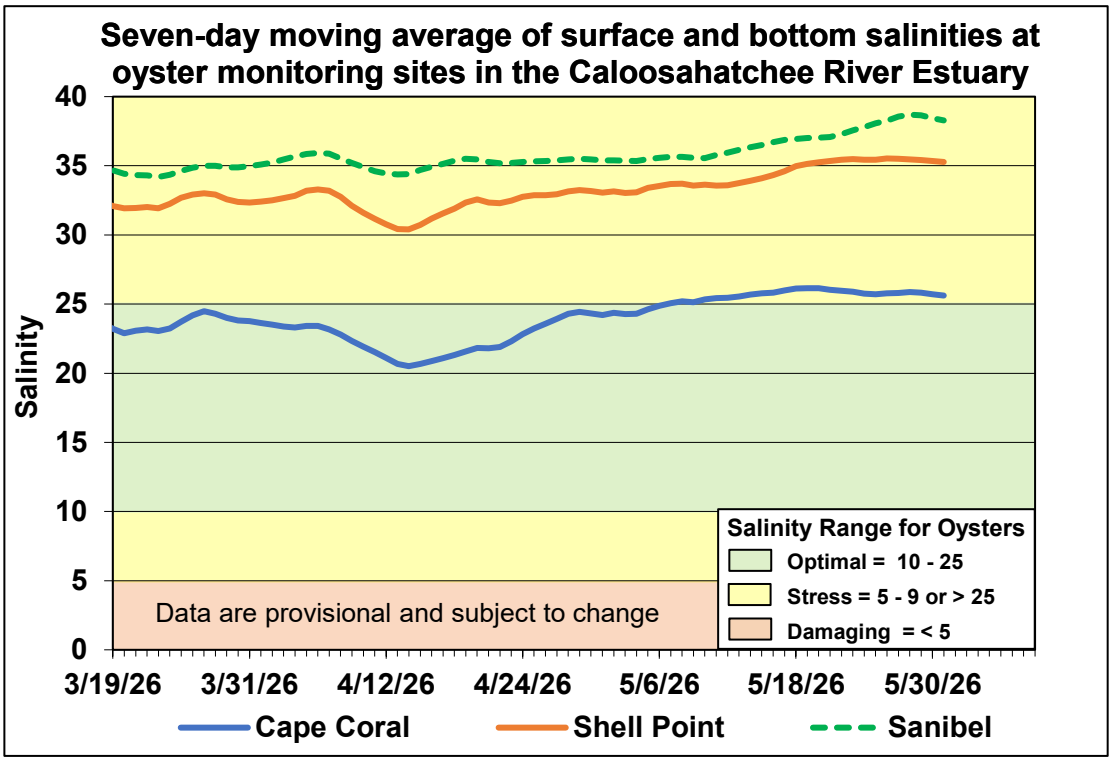


Figure ES-10. Seven-day moving average of surface and bottom salinities at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

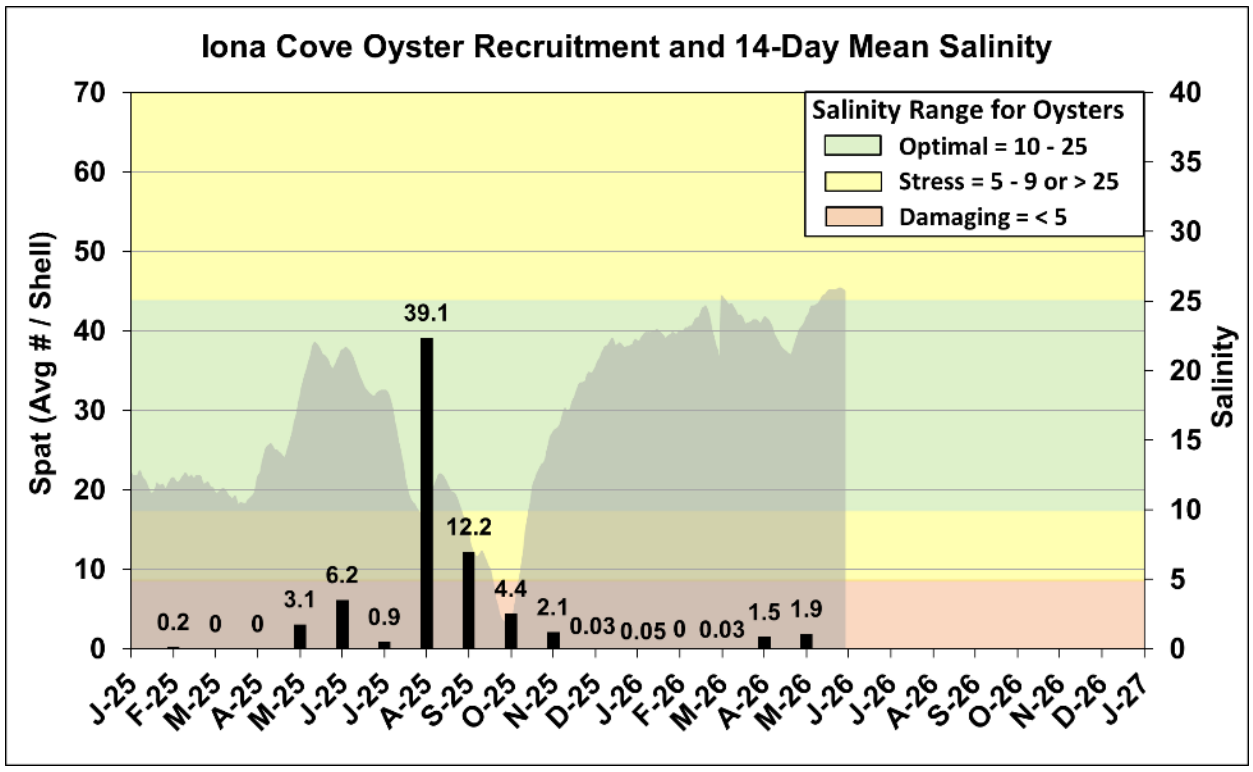


Figure ES-11. Mean oyster recruitment at the Iona Cove oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Cape Coral.

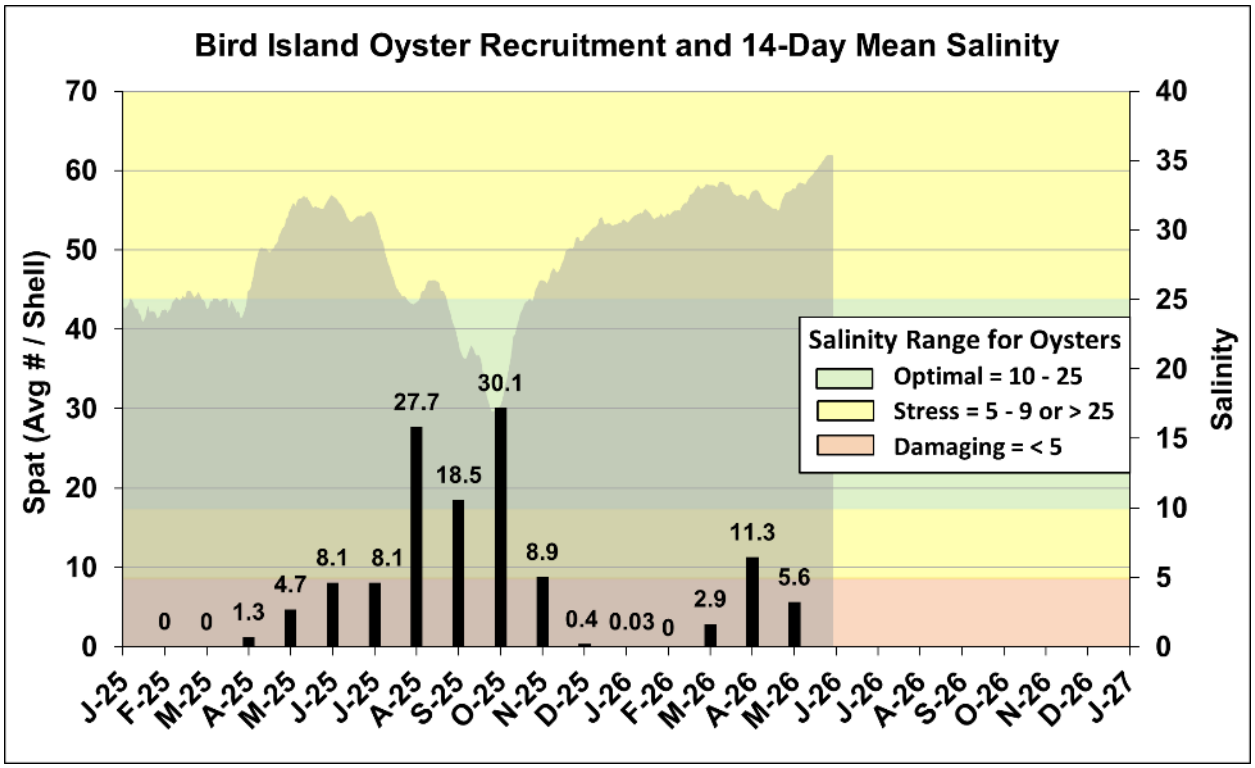


Figure ES-12. Mean oyster recruitment at the Bird Island oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Shell Point.

