

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: August 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Weekly Environmental Conditions for Systems Operations

Summary

Weather Conditions and Forecast

By Wednesday, a high-pressure system will continue building westward across Florida, establishing a southeasterly steering wind flow across the SFWMD. At the same time, a broad zone of abundant moisture extending from the southeastern Gulf across Florida will be maintained supporting numerous morning and overnight showers near the east coast before expanding into the eastern interior from the middle to late morning through the mid-afternoon, after which time the most concentrated rainfall will focus across the central interior and Southwest Coast through around sunset. Another day of excellent rainfall coverage appears likely, accompanied by an enhanced risk of localized, substantial rainfall. This more climatological pattern should also continue the recent improvement in rainfall along the Southwest Coast after more than a week of below-average rainfall there. Meanwhile, the northern portion of a tropical wave will move rapidly westward on Wednesday and Thursday. The broad envelope of deep tropical moisture accompanying this feature should support numerous showers and thunderstorms across the eastern half of the SFWMD on Friday, likely peaking during the overnight and morning hours before a strengthening easterly steering flow shifts the greatest rainfall toward the central interior and Southwest Coast later in the day. As the tropical wave moves across Florida on Friday, the steering flow is expected to veer to southeasterly or south-southeasterly, favoring the southeastern two-thirds of the SFWMD for the greatest rainfall, particularly along a corridor extending from the Big Cypress Preserve through the Upper East Coast. The combination of abundant moisture and continued atmospheric instability should support above-long-term-average area-averaged rainfall across the SFWMD.

The forecast becomes somewhat less certain over the weekend following the tropical wave's passage. Current indications are that moisture levels, especially by Sunday, will decrease enough for area-averaged rainfall across the SFWMD to fall below the long-term average by the end of the weekend. A southeasterly to southerly steering flow should favor afternoon rainfall over the northwestern half to two-thirds of the SFWMD, while the

east coast could become considerably drier by Sunday as the primary rainfall axis shifts toward the central and western interior. Forecast confidence decreases further by Monday. Most guidance indicates that a Saharan Air Layer will pass just south of the SFWMD, allowing somewhat drier air to extend into the region. Because the weight of available guidance favors a continuation of the drying trend, the Day-7 QPF leans toward below-long-term-average rainfall. For the week ending next Tuesday morning, total area-averaged rainfall across the SFWMD is forecast to be above the long-term average, with near-long-term-average rainfall representing a reasonable lower-end outcome.

Kissimmee

Water levels in East Lake Toho and Lake Toho are being allowed to rise as rainfall permits. Releases from Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha followed the Headwaters Revitalization Schedule Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan. Weekly average discharge on August 2, 2026, was 140 cfs at S-65 and 140 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain was unchanged at 0.33 feet. The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River decreased from 7.0 mg/L the previous week to 6.2 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 9.58 feet NAVD88 (10.89 ft NGVD29) on August 2, 2026, which was 0.05 feet higher than the previous week and the same level as a month ago. The lake remains in the water shortage management band. Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) increased from 100 cfs the previous week to 530 cfs. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) decreased from 380 cfs the previous week to 150 cfs. The most recent non-obscured satellite image from July 29, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate to high cyanobacteria potential along most of the shallow nearshore regions.

Estuaries

Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 455 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Surface salinities increased at all sites in the estuary. Salinity in the middle estuary was in the optimal range (10–25) for adult eastern oysters.

Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary averaged 1,270 cfs over the past week with 7 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee. Over the past week, surface salinity increased slightly at Val I-75 and decreased at the remaining sites in the estuary. Salinities were in the optimal range (0-10) for tape grass at S-79 and Val I-75, and in the stressed range (10-15) at Ft. Myers. Salinities were in the optimal range (10-25) for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral, and in the upper stressed range (>25) at Shell Point and Sanibel.

Stormwater Treatment Areas

For the week ending Sunday, August 2nd, 2026, no Lake Okeechobee water was delivered to the FEBs/STAs. The total amount of Lake releases sent to the FEBs/STAs in WY2027 is approximately 9,000 ac-feet. The total amount of inflows to the STAs in

WY2027 is approximately 59,000 ac-feet. Most online STA treatment cells are at or near target stage. STA-1E Central Flow-way is offline for post-construction vegetation grow-in. 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 STA-3/4 Eastern Flow-way for vegetation management activities. This week, if LOSOM recommends Lake releases to the WCAs and conditions allow, releases will be sent to STA-2 and STA-3/4.

Everglades

Below average rainfall occurred across the Everglades Protection Area (EPA) over the last week; however, amounts were spatially variable. The northern regions of the EPA (WCA-1 and 2) average around an inch of rain while WCA-3A/B and Everglades National Park (ENP) averaged around half an inch. Stage changes across the EPA reflected the rainfall patterns with slight ascensions occurring in WCA-1 and WCA-2A and recessions occurring from WCA-3A down to ENP. Water depths across portions of the Everglades have improved compared to last month, though for this time of year conditions remain dry across much of the system. Water levels remain particularly low in north/central WCA-3, WCA-2A, and Big Cypress. ENP water depths are within the 10-20th percentile across the basin. These dry conditions can have ecological consequences both system wide and within the central Everglades, including delayed prey production of what are now likely very low populations, increased risk of damaging wildfires, enhanced peat oxidation, and potential ridge and slough degradation. Taylor Slough stages declined last week and are below the recent average for this time of year by 3.5 inches. Average Florida Bay salinity increased last week, and the central and western regions of Florida Bay remain above the hypersalinity threshold. Based on previous studies and surveys, high temperatures and hypersalinity in the central regions of FL Bay may initiate a seagrass die-off if upstream flows into FL Bay and direct rainfall are less than 50% of normal.

Supporting Information

Kissimmee Basin

Upper Kissimmee

On August 2, 2026, mean daily lake stages were 54.5 feet NAVD88 (1.0 feet below schedule) in East Lake Toho, 52.0 feet NAVD88 (0.5 feet below schedule) in Lake Toho, and 47.6 feet NAVD88 (2.7 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 August 2, 2026, mean weekly discharge was 140 cfs at S-65 and 140 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly discharge from the Kissimmee River was 240 cfs at S-65D and 180 cfs at S-65E (**Table KB-2**). Mean weekly headwater stages were 45.2 feet NAVD88 at S-65A and 27.5 feet NAVD88 at S-65D. Mean weekly river channel stage increased by 0.1 feet to 29.7 feet NAVD88 (**Figure KB-4**). Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain was unchanged at 0.33 feet (**Table KB-2, Figure KB-5**). The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River decreased from 7.0 mg/L the previous week to 6.2 mg/L (**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 B5, target flows of 150 cfs; if stage increases into Zone B4, target flows of 300 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)	
							8/2/26	7/26/26
Lakes Hart and Mary Jane	S-62	LKMJ	3	59.1	R	59.0	0.1	-0.1
Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel	S-57	S-57	0	59.0	R	59.9	-0.9	-0.9
Alligator Chain	S-60	ALLI	0	60.8	R	62.1	-1.3	-1.4
Lake Gentry	S-63	LKGT	0	58.6	R	59.9	-1.3	-1.4
East Lake Toho	S-59	TOHOE	0	54.5	R	55.5	-1.0	-1.2
Lake Toho	S-61	TOHOW S-61	0	52.0	R	52.5	-0.5	-0.6
Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha	S-65	KUB011 LKIS5B	140	47.6	T	50.3	-2.7	-2.7

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.

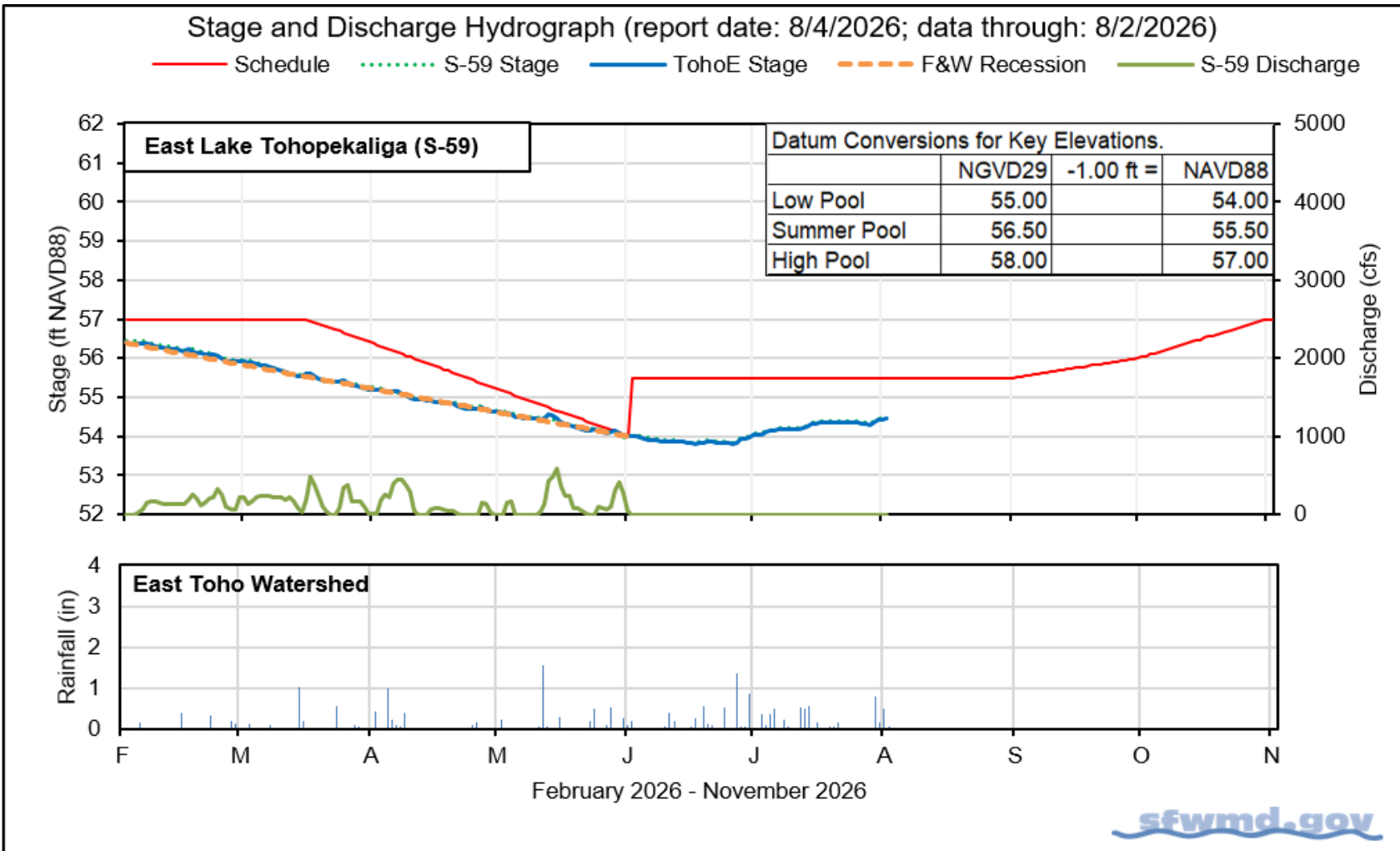


Figure KB-1. East Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

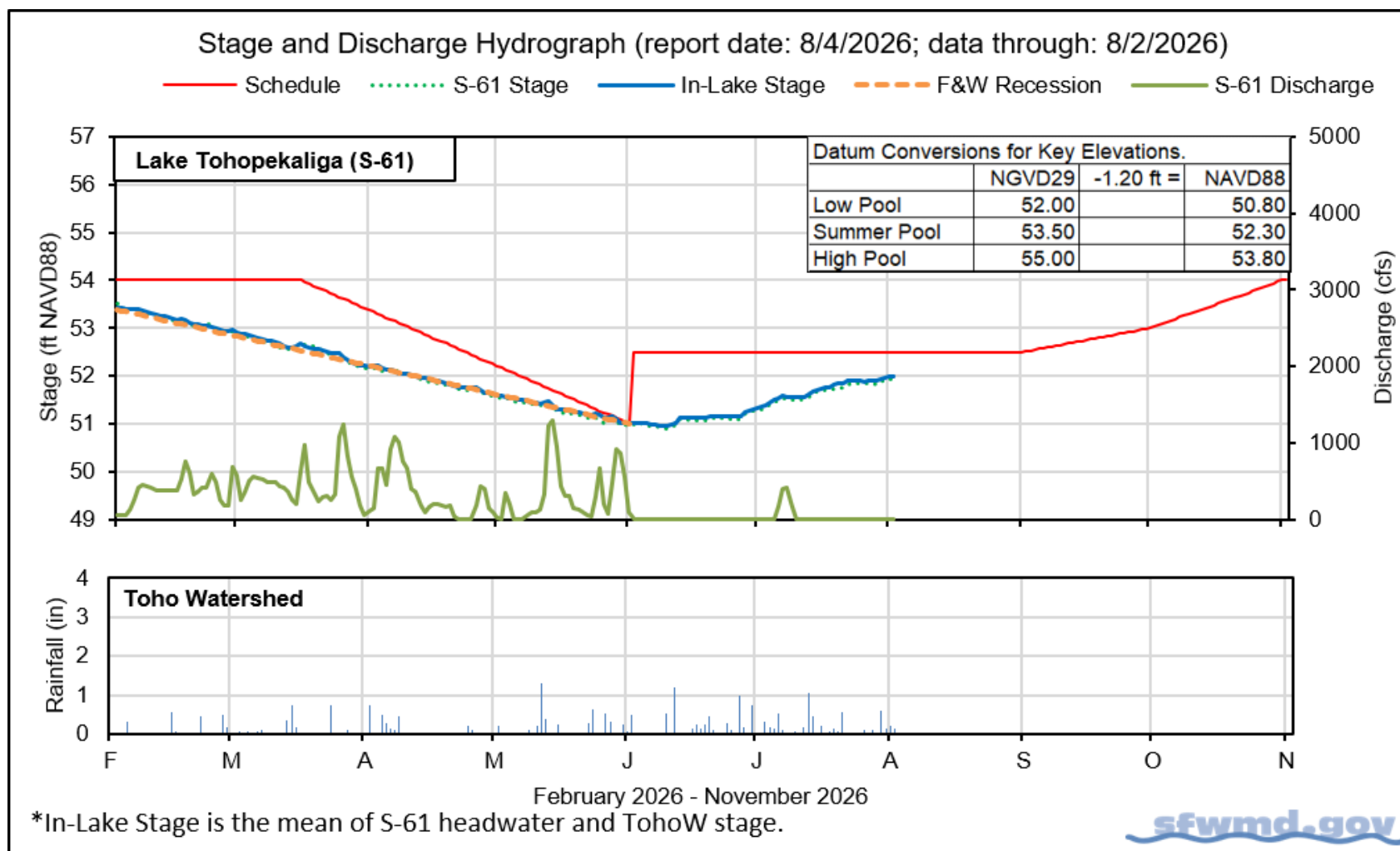


Figure KB-2. Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

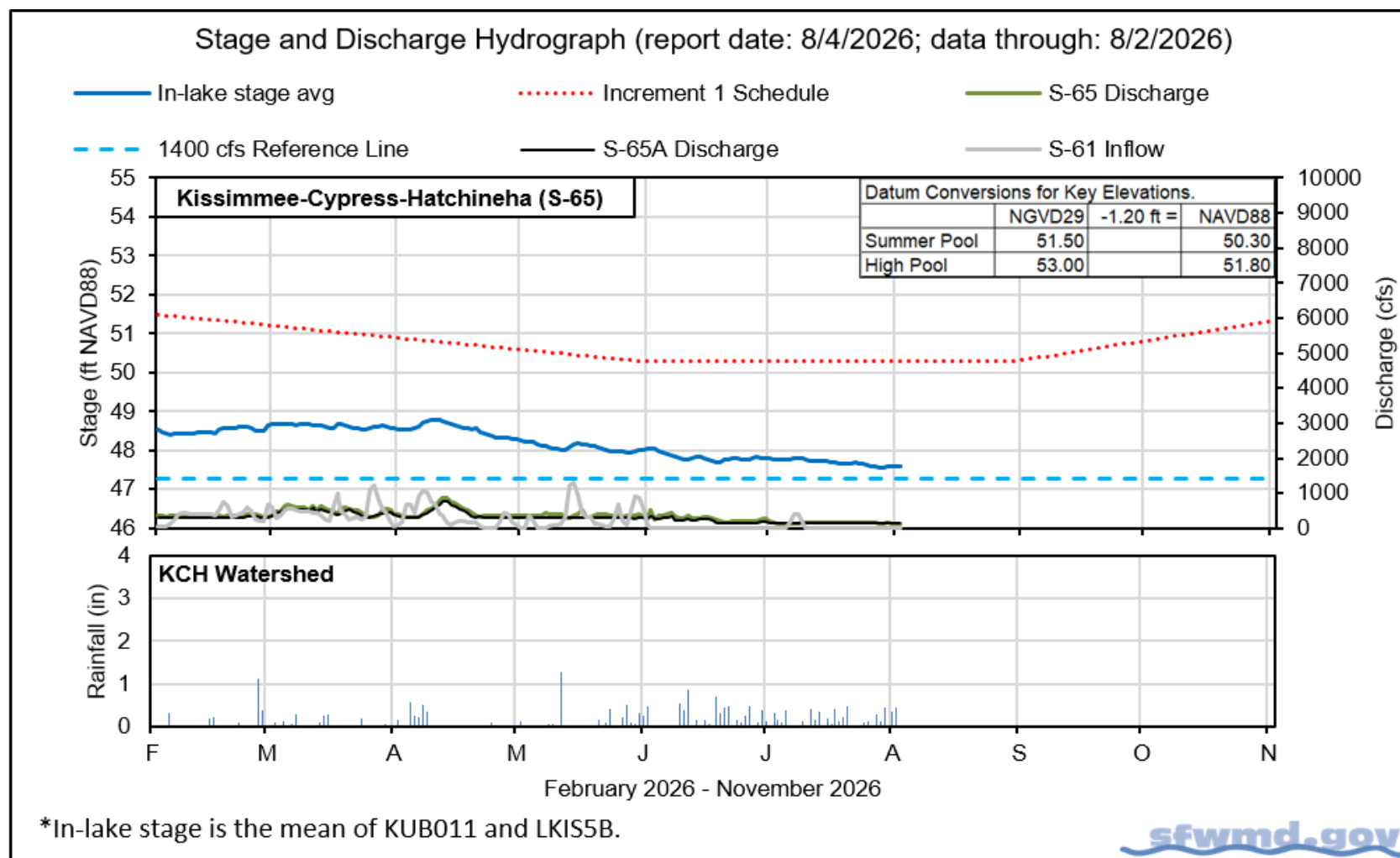


Figure KB-3. Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

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			
		8/2/26	8/2/26	7/26/26	7/19/26	7/12/26
Discharge	S-65	140	140	170	170	150
Discharge	S-65A ^a	140	140	140	140	140
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65A	45.1	45.2	45.2	45.2	45.3
Discharge	S-65D ^b	280	240	260	280	230
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65D ^c	24.6	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5
Discharge (cfs)	S-65E ^d	270	180	78	150	170
Discharge (cfs)	S-67	0	0	0	0	0
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L) ^e	Phase I, II/III river channel	6.1	6.2	7.0	6.1	5.9
River channel mean stage (feet NAVD88) ^f	Phase I river channel	29.7	29.7	29.6	29.7	29.8
Mean depth (feet) ^g	Phase I & II/III floodplain	0.33	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.

