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: October 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Weekly Environmental Conditions for Systems Operations

Summary

Weather Conditions and Forecast

From Wednesday through Friday, a frontal boundary will continue to be a focal point of rainfall, favoring scattered to locally numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms along portions of the Middle and Upper East Coast near the front near and north of the front while a band of somewhat heavier rainfall north of the boundary could extend from the Space Coast into the northern Kissimmee Valley on Wednesday. South of the front, warmer air and greater instability will support additional scattered showers and thunderstorms from the southwestern interior to the west coast, where east-northeasterly to easterly steering winds interact with the west-coast sea breeze. This pattern could repeat itself each day, with the greatest activity generally confined from the south-central through the southwestern interior and west coast. Meanwhile, additional showers should persist near and north of the frontal boundary along portions of the Middle and Upper East Coast. Over the weekend, the frontal boundary could temporarily sag southward on Saturday, remaining nearly stalled across the region amid abundant atmospheric moisture and good instability. Increasing jet-stream support, favoring dynamic lift, particularly by Sunday, could lead to a substantial increase in rainfall north and east of Lake Okeechobee, beginning on Saturday and potentially becoming more widespread and heavier on Sunday. Some rainfall amounts late in the weekend could be substantial, although considerable uncertainty remains regarding the strength and position where the upper-air ultimately digs as it approaches the region. Given the considerable spread among model solutions, confidence in the Day-6 and Day-7 QPFs remains low. By Monday, model guidance generally indicates a rather drastic decrease of total SFWMD rainfall. For the week ending next Monday morning, current guidance indicates that total SFWMD rainfall will be above to well above the long-term average, with rainfall possible each day throughout the forecast period. Although the overall signal favors a wetter-than-average week, the magnitude and distribution of rainfall late in the period remain uncertain, particularly as the potential weekend disturbance evolves.

Kissimmee

In the last week, releases were made from East Lake Toho and Lake Toho to lower stage back to their respective regulation schedules. Releases from Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha followed the Headwaters Revitalization Schedule Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan. Weekly average discharge on October 25, 2026, was 1,800 cfs and 2,000 cfs at S-65 and S-65A, respectively. Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain increased by 0.21 feet to 1.07 feet. The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River increased from 0.7 mg/L the previous week to 1.5 mg/L, which is above the potentially lethal level of 1.0 mg/L but below the stressful level of 2.0 mg/L for Florida bass and other native fish species.

Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 11.21 feet NAVD88 (12.52 ft NGVD29) on October 25, 2026, which was 0.04 feet higher than the previous week and 0.73 feet higher than a month ago. The Lake remains in the water shortage management band. Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) decreased from 5,080 cfs the previous week to 3,690 cfs. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) were 0 cfs for the eighth consecutive week. The October 24, 2026, satellite image from NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests low to moderate cyanobacteria potential across the western shoreline of the Lake.

Estuaries

Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 1,340 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Mean salinities increased at all sites in the estuary over the past week. Salinity in the middle estuary was in the optimal range (10-25) for adult eastern oysters.

Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary averaged 1,086 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Over the past week, salinities increased at all sites in the estuary. Salinities were in the optimal range (0-10) for tape grass in the upper estuary. Salinities were in the optimal range (10-25) for adult oysters at Cape Coral and in the upper stressed range (>25) at Shell Point and Sanibel.

Stormwater Treatment Areas

For the week ending October 25, 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 9,500 acre-feet. The total amount of inflows to the STAs in WY2027 is approximately 590,000 acre-feet. Most online STA treatment cells are above 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 Eastern and Western Flow-way, STA-2 Flow-ways 1 through 4, STA-3/4 Eastern Flow-way and STA-5/6 Flow-ways 4 and 5 for vegetation management activities. This week, there is no lake release capacity in the STAs.

Everglades

Mostly below average rainfall occurred throughout the Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) last week with a slight increase in rain toward the end of the week. The limited rainfall along with operational changes responding to regional rainfall last week meant both ascensions and recessions in the system. Additionally, below average rain fell in Everglades National Park (ENP) last week, and stages declined. WCA-1 and 2A are above the 90th percentile for water depth for this time of year. Moderate and incremental operational changes as that water is moved south have water depths in northern WCA-3A climbing and is now close to the 50th percentile for this time of year. Water depths across southern WCA-3A continue to steadily move towards the 20-year average but remain very shallow. Most of the south-central Everglades and ENP remain below the 20th percentile. These dry conditions and stage deficits can have ecological consequences system wide, including reduced prey production, increased risk of damaging wildfires, enhanced peat oxidation, and potential ridge and slough degradation as the dry season continues. Stage has fallen on average in Taylor Slough (TS) over the last two weeks and is near the recent seasonal average. Florida Bay experienced an increase in salinity last week and remains well above the recent seasonal average (>15 above). Salinity in the central and western regions remain above the hypersalinity threshold, while salinities in the eastern region are below it. Florida Bay received below-normal rainfall throughout the wet season resulting in above-average salinities in many parts of the bay.

Supporting Information

Kissimmee Basin

Upper Kissimmee

On October 25, 2026, mean daily lake stages were 56.6 feet NAVD88 (0.2 feet below schedule) in East Lake Toho, 53.8 feet NAVD88 (at schedule) in Lake Toho, and 50.3 feet NAVD88 (0.9 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 October 25, 2026, mean weekly discharge was 1,800 cfs and 2,000 cfs at S-65 and S-65A, respectively. Mean weekly discharge from the Kissimmee River was 2,300 cfs and 2,100 cfs at S-65D and S-65E respectively (**Table KB-2**). Mean weekly headwater stages were 45.2 feet NAVD88 at S-65A and 33.3 feet NAVD88 at S-65D. Mean weekly river channel stage increased by 0.4 feet to 36.3 feet NAVD88 (**Figure KB-4**). Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain increased by 0.21 feet to 1.07 feet (**Table KB-2**, **Figure KB-5**). The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River increased from 0.7 mg/L the previous week to 1.5 mg/L (**Table KB-2**, **Figure KB-6**).

Water Management Recommendations

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 B1, target flows between 1,400 and 3,000 cfs at S-65A using the Increment 1 Interpolation Tool to determine discharge relative to stage in KCH; if stage decreases into Zone B2, target flows of 1,400 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)	
							10/25/26	*10/18/26*
Lakes Hart and Mary Jane	S-62	LKMJ	0	59.7	R	59.8	-0.1	0.1
Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel	S-57	S-57	3	60.7	R	60.7	0.0	0.1
Alligator Chain	S-60	ALLI	4	62.7	R	62.7	0.0	0.1
Lake Gentry	S-63	LKGT	5	60.3	R	60.3	0.0	0.0
East Lake Toho	S-59	TOHOE	0	56.6	R	56.8	-0.2	0.1
Lake Toho	S-61	TOHOW S-61	24	53.8	R	53.8	0.0	0.1
Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha	S-65	KUB011 LKIS5B	1800	50.3	T	51.2	-0.9	-0.4

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.

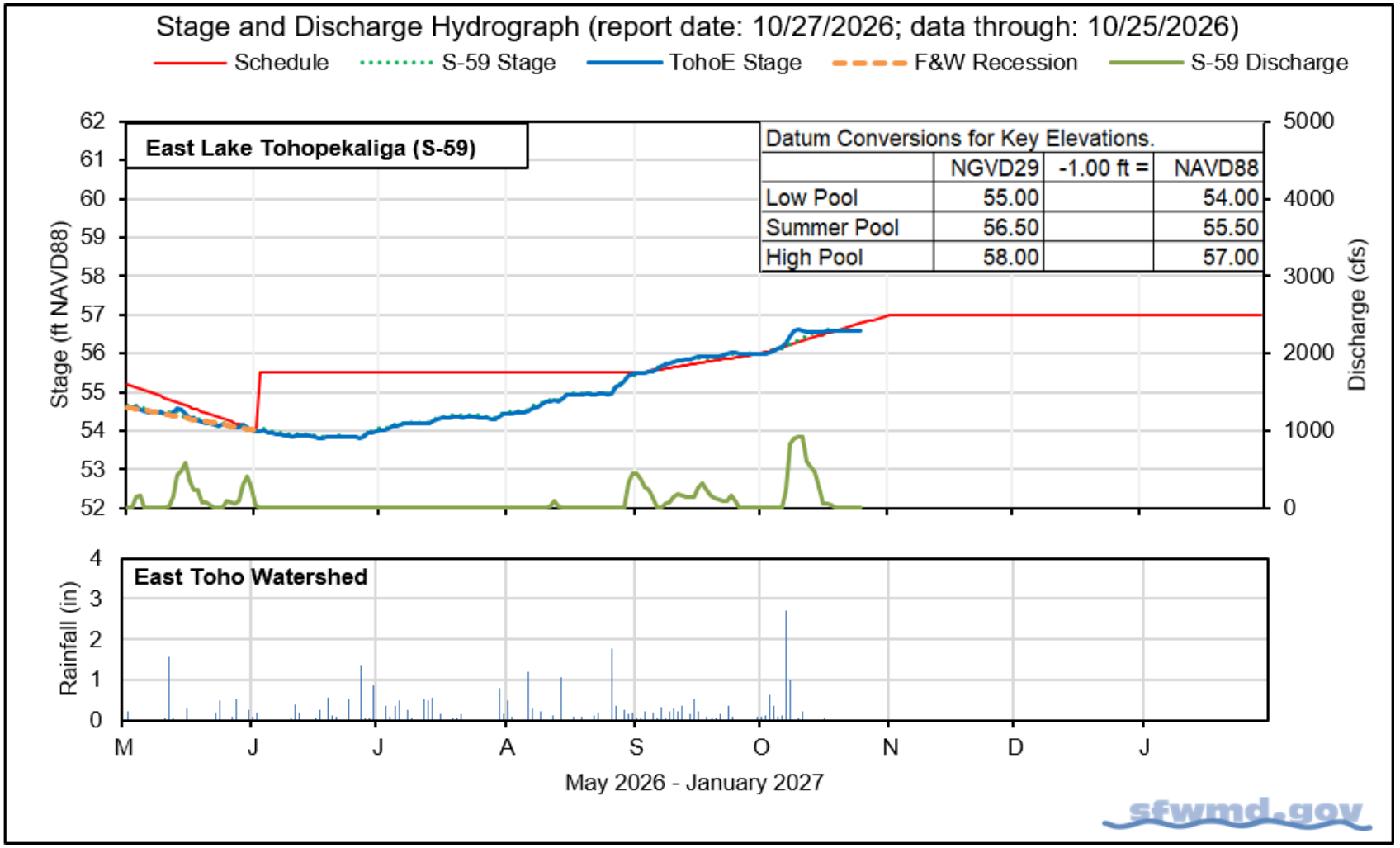


Figure KB-1. East Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

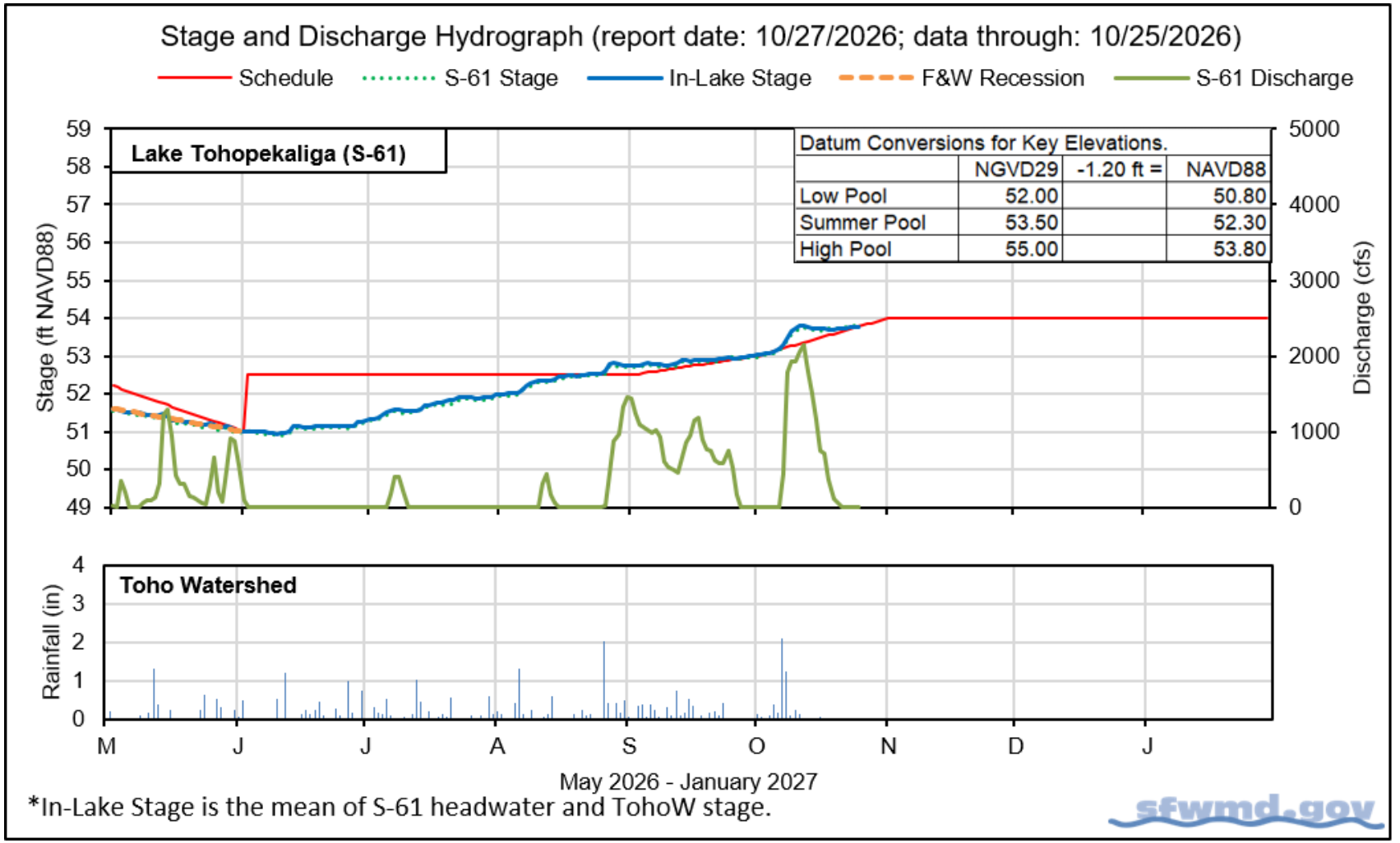


Figure KB-2. Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

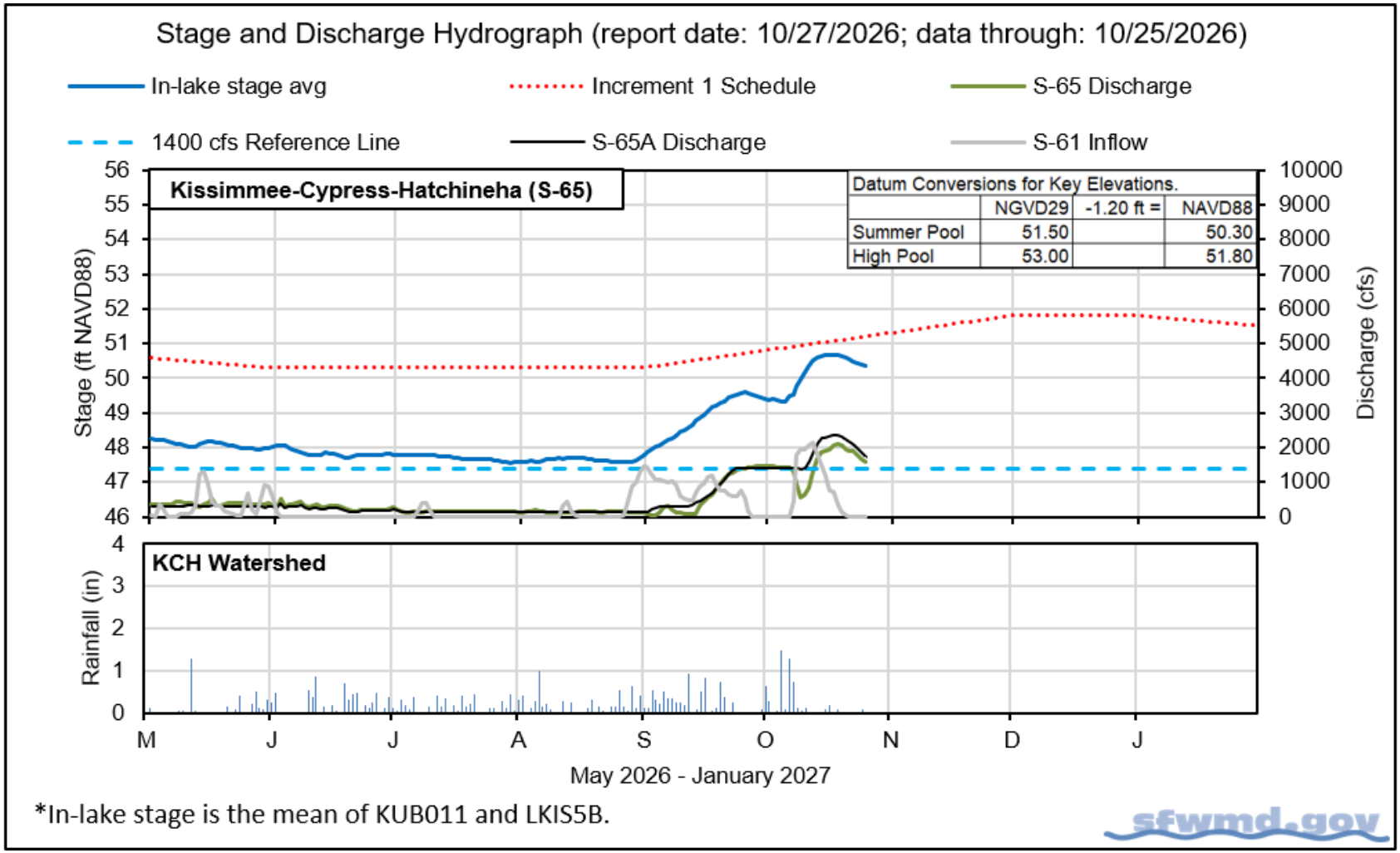


Figure KB-3. Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

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			
		10/25/26	10/25/26	10/18/26	10/11/26	10/4/26
Discharge	S-65	1,600	1,800	1,800	1,000	1,500
Discharge	S-65A[a]	1,700	2,000	2,200	1,400	1,400
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65A	45.2	45.2	45.2	45.3	45.2
Discharge	S-65D[b]	2,600	2,300	1,900	1,400	1,300
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65D[c]	25.6	33.3	32.5	32.1	31.8
Discharge (cfs)	S-65E[d]	2,400	2,100	1,800	1,300	1,100
Discharge (cfs)	S-67	0	0	0	0	0
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)[e]	Phase I, II/III river channel	2.2	1.5	0.7	2.8	3.4
River channel mean stage (feet NAVD88)[f]	Phase I river channel	36.3	36.3	35.9	35.4	35.1
Mean depth (feet)[g]	Phase I & II/III floodplain	0.97	1.07	0.86	0.63	0.56

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).