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	450	45	10.2	9.9
B	750	45	6.9	9.0
C	1,000	45	5.7	8.4
D	1,500	45	3.3	7.5
E	2,000	45	1.7	6.9

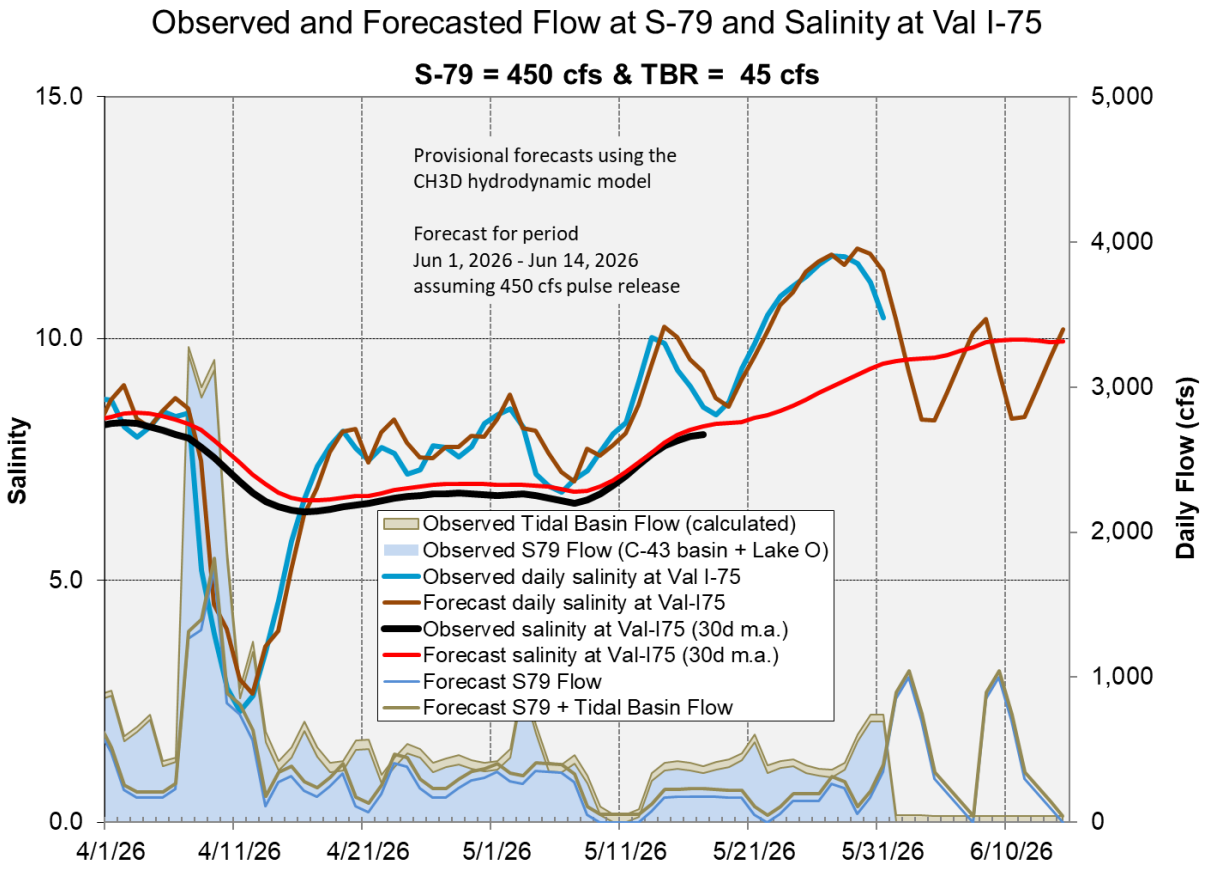


Figure ES-13. Surface salinity forecast at the Val I-75 site assuming a 450 cfs pulse release at S-79.

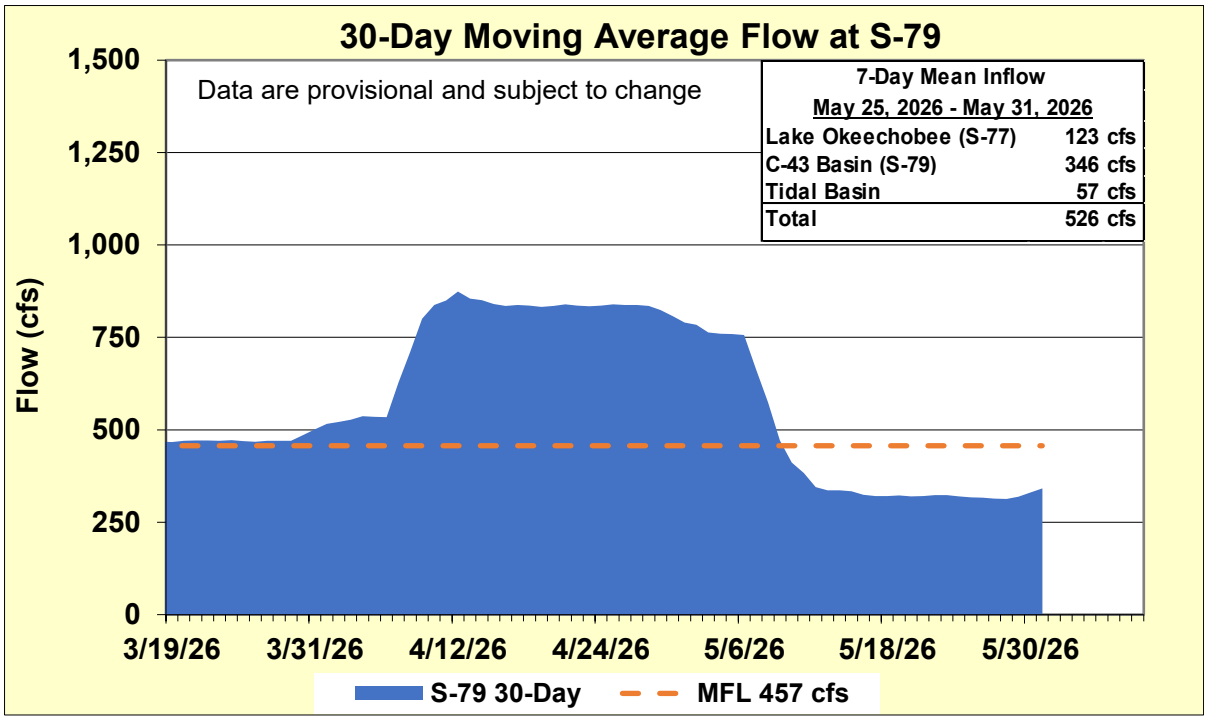


Figure ES-14. 30-day moving average flow at S-79 for the Caloosahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

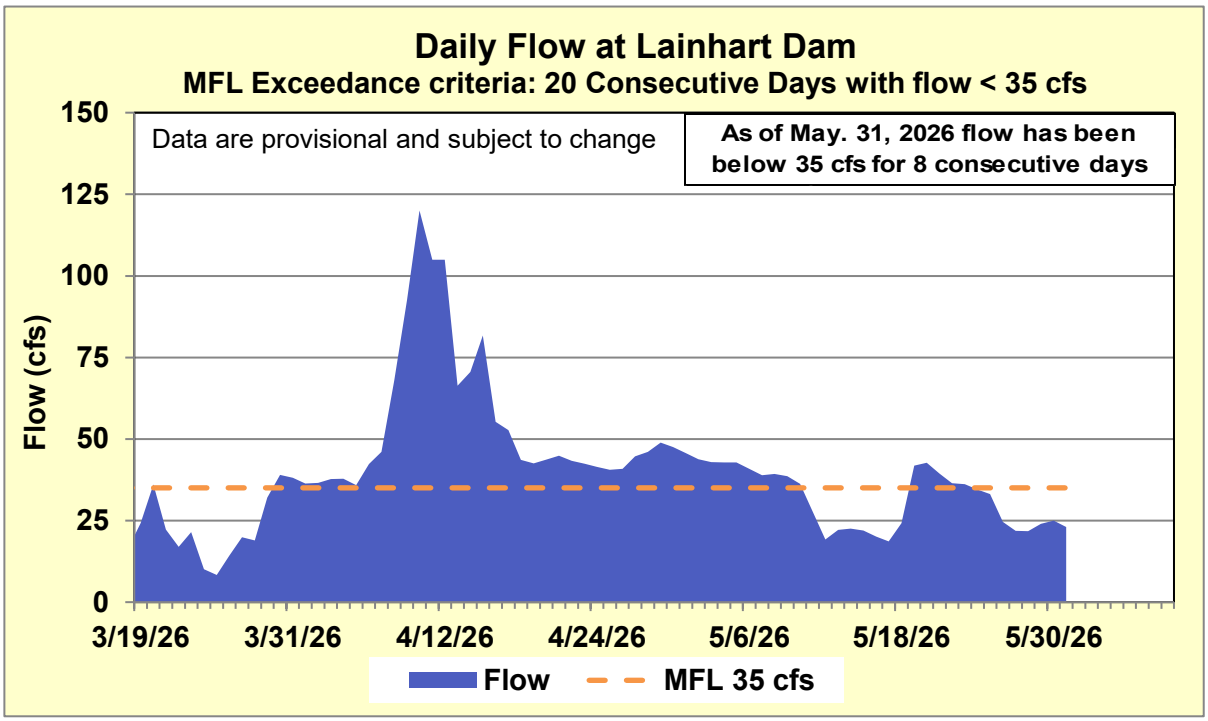


Figure ES-15. Average daily flow (cfs) at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