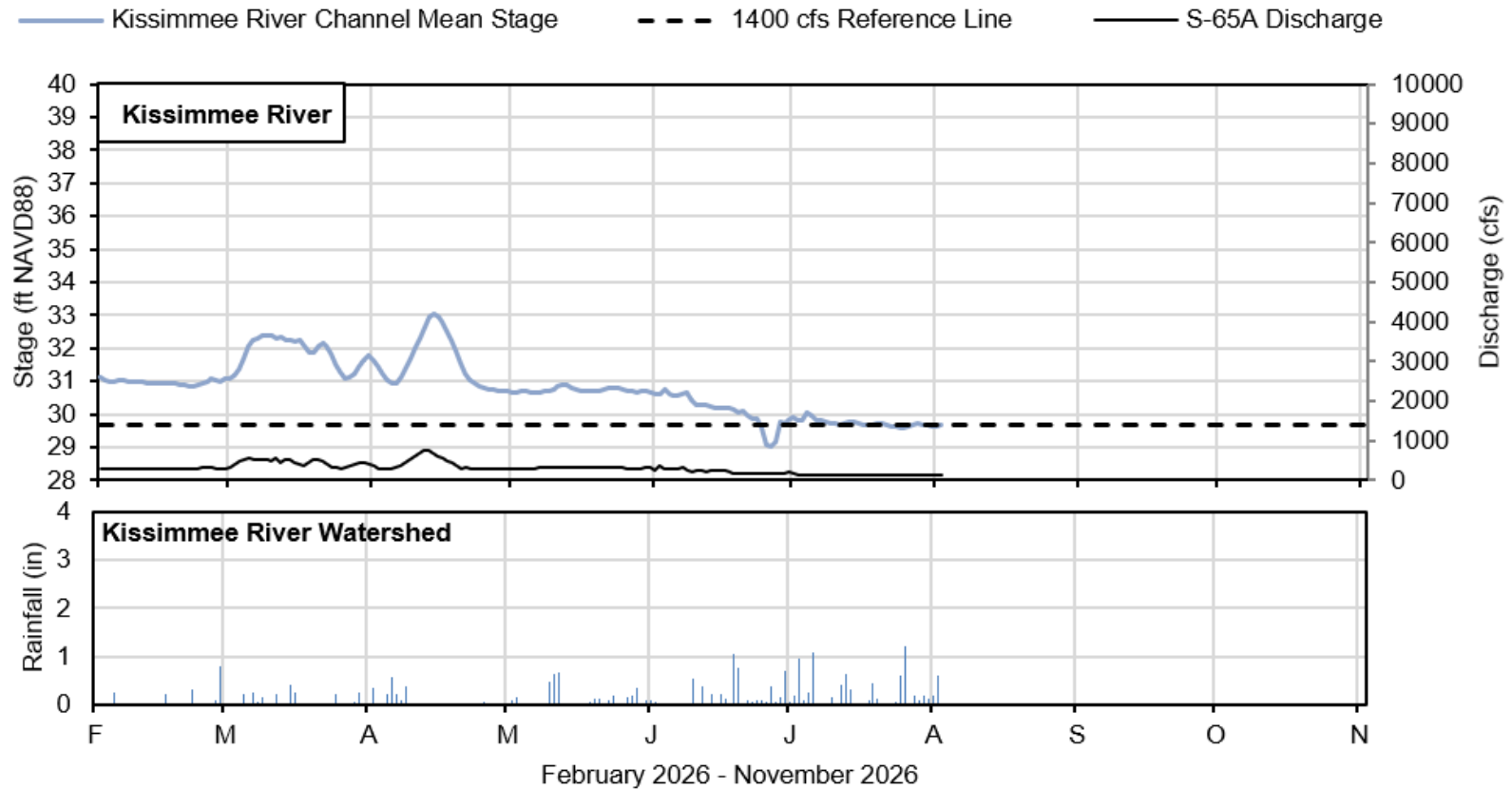
d. Combined discharge from S-65E and S-65EX1.

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).

Stage and Discharge Hydrograph (report date: 8/4/2026; data through: 8/2/2026)



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

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

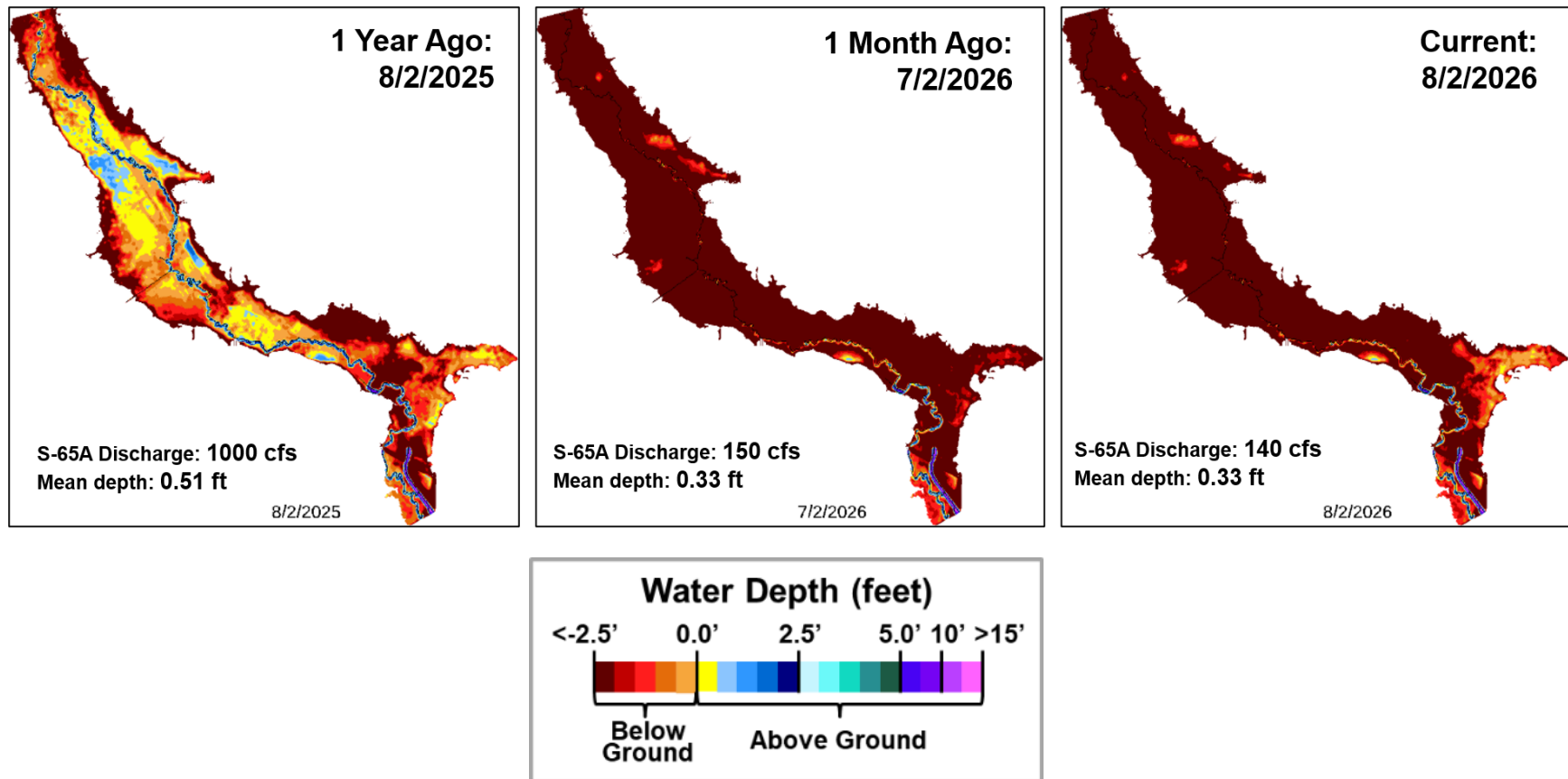
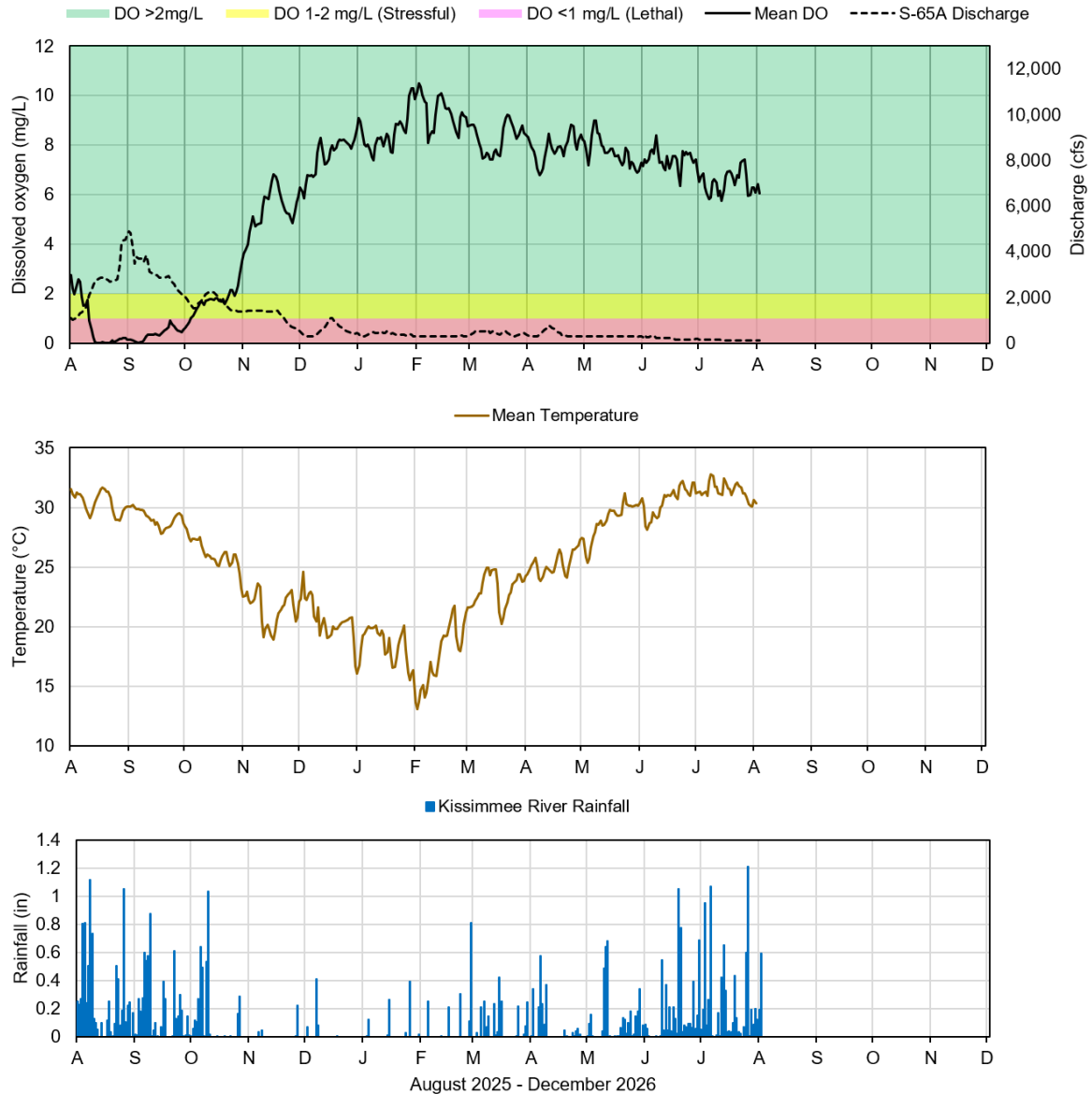


Figure KB-5. Phase I-II-III area Kissimmee River floodplain water depths (from left to right) one year ago, one month ago, and current.



Report Date: 8/4/2026; data are through: 8/2/2026

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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.

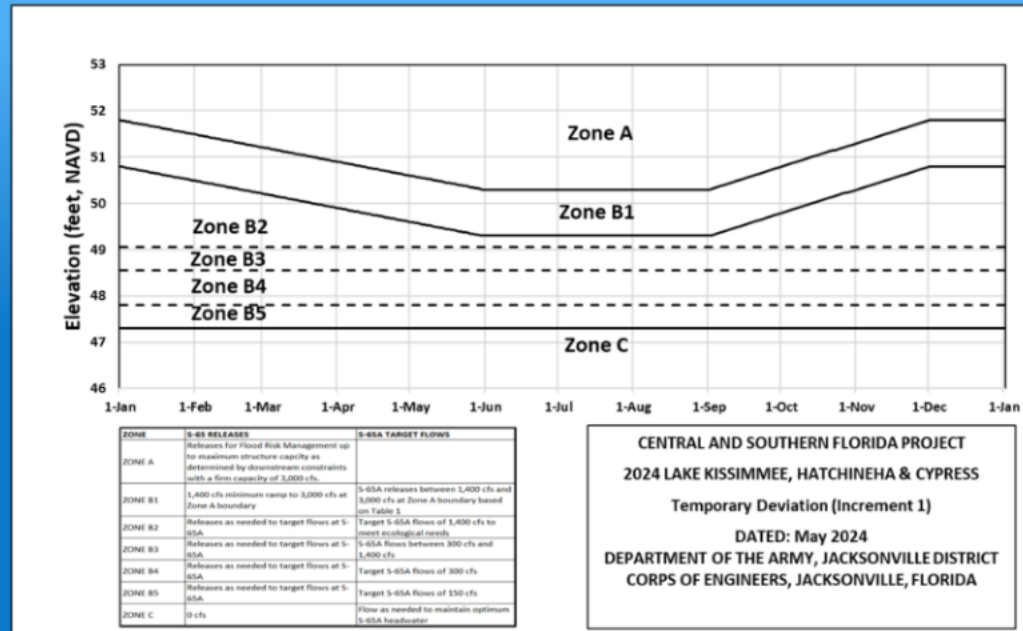
SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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

Discharge Guidance for Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan		
ZONE	S-65 RELEASES	S-65A TARGET FLOWS
ZONE A	Releases for Flood Risk Management up to maximum structure capacity 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 Change 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

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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 7/29/2024

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

Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 9.58 feet NAVD88 (10.89 ft NGVD29) on August 2, 2026, which was 0.05 feet higher than the previous week and the same level as a month ago (**Figure LO-1**). Lake stage remains in the water shortage management band (0.89 feet below the upper limit, **Figure LO-2**) and is 1.11 feet below the ecological envelope (**Figure LO-3**). According to NEXRAD, 1.05 inches (approximately 39,300 ac-feet) of rain fell directly over the Lake during the previous week, and 1.23 inches (approximately 34,700 ac-feet) were lost to evapotranspiration.

Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) increased from 100 cfs the previous week to 530 cfs. The largest inflow came from the Kissimmee River (180 cfs via S-65E(X1)). Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) decreased from 380 cfs the previous week to 150 cfs. The largest outflow was west to the C-43 canal (120 cfs via S-77). **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 July 29, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate to high cyanobacteria potential along most of the shallow nearshore regions. (**Figure LO-6**).

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

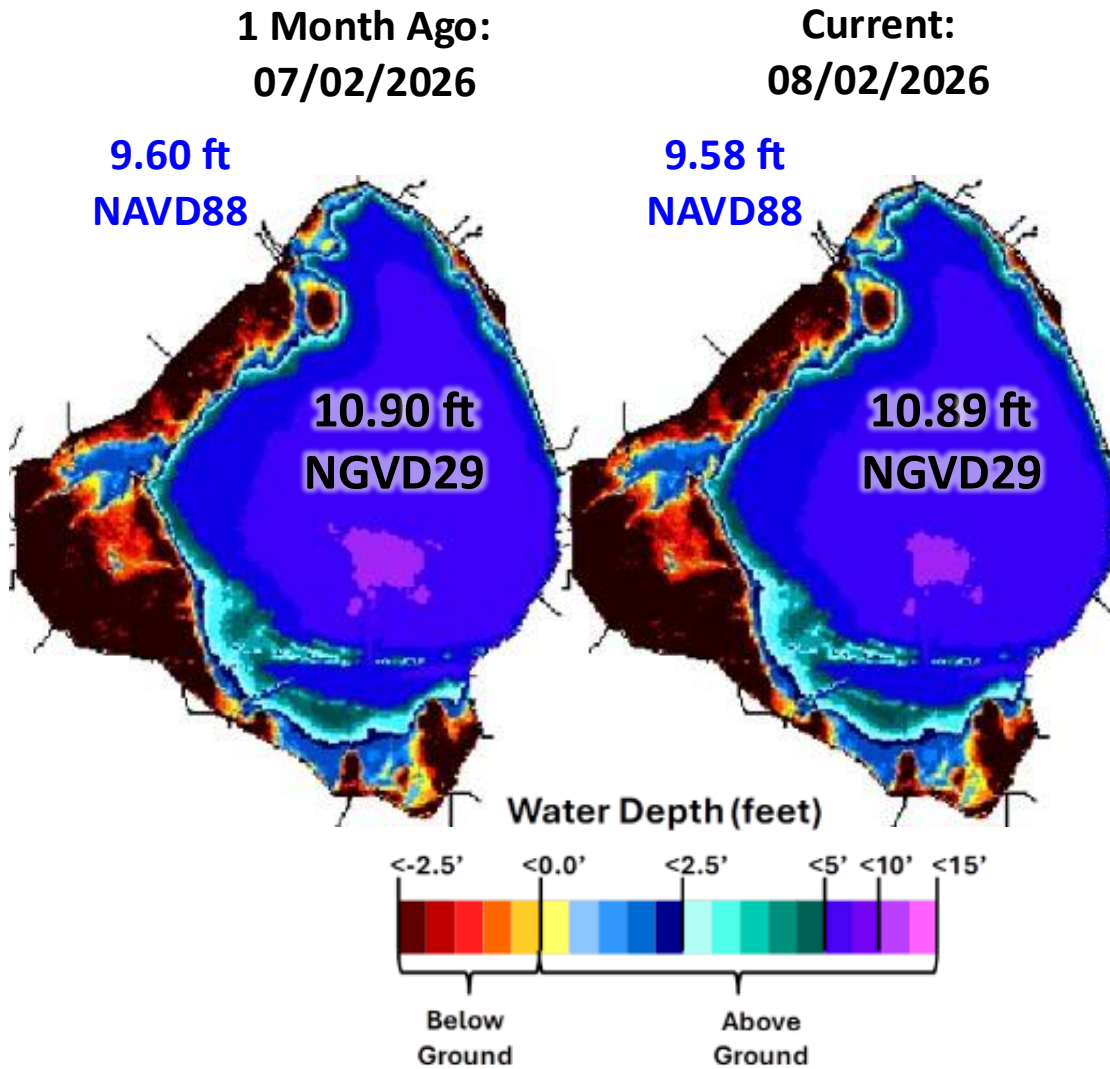


Figure LO-1. Lake Okeechobee water depth estimates based on South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

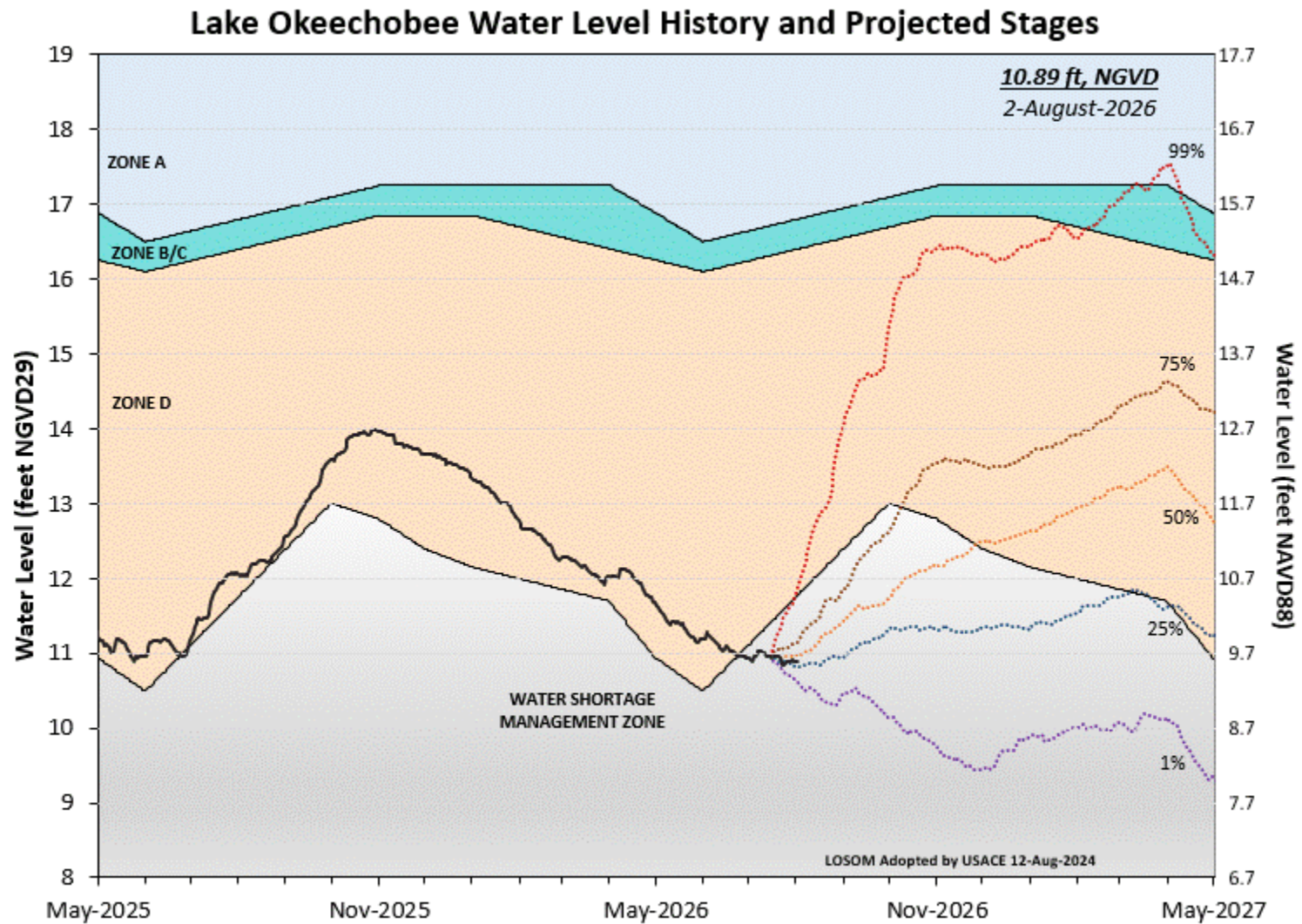


Figure LO-2. Recent Lake Okeechobee stages with projected stages based on a conditional position analysis.
 Note: stages are in NGVD29, approximate NAVD88 values are shown for reference.