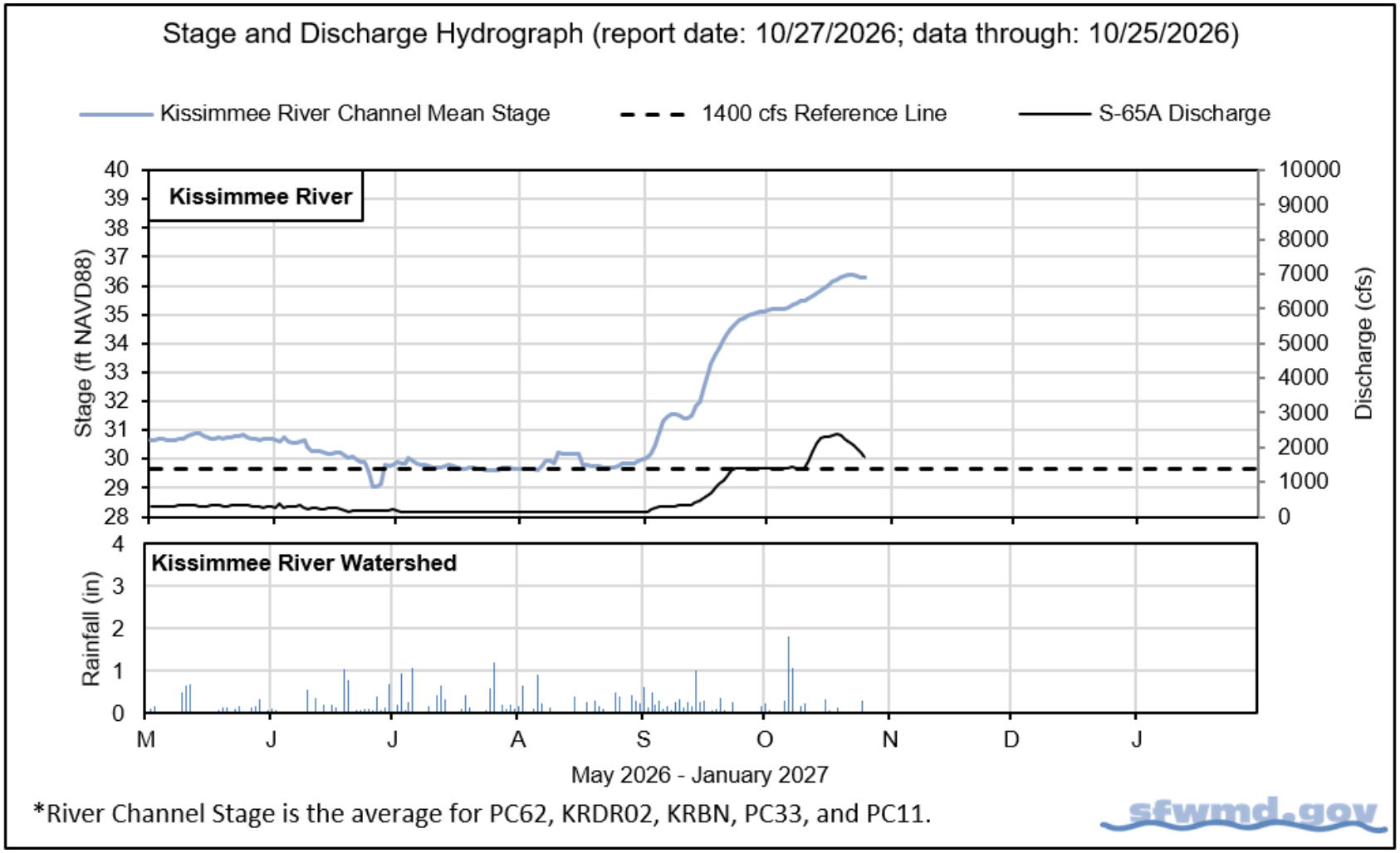


Figure KB-4. Kissimmee River stage, discharge, and rainfall.

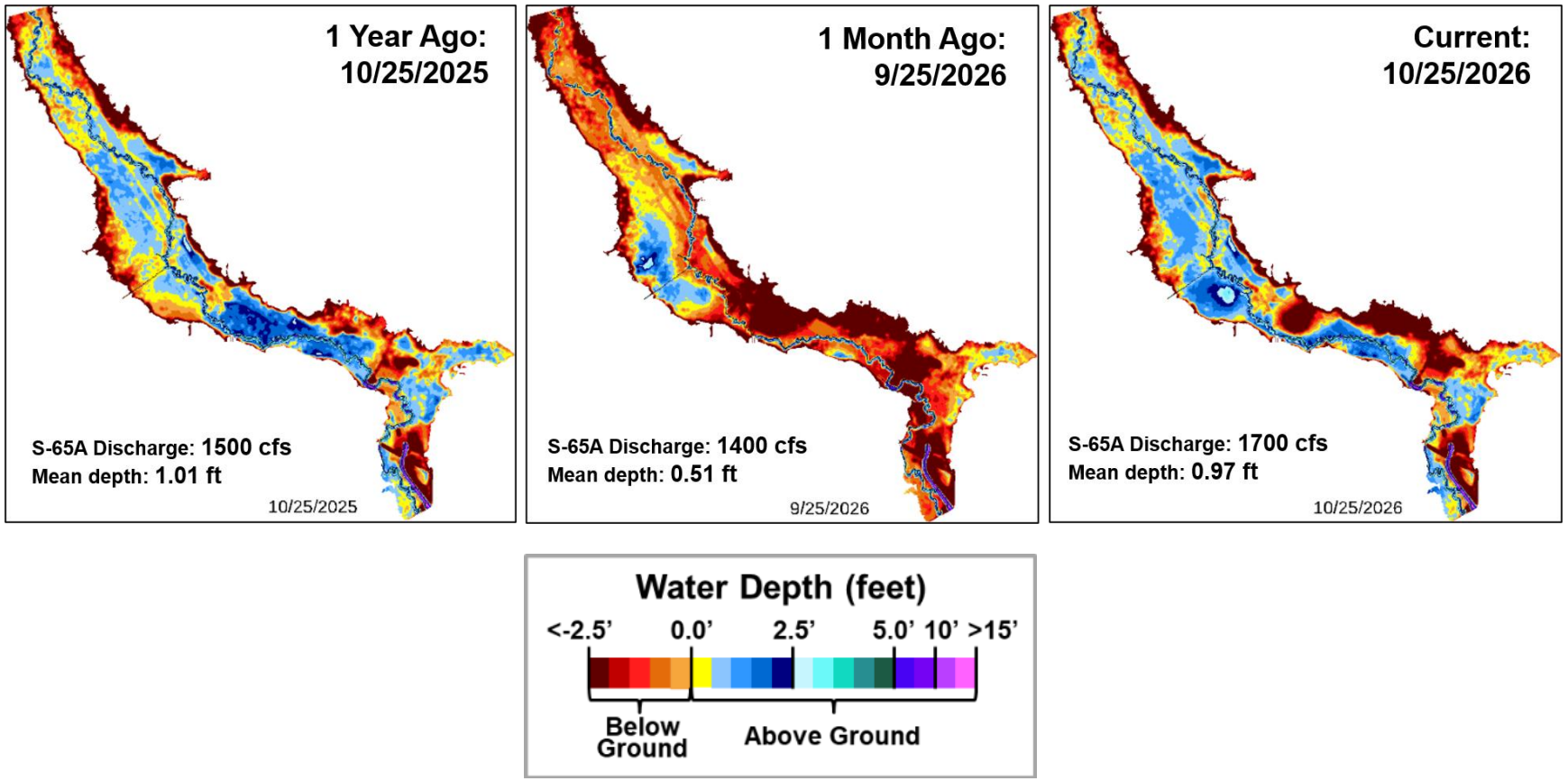
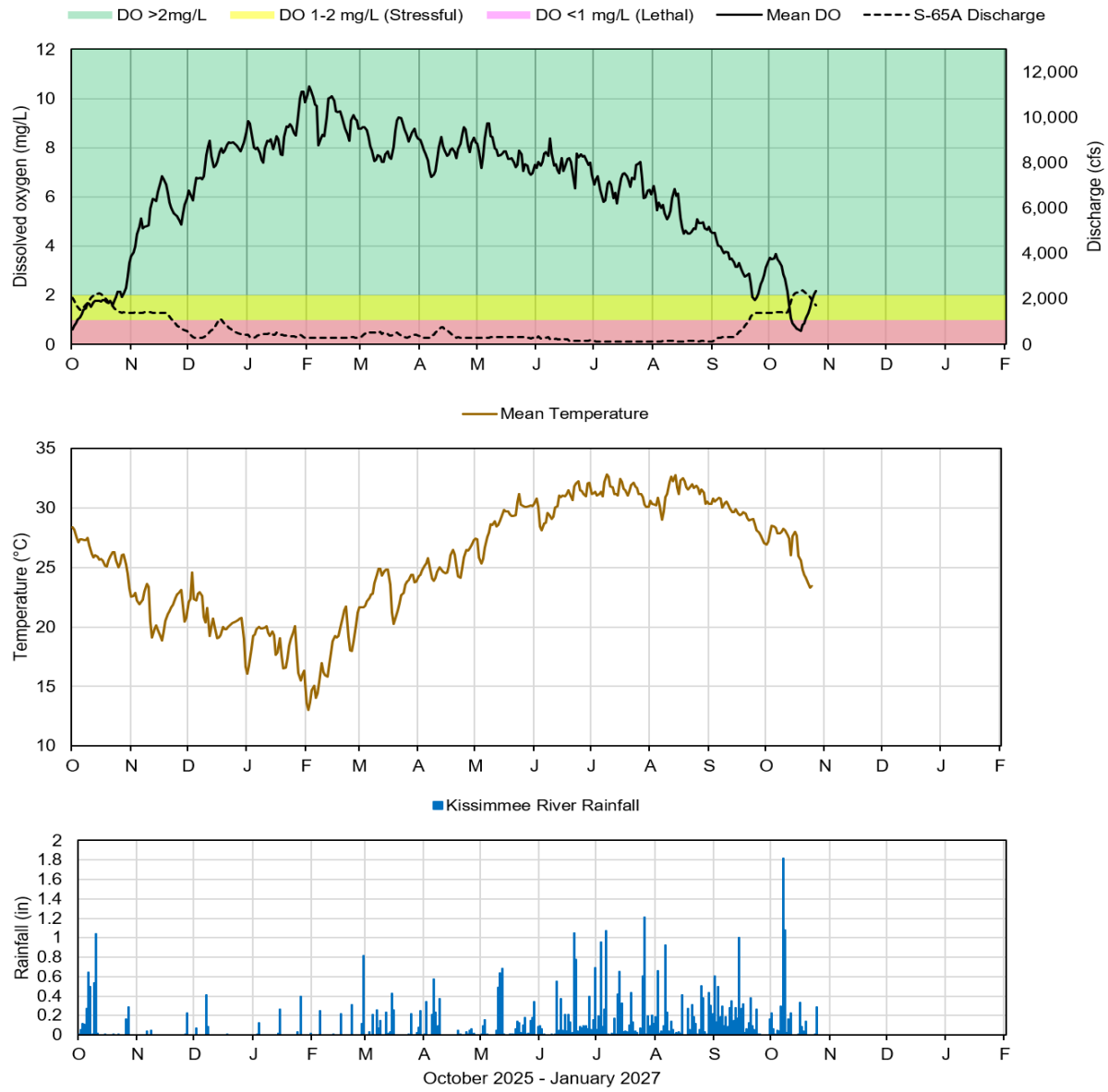


Figure KB-5. Phase I-II-III area Kissimmee River floodplain water depths (from left to right) one year ago, one month ago, and current.



Report Date: 10/27/2026; data are through: 10/25/2026

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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

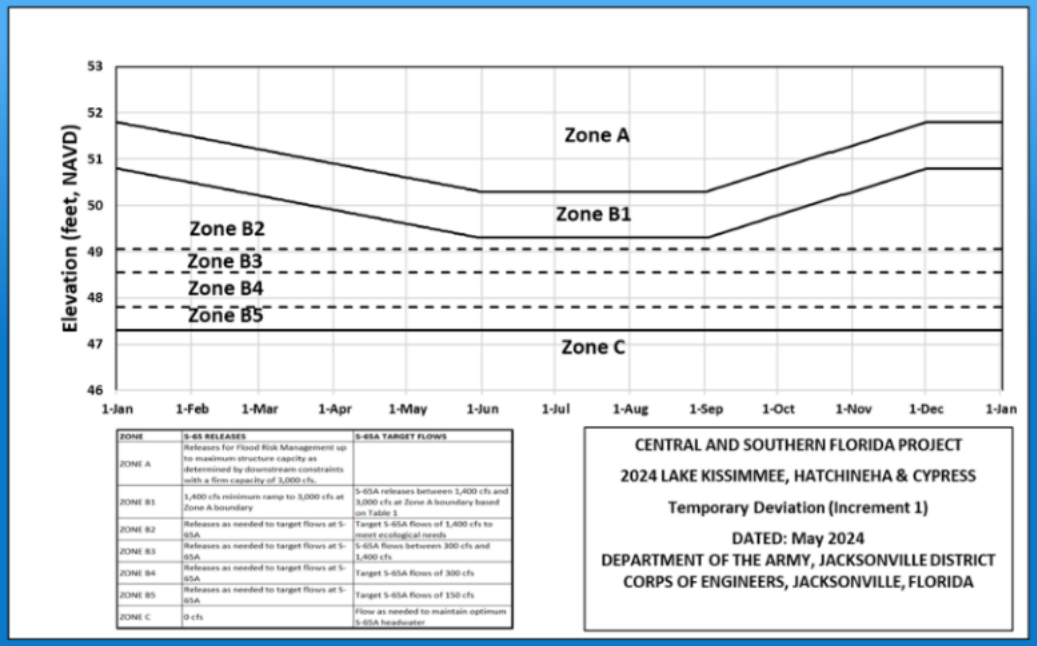
HRS Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A

Discharge Guidance for Increment 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.

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

Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 11.21 feet NAVD88 (12.52 ft NGVD29) on October 25, 2026, which was 0.04 feet higher than the previous week and 0.73 feet higher than a month ago (**Figure LO-1**). Lake stage remains in the water shortage management band (0.32 feet below the upper limit, **Figure LO-2**) and is 1.27 feet below the ecological envelope (**Figure LO-3**). According to NEXRAD, 0.32 inches (approximately 11,900 acre-feet) of rain fell directly over the Lake during the previous week, and 0.88 inches (approximately 27,400 acre-feet) were lost to evapotranspiration.

Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) decreased from 5,080 cfs the previous week to 3,690 cfs. The largest inflows came from the Kissimmee River (2,130 cfs via S65E(X)). There was also backflow from the C-44 Canal (220 cfs via S-308) and the L-8 Canal (800 cfs via S-271). Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) were 0 cfs for the eighth consecutive week. **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 October 24, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests low to moderate cyanobacteria potential across the western shoreline of the Lake (**Figure LO-6**).

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

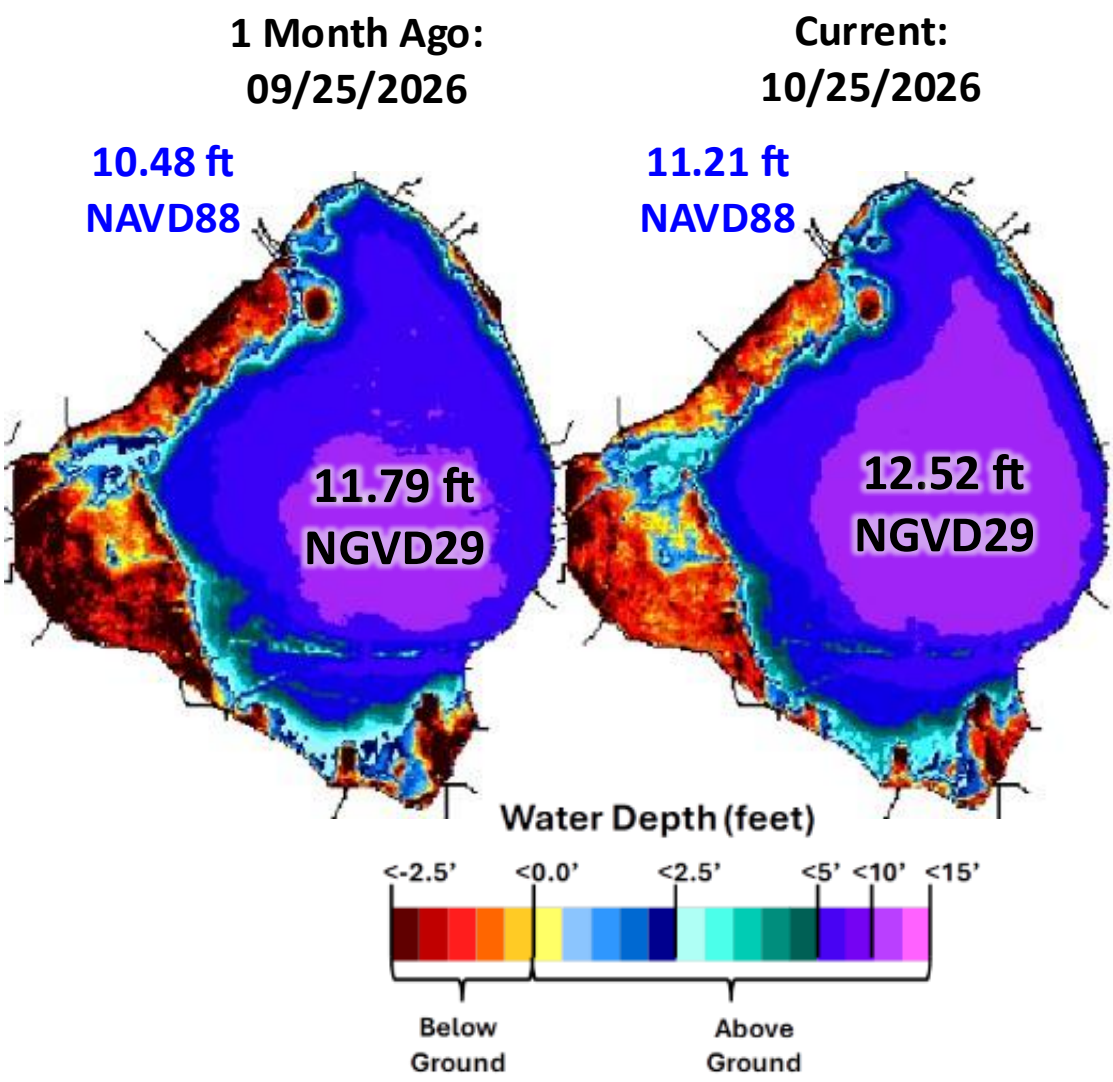


Figure LO-1. Lake Okeechobee water depth estimates based on South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