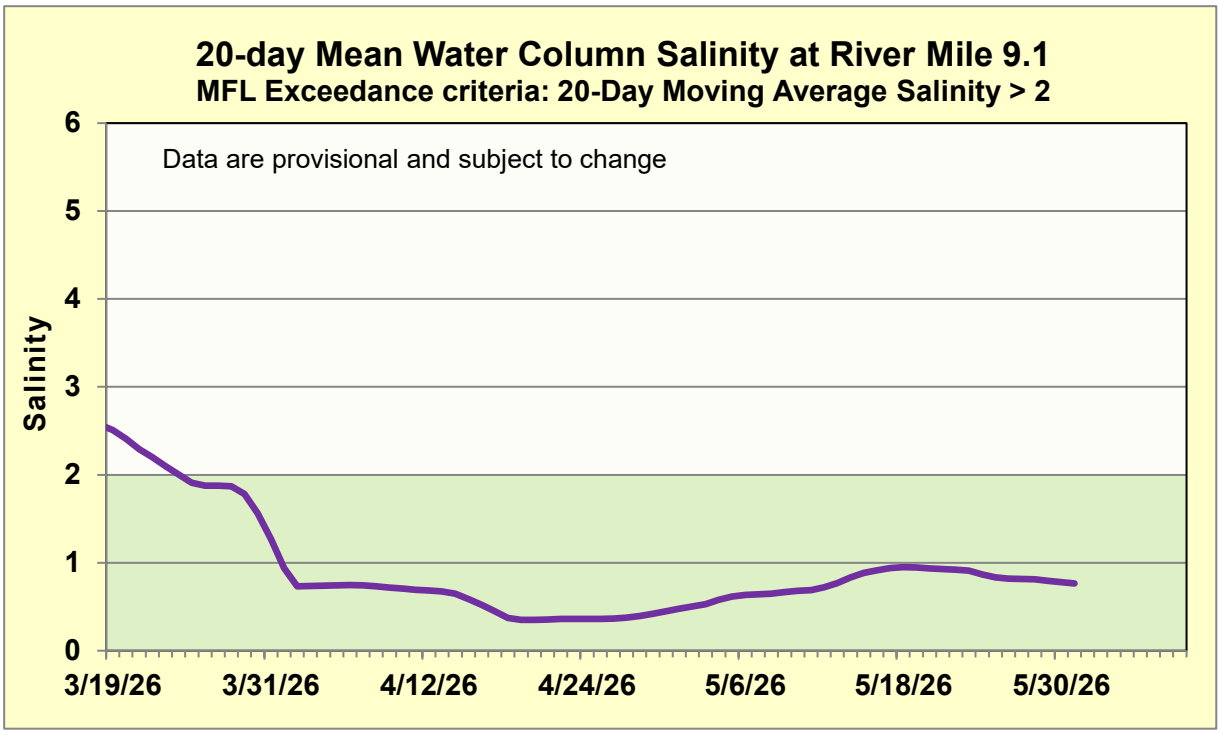


Figure ES-16. 20-day moving average salinity at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

Stormwater Treatment Areas

STA-1E: STA-1E Central Flow-way is offline for construction activities. An operational restriction is in place in the Western Flow-way for post-construction vegetation grow-in. STA-1E Central Flow-way contains nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. Online treatment cells are at or near target stage. The 365-day PLR for the Western and Eastern Flow-way is below 1.0 g/m^2/year (**Figure S-2**).

STA-1W: STA-1W Eastern Flow-way is offline for vegetation management activities. Treatment cells are at or near target stage. The Northern Flow-way, Eastern Flow-way and Cells 6 and 7 contain nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. Vegetation in the Western and Eastern Flow-ways is highly stressed. The 365-day PLRs for the Northern and Western Flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m^2/year (**Figure S-2**).

STA-2: Treatment cells are at target stage. An operational restriction is in place in Flow-way 2 and Flow-way 4 for vegetation management activities. Flow-ways 1 and 4 contain nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. The 365-day PLRs for all Flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m^2/year (**Figure S-3).**

STA-3/4: An operational restriction is in place in the Eastern Flow-way for vegetation management activities. Most treatment cells are at or slightly above target stage. Vegetation in the Central Flow-way is highly stressed. The 365-day PLR for the Eastern, Central, and Western Flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m^2/year (**Figure S-3**).

STA-5/6: Treatment cells are at or below target stage. All treatment cells have highly stressed vegetation conditions. Flow-way 3 contains nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. The 365-day PLRs for all Flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m^2/year. (**Figure S-4**).

For definitions on STA operational language see glossary following figures.

Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas - STAs

- Total WY2027 inflows to STAs (5/1/2026 to 5/31/2026): ~20,000 ac-ft

- Lake Okeechobee releases to FEBs/STAs
  - 5/25/2026 to 5/31/2026: 100 ac-ft
  - WY 2027: ~ 5,600 ac-ft

- Extensive vegetation management activities underway to address stressed and highly stressed vegetation in EAV cells
- MBTA protected species nesting in:
  - STA-1E: Cells 4N & 4S
  - STA-1W: Cells 1A, 1B, 3, 5B, 6 & 7
  - STA-2: Cells 1, 5 & 6
  - STA-5/6: Cell 5-3B
- All treatment cells are at or near target water depth

Estimated Inflow and Outflow Volumes
May. 25th, 2026 - May. 31st, 2026 *Includes preliminary data*

	Total Inflow (acre-feet)	Total Outflow (acre-feet)
STA-1E	30	70
STA-1W	1,600	350
STA-2	0	250
STA-3/4	0	1,400
STA-5/6	0	60