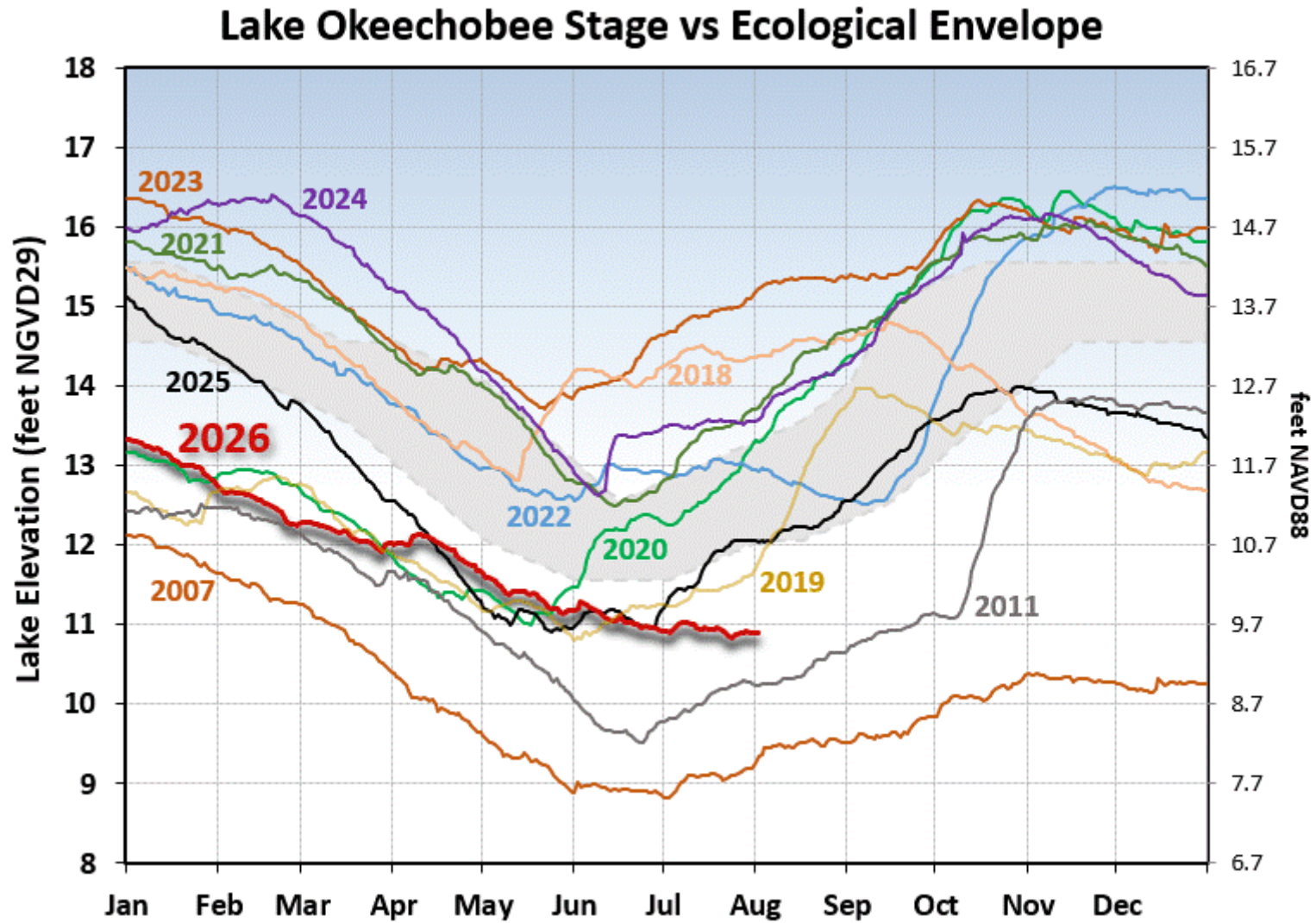


Figure LO-3. The current and select prior year's annual lake stage hydrographs in comparison to the Lake Okeechobee ecological envelope (light grey).

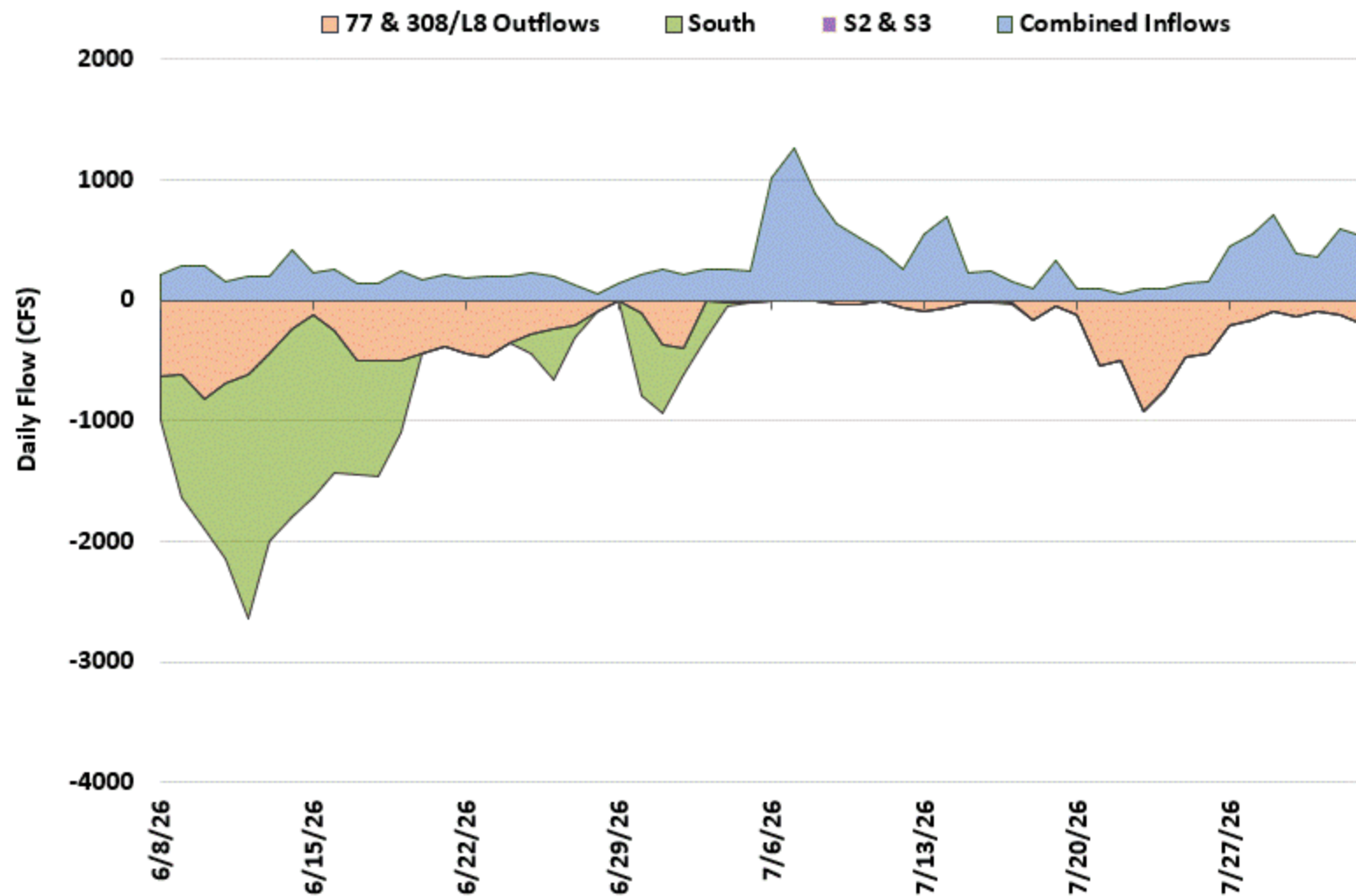


Figure LO-4. Major inflows (orange) to and outflows east and west (blue) from Lake Okeechobee. Outflows south are shown in green. Flows into Lake Okeechobee from the L-8 canal through S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) or from the C-44 canal through the S-308 are included as inflows. Conversely, flows from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

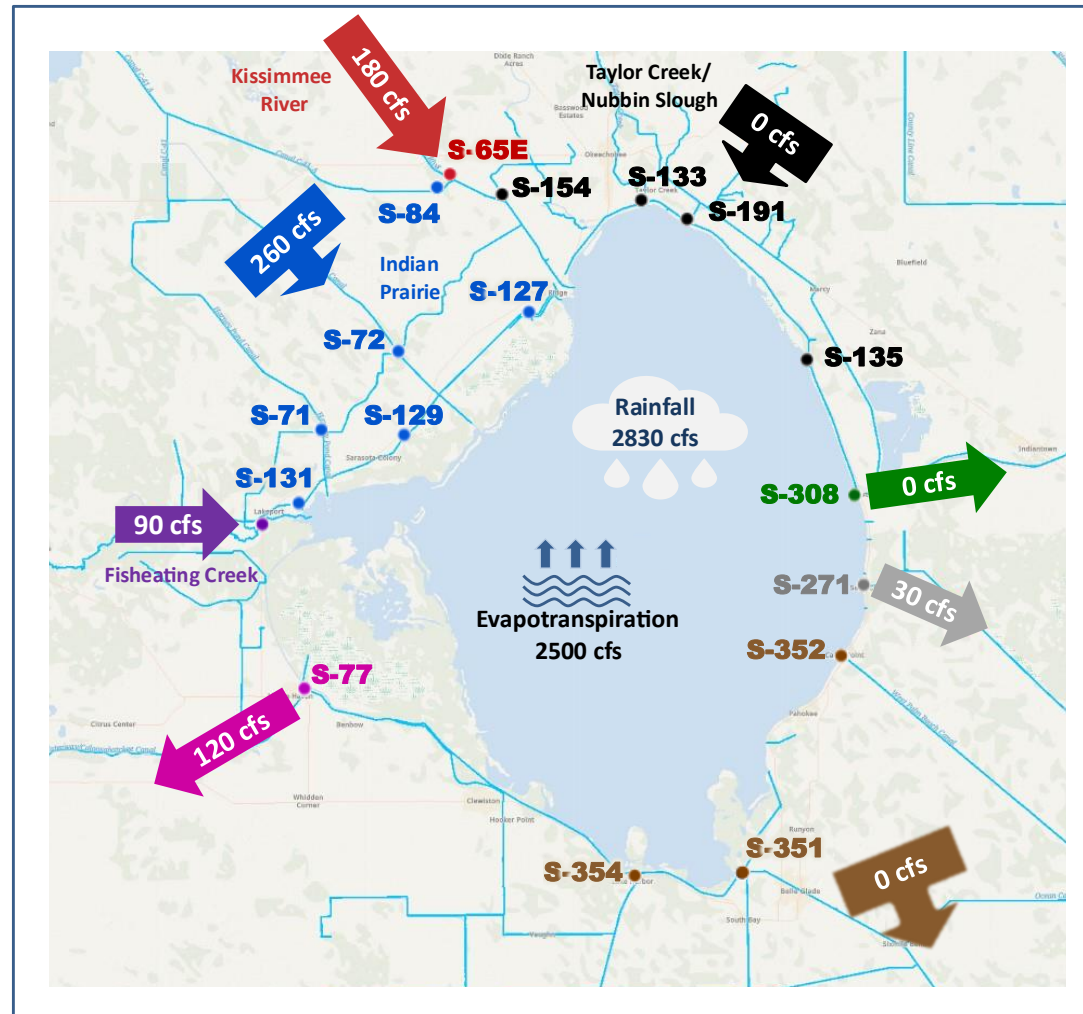


Figure LO-5. Inflows into Lake Okeechobee from Indian Prairie basins, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek (currently no flow data available for FECR), and outflows to the west via S-77, to the east via S-308, to the south via S-351, S-352, S-354, and to southeast via S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) for the week of July 27 – August 2, 2026.

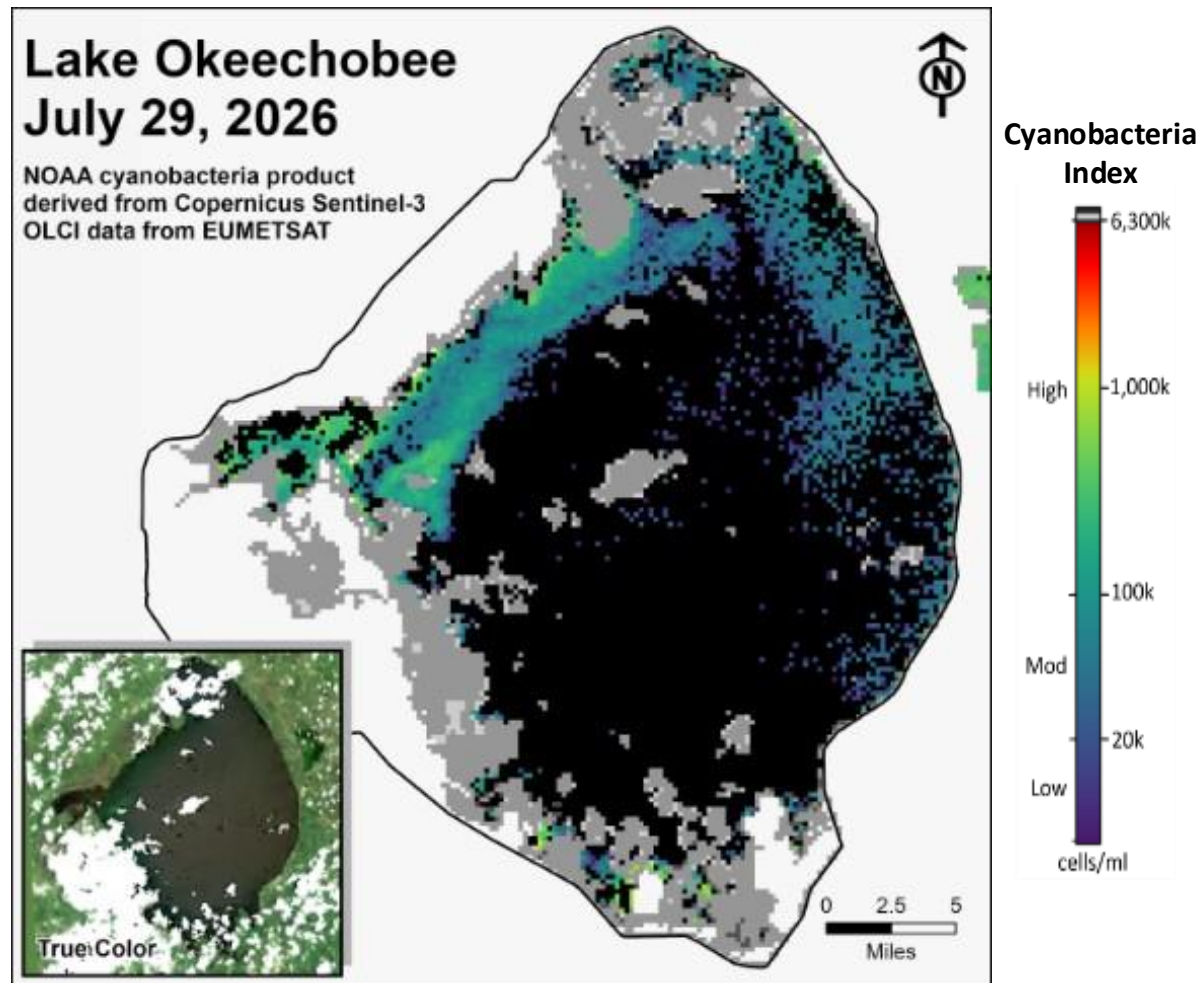


Figure LO-6. Cyanobacteria bloom index level on Lake Okeechobee, based on NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover. *Provisional NOAA image, subject to change*.

Estuaries

St. Lucie Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was 455 cfs (**Figures ES-1 and ES-2**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 413 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-2**.

Over the past week, surface salinities increased at all sites (**Table ES-1 and Figure ES-3**). The seven-day moving average water column salinity at the US1 Bridge was 19.1. 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 July was 7.8 spat/shell at Rio, which is an increase from the previous month (**Figure ES-5**).

Caloosahatchee River Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary was 1,270 cfs (**Figures ES-6 and ES-7**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 1,107 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from the contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-7**.

Over the past week, surface salinity increased slightly at Val I-75 and decreased at the remaining sites in the estuary (**Table ES-2 and Figures ES-8 and ES-9**). The seven-day mean water column salinity (**Table ES-2**) was in the optimal range (0–10) for tape grass at S-79 and Val I-75, and in the stressed range (10–15) at Ft. Myers. 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 rates reported by the FWRI in July were 3.4 spat/shell at Iona Cove and 7.1 spat/shell at Bird Island, which are a decrease and increase 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, 2013¹) 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 189 cfs. Model results from all scenarios predict daily salinity to be 10.1 or lower and the 30-day moving average surface salinity to be 7.7 or lower at Val I-75 at the end of the two-week period (**Table ES-3 and Figure ES-13**). Predicted salinities for the next two weeks remain within the optimal salinity range (0–10) for tape grass in the upper estuary if S-79 flows are above 450 cfs.

¹ Qiu, 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 July 31, 2026, that *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide dinoflagellate, was not observed at bloom concentrations in samples collected from the District region over the past week.

Water Management Recommendations

Lake stage is in the Water Shortage Management Zone. Current climatological and hydrological conditions are normal. The LOSOM release guidance suggests no 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 553 cfs (**Figure ES-14**) which is not 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 44 cfs (**Figure ES-15**) and the 20-day average salinity at RM 9.2 is 0.4 (**Figure ES-16**) which is not an exceedance.