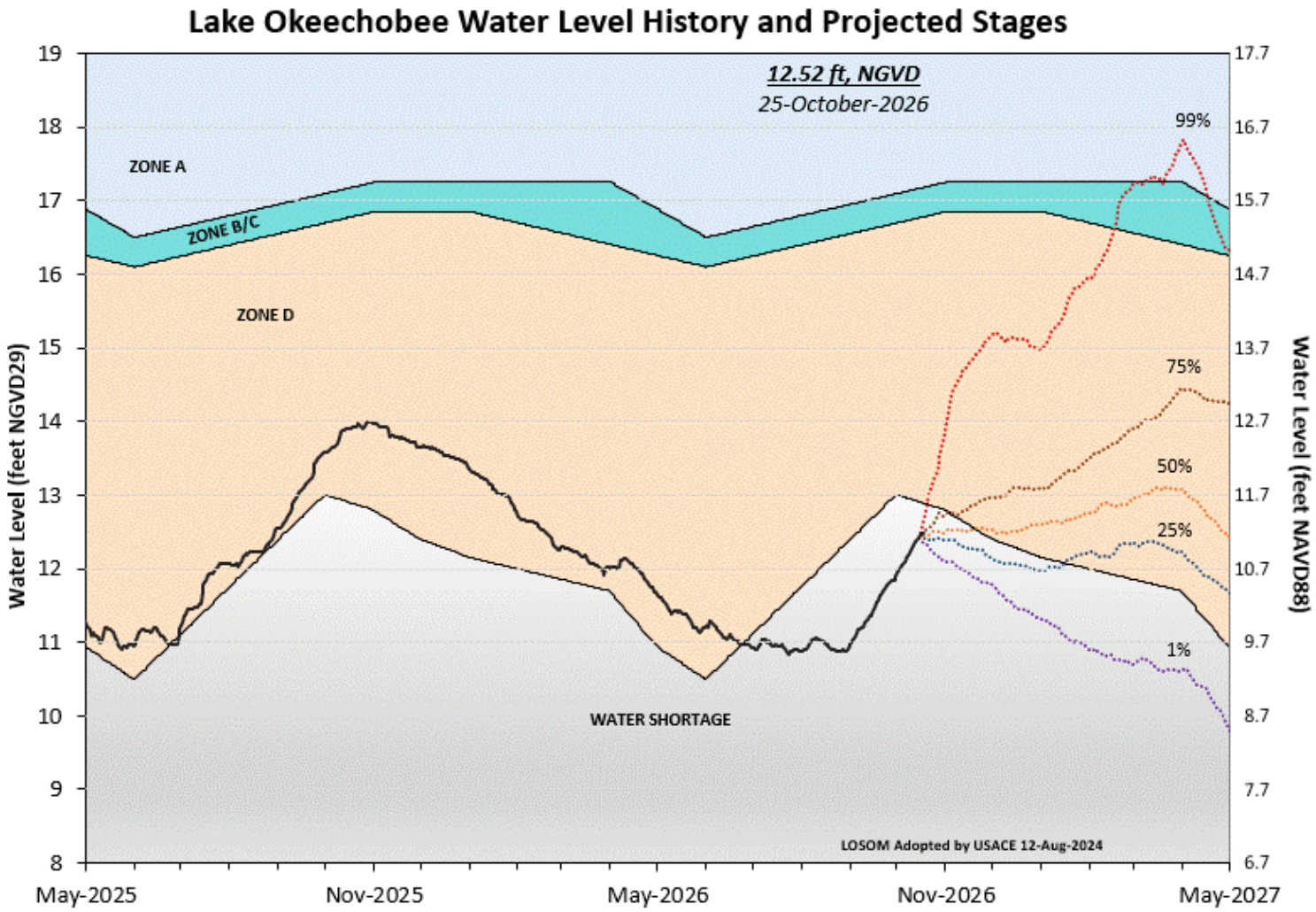


Figure LO-2. Recent Lake Okeechobee stages with projected stages based on a conditional position analysis. Note: stages are in NGVD29, approximate NAVD88 values are shown for reference.

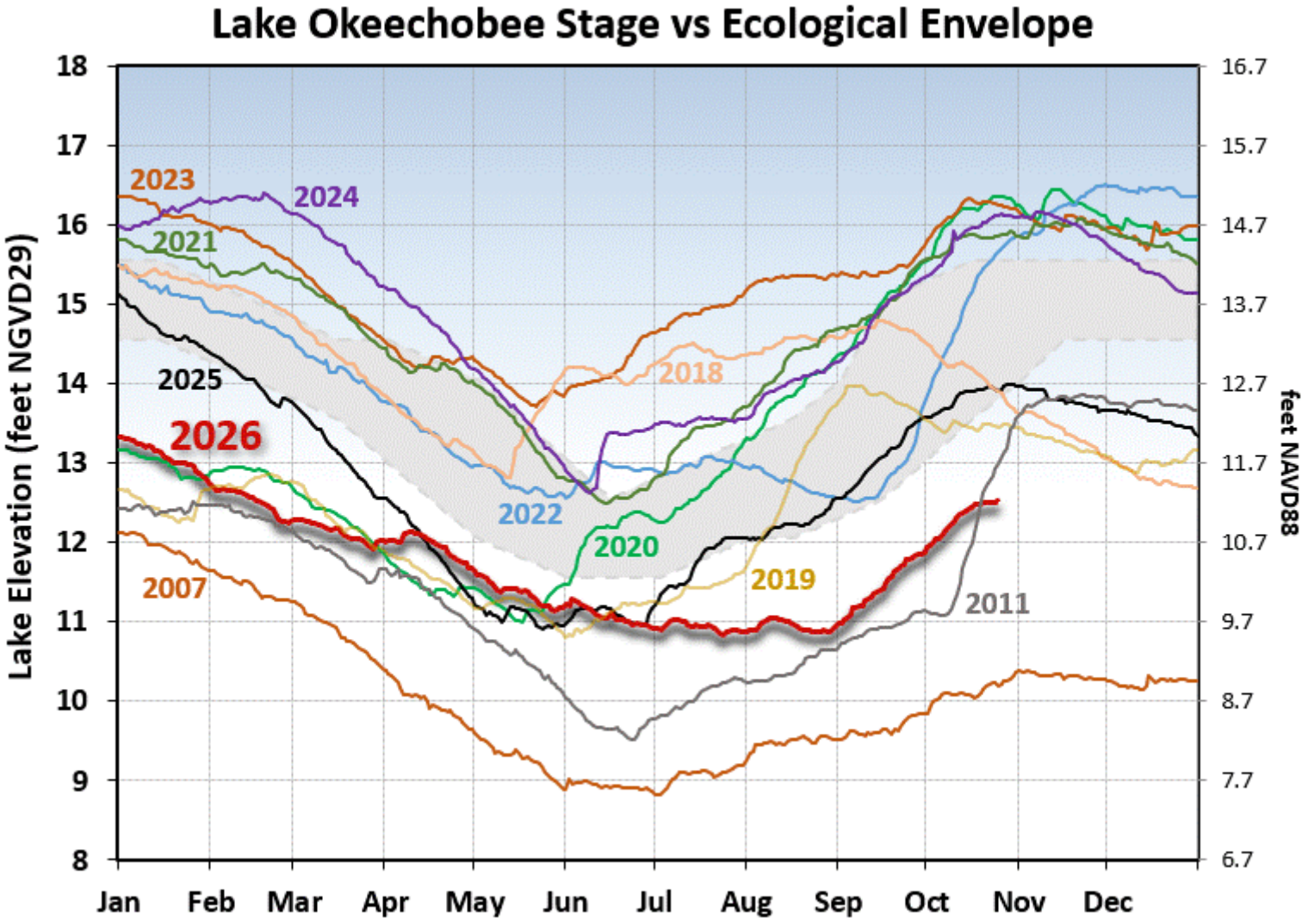


Figure LO-3. The current and select prior year's annual lake stage hydrographs in comparison to the Lake Okeechobee ecological envelope (light grey).

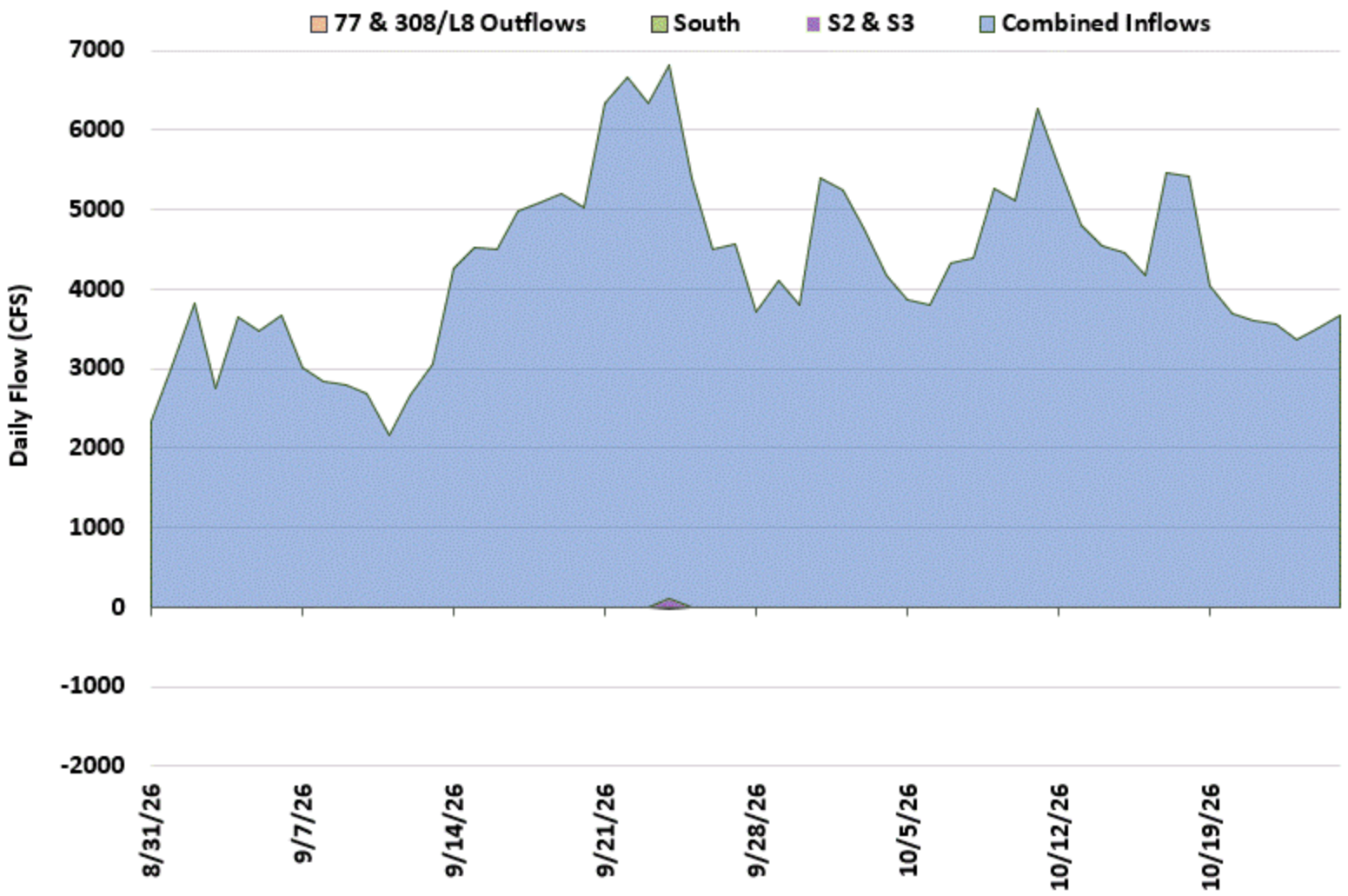


Figure LO-4. Major inflows (orange) to and outflows east and west (blue) from Lake Okeechobee. Outflows south are shown in green. Flows into Lake Okeechobee from the L-8 canal through S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) or from the C-44 canal through the S-308 are included as inflows. Conversely, flows from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

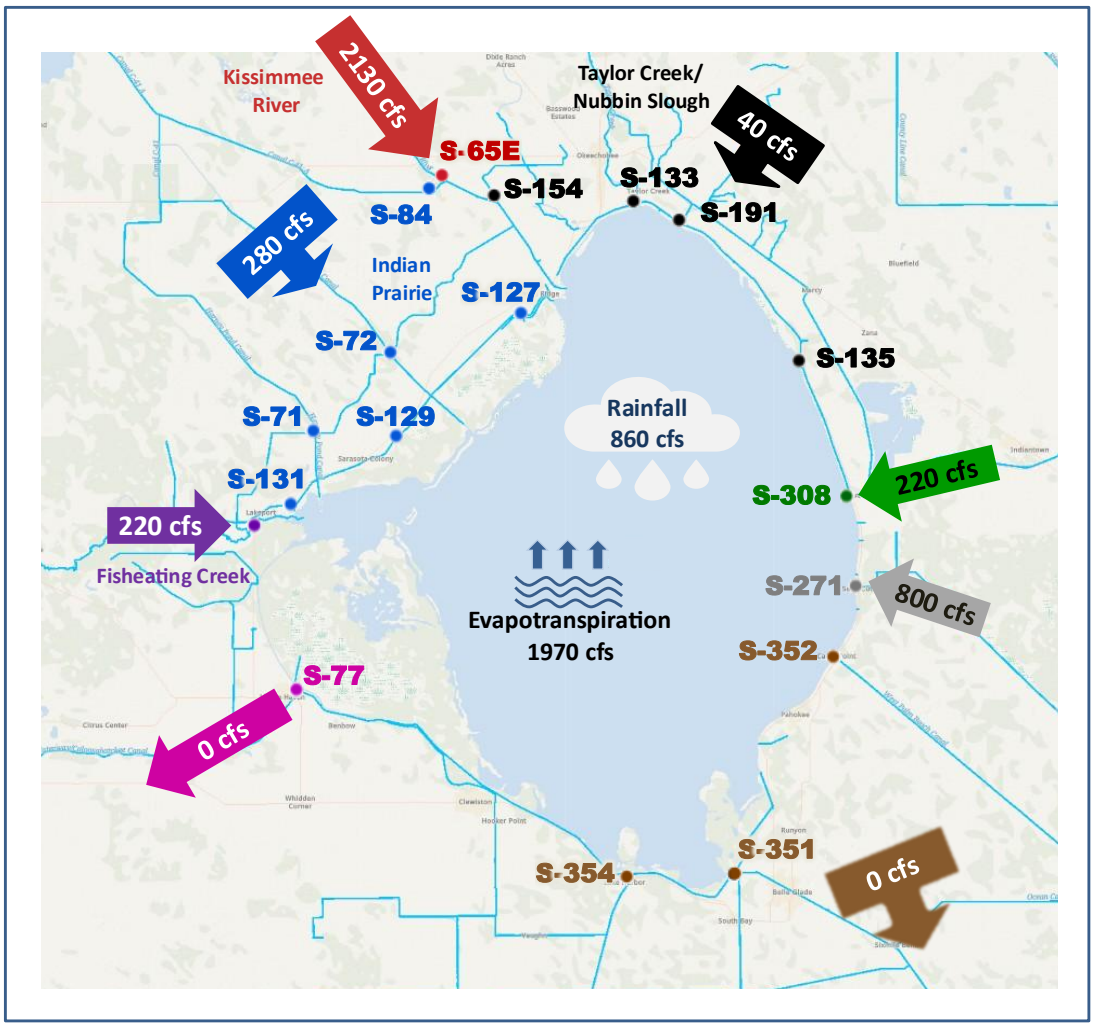


Figure LO-5. Inflows into Lake Okeechobee from Indian Prairie basins, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek (currently no flow data available for FECR), and outflows to the west via S-77, to the east via S-308, to the south via S-351, S-352, S-354, and to southeast via S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) for the week of October 19 - 25, 2026.

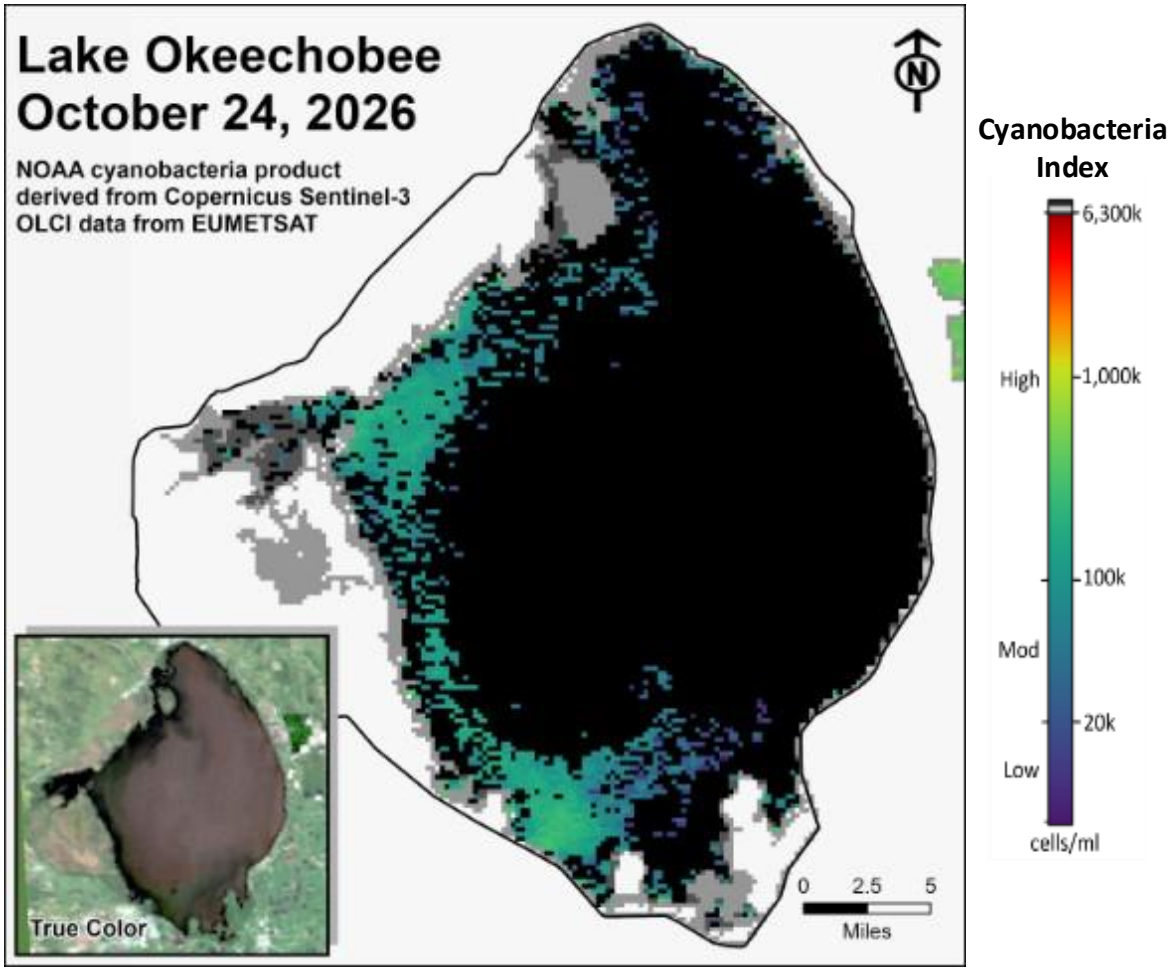


Figure LO-6. Cyanobacteria bloom index level on Lake Okeechobee, based on NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover. *Provisional NOAA image, subject to change*.

Estuaries

St. Lucie Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was 1,340 cfs (**Figures ES-1** and **ES-2**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 2,199 cfs. Flow at Gordy Rd was estimated 10/14/2026 through 10/25/2026. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-2**.