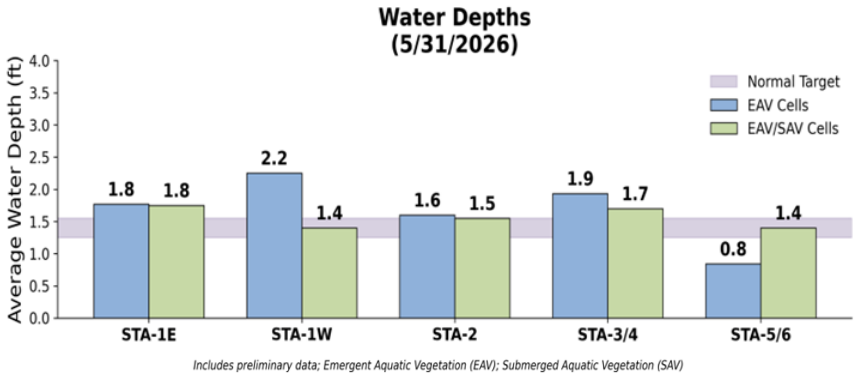


Figure S-1. STA depths and flow volumes

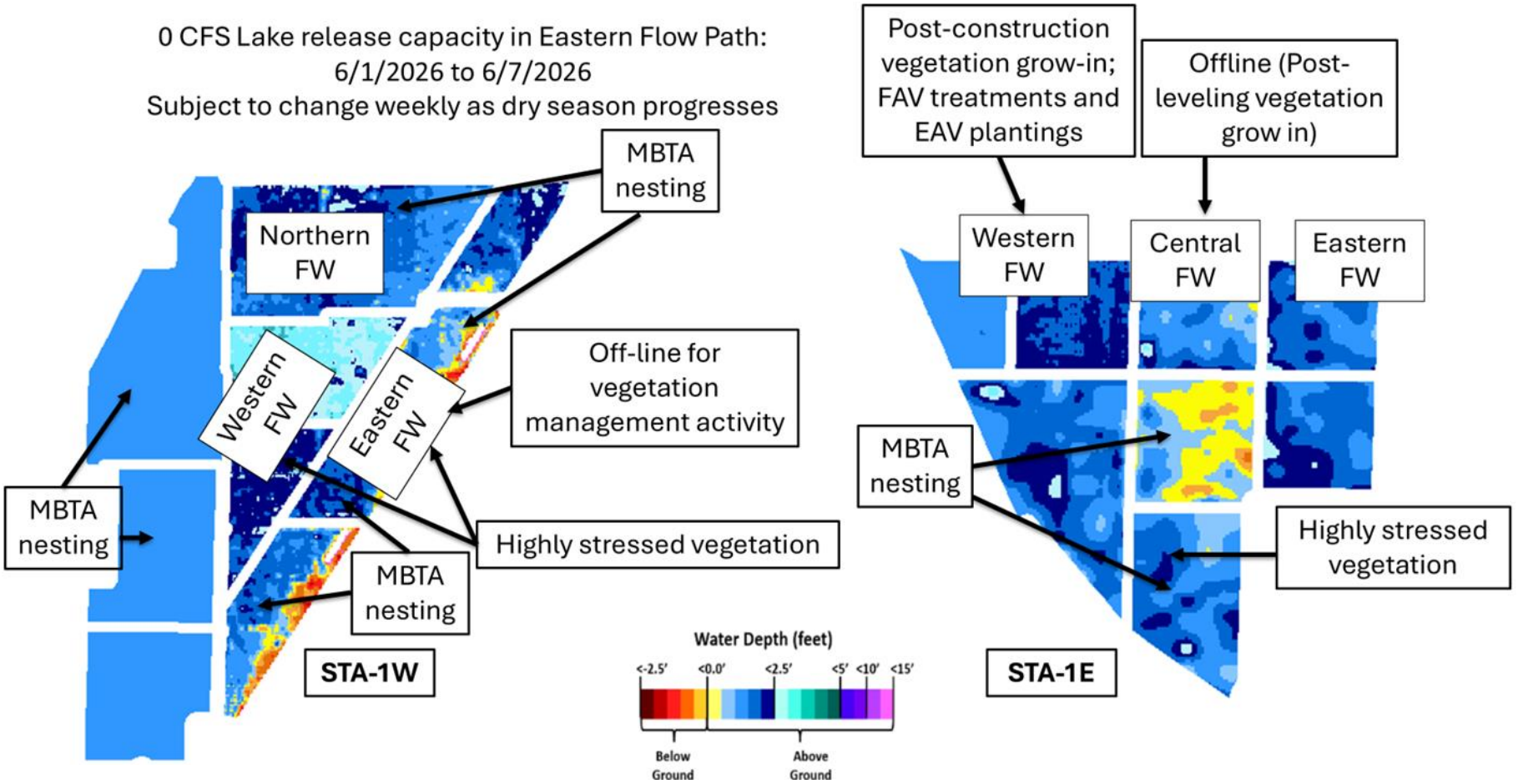


Figure S-2. Eastern Flow Path Weekly Status Report

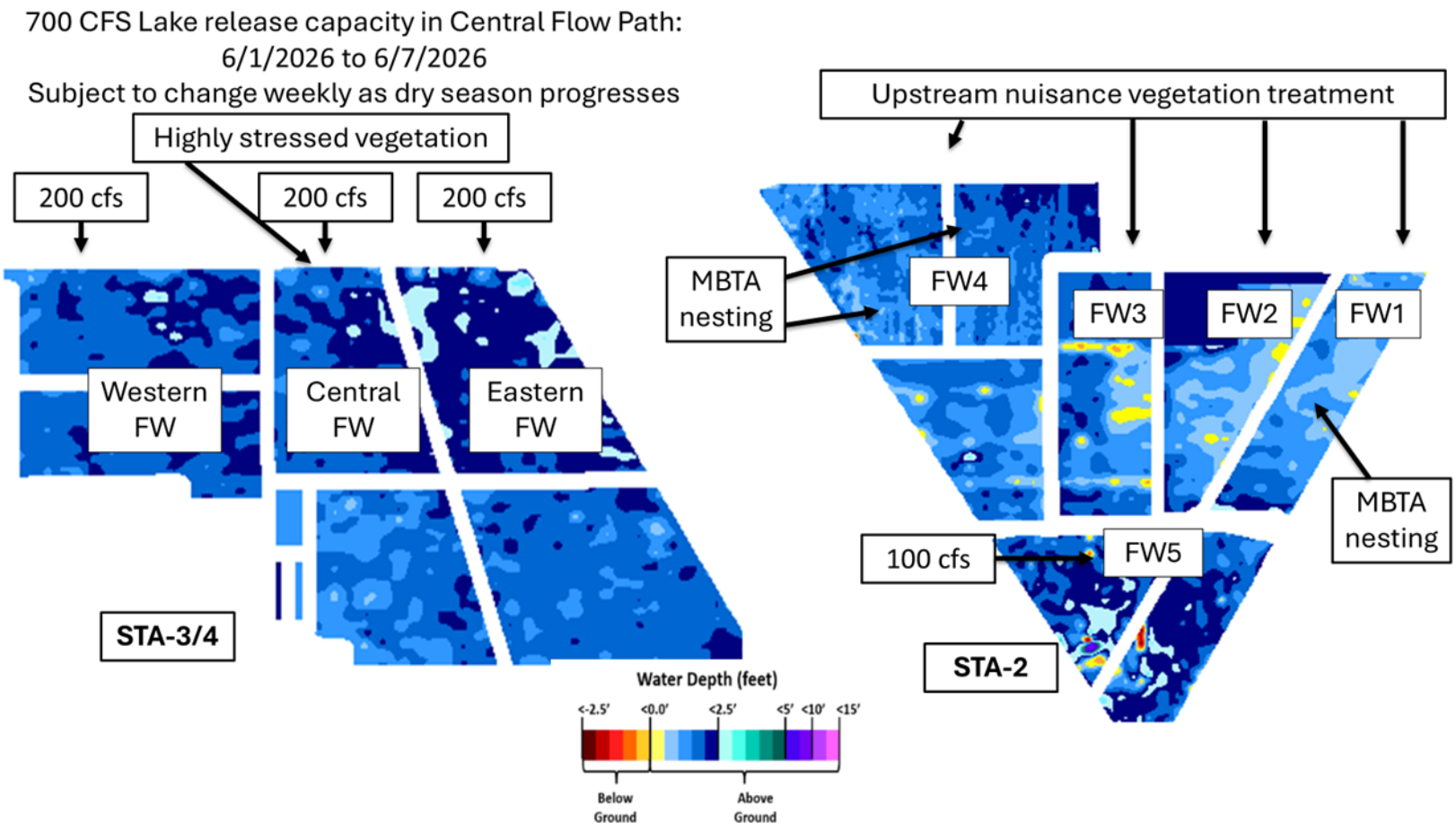


Figure S-3. Central Flow Path Weekly Status Report

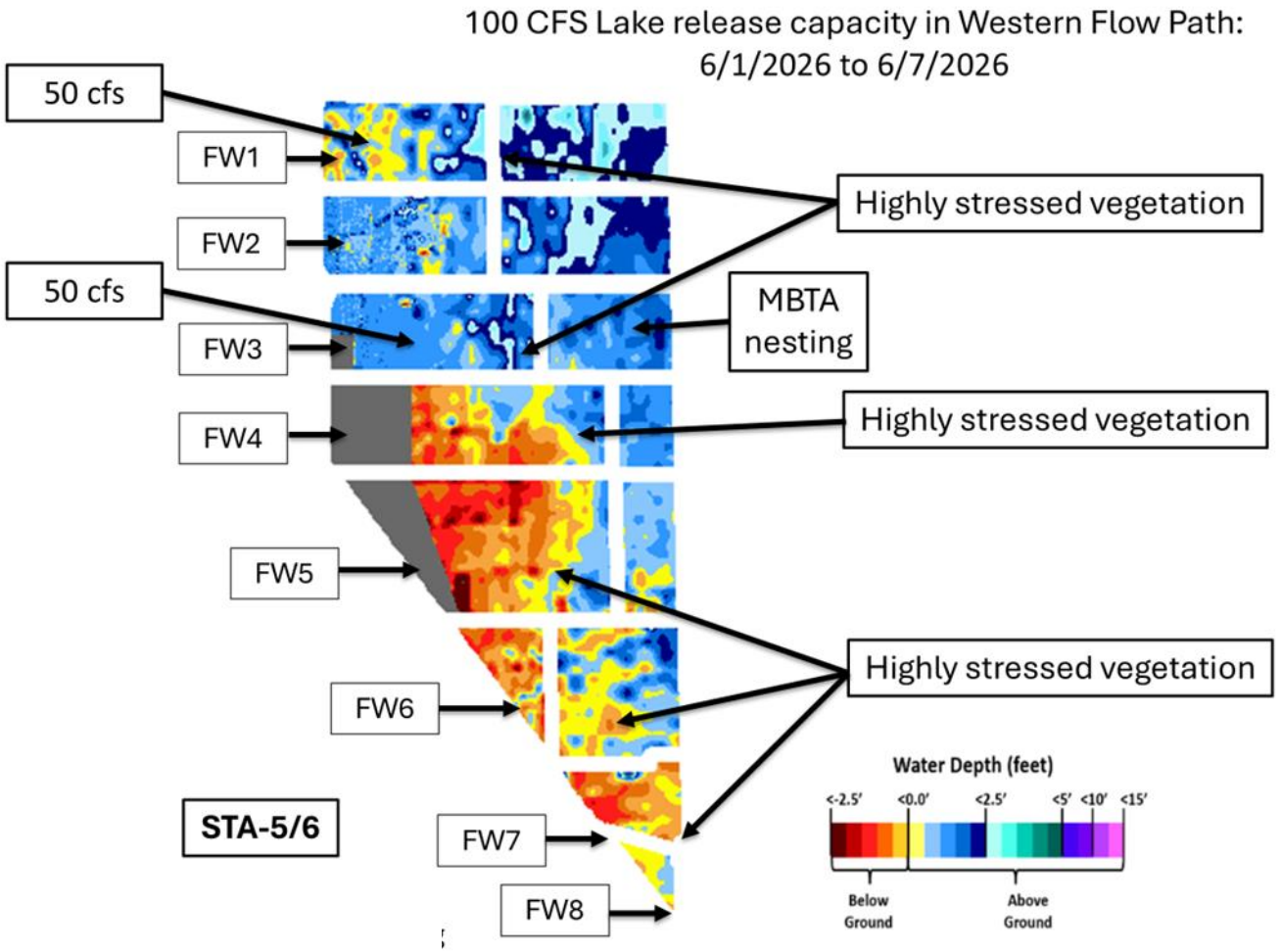


Figure S-4. Western Flow Path Weekly Status Report

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 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

WCA-1: Over the past week, stage change was moderate at the 1-8C gauge and remained above the A1 Zone regulation line. As of Sunday May 31, 2026, stage was 0.33 feet above the line (**Figure EV-1**).

WCA-2A: Recession in stage at the 2-17 gauge slowed compared to last week. Stages were 0.69 feet above the regulation line on Sunday (**Figure EV-2**), with S11B headwater stage trending down sharply.

WCA-3A: The 3-gauge average remains well within Zone B. Average stage change over the week was unequal and uncertain as gauge 3-63 is not reading correctly, and the central Everglades recorded a more than one foot increase. On Sunday, stages were approximately 1.5 feet below the Zone A regulation line. Stage at Gauge 62 (NW corner) rose over the week but remains below the Upper Schedule line by 0.77 feet on Sunday (**Figures EV-3** and **EV-4)**.