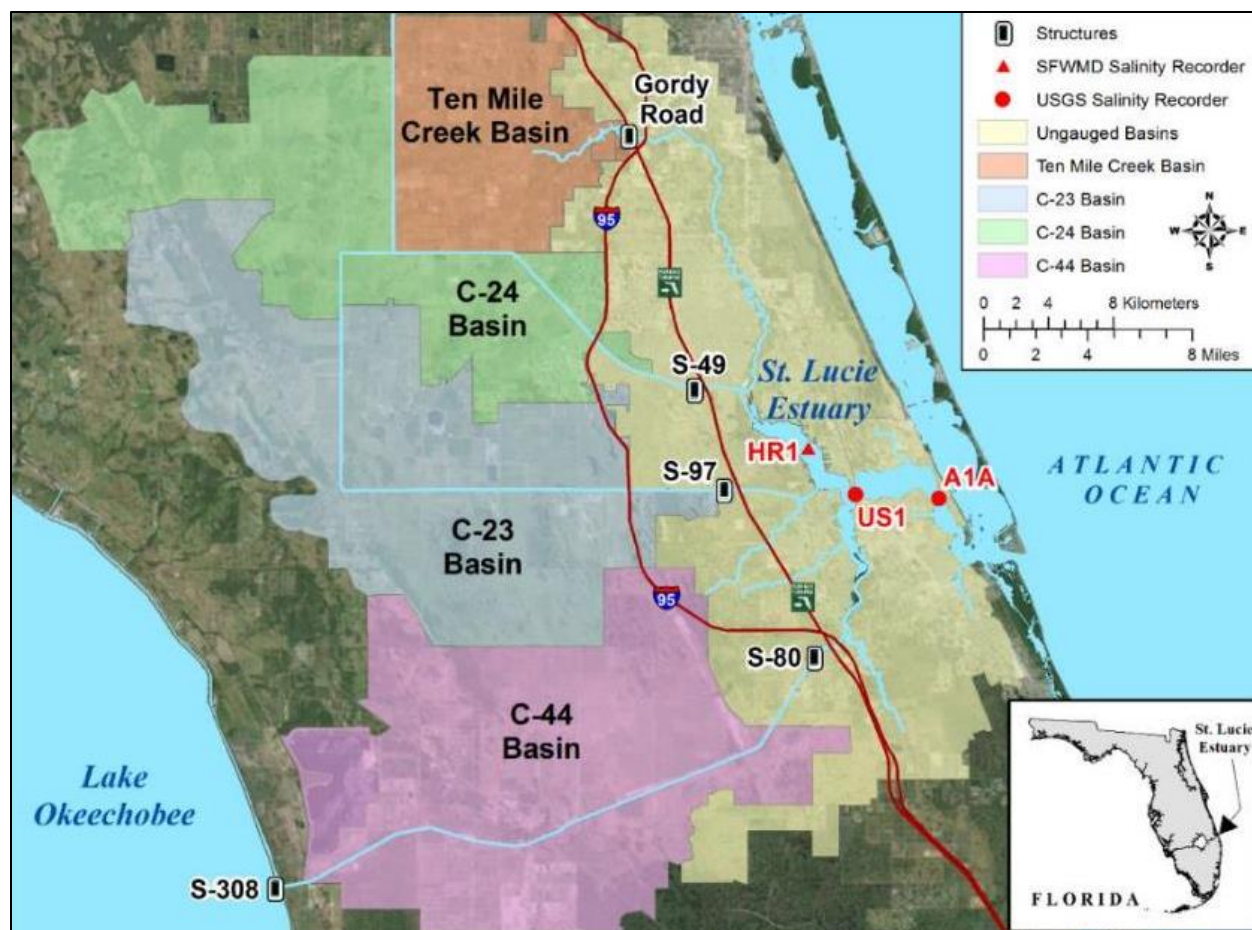


Figure ES-1. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

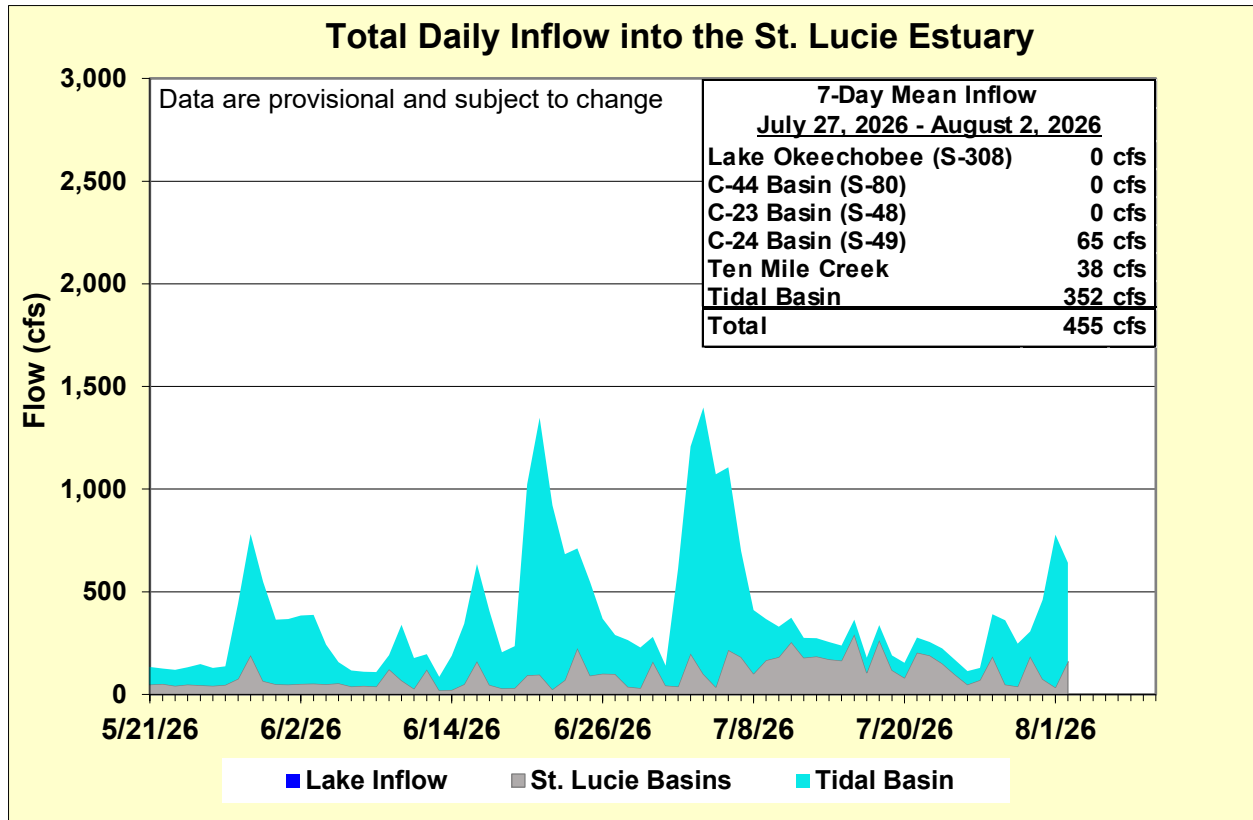


Figure ES-2. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-44, C-23, C-24, Ten Mile Creek, and Tidal Basins into the St. Lucie Estuary.

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)	11.4 (8.1)	18.0 (15.2)	10.0 – 25.0
US1 Bridge	18.0 (16.6)	20.1 (18.3)	10.0 – 25.0
A1A Bridge	25.6 (24.6)	28.1 (28.3)	10.0 – 25.0

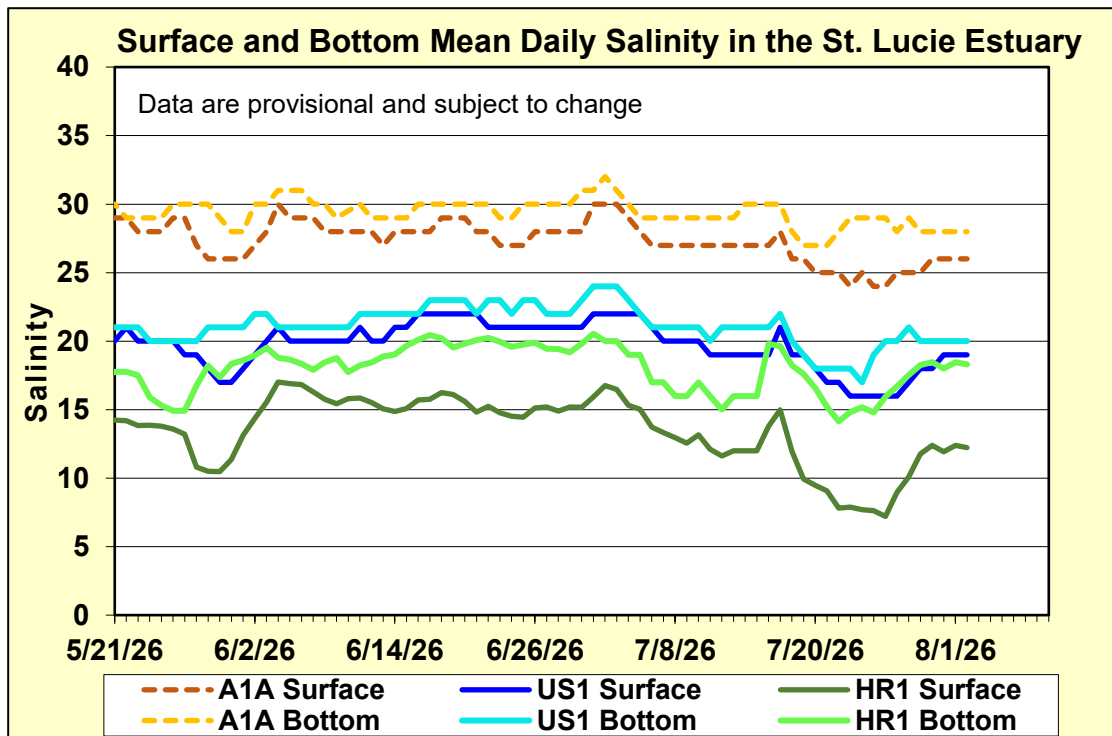


Figure ES-3. Mean daily salinity at the A1A, US1, and HR1 sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

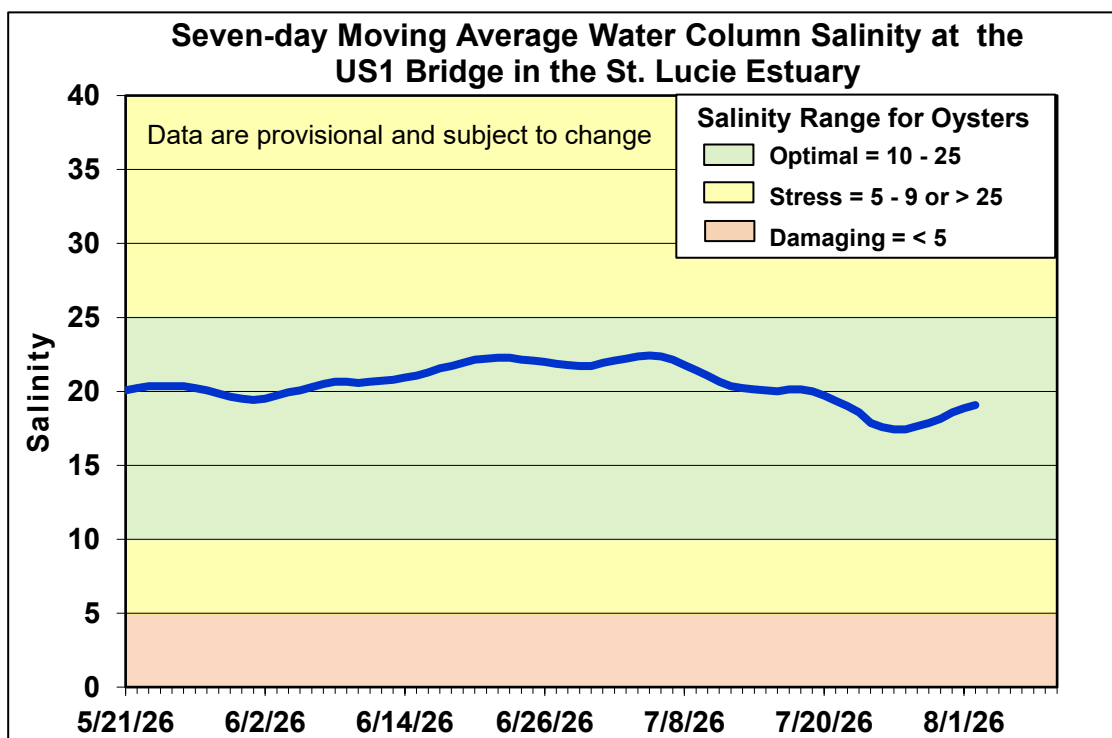


Figure ES-4. Seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge in the St. Lucie Estuary.

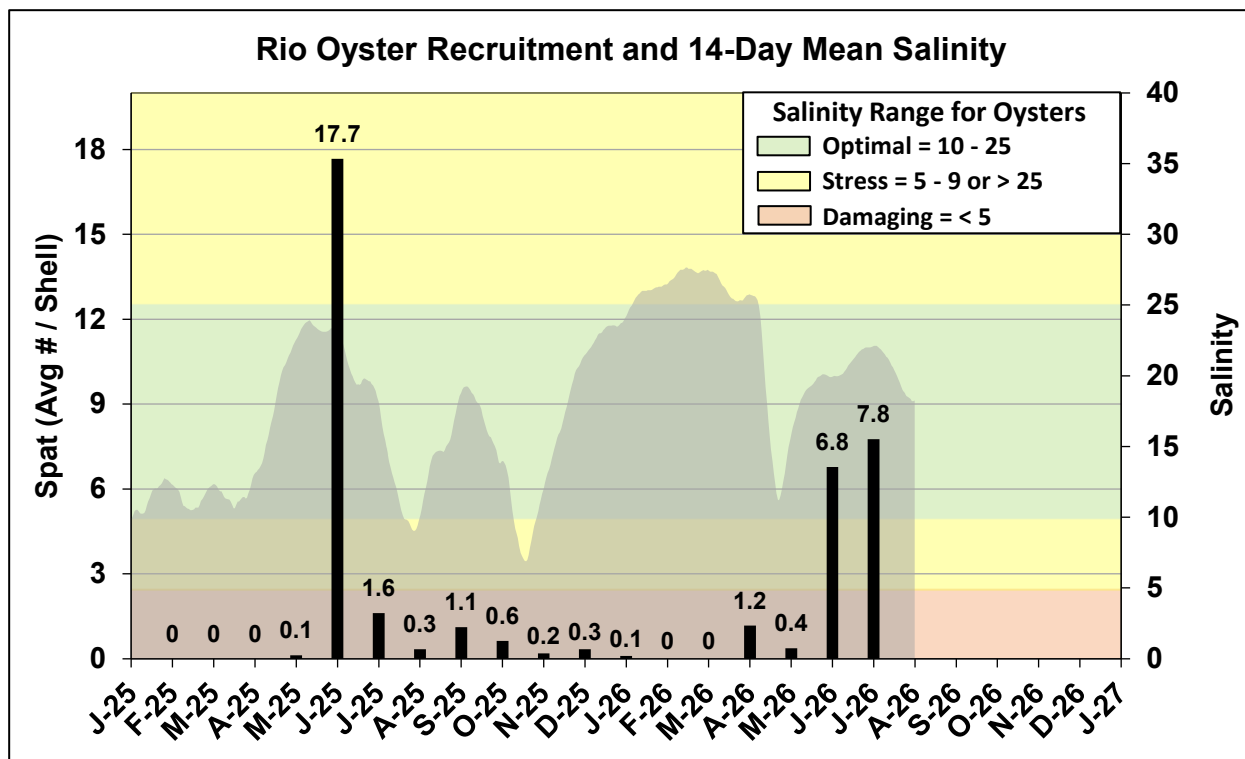


Figure ES-5. Mean oyster recruitment at the Rio oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at US1 Bridge.

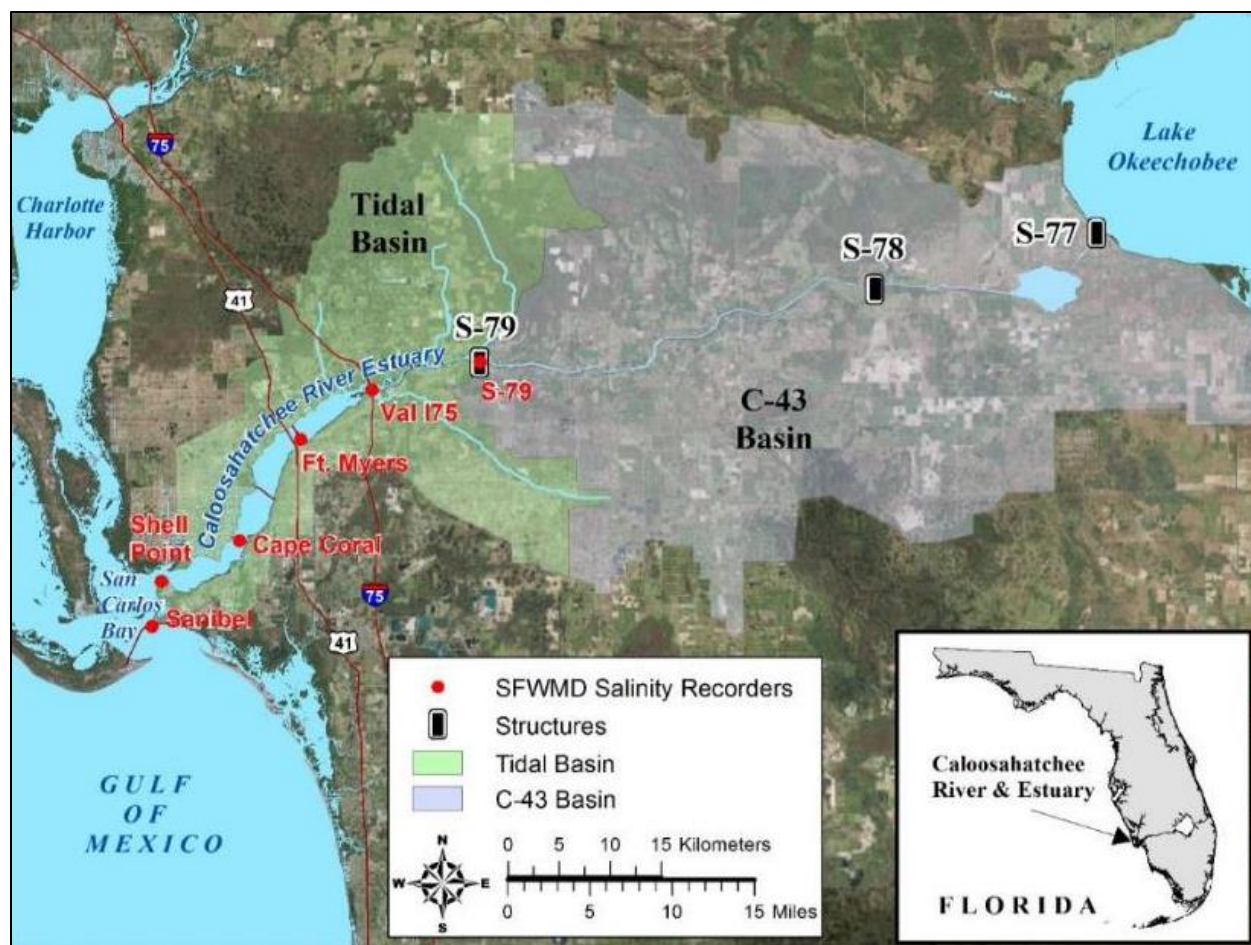


Figure ES-6. Basins, water control structures, and salinity monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

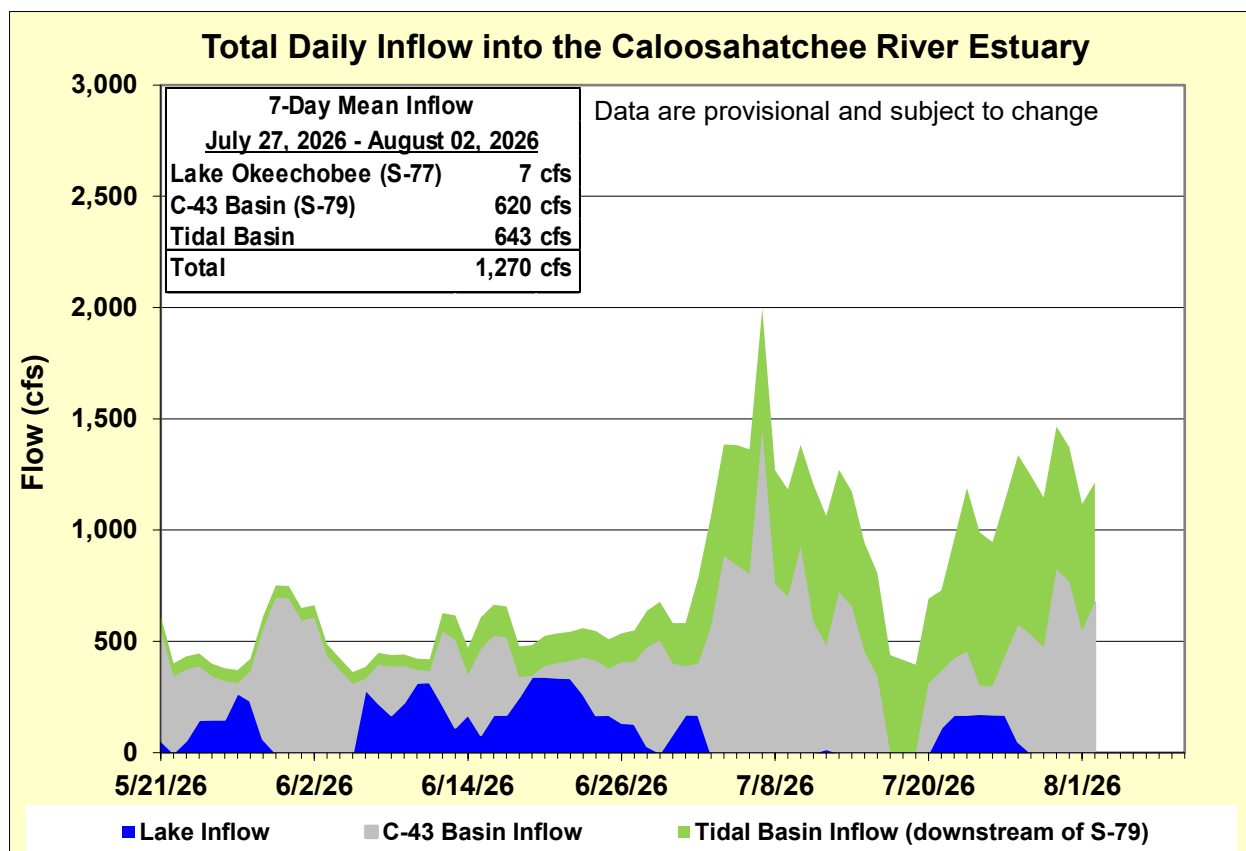


Figure ES-7. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee, and runoff from the C-43 and Tidal basins into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