Over the past week, salinities increased at all sites in the estuary (**Table ES-1** and **Figure ES-3**). The seven-day moving average water column salinity at the US1 Bridge was 13.3. Salinity conditions in the middle estuary were estimated to be within the optimal range for adult eastern oysters (**Figure ES-4**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rate reported by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) for September was 6.0 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 1,086 cfs (**Figures ES-6** and **ES-7**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 2,172 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from the contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-7**.

Over the past week, salinities increased at all sites in the estuary (**Table ES-2** and **Figures ES-8** and **ES-9**). The seven-day mean water column salinity was in the optimal range (0–10) for tape grass in the upper estuary (**Table ES-2**). The seven-day mean salinity values were within the optimal range for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral and in the upper stressed range at Shell Point and Sanibel (**Figure ES-10**). Surface and bottom salinity values were estimated at Sanibel from 10/7/2026 through 10/21/2026 due to sensor malfunction. The mean larval oyster recruitment rates reported by the FWRI in September were 5.2 spat/shell at Iona Cove and 11.2 spat/shell at Bird Island, which are both increases from the previous month (**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 182 cfs. Model results from all scenarios predict daily salinity to be 2.4 or lower and the 30-day moving average surface salinity to be 0.9 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.

[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 October 23, 2026, that *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide dinoflagellate, was not observed at bloom concentrations within the District region.

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 releases at S-79 to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary and no releases at S-80 to the St. Lucie Estuary.

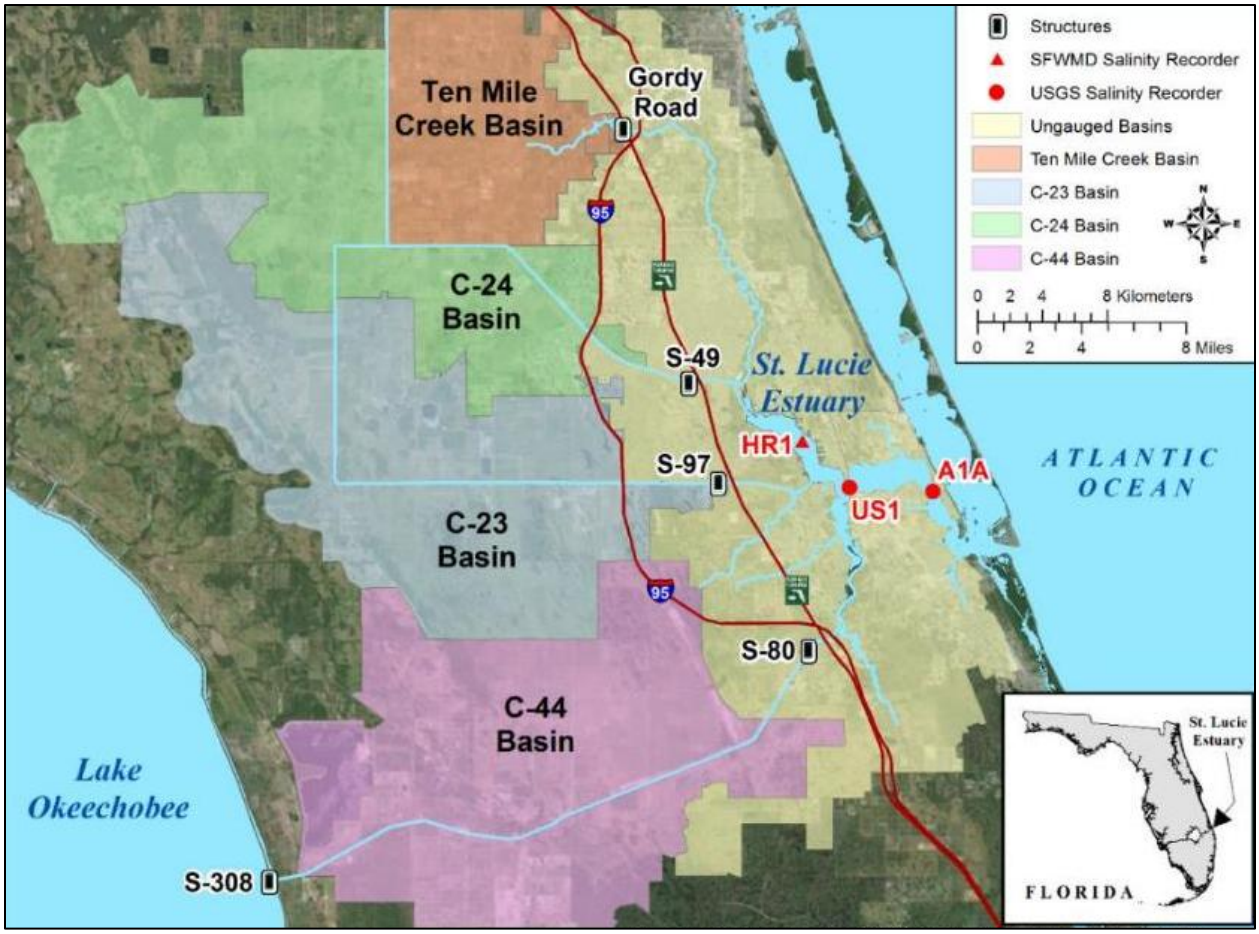


Figure ES-1. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

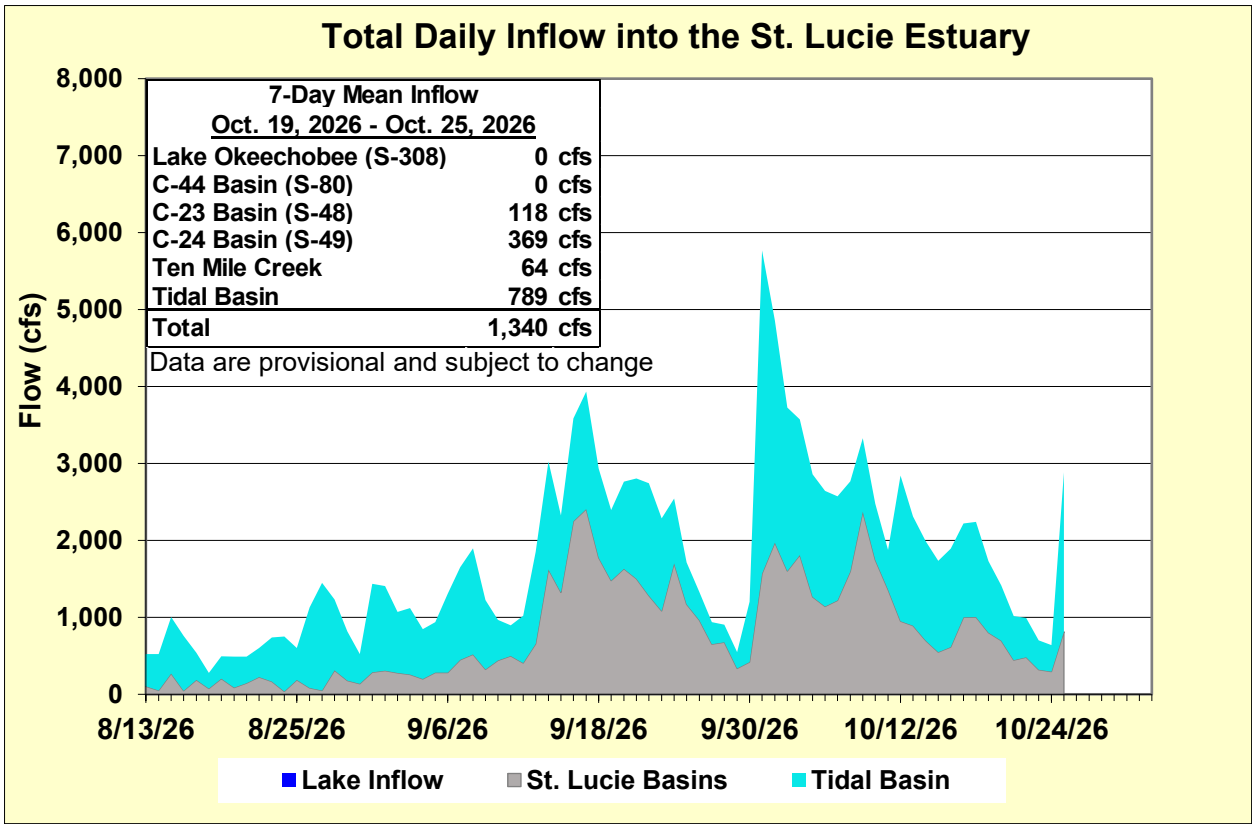


Figure ES-2. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-44, C-23, C-24, Ten Mile Creek, and Tidal Basins into the St. Lucie Estuary.

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

Sampling Site	Surface	Bottom	Optimum Envelope
HR1 (North Fork)	**5.1** (0.7)	**10.3** (2.6)	10.0 – 25.0
US1 Bridge	**9.5** (3.7)	**17.1** (7.6)	10.0 – 25.0
A1A Bridge	**21.0** (13.0)	**26.6** (22.1)	10.0 – 25.0

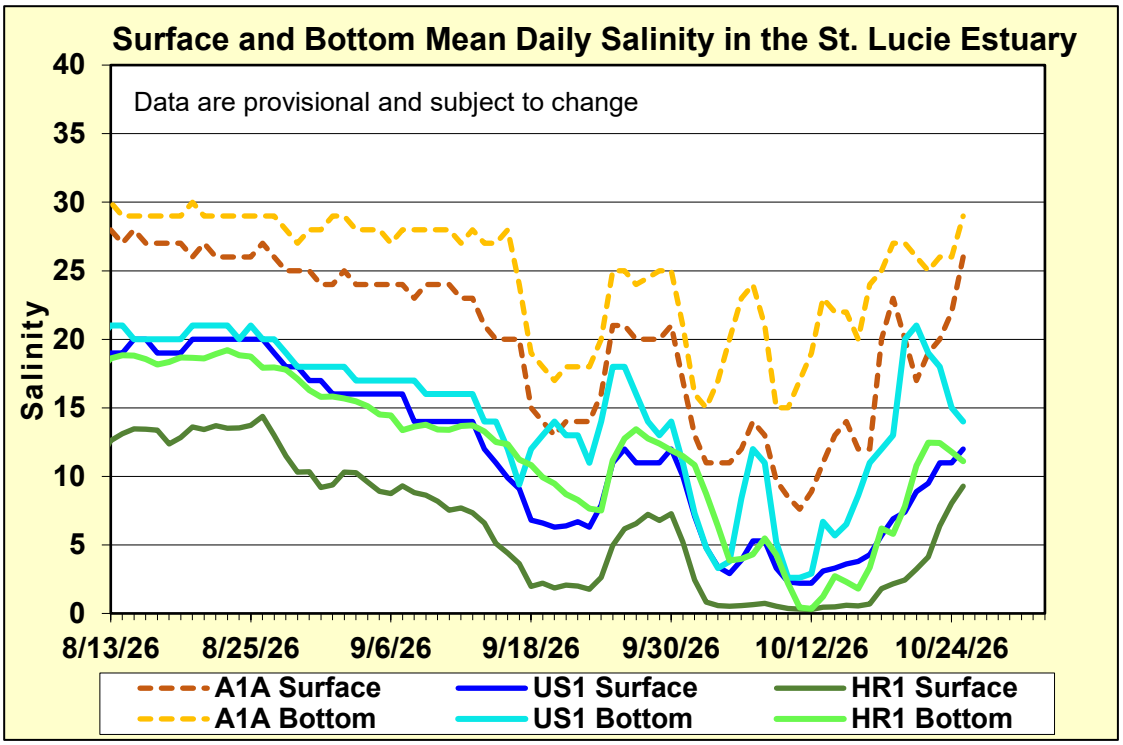


Figure ES-3. Mean daily salinity at the A1A, US1, and HR1 sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

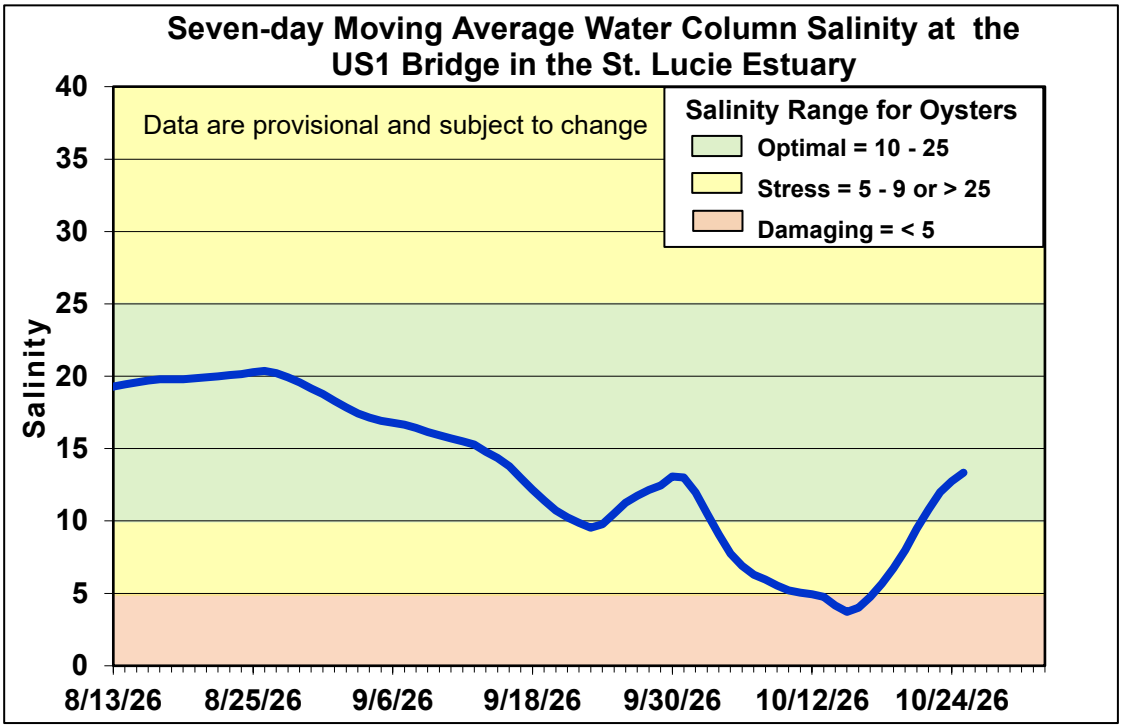


Figure ES-4. Seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge in the St. Lucie Estuary.

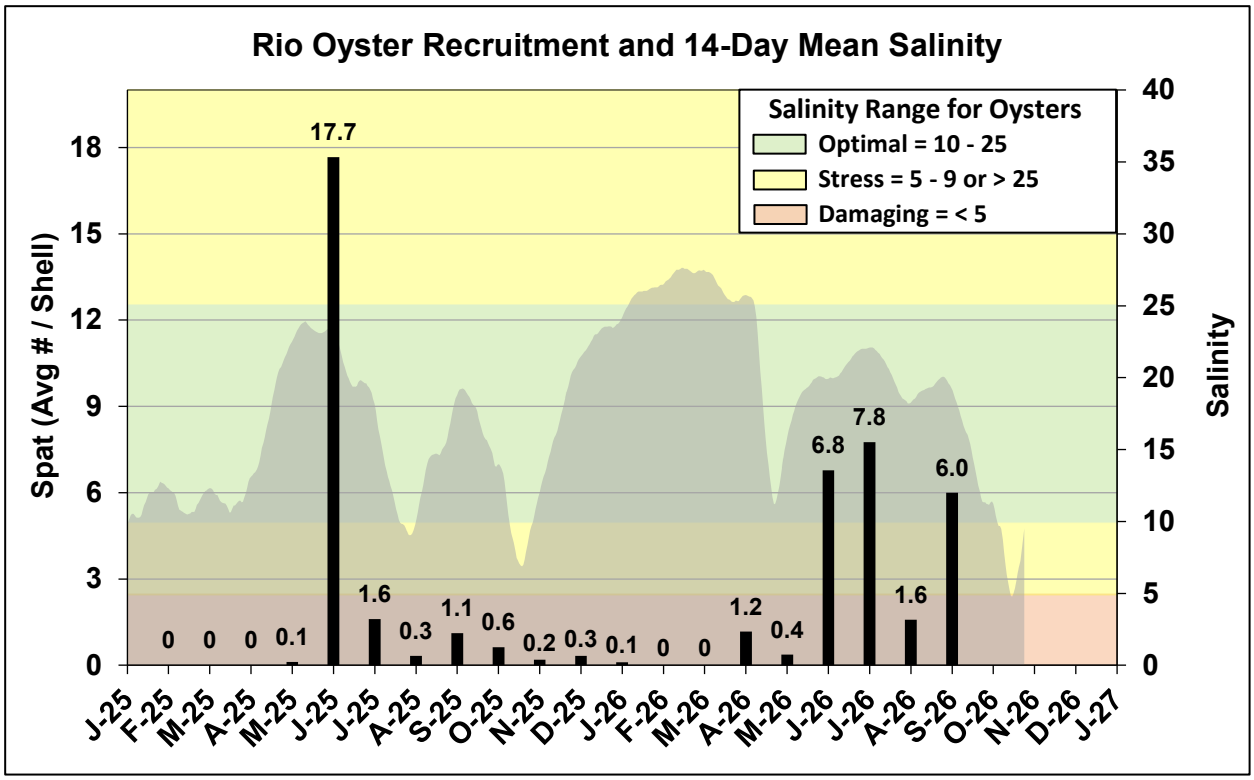


Figure ES-5. Mean oyster recruitment at the Rio oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at US1 Bridge.