Water Depths

The SFWDAT model output for May 31, 2026, illustrates that both northern WCA-1 and northern WCA-2A are drier compared to one month ago. Significantly below ground conditions continue to expand across WCA-3A compared to one month ago, with only partial relief of below ground conditions limited to areas that received very heavy rainfall last week. Water depths remain low across Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP), WCA-3A, and -3B with impacts on soil, flora, and fauna. In Everglades National Park (ENP) there is very little hydrologic connectivity from north to south, however Taylor Slough (TSB) stage rose above soil surface, and based on aerial reconnaissance there is more connection to the coast. Comparing current conditions to water depths over the last 20 years, WCA-1 water depths are now mostly above average with some ponding to the south. WCA 2A water depths are below average in the far north, and above average along the southeast perimeter of that basin. Most of Big Cypress National Preserve water depths are below the 50th percentile; for this time of year within that basin, this means depths significantly below ground to the south and west. A majority of WCA-3A and -3B water depths remain below the 10th percentile, as they have over the last year. Inflows to the northwest are keeping a portion of northern WCA-3A above average. Recurring below average water depths in the central Everglades are illustrating the system-level importance of maintaining water in the sloughs and low-water refugia in the central region as dry condition meant a fifth year in a row of below average wading bird nesting. Conditions in central ENP are below average (far below in the northwest), while southeastern ENP remains above average responding to heavy rains last week at the Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB) site. See **Figures EV-5** and **EV-6**.

Taylor Slough and Florida Bay

Most stages increased across Taylor Slough since May 22nd, with an average increase of 0.42 feet for the week. Changes ranged from −0.08 feet at P37 in the southern slough to

+1.36 feet at E112 in the northern slough (**Figure EV-7 and Figure EV-8**). The stage at Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB) is no longer negative. Taylor Slough water levels remain above the recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 2.9 inches compared to before the Florida Bay Initiative (starting in 2017), an increase of 2.5 inches relative to last week. The stages at TSB and Craighead Pond (CP) are below the estimated historical average by 1.43 and 0.13 feet, respectively.

Average salinity in Florida Bay was 37.5, an increase of 0.7 from May 22nd. Salinity changes ranged from −2.8 at Garfield Bight (GB) in the western nearshore region to +6.6 at Joe Bay (JB) in the eastern nearshore region (**Figure EV-7**). Salinity remains above the estimated historical average and within the WY2001-2016 Interquartile Range (IQR) for all three regions (**Figure EV-9**). Salinities in the central and western regions are near and above the hypersalinity threshold, respectively. Bay-wide salinity remains above its recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 1.3, an increase of 0.5 from last week.

Salinity at the Taylor River (TR) station in the mangrove zone (tracked for the Florida Bay MFL) was 28.0, an increase of 3.8 from last week (**Figure EV-10**). The 365-day moving sum of flow from the five major creeks (McCormick Creek, Taylor River, Mud Creek, Trout Creek, West Highway Creek) was unable to be assessed due to missing data.

Average rainfall across Taylor Slough and Florida Bay was 1.14 inches since May 22nd, based on the 18 gauges used for this report. Rainfall ranged from 0.00 inches at TR in the southern slough to 4.44 inches at TSB in the northern slough (**Figure EV-11**). Wind directions and speeds in Florida Bay ranged from 0.2 mph E on May 29th to 22.5 mph E on May 26th (**Figure EV-11**).

The Taylor River, Mud Creek, and West Highway Creek flow stations are currently offline until further notice, so data from all five major creeks are unable to be assessed. Based on the available data from Trout and McCormick Creeks, average daily flow totaled −629 ac-feet, with net negative flows since May 22nd. Total daily creek flow ranged from −1,142 ac-feet on May 29th to −92 ac-feet on May 31st (**Figure EV-12**). Average daily flow from Alligator Creek was −90 ac-feet, with net negative flows since May 22nd (**Figure EV-12**). Despite greater rainfall during this reporting period, the prevalent southerly winds likely drove negative creek flows and thus contributed to the increases in bay salinity.

Implications/considerations for water management.

- Due to current drought conditions in WCA-3, slower recessions in that WCA would help to protect the wetland ecology from damaging dry downs.

- Dry conditions did further extend the recent run of 4 consecutive poor wading bird nesting years into the 2026 nesting season.

- In southern WCA-2A, shallower conditions on average are needed to recover ridge and slough habitat. Moderate recessions within this basin have ecological benefit as conditions move into the wet season.

- There is currently a high fire risk within the central Everglades, wildfires during these dry conditions can be very damaging.

- Freshwater input into Taylor Slough and the C-111 basin could help moderate salinities and support recovery of estuarine conditions in Florida Bay.

- Conserving water in the WCAs while providing freshwater input to the sloughs of ENP will require careful consideration of a balance between the upstream and downstream ecological needs of the system. Individual regional recommendations can be found in **Table EV-2**.

Table EV-1. Previous week's rainfall and water depth changes in Everglades basins.

Everglades Region	Rainfall (inches)	Stage change (feet)
WCA-1	0.27	−0.13
WCA-2A	0.11	−0.13
WCA-2B	0.07	−0.20
WCA-3A	0.85	−0.09
WCA-3B	0.91	+0.17
ENP	0.97	+0.20