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)	4.3 (5.5)	4.4 (5.7)	0.0 – 10.0
Val I-75	5.9 (5.8)	7.0 (8.1)	0.0 – 10.0
Fort Myers Yacht Basin	13.0 (13.7)	14.5 (17.0)	0.0 – 10.0
Cape Coral	20.9 (22.0)	21.5 (23.9)	10.0 – 25.0
Shell Point	31.4 (33.1)	31.6 (33.8)	10.0 – 25.0
Sanibel	34.5 (36.6)	39.3 (41.5)	10.0 – 25.0

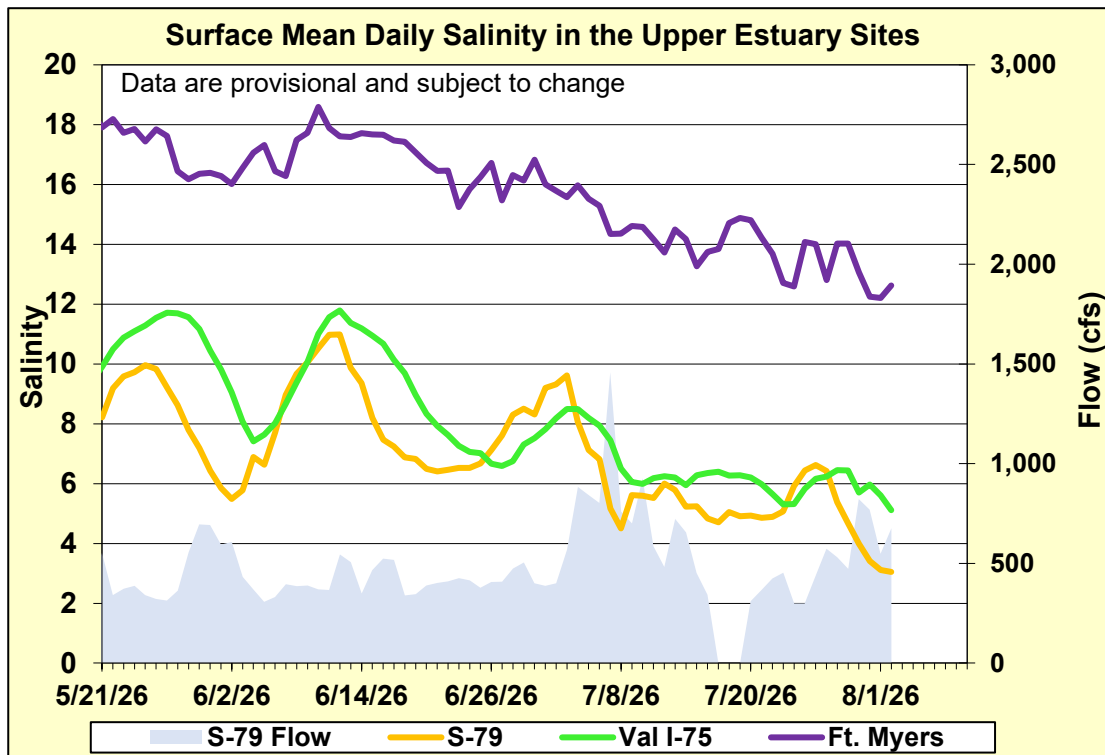


Figure ES-8. Mean daily salinity at upper Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

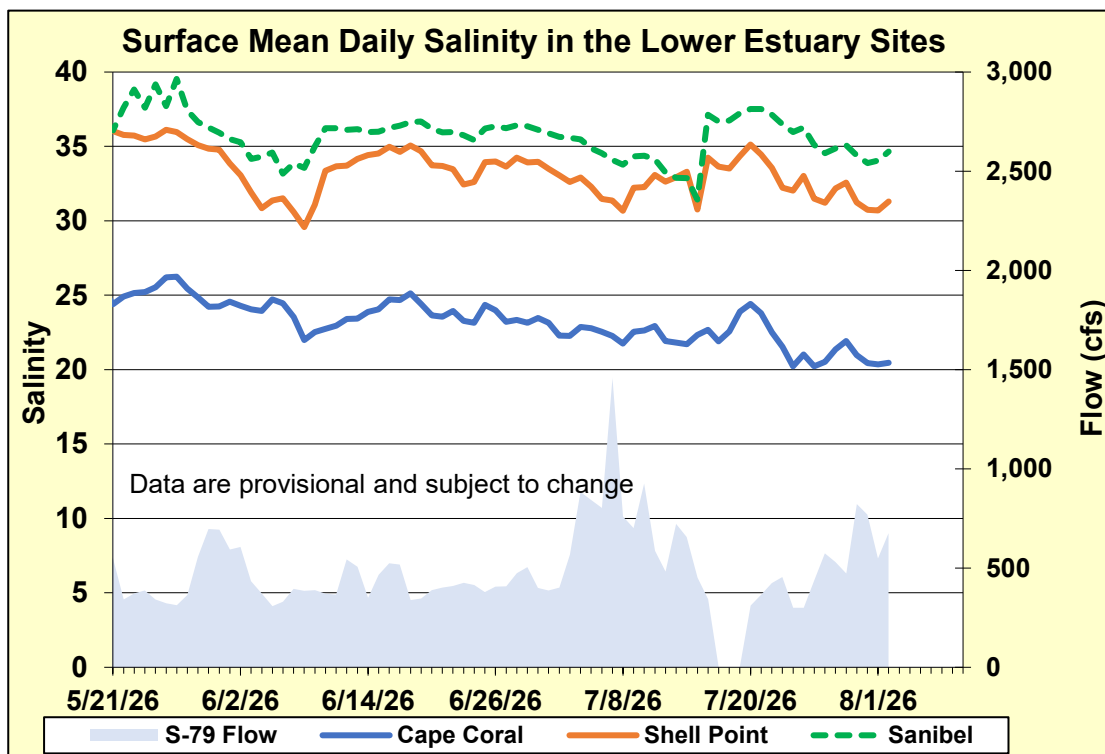


Figure ES-9. Mean daily surface salinity at lower Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

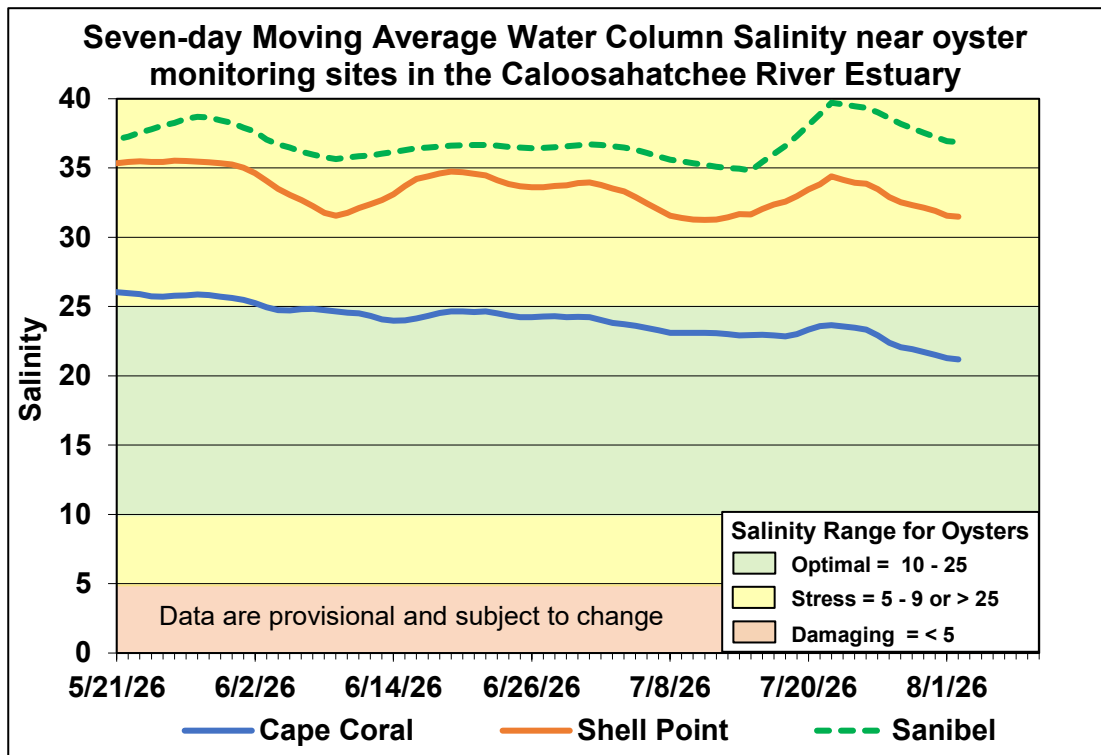


Figure ES-10. Seven-day moving average of surface and bottom salinities at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

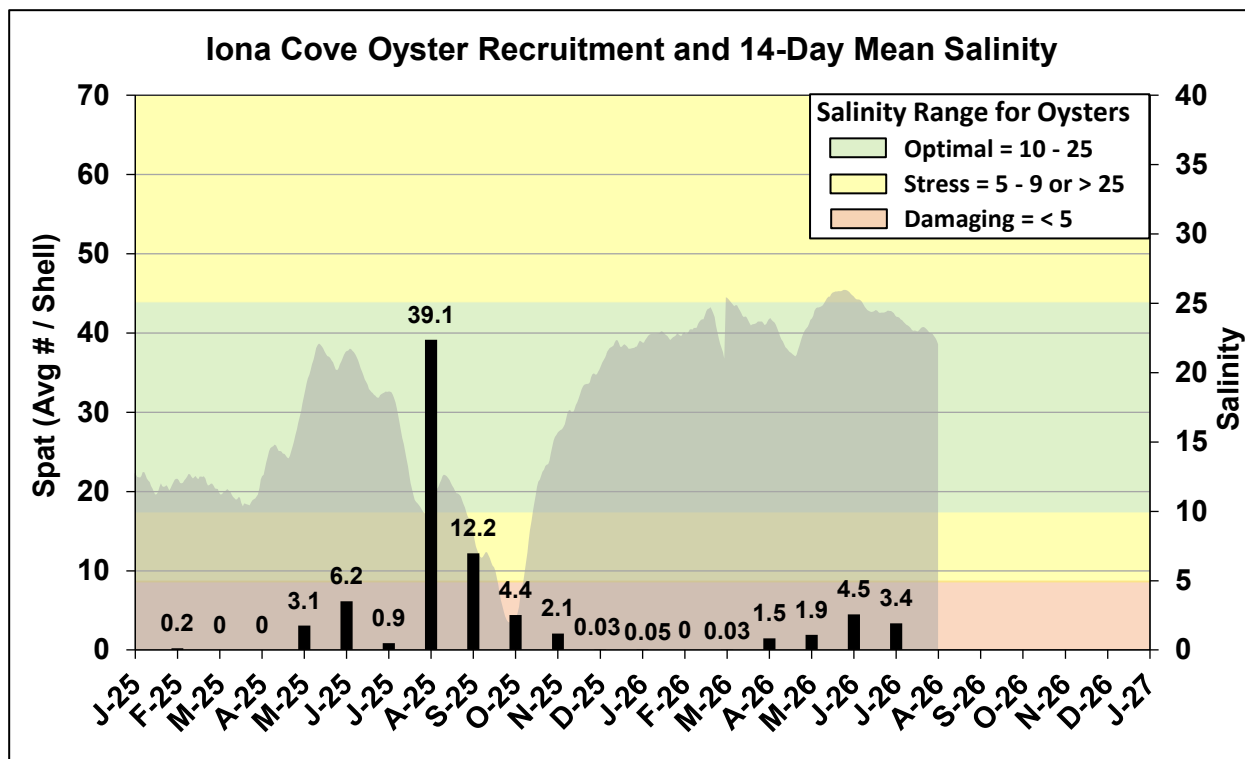


Figure ES-11. Mean oyster recruitment at the Iona Cove oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Cape Coral.

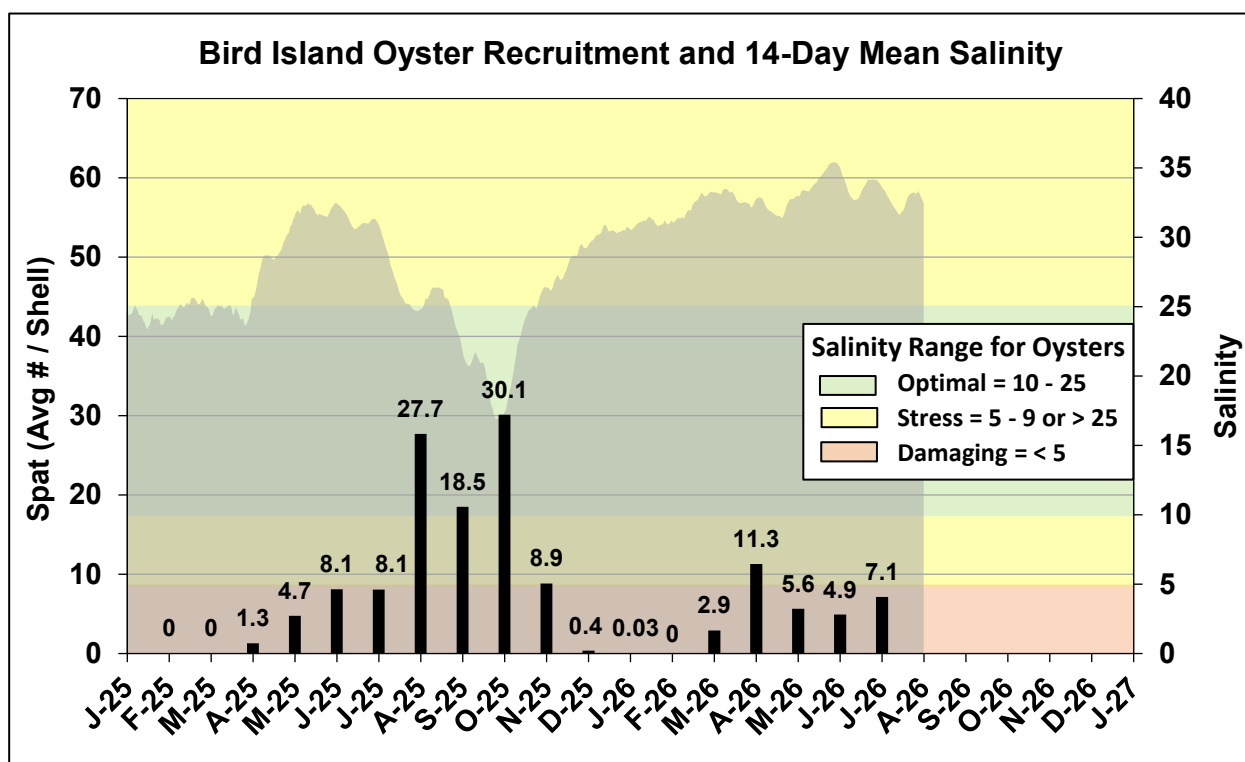


Figure ES-12. Mean oyster recruitment at the Bird Island oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Shell Point.

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	189	10.1	7.7
B	750	189	6.9	6.8
C	1,000	189	5.7	6.2
D	1,500	189	3.4	5.3
E	2,000	189	1.8	4.7

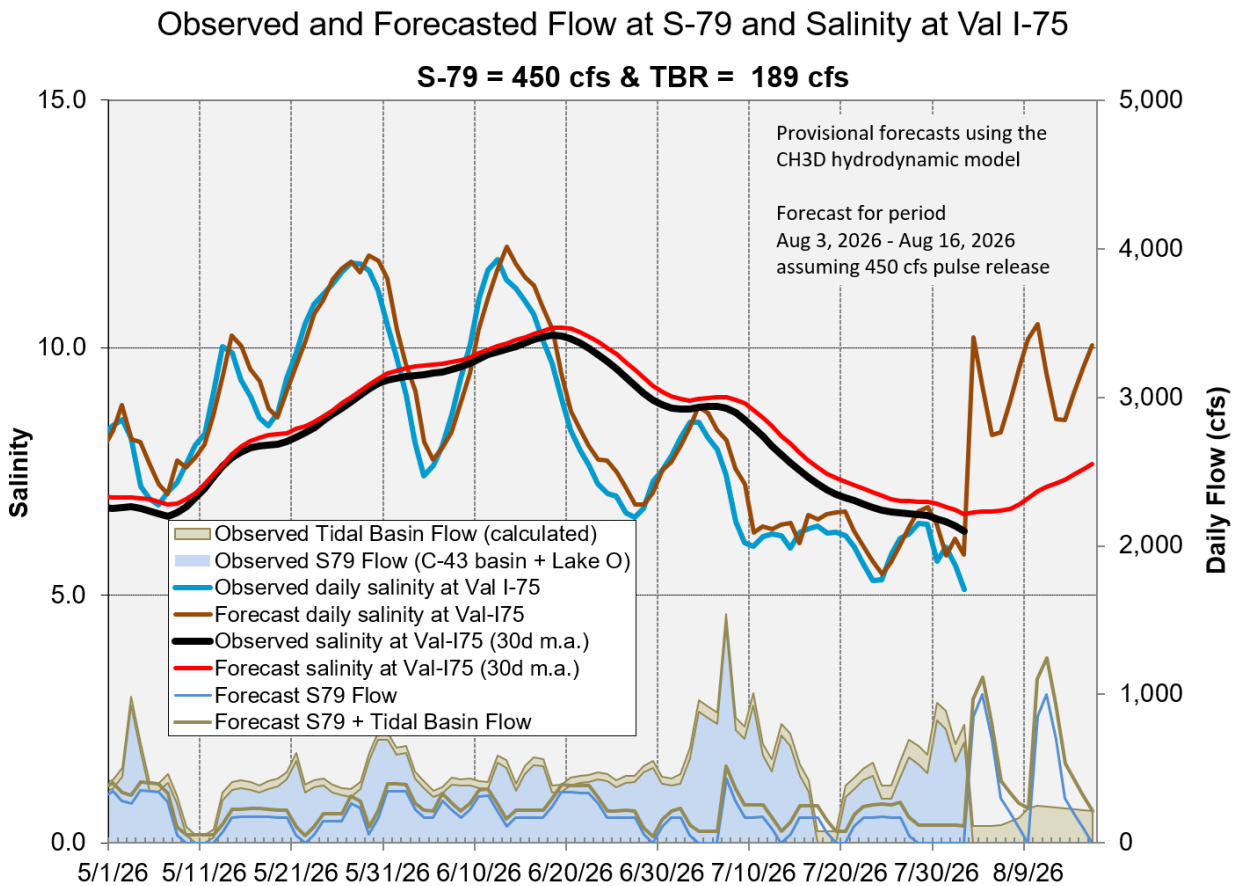


Figure ES-13. Surface salinity forecast at the Val I-75 site assuming a 450 cfs pulse release at S-79.