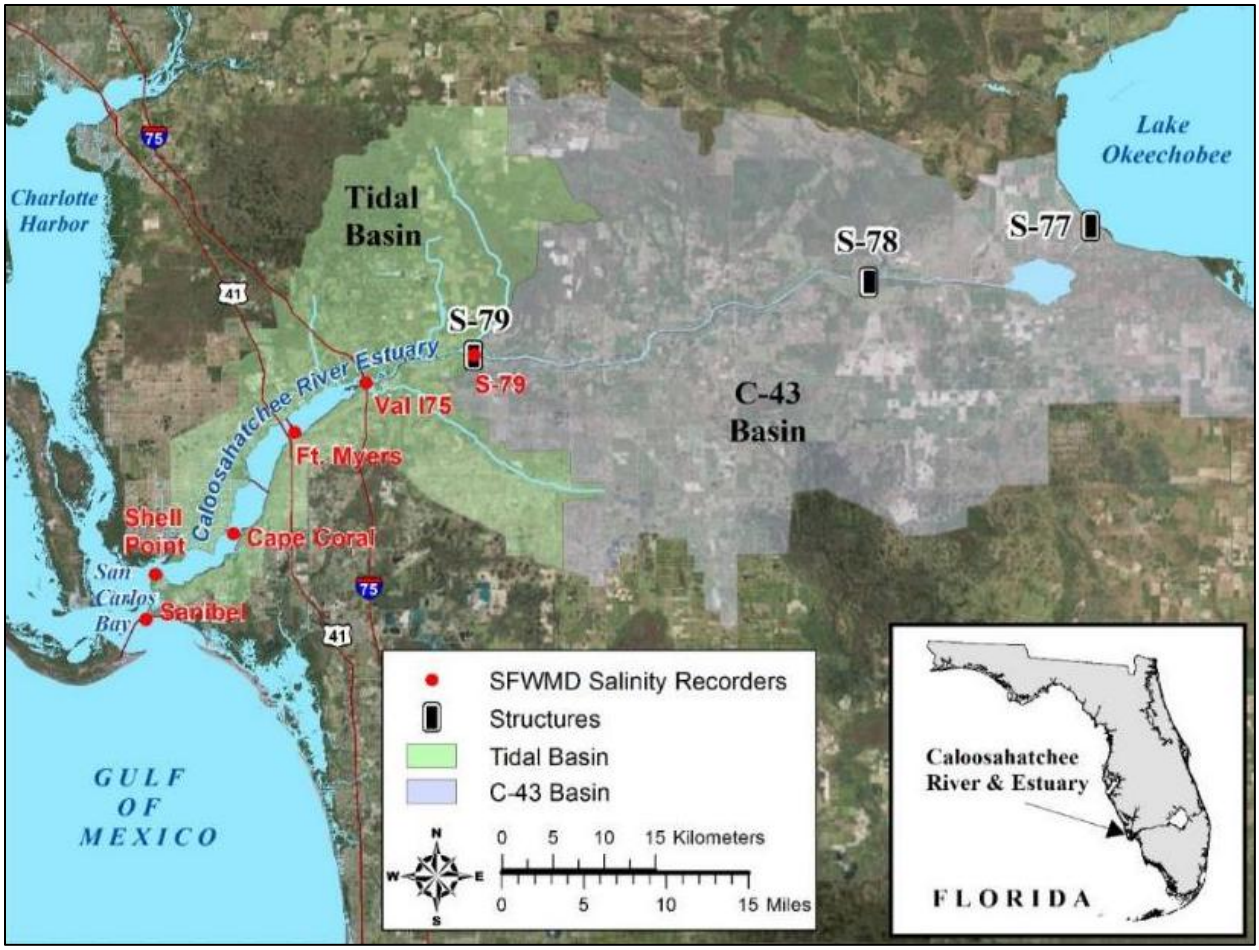


Figure ES-6. Basins, water control structures, and salinity monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

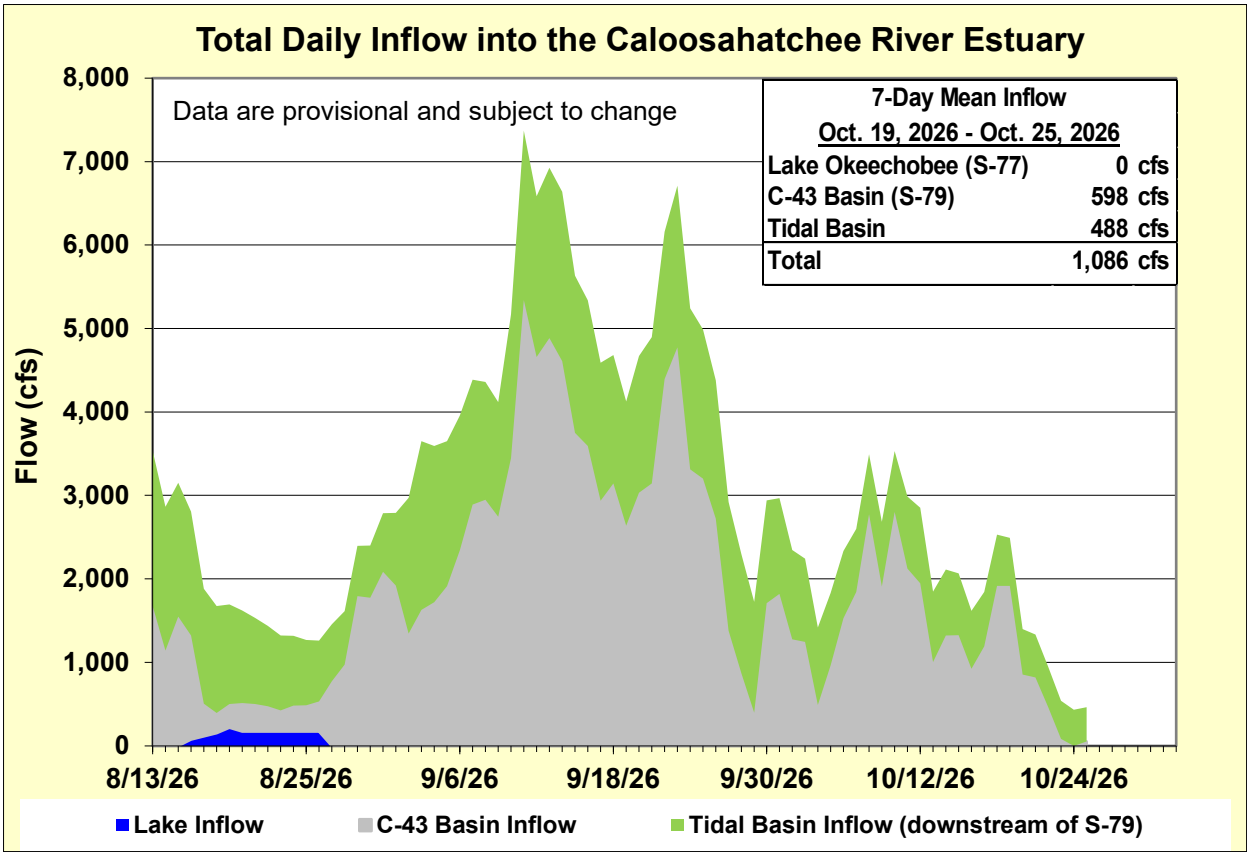


Figure ES-7. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee, and runoff from the C-43 and Tidal basins into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

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

Sampling Site	Surface	Bottom	Optimum Envelope
S-79 (Franklin Lock)	**1.6** (0.3)	**2.1** (0.3)	0.0 – 10.0
Val I-75	**1.2** (0.4)	**2.3** (0.8)	0.0 – 10.0
Fort Myers Yacht Basin	**5.5** (3.3)	**8.6** (7.5)	0.0 – 10.0
Cape Coral	**13.5** (9.7)	**15.3** (14.0)	10.0 – 25.0
Shell Point	**25.2** (23.4)	**26.8** (25.7)	10.0 – 25.0
Sanibel	**28.3** (25.4)	**29.9** (27.7)	10.0 – 25.0

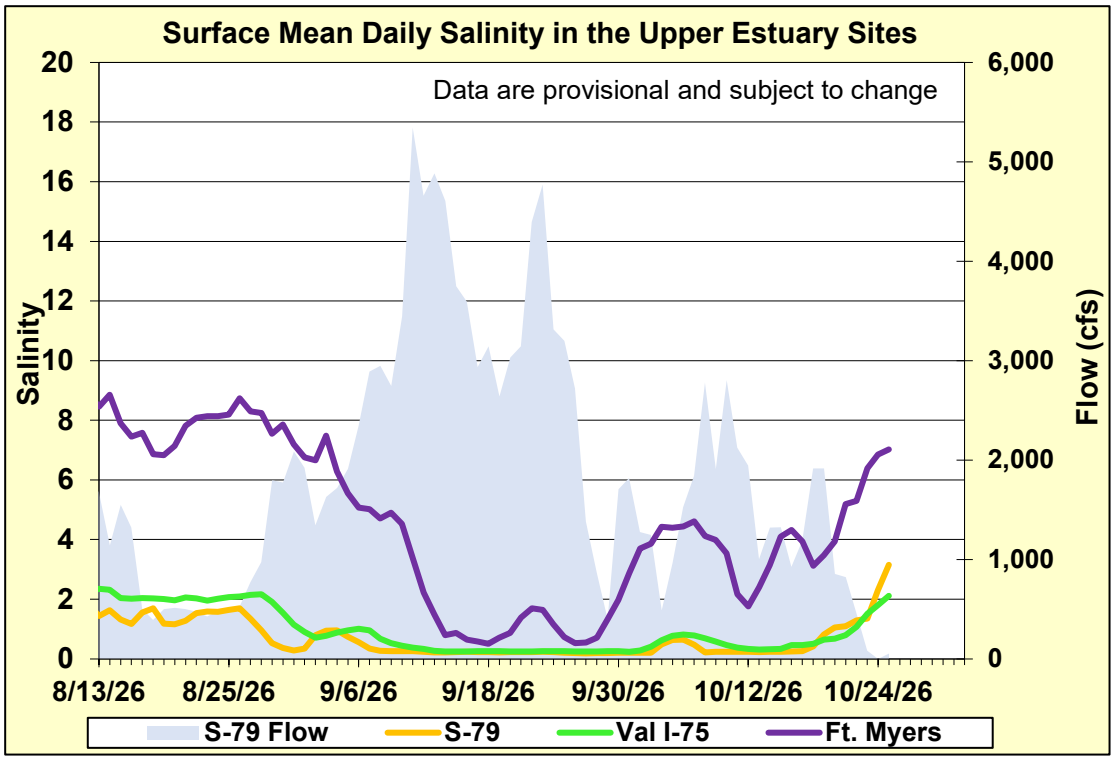


Figure ES-8. Mean daily salinity at upper Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

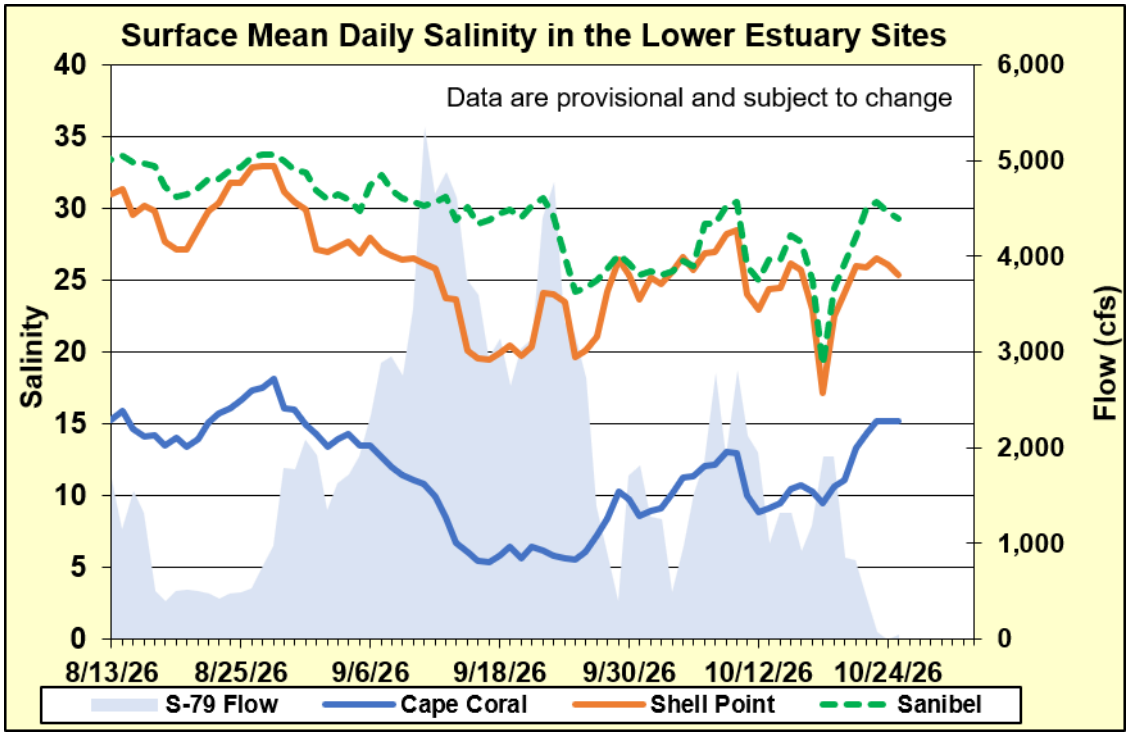


Figure ES-9. Mean daily surface salinity at lower Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

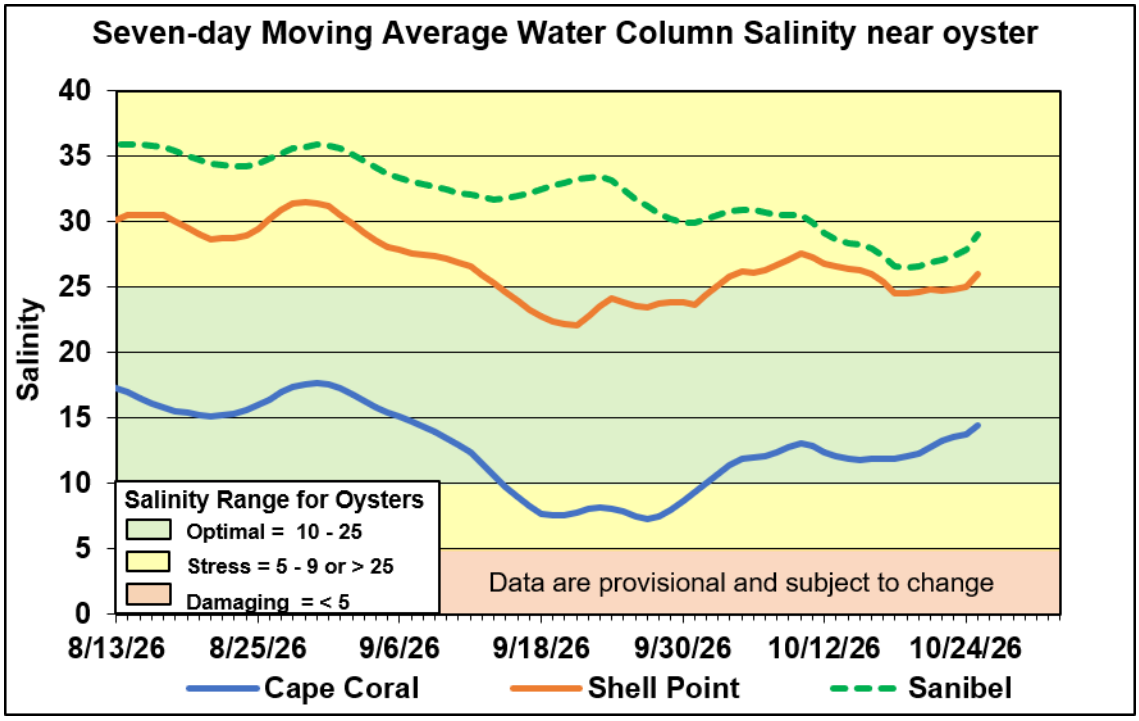


Figure ES-10. Seven-day moving average of surface and bottom salinities at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

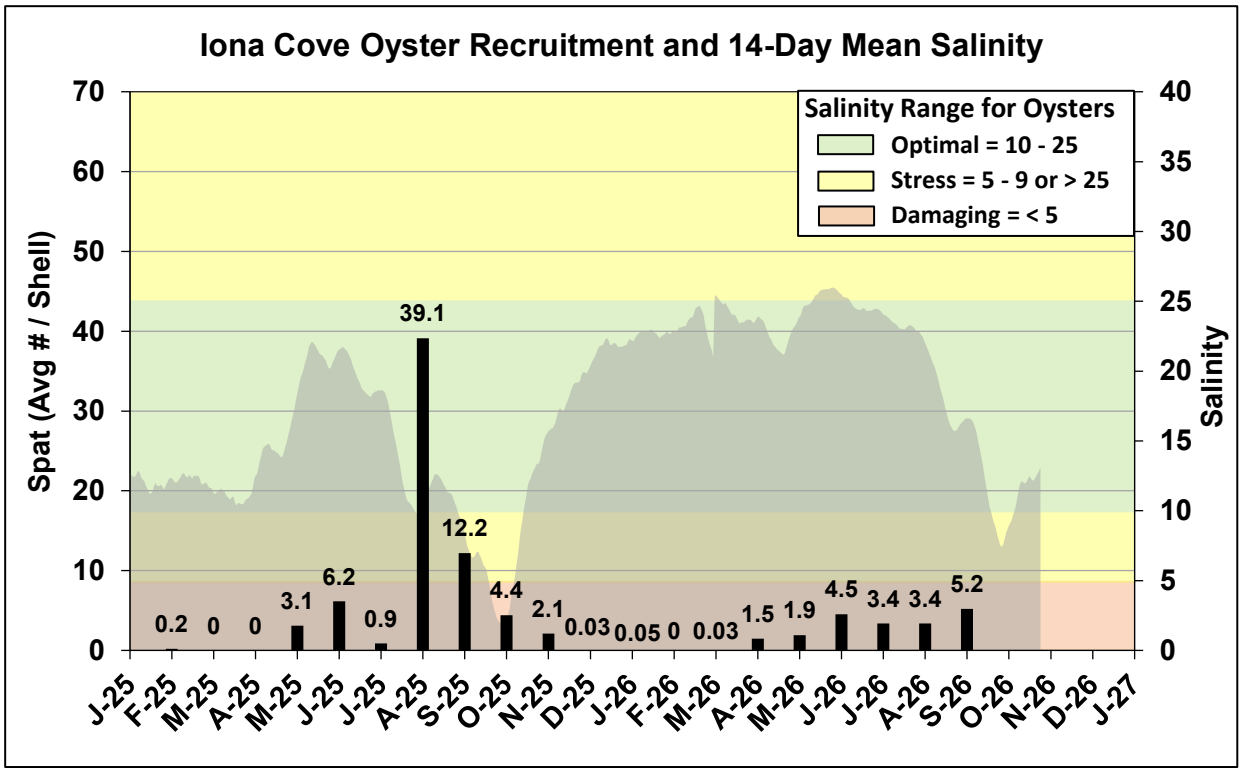


Figure ES-11. Mean oyster recruitment at the Iona Cove oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Cape Coral.

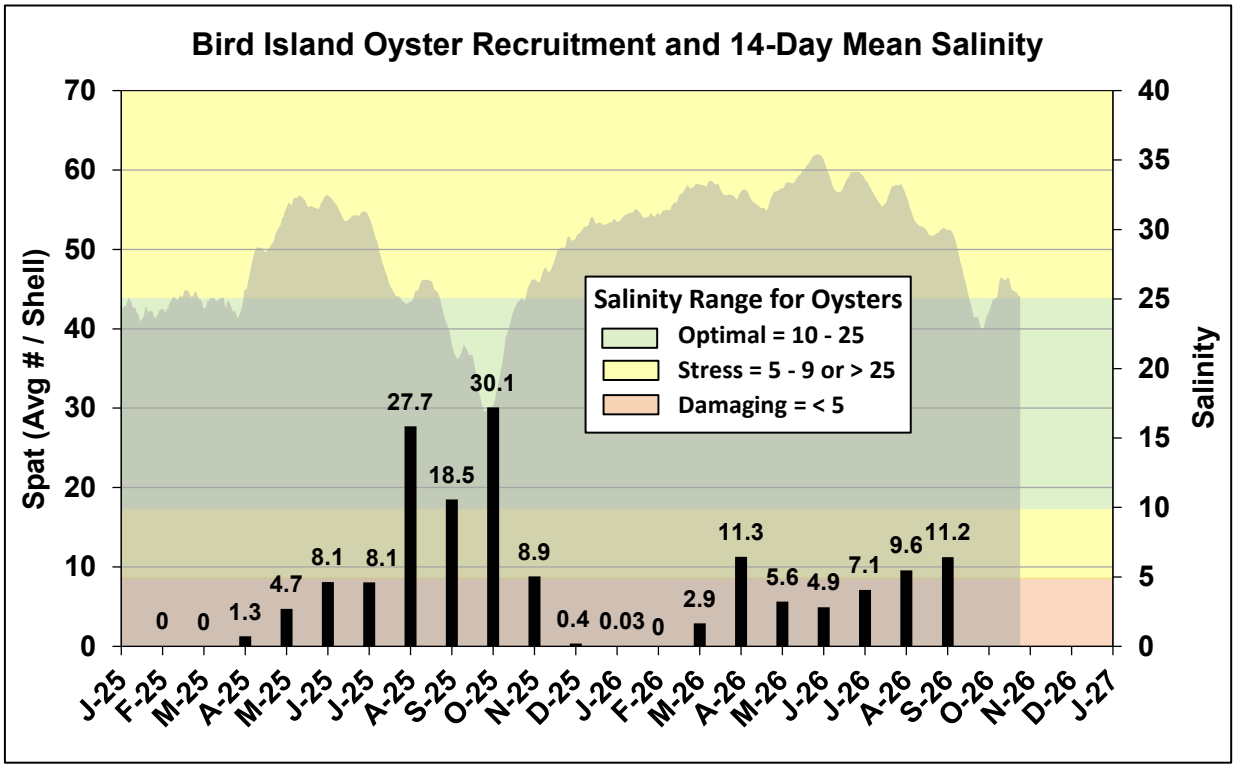


Figure ES-12. Mean oyster recruitment at the Bird Island oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Shell Point.