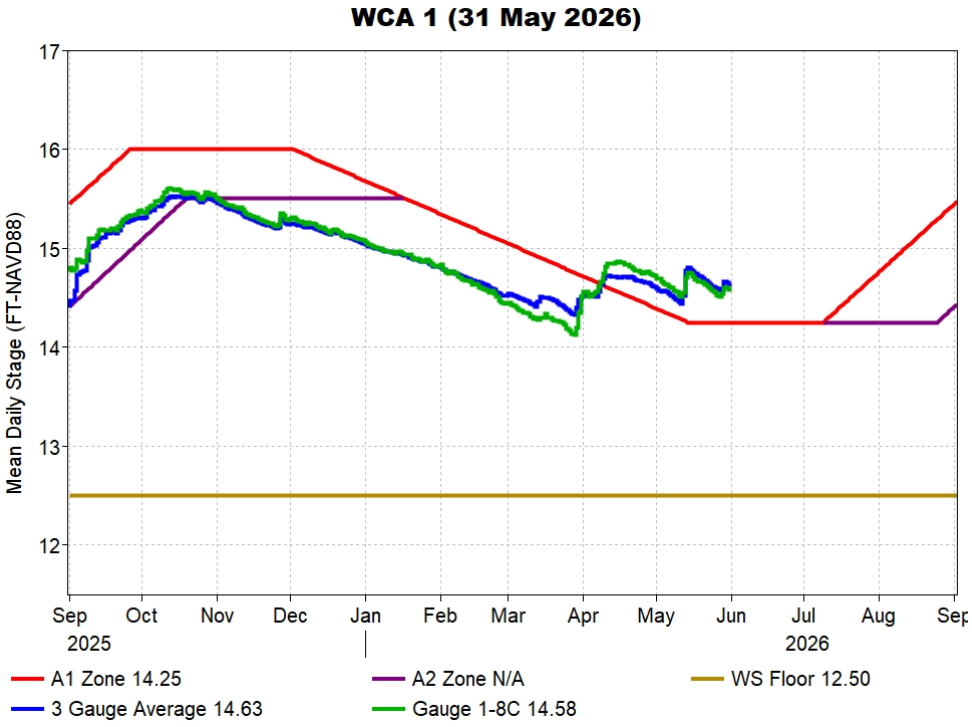


Figure EV-1. WCA-1 stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

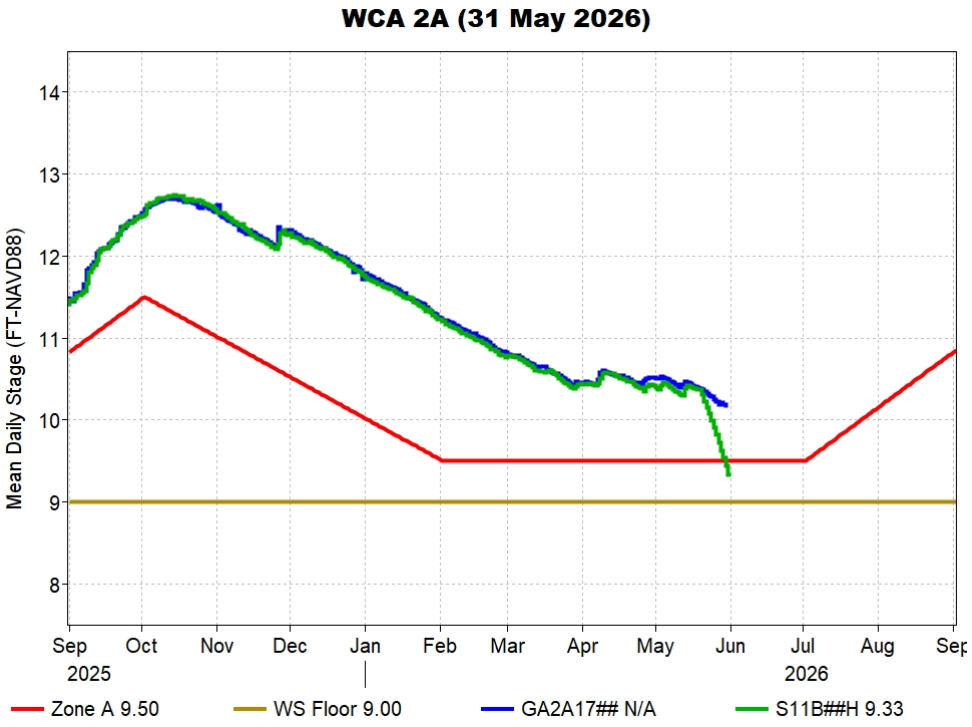


Figure EV-2. WCA-2A stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

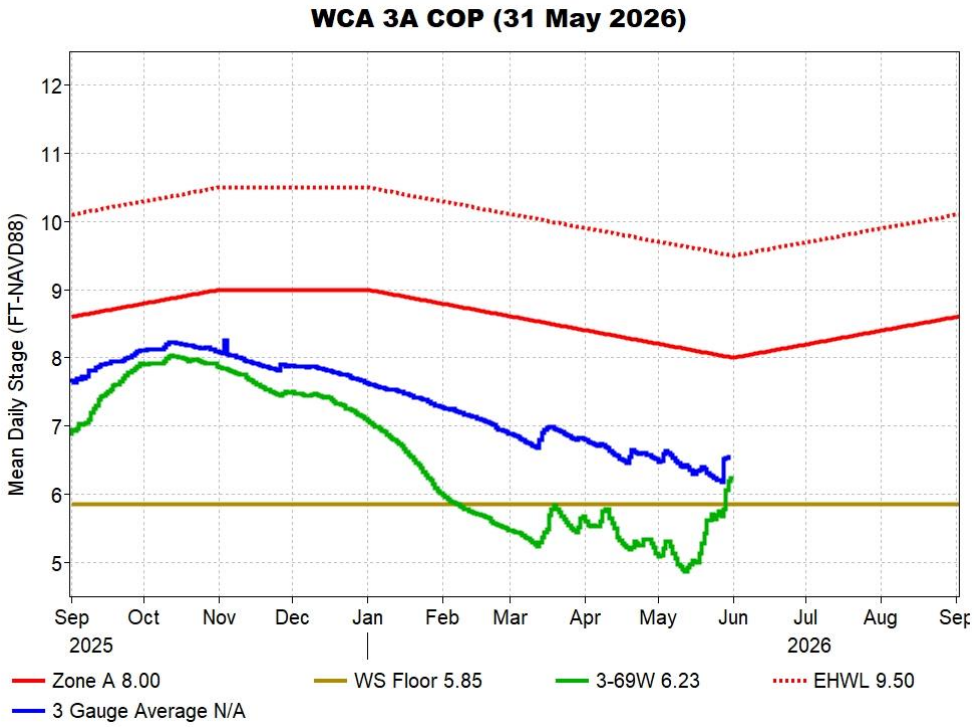


Figure EV-3. WCA-3A stage hydrographs (three-gauge average, 3-69W) and regulation schedule.

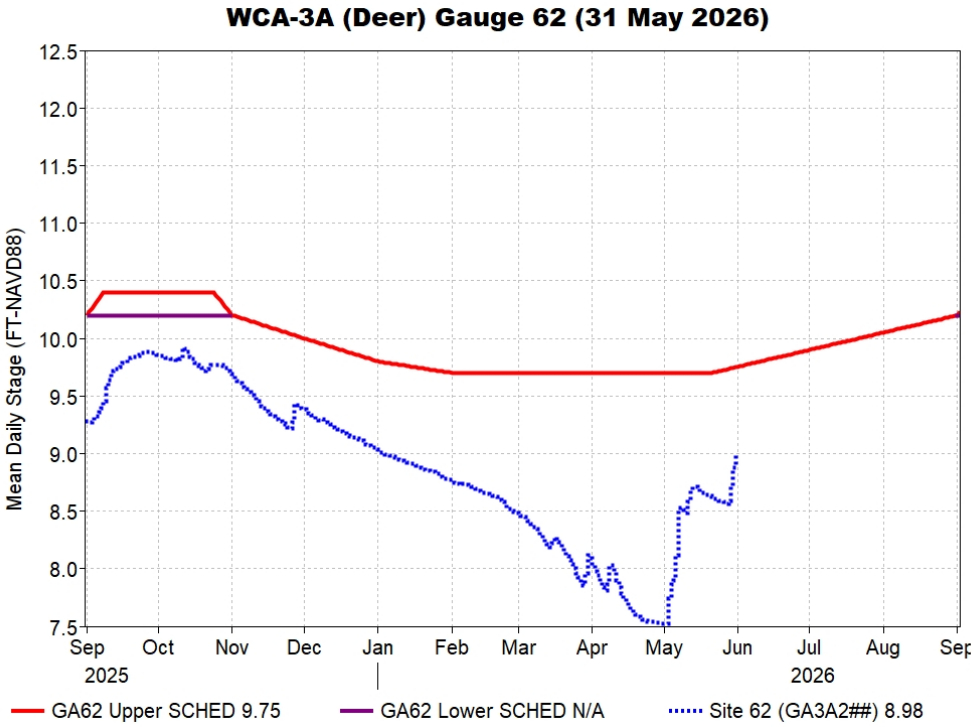


Figure EV-4. WCA-3A stage hydrograph (Deer gauge; Site 62) and regulation schedule.

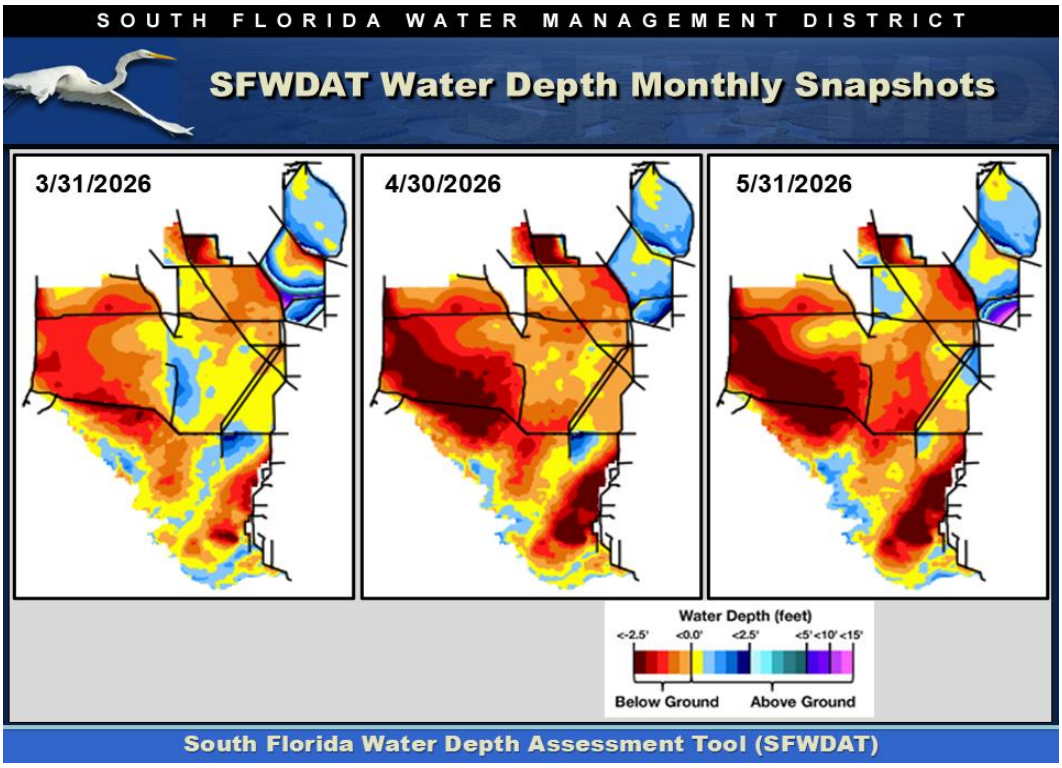


Figure EV-5. Everglades water depths from two months ago (left), one month ago (center) and present (right), based on SFWDAT.

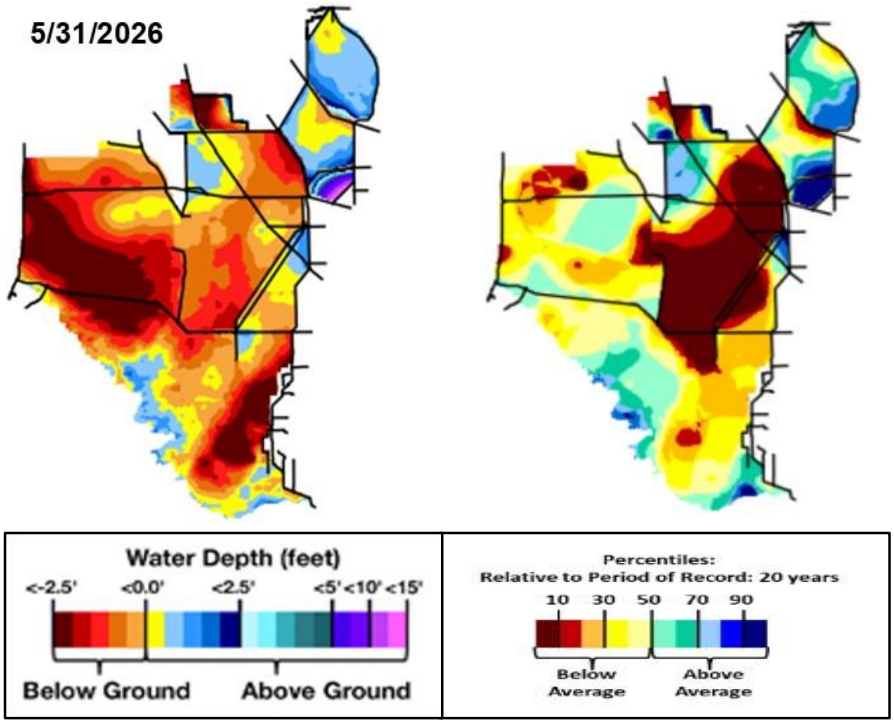


Figure EV-6. Present water depths (May 31, 2026) compared to the day of year relative to average (percentile) over the previous 20 years.