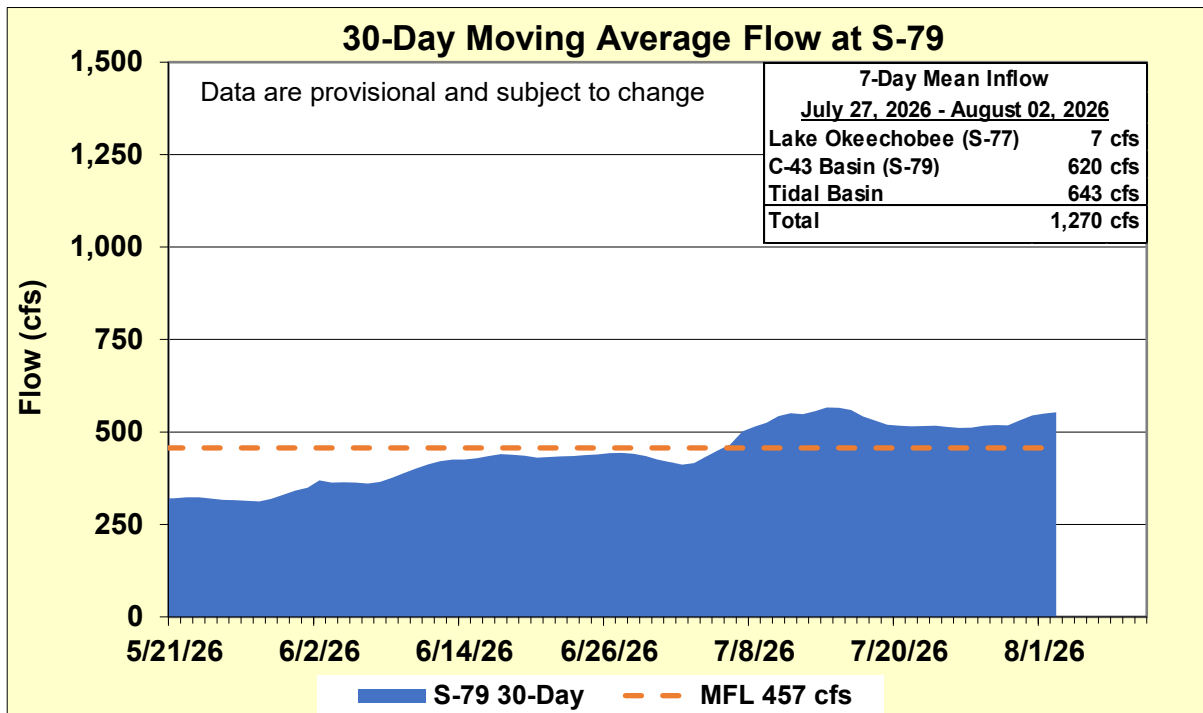


Figure ES-14. 30-day moving average flow at S-79 for the Caloosahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

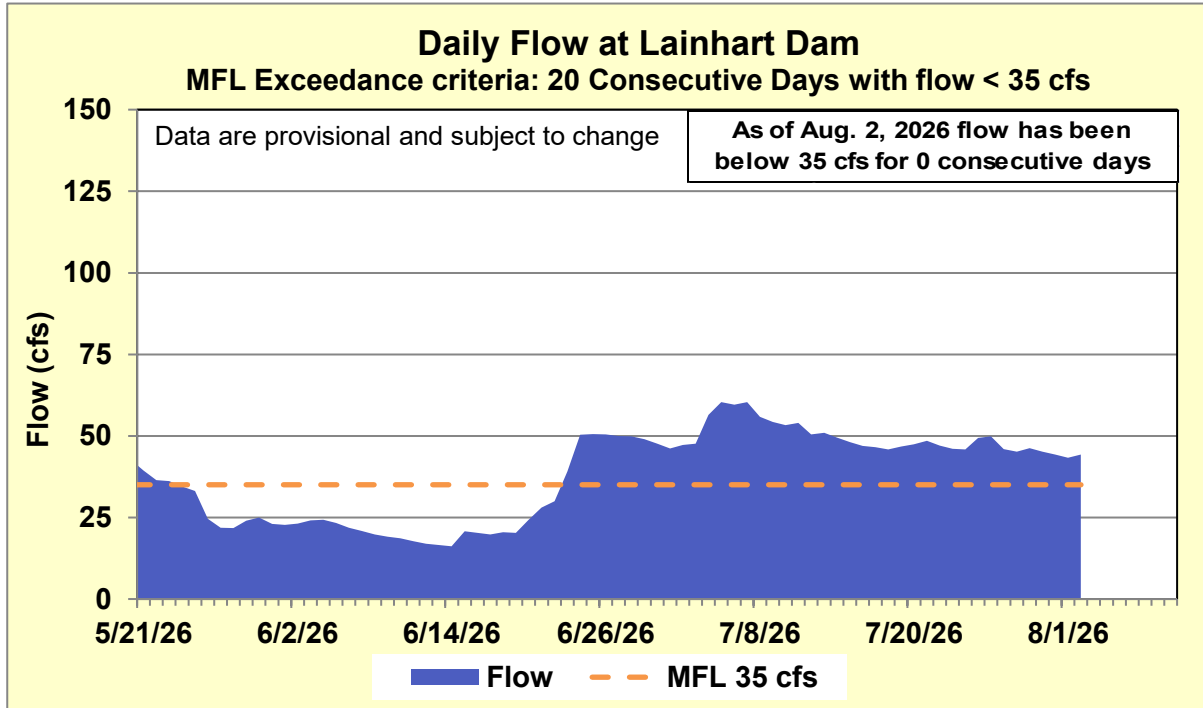


Figure ES-15. Average daily flow (cfs) at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

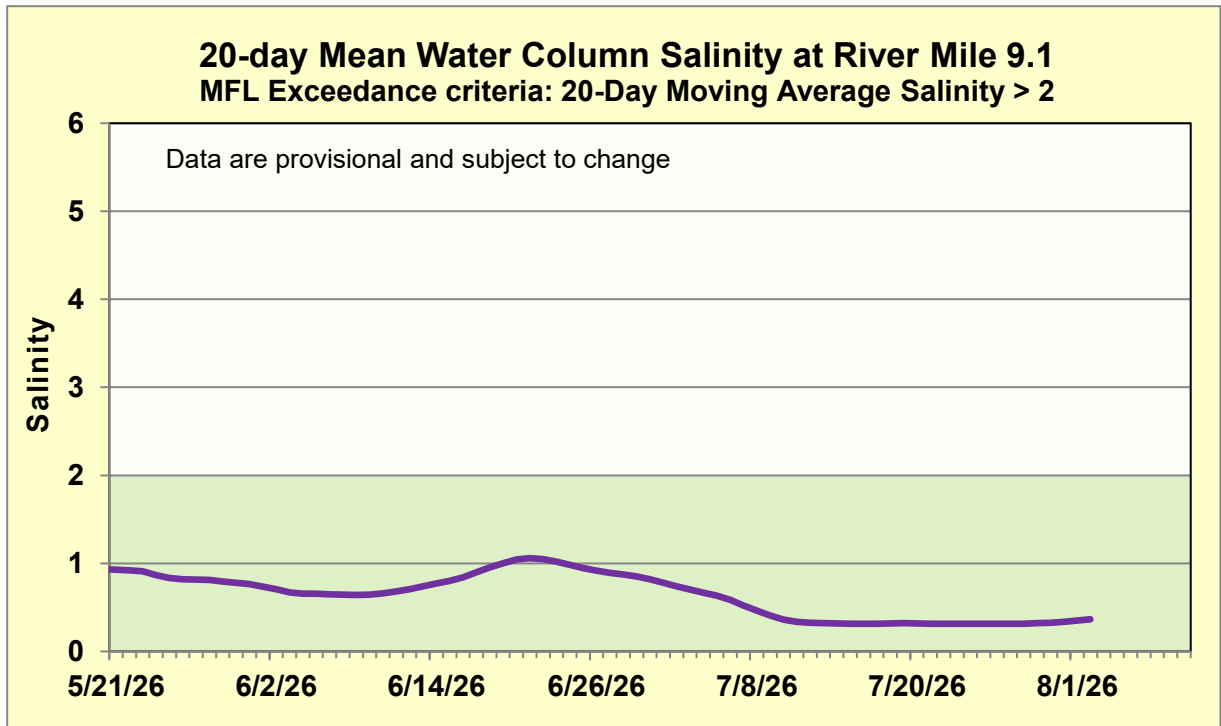


Figure ES-16. 20-day moving average salinity at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

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. Online treatment cells are at or near target stage. The 365-day PLRs for the Western and Eastern Flow-way are below 1.0 g/m²/year (**Figure S-2**).

STA-1W: STA-1W Eastern Flow-way is offline for vegetation management activities. Treatment cells are at target stage. 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/m²/year (**Figure S-2**).

STA-2: Treatment cells are at or slightly above target stage. An operational restriction is in place in Flow-way 2 for vegetation management activities. The 365-day PLRs for all Flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m²/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 PLRs for the Eastern, Central, and Western Flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m²/year (**Figure S-3**).

STA-5/6: Treatment cells are at target stage. All treatment cells have highly stressed vegetation conditions. The 365-day PLRs for all Flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m²/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 8/2/2026): ~59,000 ac-ft
- Lake Okeechobee releases to FEBs/STAs
 - 7/27/2026 to 8/2/2026: 0 ac-ft
 - WY 2027: ~ 9,000 ac-ft
- Extensive vegetation management activities underway to address stressed and highly stressed vegetation in EAV cells
- All treatment cells are at or slightly above target water depth

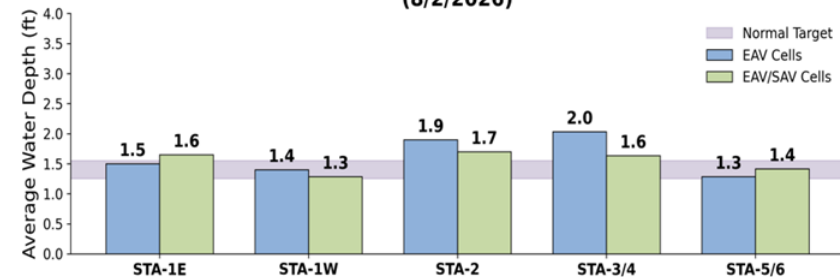
Estimated Inflow and Outflow Volumes

Jul. 27th, 2026 - Aug. 2nd, 2026

Includes preliminary data

	Total Inflow (acre-feet)	Total Outflow (acre-feet)
STA-1E	950	350
STA-1W	0	150
STA-2	1,600	2,800
STA-3/4	0	1,800
STA-5/6	600	0

Water Depths (8/2/2026)



Includes preliminary data; Emergent Aquatic Vegetation (EAV); Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

Figure S-1. STA depths and flow volumes

0 CFS Lake release capacity in Eastern Flow Path:
8/3/2026 to 8/9/2026
Subject to change weekly as wet season progresses

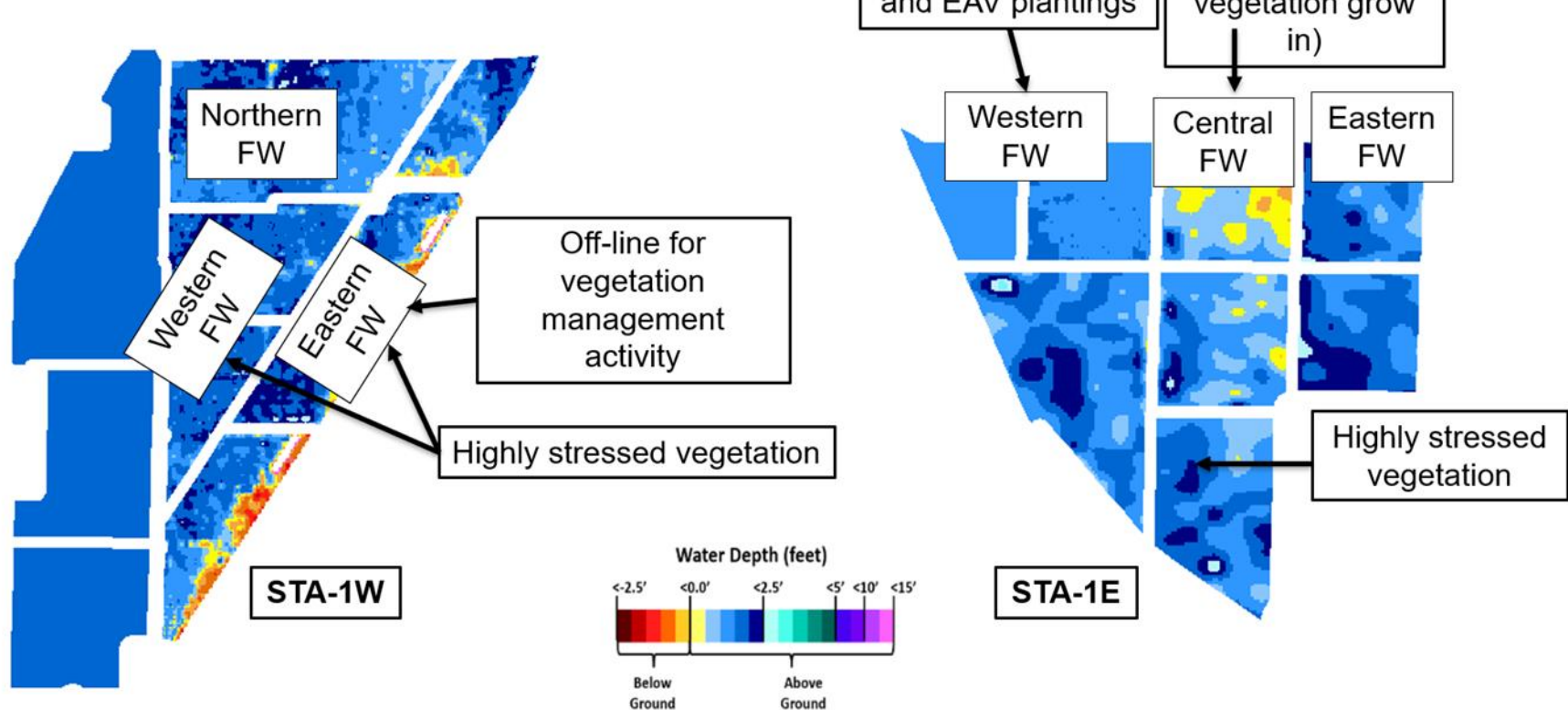


Figure S-2. Eastern Flow Path Weekly Status Report

1,100 CFS Lake release capacity in Central Flow Path:

8/3/2026 to 8/9/2026

Subject to change weekly as wet season progresses

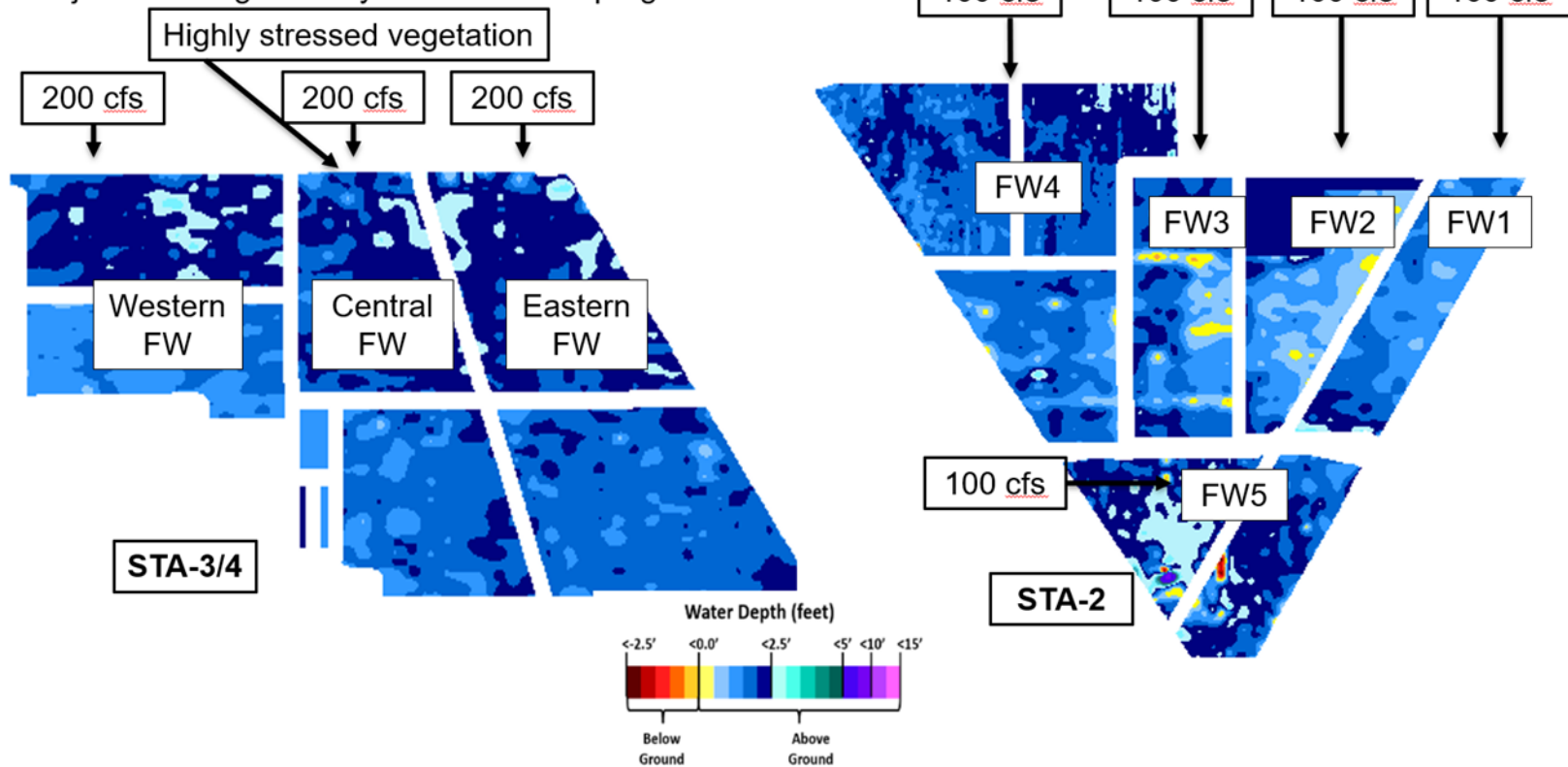


Figure S-3. Central Flow Path Weekly Status Report

0 CFS Lake release capacity in Western Flow Path:
8/3/2026 to 8/9/2026

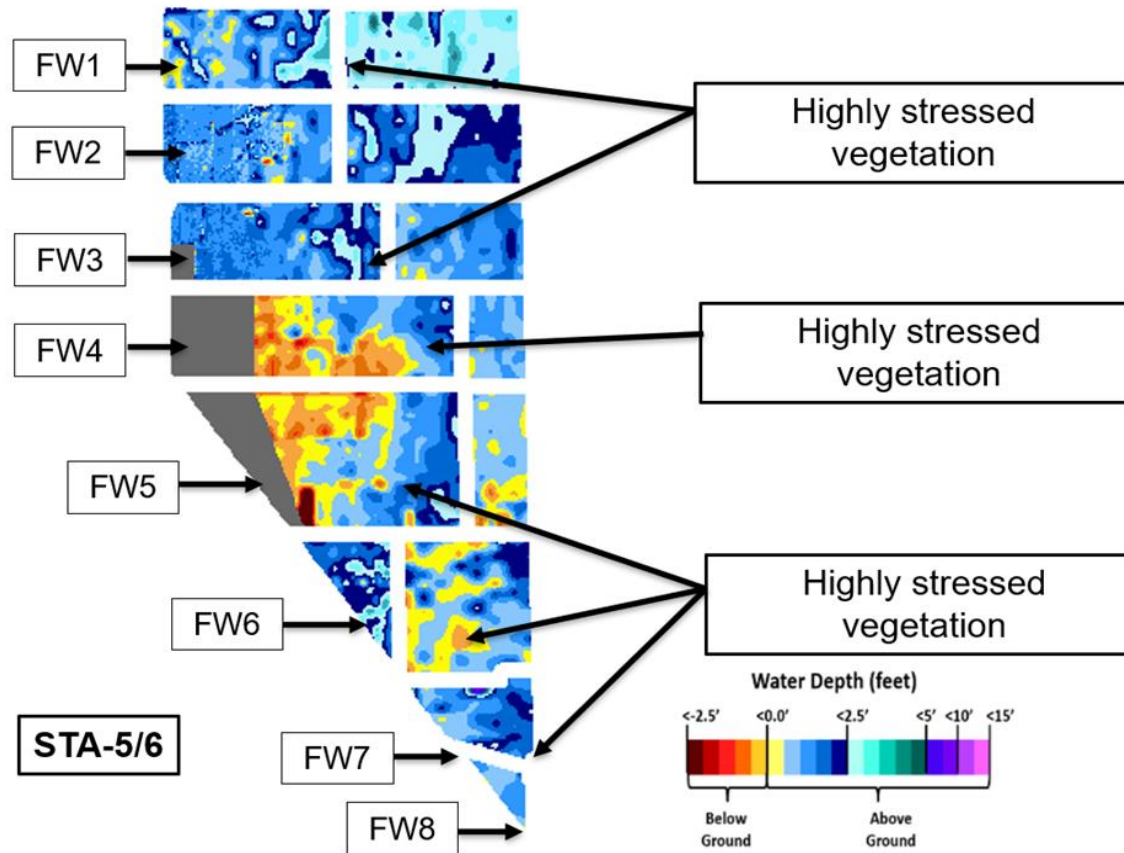


Figure S-4. Western Flow Path Weekly Status Report

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, $\mu\text{g/L}$ 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 Areas

Regulation Schedules

WCA-1: Stage fell at the 1-8C gauge last week and is now below the regulation line by 0.22 feet on Monday, August 3, 2026 (**Figure EV-1**).