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	182	2.4	0.9
B	750	182	1.3	0.7
C	1,000	182	0.7	0.6
D	1,500	182	0.3	0.6
E	2,000	182	0.3	0.6

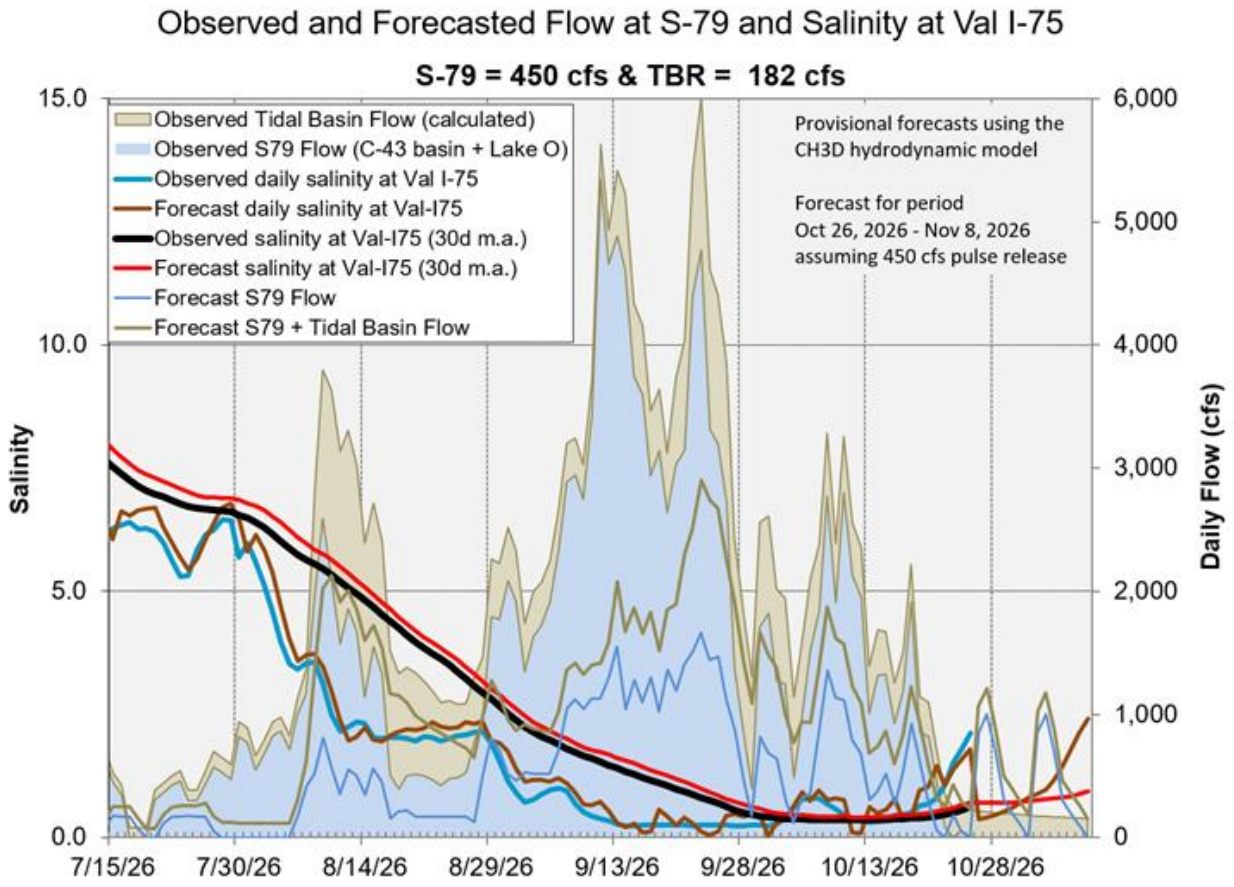


Figure ES-13. Surface salinity forecast at the Val I-75 site assuming a 450 cfs pulse release at S-79.

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 above target stage. The 365-day PLRs for the Western are below 1.0 g/m^2/year, and Eastern Flow-way is at 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 above 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 above 1.0 g/m^2/year (**Figure S-2**).

STA-2: Treatment cells are 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/m^2/year (**Figure S-3).**

STA-3/4: An operational restriction is in place in the Eastern Flow-way for vegetation management activities. Treatment cells are 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/m^2/year (**Figure S-3**).

STA-5/6: Treatment cells are above target stage. All treatment cells have highly stressed vegetation conditions. 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 10/25/2026): ~590,000 ac-ft
- Lake Okeechobee releases to FEBs/STAs
  - 10/19/2026 to 10/25/2026: 0 ac-ft
  - WY 2027: ~ 9,500 ac-ft
- Extensive vegetation management activities underway to address stressed and highly stressed vegetation in EAV cells
- All treatment cells are at or above target water depth

Estimated Inflow and Outflow Volumes
Oct. 19th, 2026 - Oct. 25th, 2026 *Includes preliminary data*

	Total Inflow (acre-feet)	Total Outflow (acre-feet)
STA-1E	3,800	4,400
STA-1W	2,600	8,300
STA-2	8,700	12,000
STA-3/4	24,000	25,000
STA-5/6	3,300	12,000

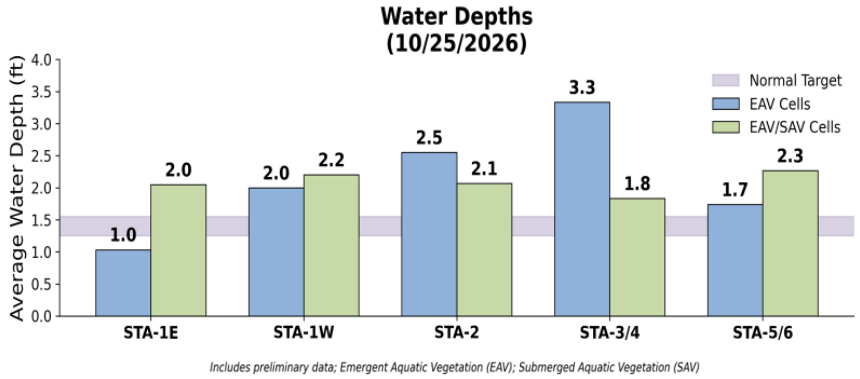


Figure S-1. STA depths and flow volumes

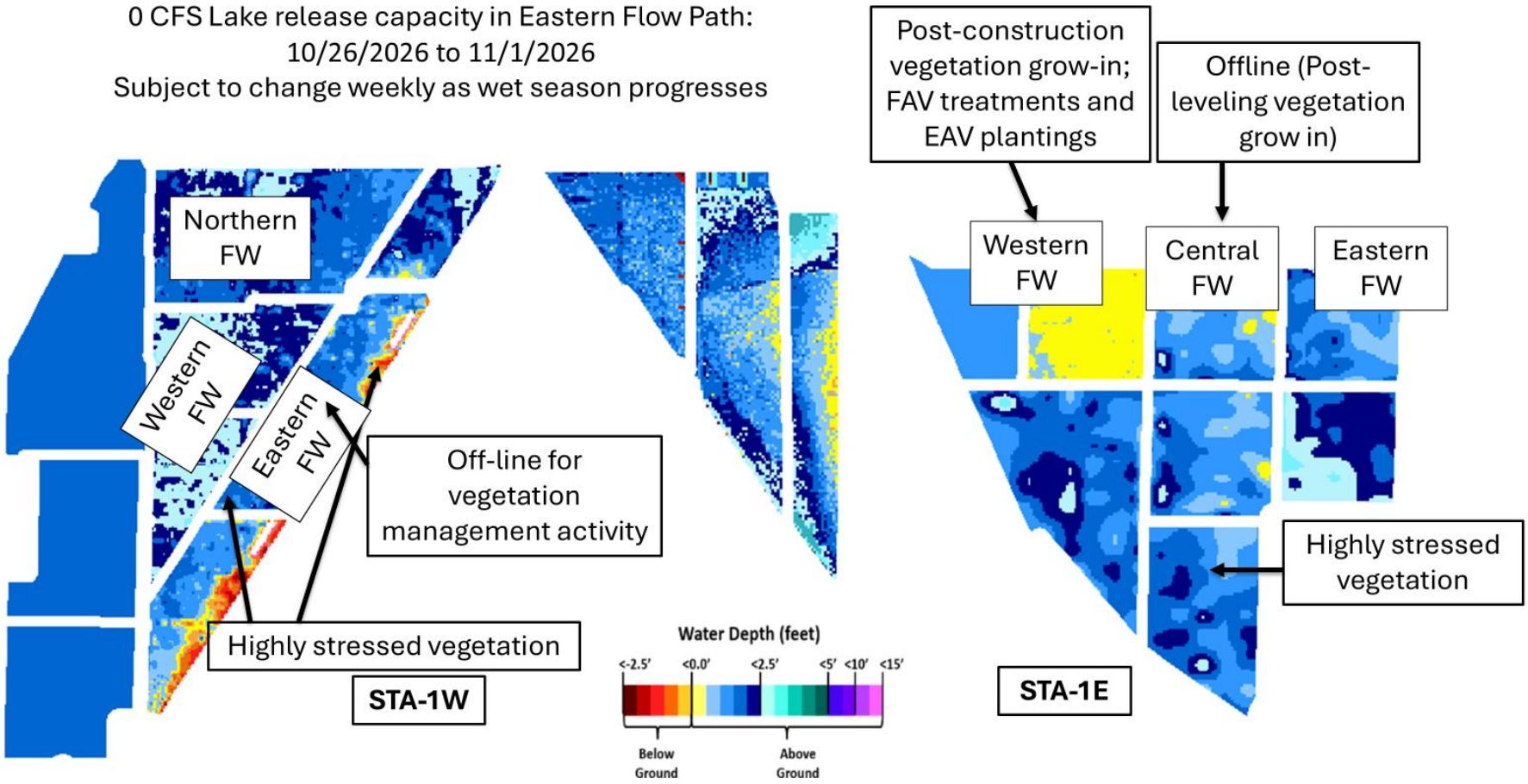


Figure S-2. Eastern Flow Path Weekly Status Report

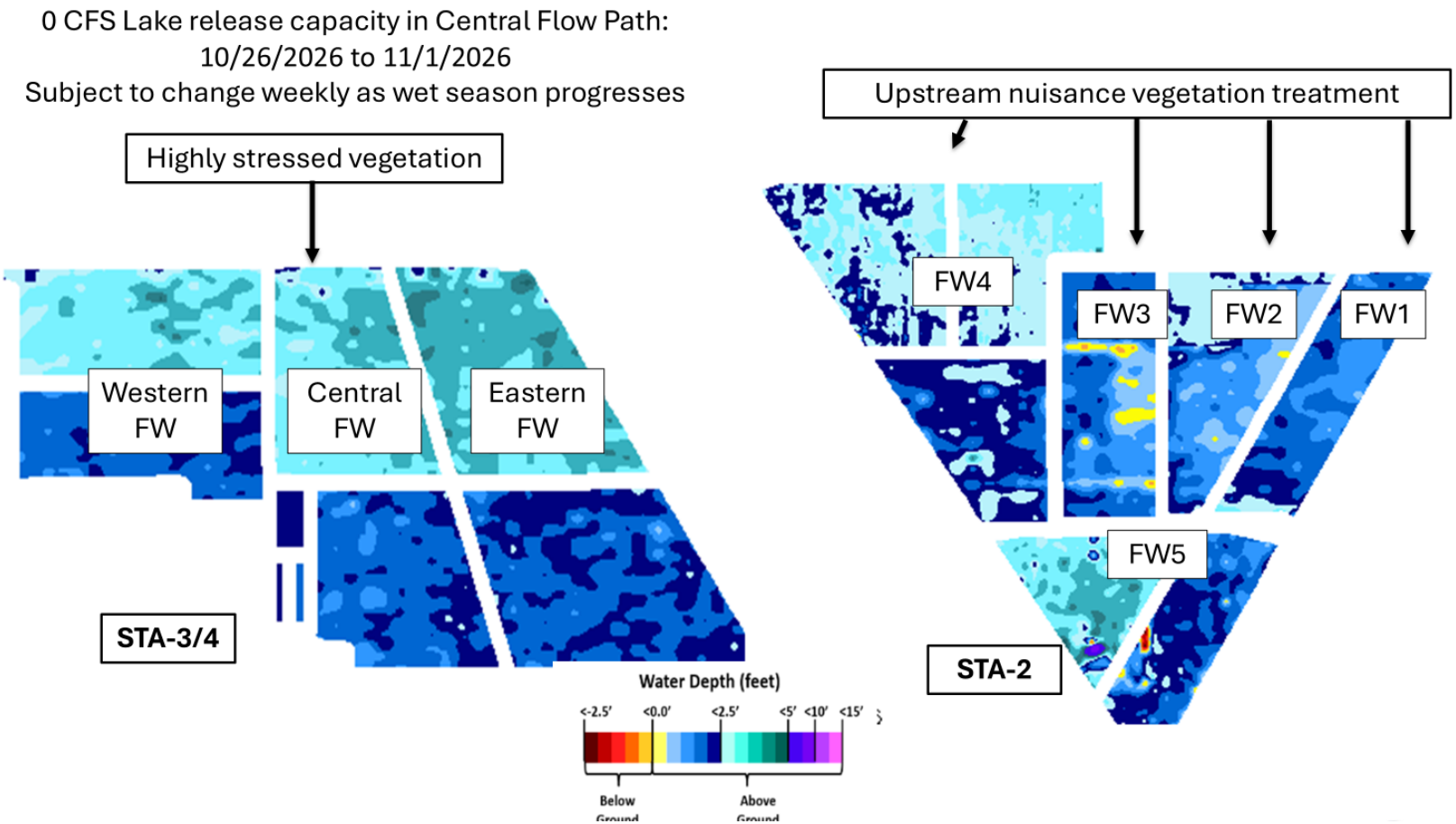


Figure S-3. Central Flow Path Weekly Status Report

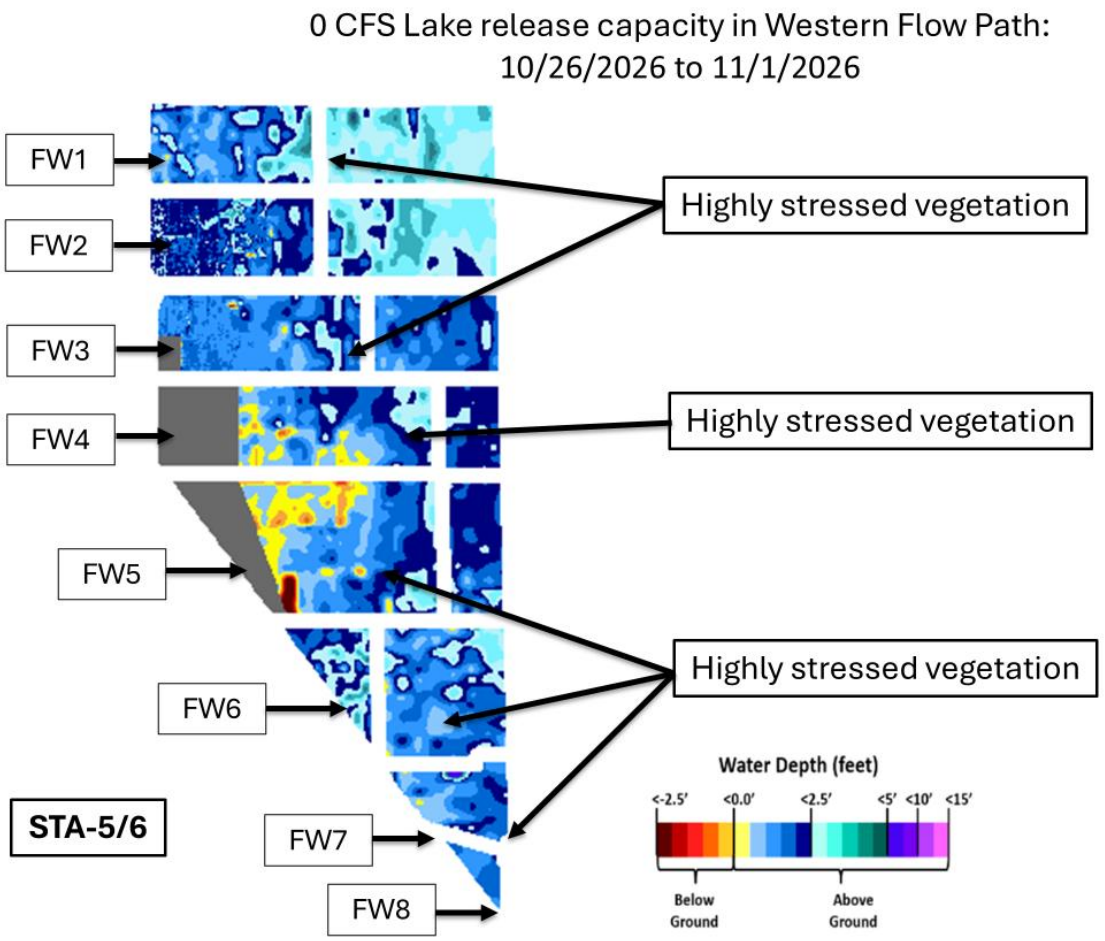


Figure S-4. Western Flow Path Weekly Status Report

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 Areas

Regulation Schedules

WCA-1: Stage fell at the 1-8C gauge last week and is now above the A-1 regulation line by 0.04 feet on Sunday, October 25, 2026 (**Figure EV-1**).

WCA-2A: Water depth also decreased at the 2-17 gauge last week. Stage remained above the falling regulation line on Sunday by 1.39 feet (**Figure EV-2**).

WCA-3A: The 3-gauge average stage remains well within Zone B, increasing steadily over the past week. On Sunday, stages were 0.49 feet below the Zone A regulation line. Stage at Gauge 62 (NW corner) fell over the last week and was below the Lower Schedule line by 0.19 feet on Sunday (**Figures EV-3** and **EV-4)**.