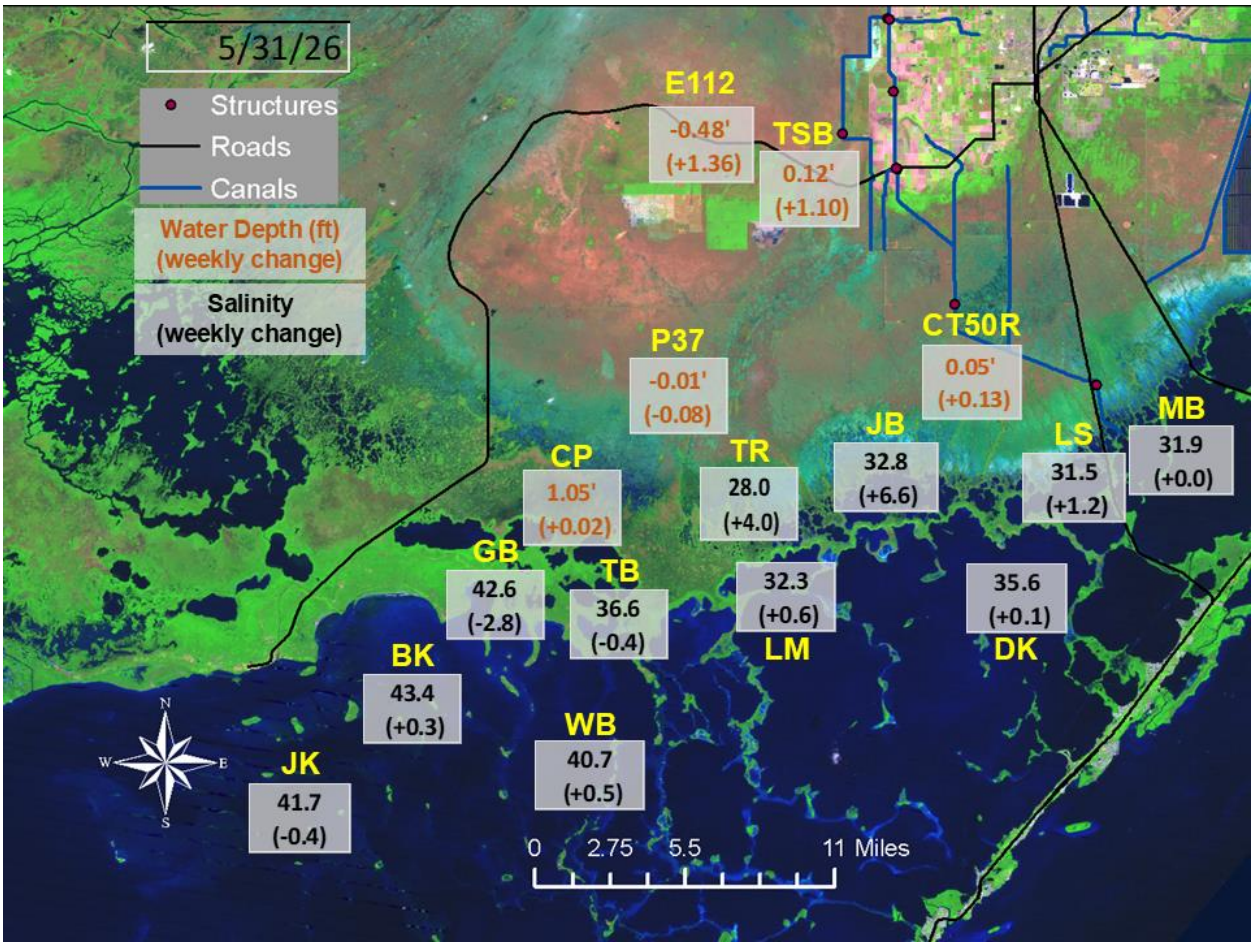


Figure EV-7. Taylor Slough water depths and Florida Bay salinities with changes since a week ago.

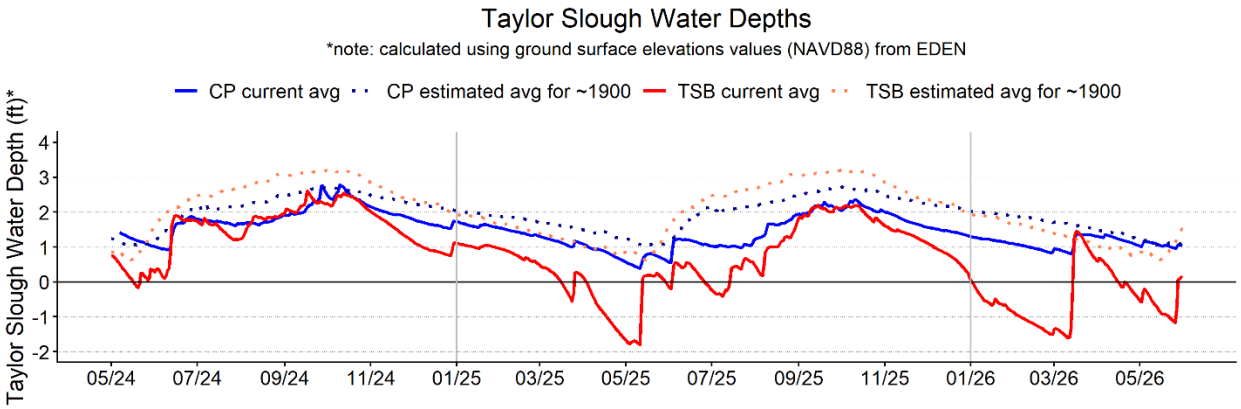


Figure EV-8. Taylor Slough water depth time series for Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB; northern slough) and Craighead Pond (CP; southern slough).

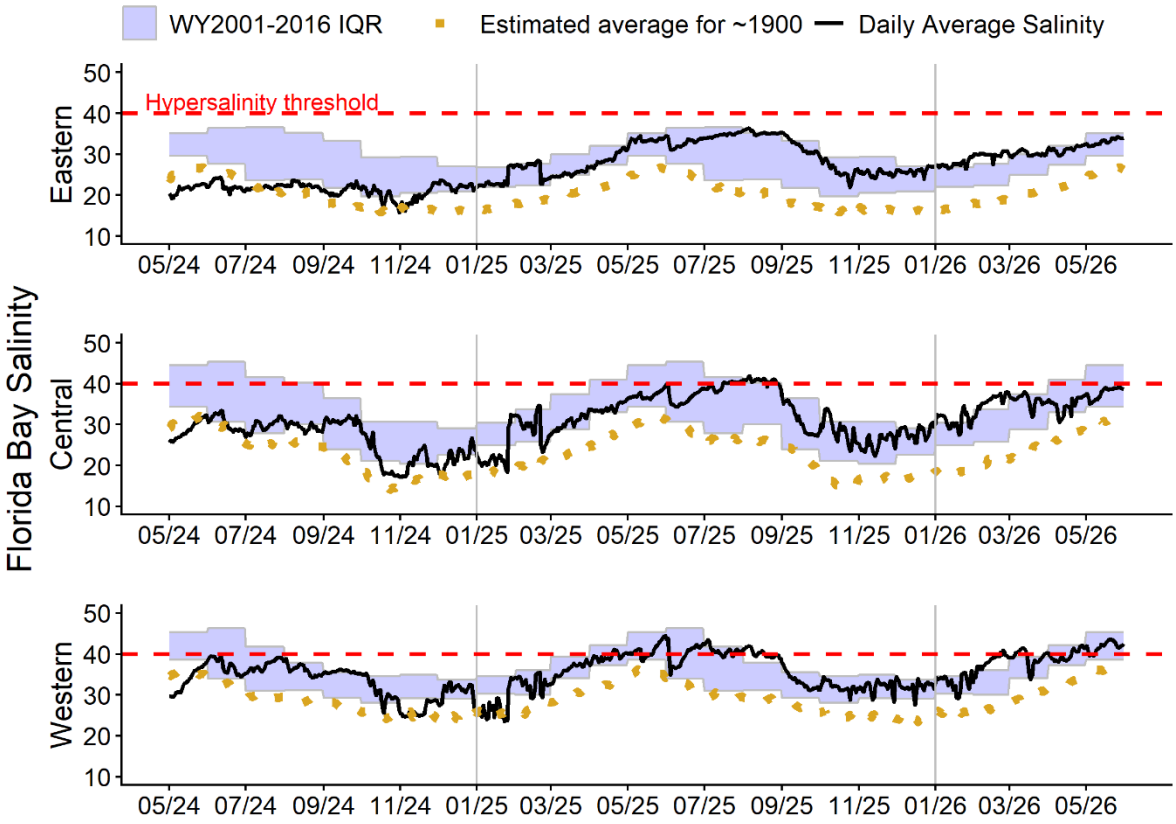


Figure EV-9. Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with WY2001-2016 interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges (IQR) and estimated historical daily average salinities. The hypersalinity threshold indicates the level at which salinities start to become harmful to seagrass.