WCA-2A: Last week's water depth at the 2-17 gauge remained steady. Stage was 0.18 feet above the regulation line on Monday (**Figure EV-2**).

WCA-3A: The 3-gauge average remains well within Zone B, remaining steady. On Monday, stages were 1.44 feet below the Zone A regulation line. Stage at Gauge 62 (NW corner) was also stable last week with a slight decline toward the end of the week and was below the Upper Schedule line by 0.86 feet on Monday (**Figures EV-3 and EV-4**).

Water Depths

The SFWDAT model output for August 1, 2026, illustrates that WCA-1 and WCA-2A have very similar depths compared to one month ago. Water levels are increasing across WCA-3, particularly in the southern region but the north and central remain dry. The Big Cypress basin is also showing a wetting trend along Tamiami trail, although water depth remains below ground across most of that basin. Water depths remain very low for this time of year across Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP), WCA-3A, and -3B, and are below average across the majority of WCA-1 and well below in WCA-2A; impacting soil, flora, and fauna. Northern WCA-3A remains especially dry in the east of that sub-basin. In Everglades National Park (ENP), both Taylor Slough (TS) and Shark River Slough (SRS) increased in water depths from north to south compared to a month ago with expected greater connection to the coast. Recurring below average depths in the central Everglades are illustrating the system level importance of maintaining water in the sloughs and low-water refugia for wildlife and vegetation needs. Water depths in most of ENP approach the 10th percentile for this time of year. See **Figures EV-5 and EV-6**.

Taylor Slough and Florida Bay

Most stages decreased across Taylor Slough over the past week, with an average decrease of 0.10 feet for the week. Changes ranged from -0.19 feet at CT50R in the C111 area to -0.05 at CP in the southern slough (**Figure EV-7 and Figure EV-8**). Taylor Slough water levels remain below the recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 3.5 inches compared to before the Florida Bay Initiative (starting in 2017), a decrease of 0.9 inches relative to last week. Stages at Craighead Pond (CP) and Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB) are below the estimated historical average by 0.89 and 2.08 feet, respectively.

Average salinity in Florida Bay was 41.2, an increase of 0.3 from last week. Salinity changes ranged from -4.1 at Buoy Key (BK) in the western Bay to +3.1 at Little Madeira in the eastern nearshore region (**Figure EV-7**). Salinity is above the estimated historical average and above the WY2001-2016 Interquartile Range (IQR) 75th percentile in all regions (**Figure EV-9**). Salinities in the central and western regions are also above the

hypersalinity threshold. Bay-wide salinity is above its recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 11.3, an increase of 0.1 from last week.

Salinity at the Taylor River (TR) station in the mangrove zone (tracked for the Florida Bay MFL) was 29.8, nearly equivalent to 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 0.07 inches for the week, based on the 18 gauges used for this report. Rainfall ranged from 0.00 inches at Craighead Pont (CP) in southern Taylor Slough to 1.11 inches at Manatee Bay (MB) in the C111 area (**Figure EV-11**). Wind directions and speeds in Florida Bay ranged from 0.2 mph SW on August 1st to 18.6 mph E on August 2nd (**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 -312 ac-feet, with net negative flows for the week. Total daily creek flow ranged from -1,486 ac-feet on July 29th to 346 ac-feet on July 31st (**Figure EV-13**). Average daily flow from Alligator Creek was -30 ac-feet, with net negative flows for the week (**Figure EV-13**).

Implications/considerations for water management

- Due to current drought conditions, slower recessions and more ascensions would help to protect the wetland ecology from damaging dry conditions during the wet season.
 - With continued drought conditions, conserving water within the WCAs, especially WCA-3A, will continue to be ecologically beneficial.
- 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	0.91	+0.01
WCA-2A	0.86	+0.03
WCA-2B	1.32	-0.06
WCA-3A	0.53	-0.06
WCA-3B	0.52	-0.07
ENP	0.34	-0.03

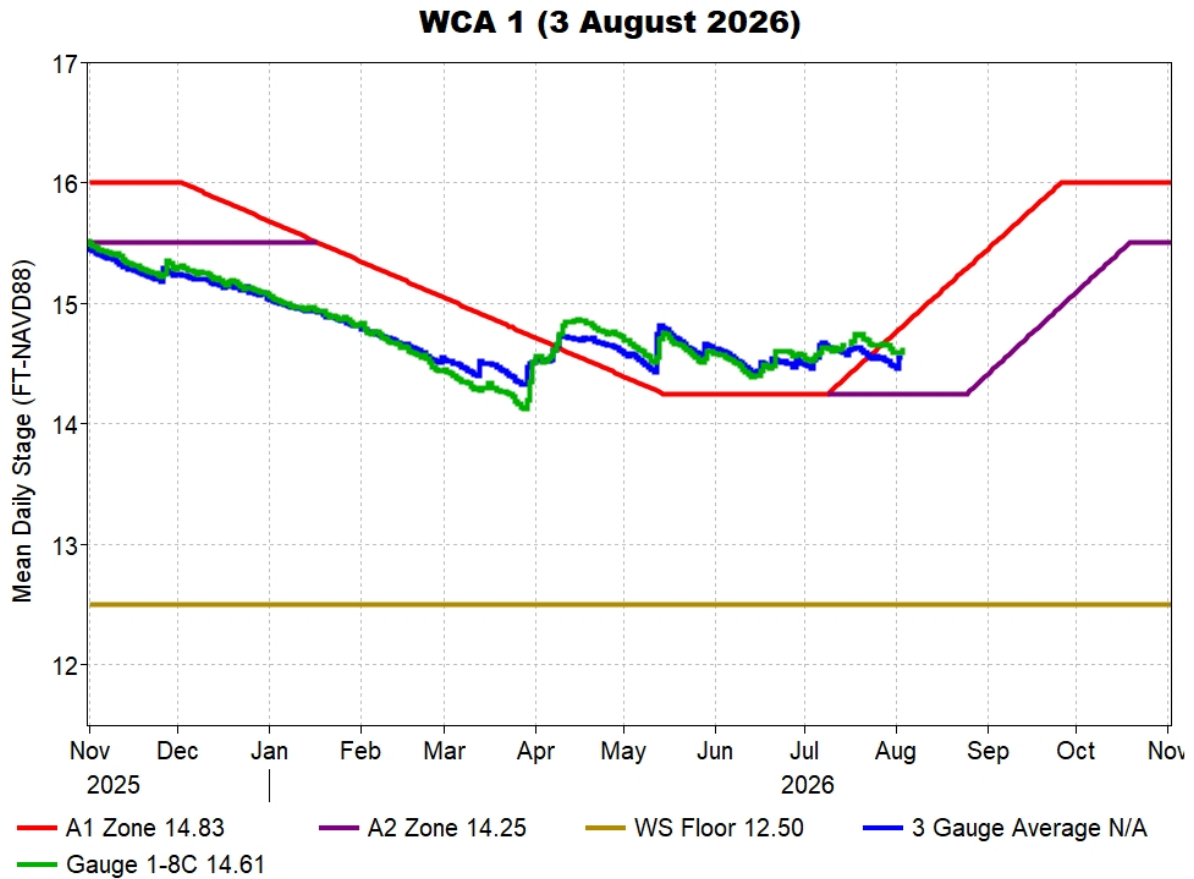


Figure EV-1. WCA-1 stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

WCA 2A (3 August 2026)

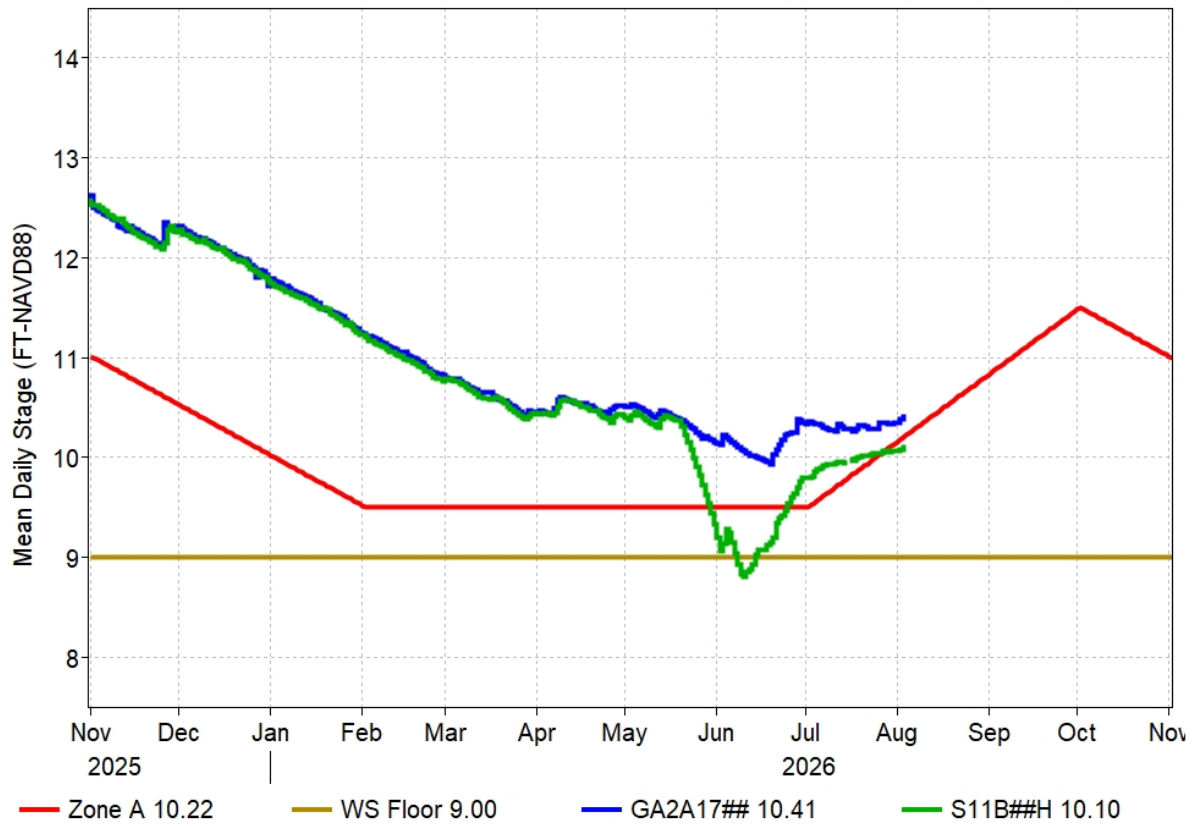


Figure EV-2. WCA-2A stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

WCA 3A COP (3 August 2026)

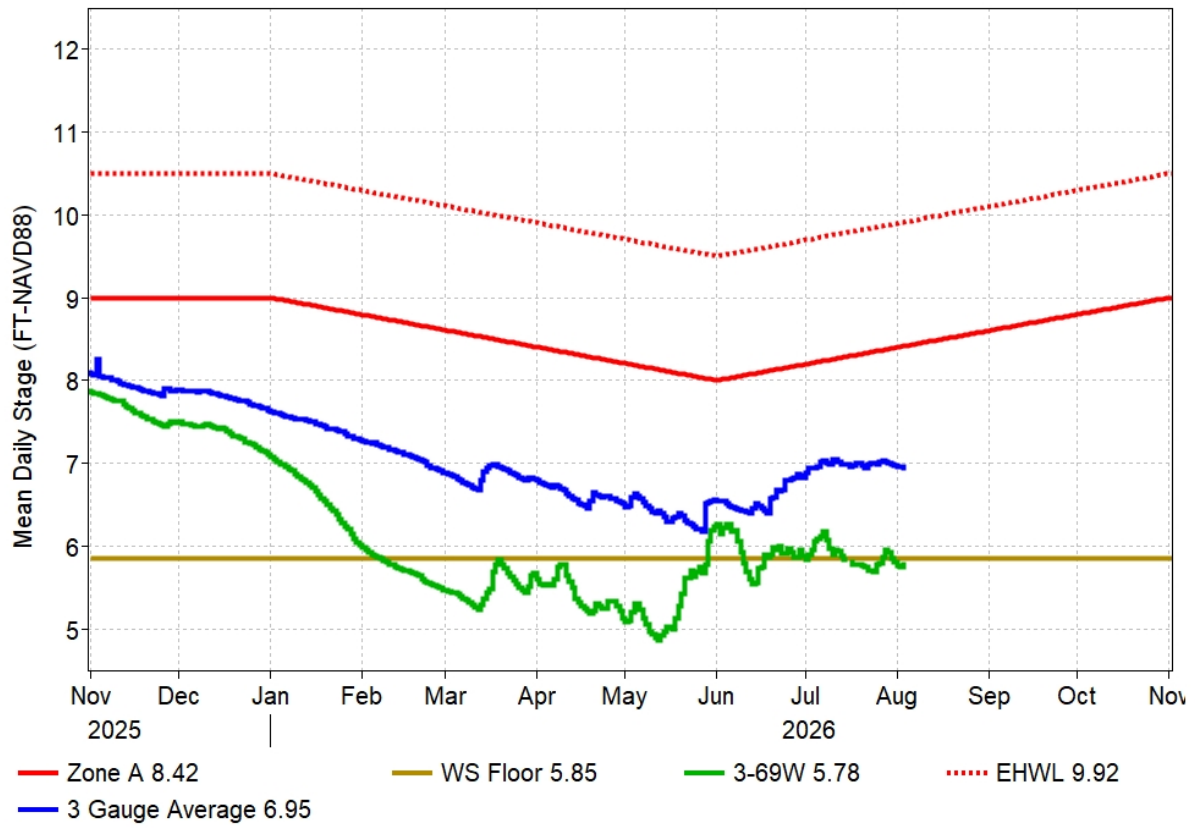


Figure EV-3. WCA-3A stage hydrographs (three-gauge average, 3-69W) and regulation schedule.

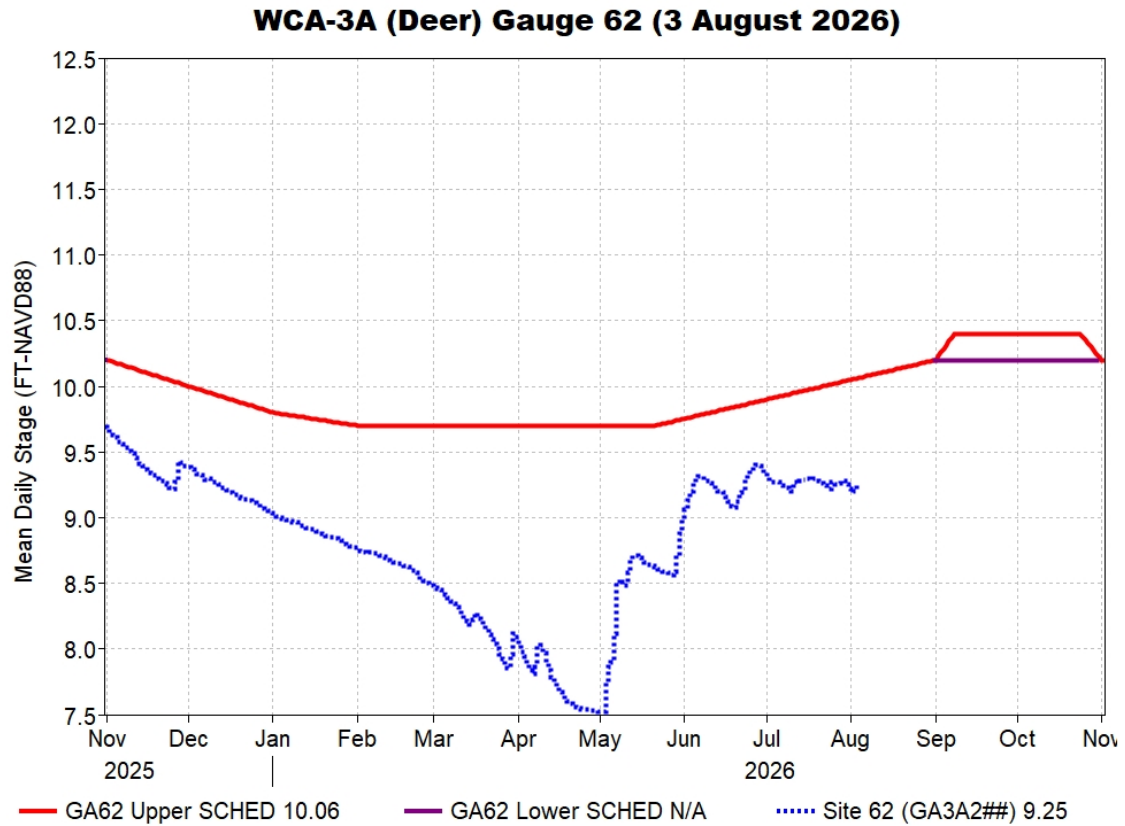


Figure EV-4. WCA-3A stage hydrograph (Deer gauge; Site 62) and regulation schedule.

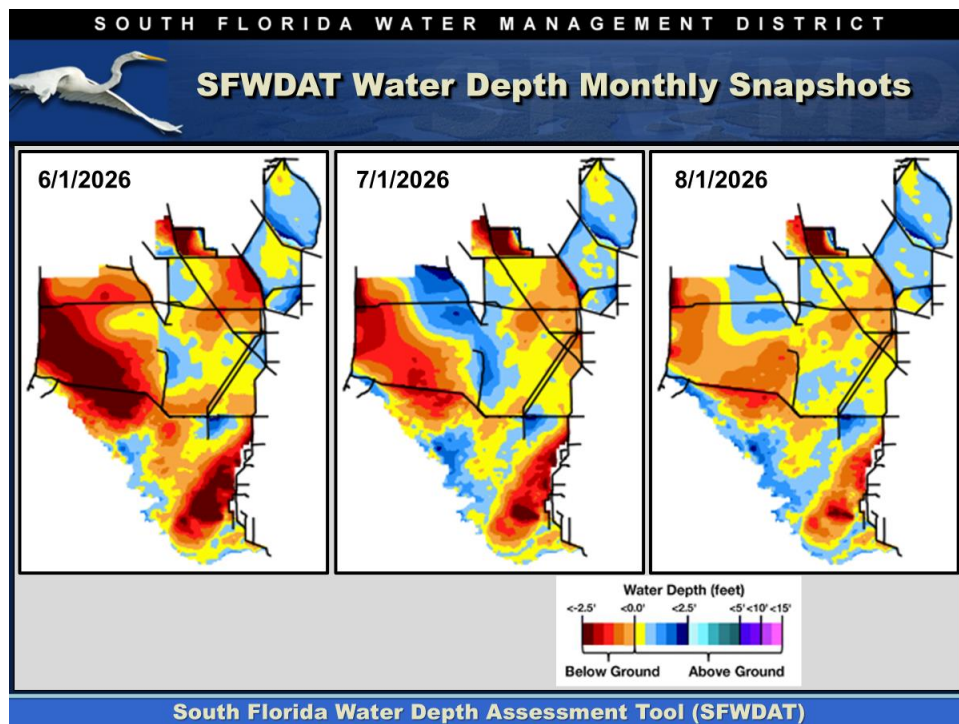


Figure EV-5. Everglades water depths from two months ago (left), one month ago (center) and present (right), based on SFWDAT.