Water Depths

The SFWDAT model output for October 25, 2026, illustrates the significant increase in water depths across WCA-1 and WCA-2A compared to two months ago. However, stage fell in WCA-1 and WCA-2A this past week, but conditions remain above the 90th percentile throughout both of those basins. Water levels have risen in northern WCA-3A but remain within the 10th to 20th percentile in central/southern WCA-3A and -3B. The Big Cypress basin is also showing a stable wetting trend, although there are issues with the model output in this region. In Everglades National Park (ENP), water depths declined, but connectivity in the major sloughs remained stable compared to last month. Water depths are close to the 50th percentile for this time of year across most of WCA-3A North (**Figures EV-5** and **EV-6)**. 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 for wildlife and vegetation needs.

Taylor Slough and Florida Bay

Most stages decreased across Taylor Slough over the past week, with an average decrease of 0.05 feet. Changes ranged from −0.15 feet at P37 in the southern slough to +0.08 feet at EPSW in the C-111 area (**Figure EV-7 and Figure EV-8**). Taylor Slough water levels are now just below the recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 0.7 inches compared to before the Florida Bay Initiative (starting in 2017), a decrease of 0.7 inches relative to last week. Stages at Craighead Pond (CP) and Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB) are below the estimated historical average by 0.68 and 1.82 feet, respectively.

Average salinity in Florida Bay was 38.5, an increase of 3.7 from last week. Salinity changes ranged from −1.6 at Whipray Basin (WB) in the central region to +10.5 at Joe Bay (JB) 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**). Salinity in the eastern region is below the hypersalinity threshold, while salinities in the central and western regions are above it. Bay-wide salinity

is above its recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 15.2, an increase of 3.5 from last week.

Salinity at the Taylor River (TR) station in the mangrove zone (tracked for the Florida Bay MFL) was 23.3, an increase of 15.4 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 0.20 inches over the past week, based on the 18 gauges used for this report. Rainfall ranged from 0.03 inches at CP in the southern slough to 1.06 inches at TSB in the northern slough (**Figure EV-11**). Wind directions and speeds in Florida Bay ranged from 5.3 mph NE on October 22nd to 26.5 mph NE on October 19th (**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 501 acre-feet, with net positive flows for the week. Total daily creek flow ranged from −1,631 acre-feet on October 22nd to 3,099 acre-feet on October 19th (**Figure EV-13**). Average daily flow from Alligator Creek was 34 acre-feet, with net positive flows for the week (**Figure EV-13**).

Implications/considerations for water management

- Due to current low water conditions for this time of year that remain in the central and southern portions of the Everglades, continued ascensions here would help to protect the wetland ecology from damaging dry conditions during the dry season.
    - With continued drought conditions, conserving water within WCA-3A, while maintaining hydration of ENP, will continue to be ecologically beneficial.
- Water depths have reached and exceeded expected peak wet season levels in WCA-1 and WCA-2A. Reduced ascension rates or moderate recessions (~0.15 ft/week) in the northern basins would be ecologically beneficial as conditions move into the dry season. Incremental and moderate operational changes have benefit to the ecology of the system.
- Freshwater input into Taylor Slough and the C-111 basin could help moderate salinities and support recovery of estuarine conditions in Florida Bay.
    - Elevated salinity conditions in Florida Bay and the lack of a freshening event within the next couple months could affect SAV/seagrass composition, nutrient transport, prey fish habitat/survival, juvenile fish growth/survival, and habitat/foraging conditions for higher level consumers.
- 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	1.34	−0.04
WCA-2A	0.86	−0.22
WCA-2B	0.94	+0.08
WCA-3A	0.45	+0.09
WCA-3B	0.65	+0.01
ENP	0.47	−0.06

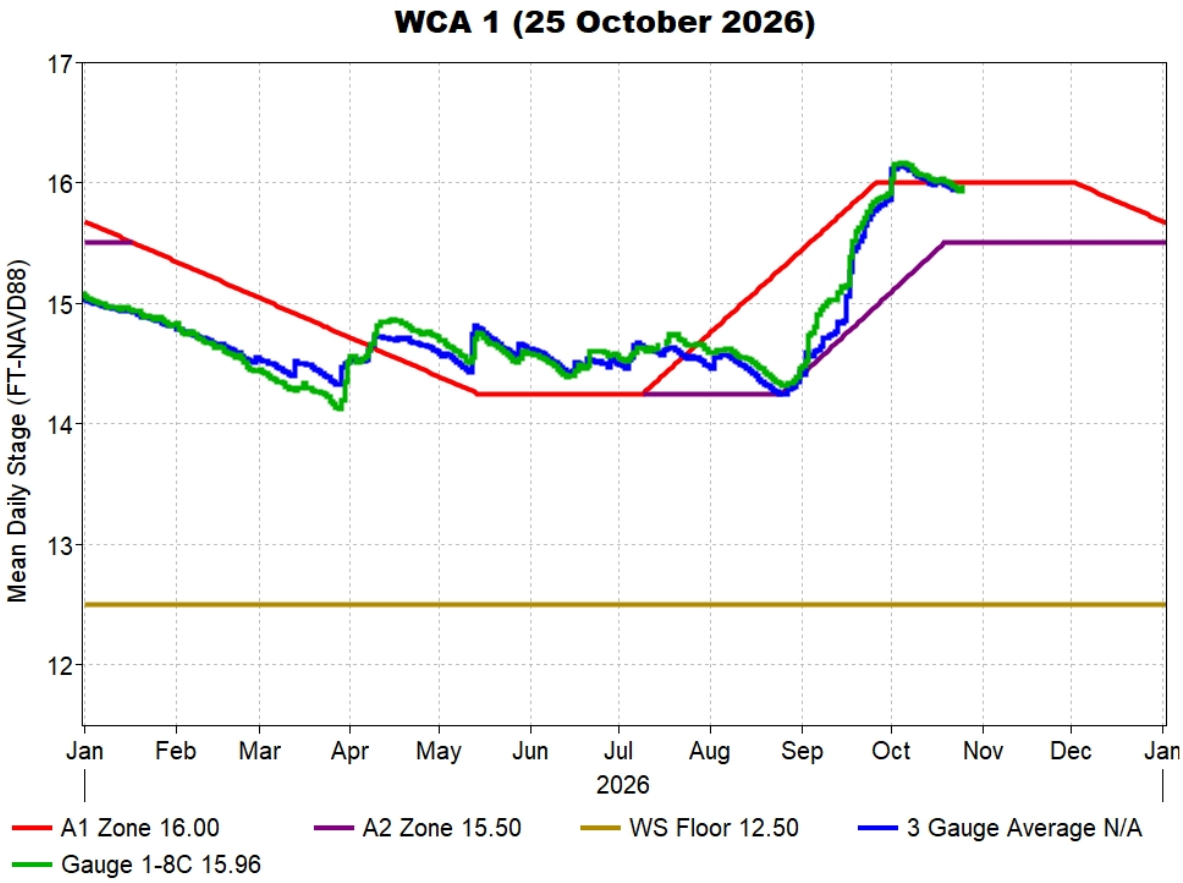


Figure EV-1. WCA-1 stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

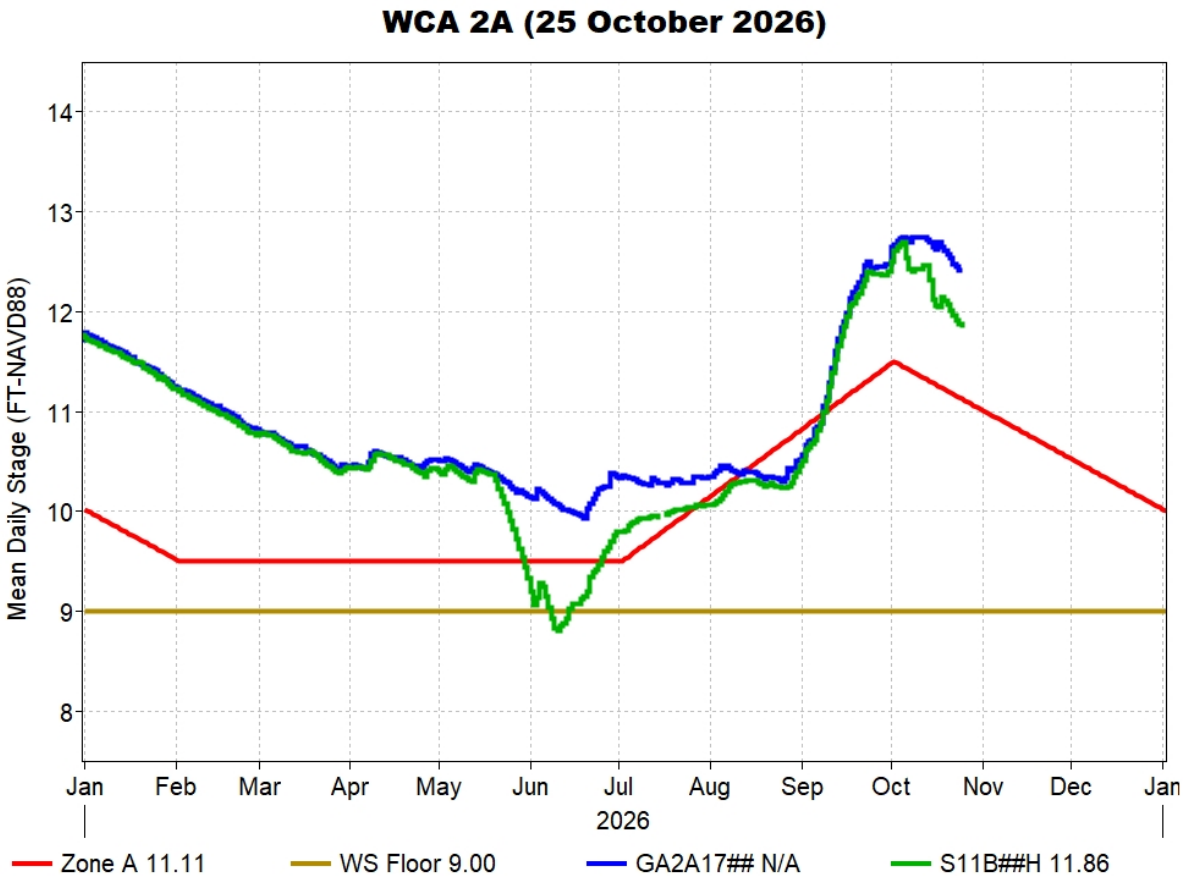


Figure EV-2. WCA-2A stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

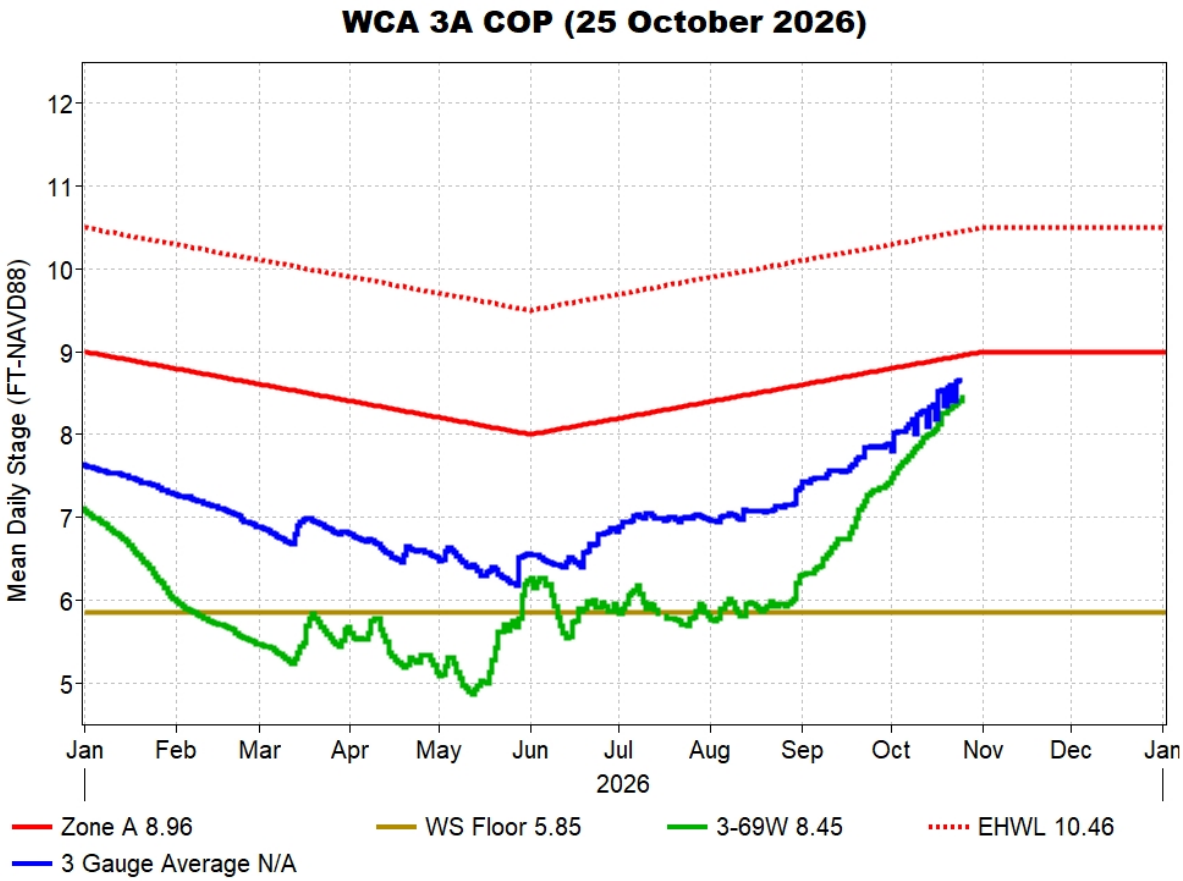


Figure EV-3. WCA-3A stage hydrographs (three-gauge average, 3-69W) and regulation schedule.

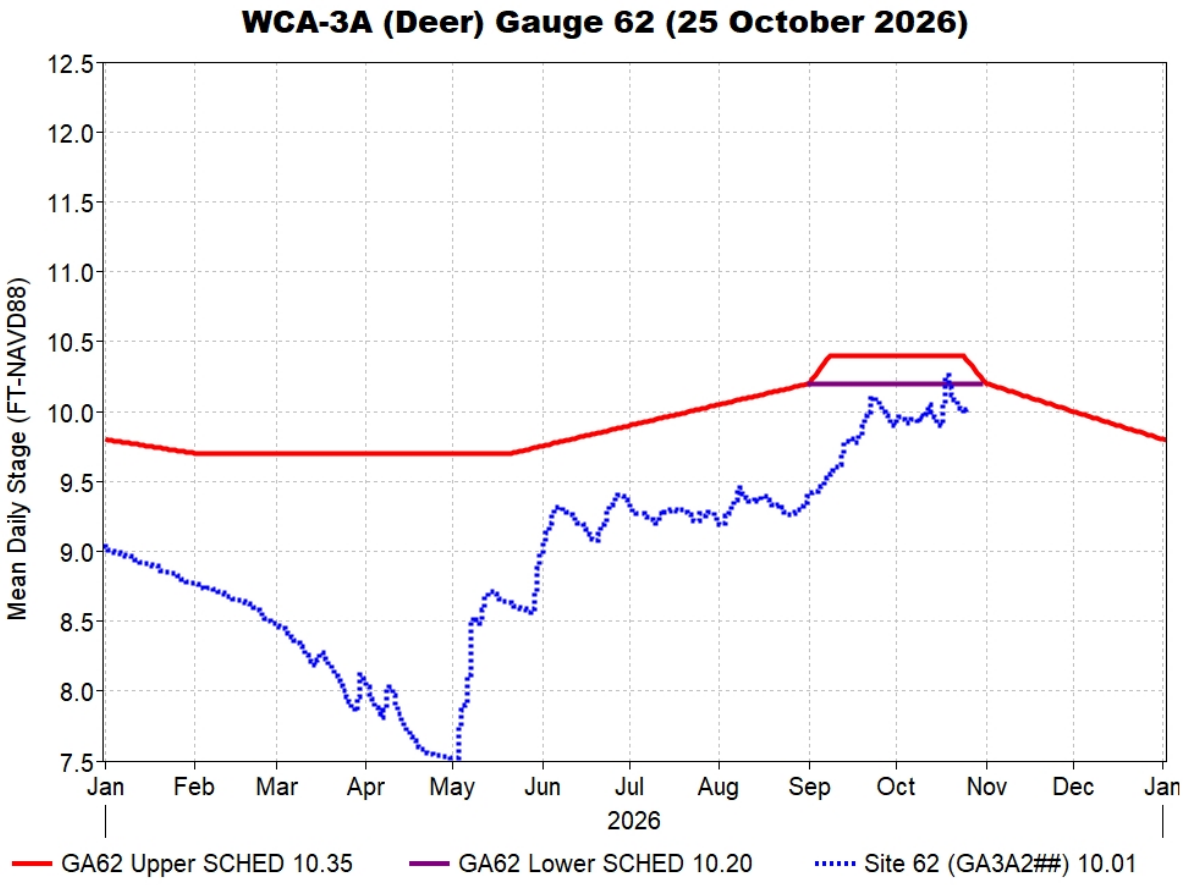


Figure EV-4. WCA-3A stage hydrograph (Deer gauge; Site 62) and regulation schedule.

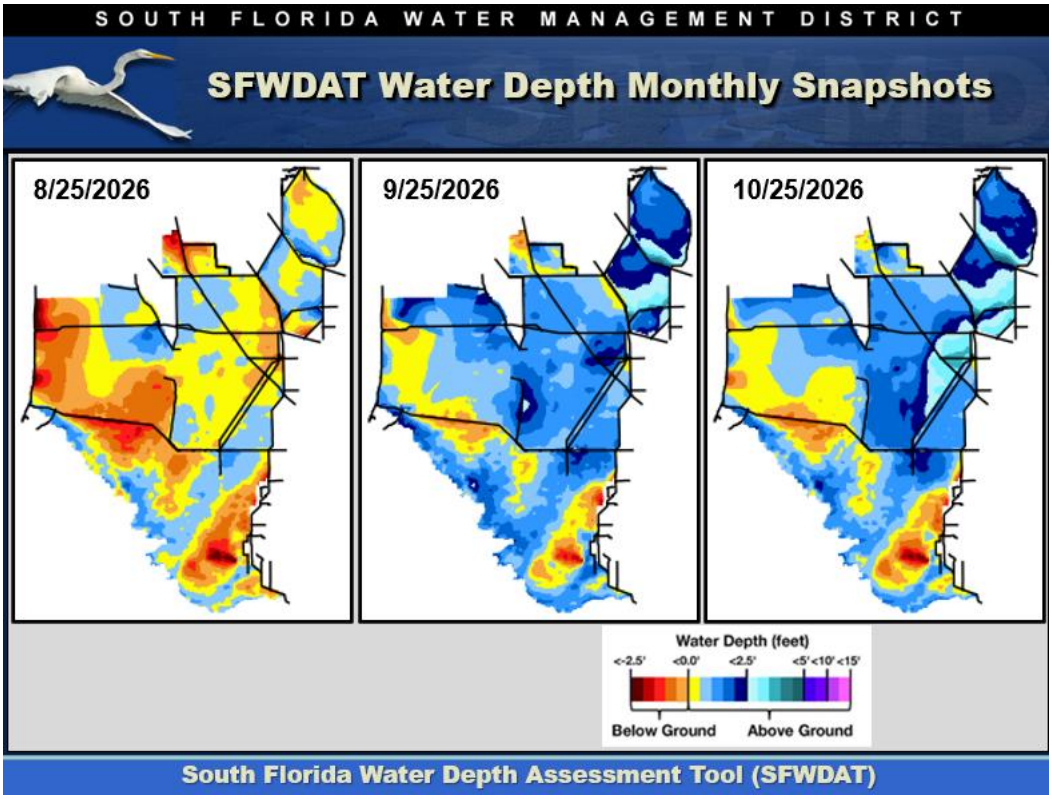


Figure EV-5. Everglades water depths from two months ago (left), one month ago (center) and present (right), based on SFWDAT.