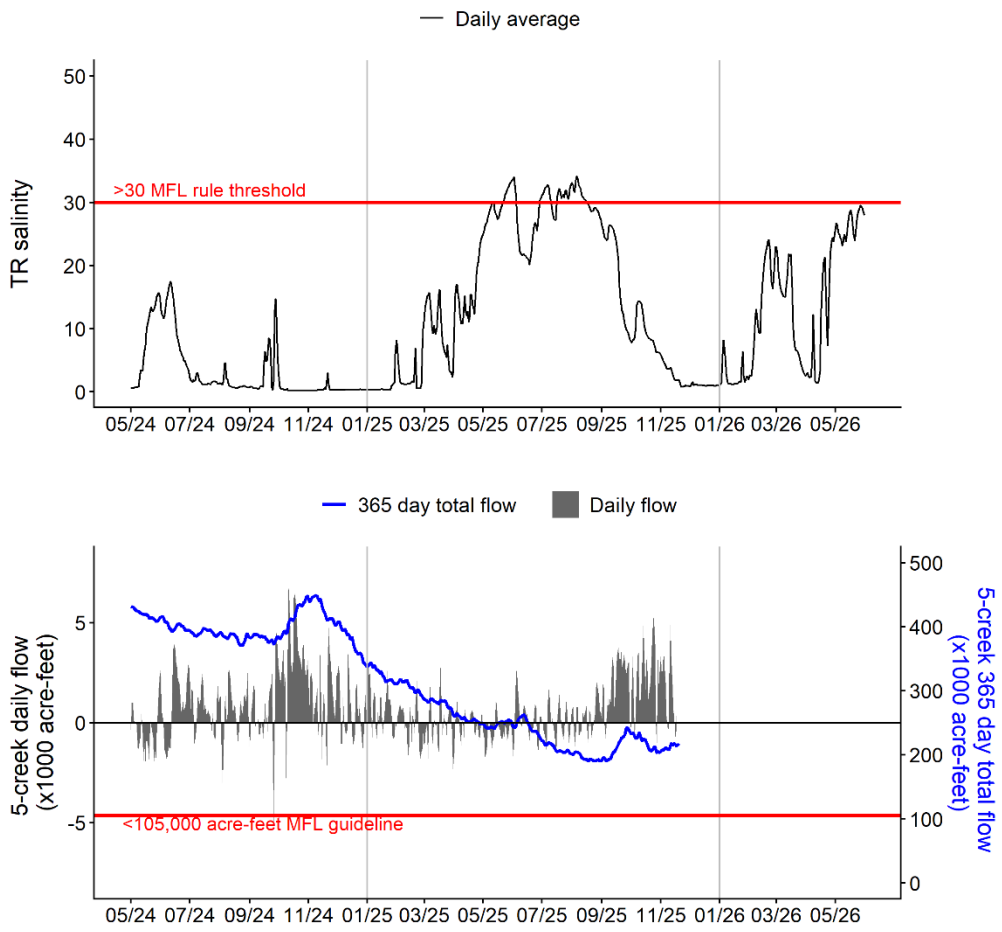


Figure EV-10. Daily average salinity at Taylor River (TR) tracked for the Florida Bay MFL criteria. The 365-day total creek flow MFL metric is not currently available due to missing creek flow data.

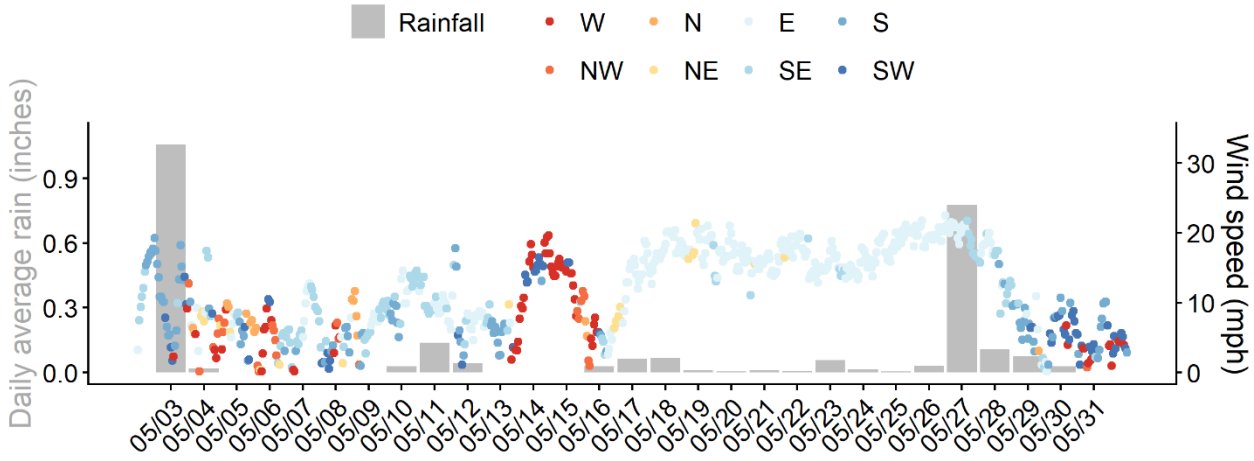


Figure EV-11. Daily average rain across Taylor Slough and Florida Bay, along with hourly average wind speed and direction (measured at Long Key) in Florida Bay over the past four weeks.

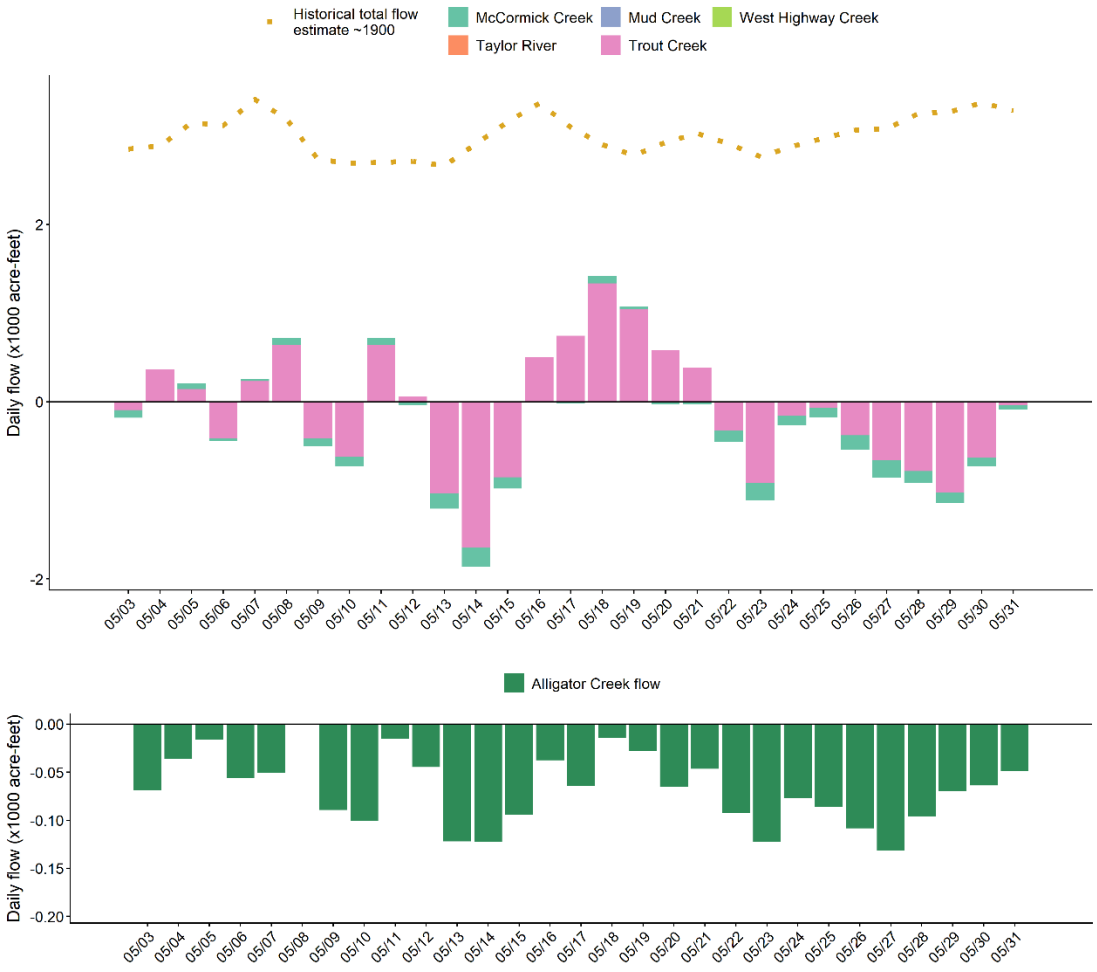


Figure EV-12. Top: daily average creek flow summed between the five major creeks with estimated historical daily flow over the past four weeks (**note**: data from Taylor River, Mud Creek and West Highway Creek are currently unavailable since November 21st, 2025). Bottom: Daily average Alligator Creek flow data. N/A indicates missing data.

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

SFWMD Everglades Ecological Recommendations, May 31, 2026 (red is new)			
	Weekly change	Recommendation	Reasons
WCA-1	Stage increased by 0.03 feet.	A recession of no faster than 0.05 feet per week.	Conserve water, maintain within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Maintain maintenance access for vegetation management.
WCA-2A	Stage decreased by 0.11 feet.	A recession of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Maintain within basin (north versus south) and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-2B	Stage decreased by 0.11 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NE	N/A	A recession of no faster than 0.05 feet per week.	Conserve water, maintain within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Provide suitable depths for aquatic prey and protect against peat soil loss during the dry season.
WCA-3A NW	Stage increased by 0.04 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.05 feet per week.	
Central WCA-3A S	Stage increased by 1.01 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.05 feet per week.	Conserve water, maintain within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Provide suitable depths for aquatic prey and protect against peat soil loss during the dry season.
Southern WCA-3A S	Stage decreased by 0.09 feet		
WCA-3B	Stage increased by 0.08 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
ENP-SRS	Stage increased by 0.45 feet.	Make discharges to ENP according to COP protocol, considering up/down stream ecological conditions.	Protect within basin and upstream habitat and wildlife. Buffer downstream salinity conditions.
Taylor Slough	Stage changes ranged from -0.08 feet to +1.36 feet	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement and buffer salinity conditions.
FB- Salinity	Salinity changes ranged from -2.8 to +6.6	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement and buffer salinity conditions.