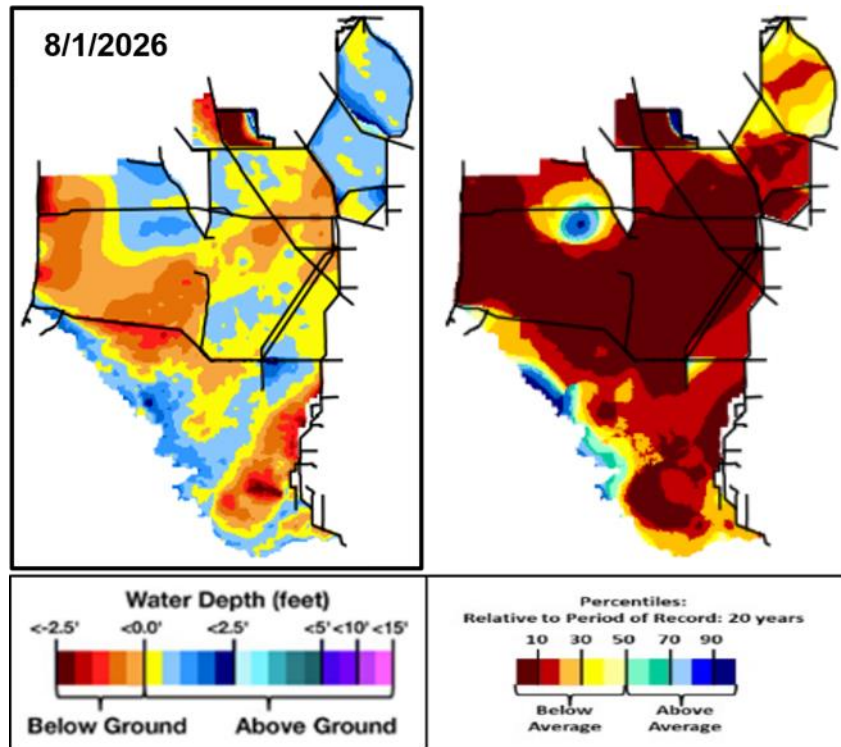


Figure EV-6. Present water depths (August 1, 2026) compared to the day of year relative to average (percentile) over the previous 20 years.

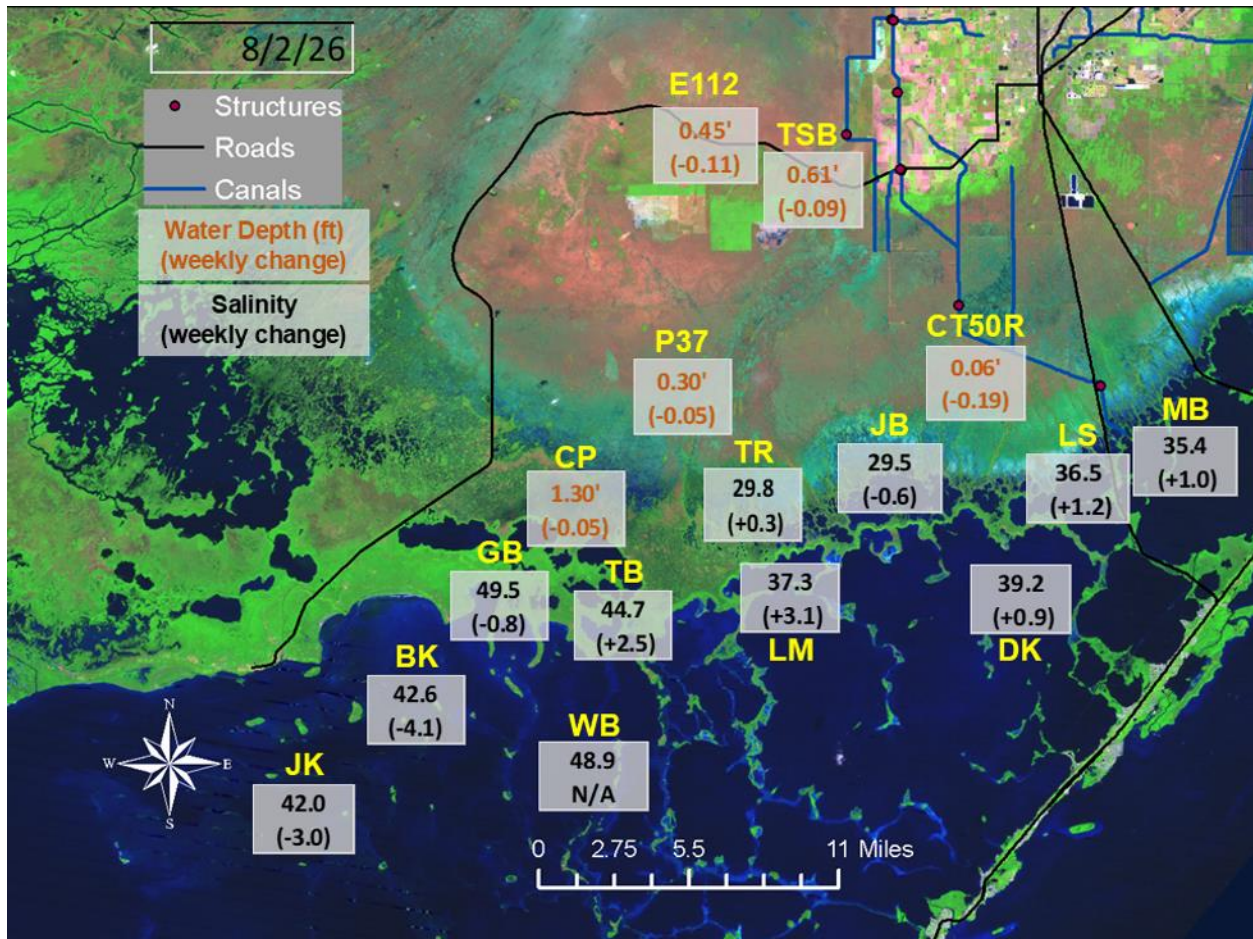


Figure EV-7. Taylor Slough water depths and Florida Bay salinities with changes since a week ago.

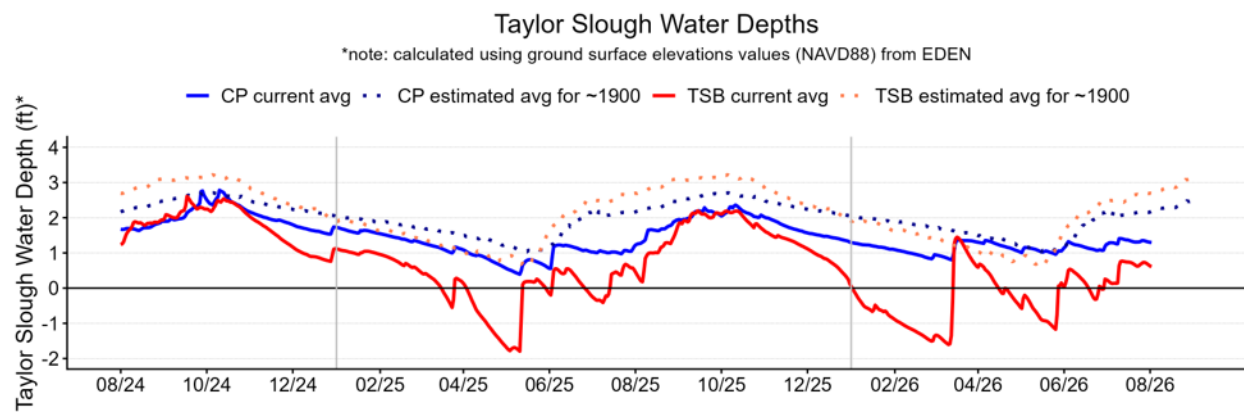


Figure EV-8. Taylor Slough water depth time series for Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB; northern slough) and Craighead Pond (CP; southern slough).

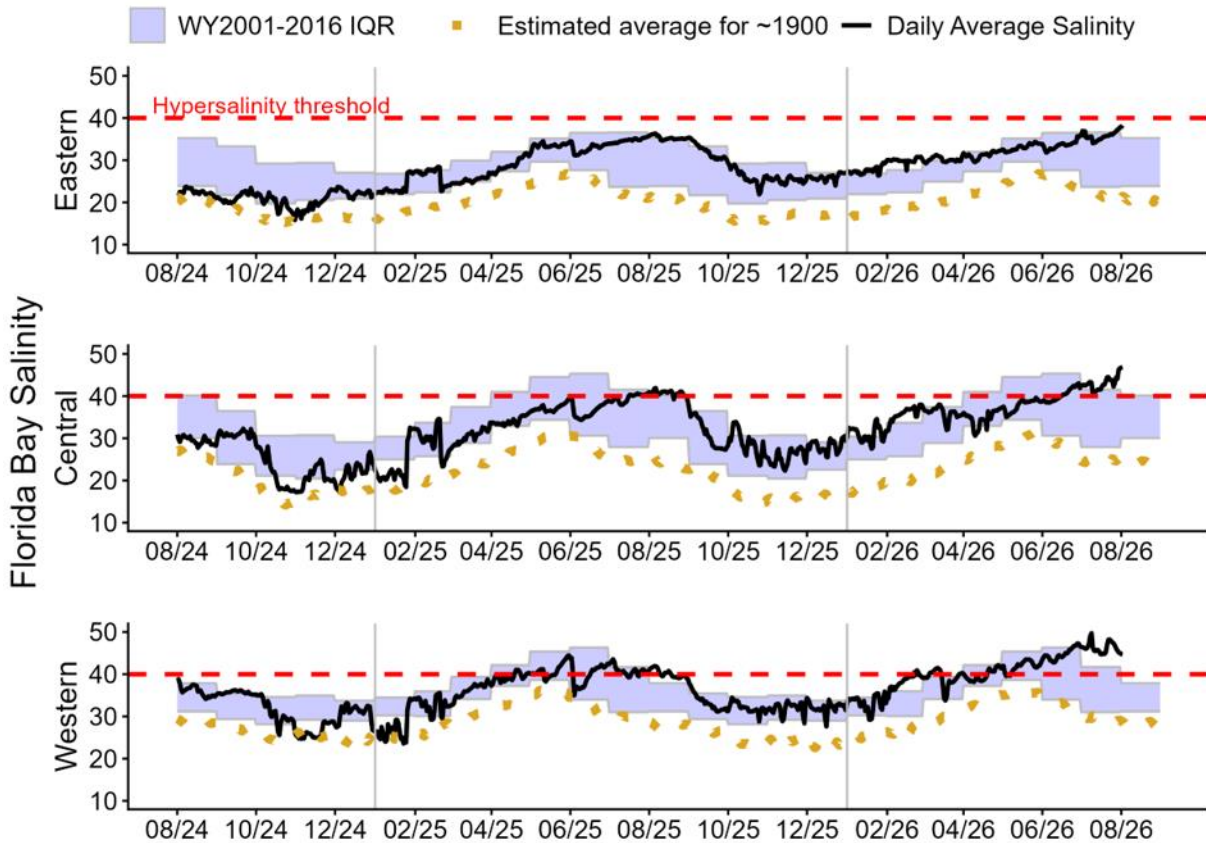


Figure EV-9. Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with WY2001-2016 interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges (IQR) and estimated historical daily average salinities. The hypersalinity threshold indicates the level at which salinities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

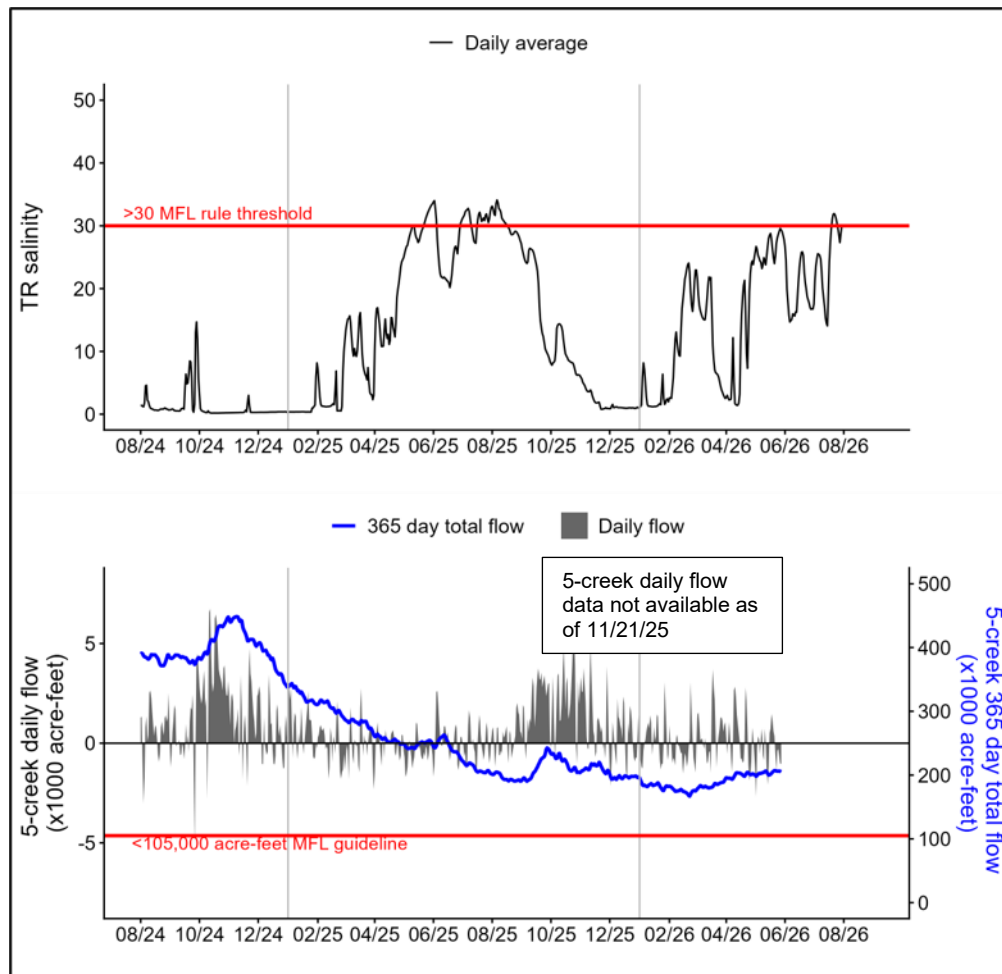


Figure EV-10. Daily average salinity at Taylor River (TR) tracked for the Florida Bay MFL criteria. The 365-day total creek flow MFL metric is not currently available due to missing creek flow data.

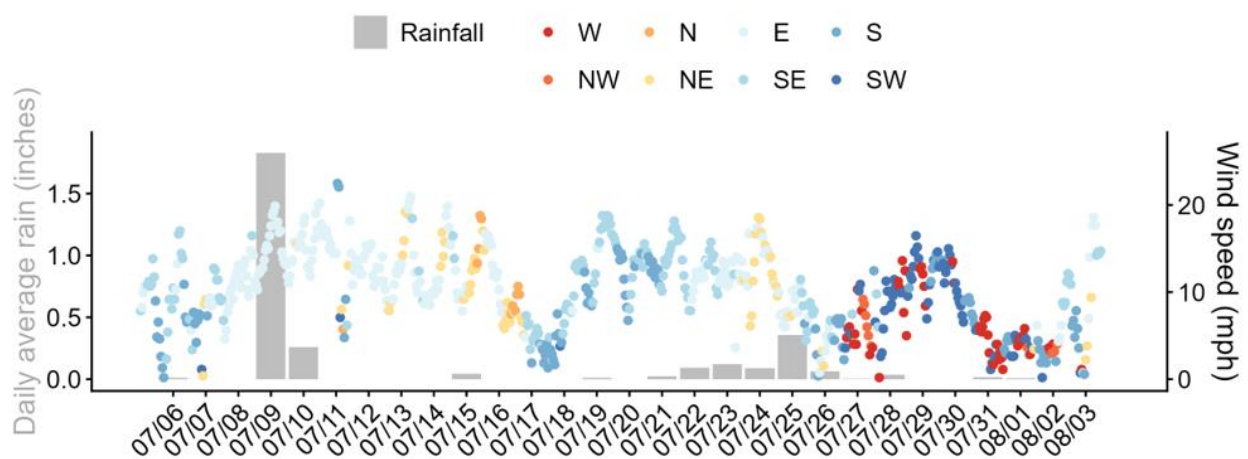


Figure EV-11. Daily average rain across Taylor Slough and Florida Bay, along with hourly average wind speed and direction (measured at Long Key) in Florida Bay over the past four weeks.

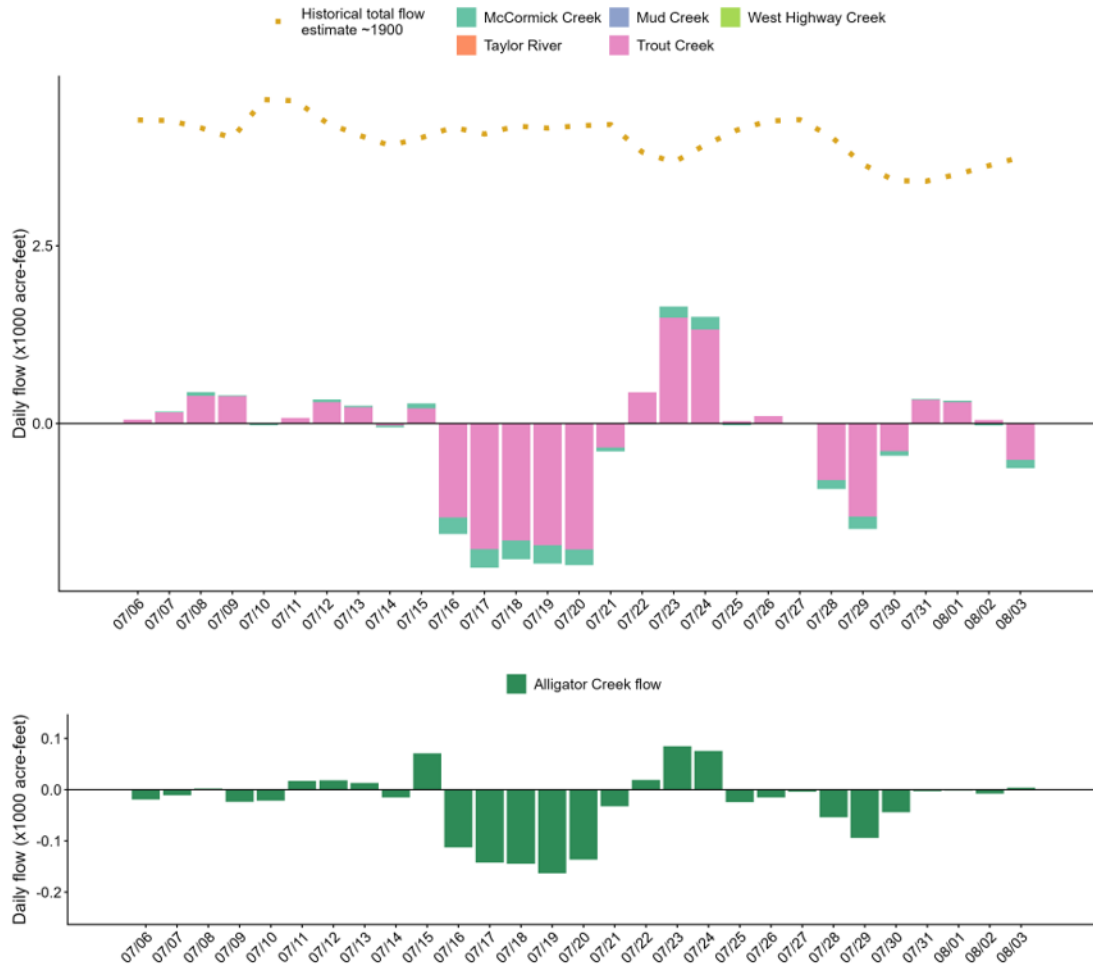


Figure EV-12. Top: daily average creek flow summed between the five major creeks with estimated historical daily flow over the past four weeks (**note:** data from Taylor River, Mud Creek and West Highway Creek are currently unavailable since November 21st, 2025). Bottom: Daily average Alligator Creek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

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

SFWMD Everglades Ecological Recommendations, August 3th, 2026 (red is new)			
	Weekly change	Recommendation	Reasons
WCA-1	Stage increased by 0.01 feet.	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Conserve water, maintain within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Maintain maintenance access for vegetation management.
WCA-2A	Stage increased by 0.03	An ascension 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 0.06 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NE	Stage showed no change	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 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 decreased by 0.01 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	
Central WCA-3A S	Stage decreased by 0.13 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 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 0.08 feet		
WCA-3B	Stage decreased by 0.07 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
ENP-SRS	Stage decreased by 0.03 feet	Make discharges to ENP according to COP protocol, considering up/down stream ecological conditions.	Protect within basin and upstream habitat and wildlife.
Taylor Slough	Stage changes ranged from —0.19 feet to —0.05 feet	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.
FB- Salinity	Salinity changes ranged from —4.1 to +3.1	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.