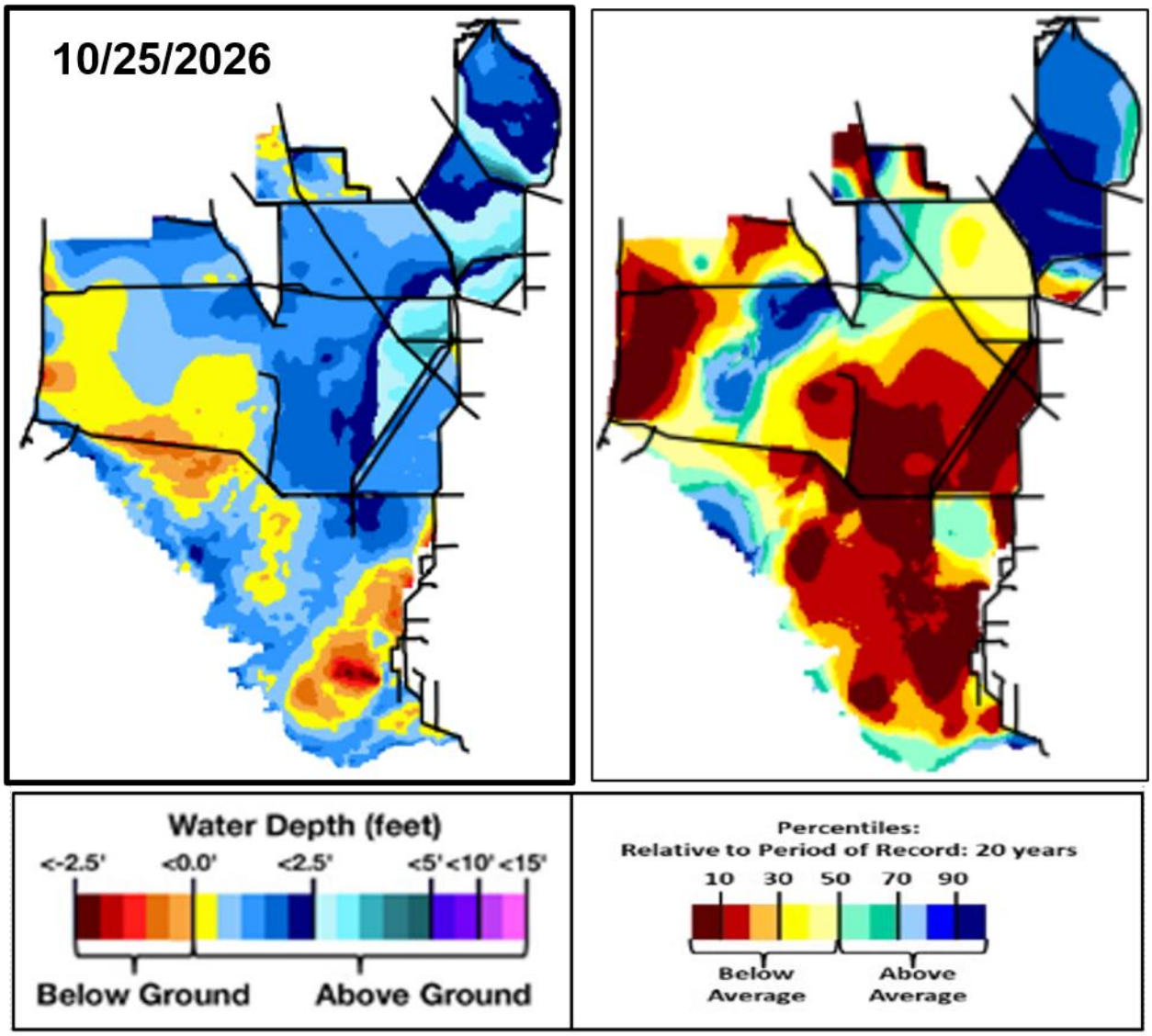


Figure EV-6. Present water depths (October 25, 2026) compared to the day of year relative to average (percentile) over the previous 20 years.

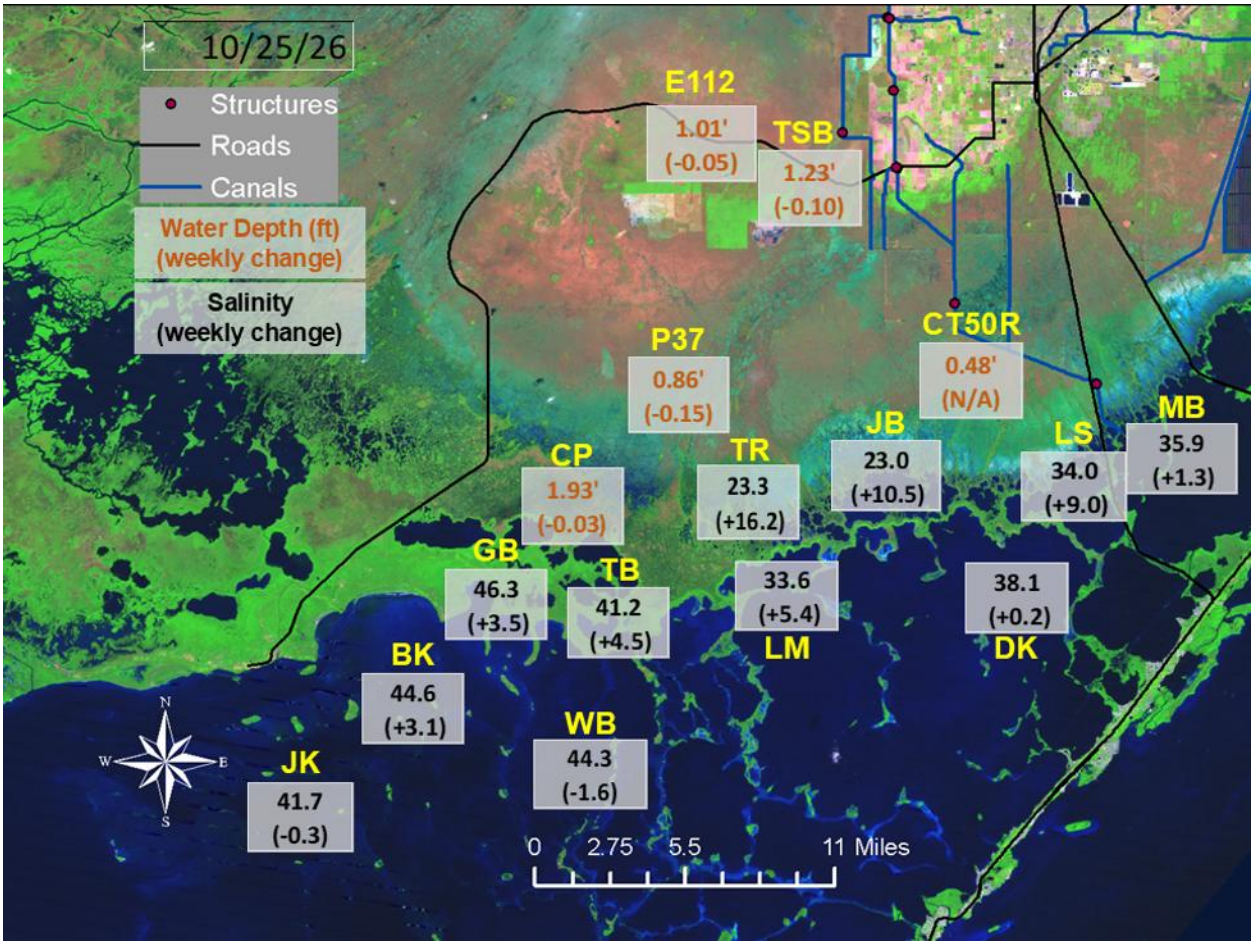


Figure EV-7. Taylor Slough water depths and Florida Bay salinities with changes since a week ago.

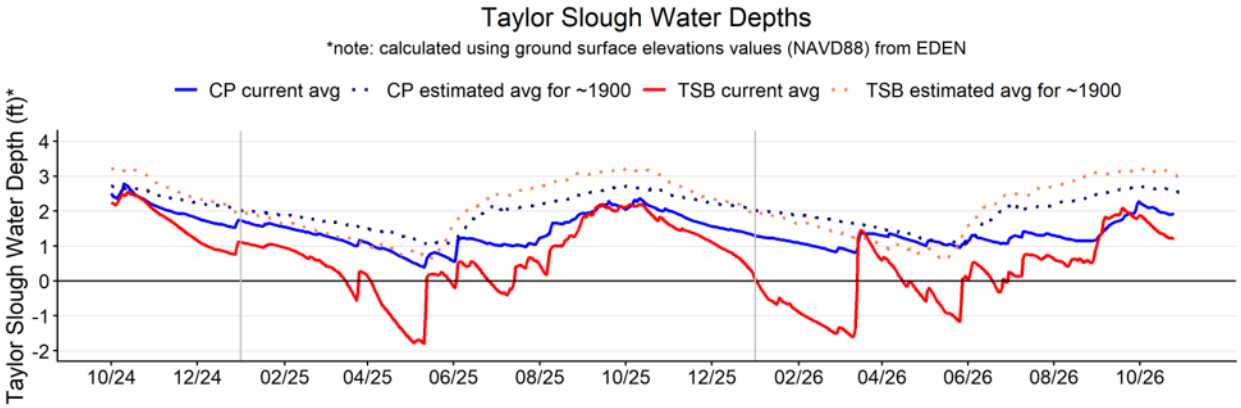


Figure EV-8. Taylor Slough water depth time series for Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB; northern slough) and Craighead Pond (CP; southern slough).

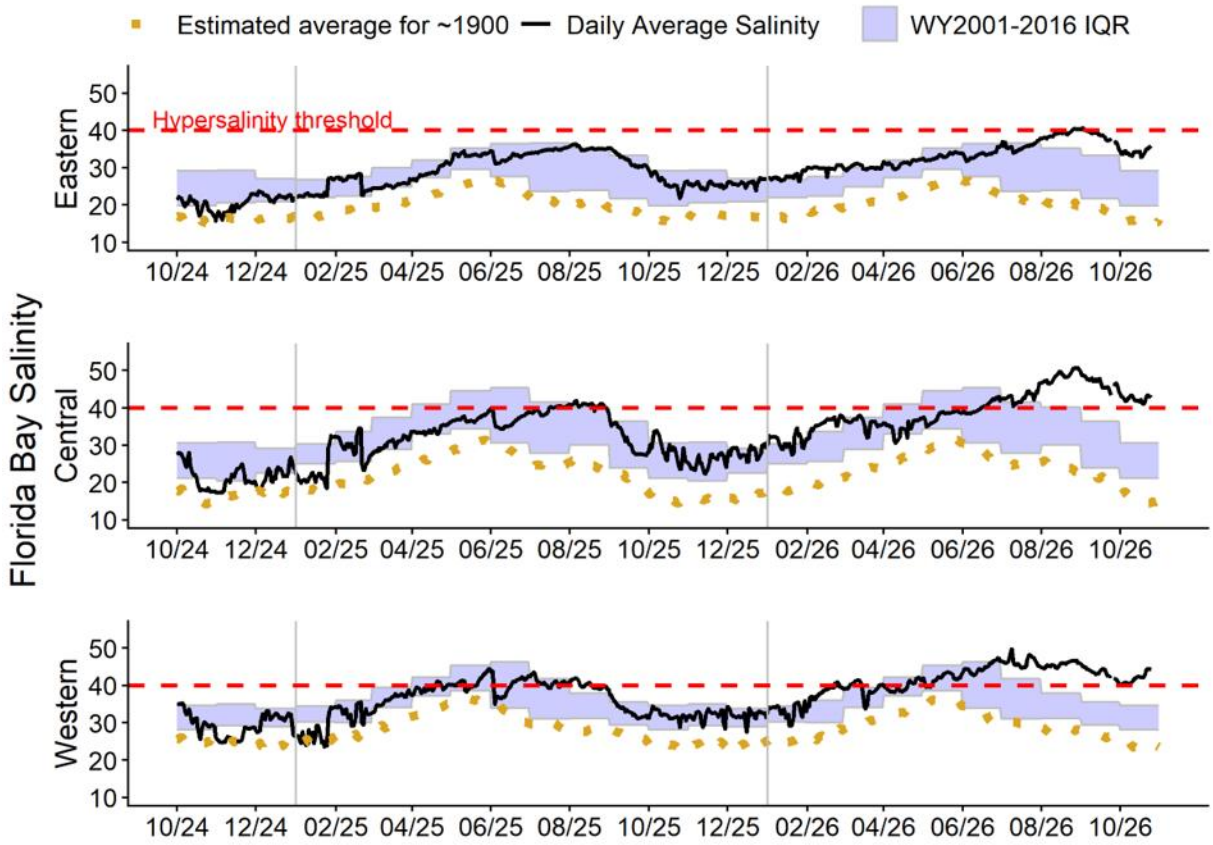


Figure EV-9. Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with WY2001-2016 interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges (IQR) and estimated historical daily average salinities. The hypersalinity threshold indicates the level at which salinities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

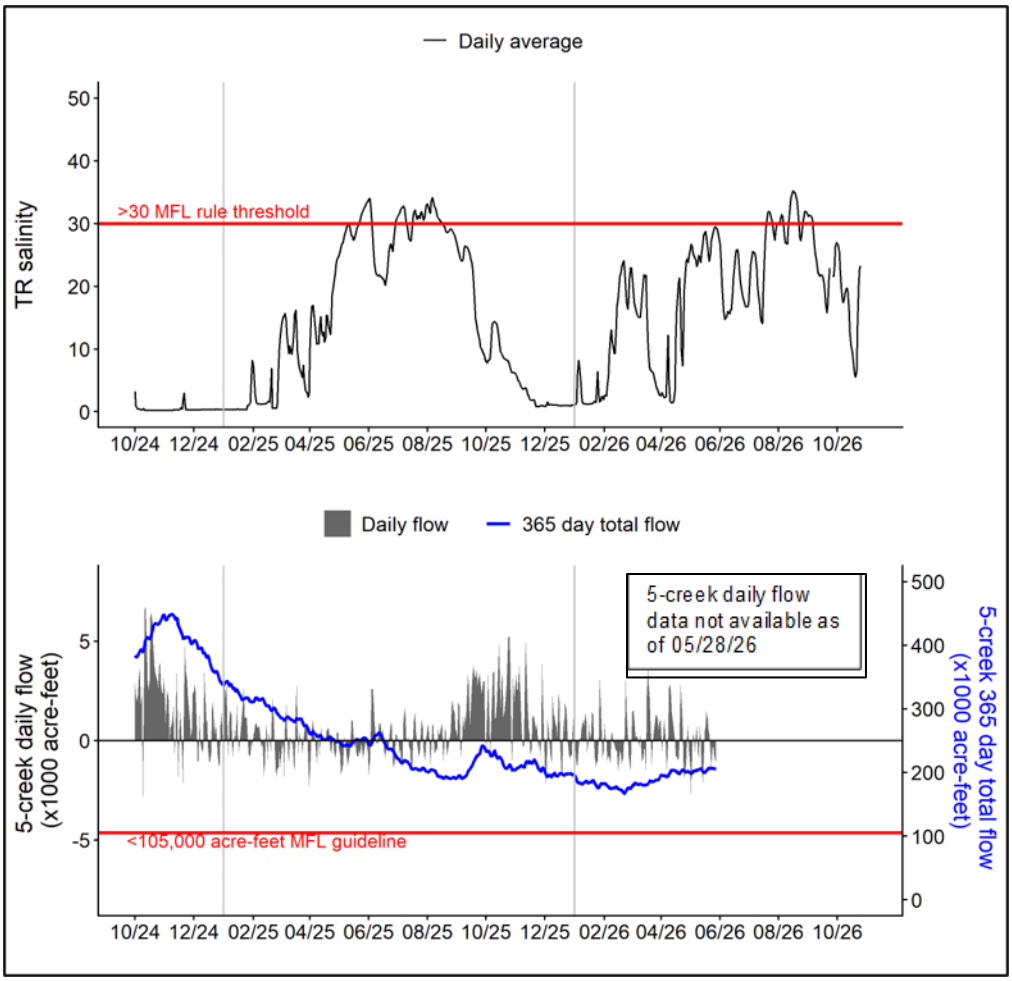


Figure EV-10. Daily average salinity at Taylor River (TR) tracked for the Florida Bay MFL criteria. The 365-day total creek flow MFL metric is not currently available due to missing creek flow data.

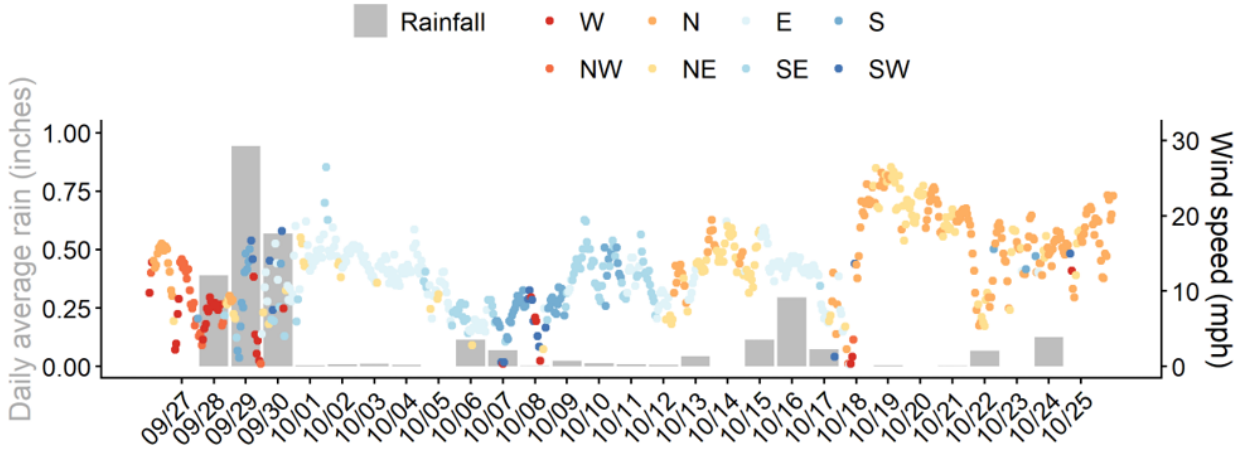


Figure EV-11. Daily average rain across Taylor Slough and Florida Bay, along with hourly average wind speed and direction (measured at Long Key) in Florida Bay over the past four weeks.

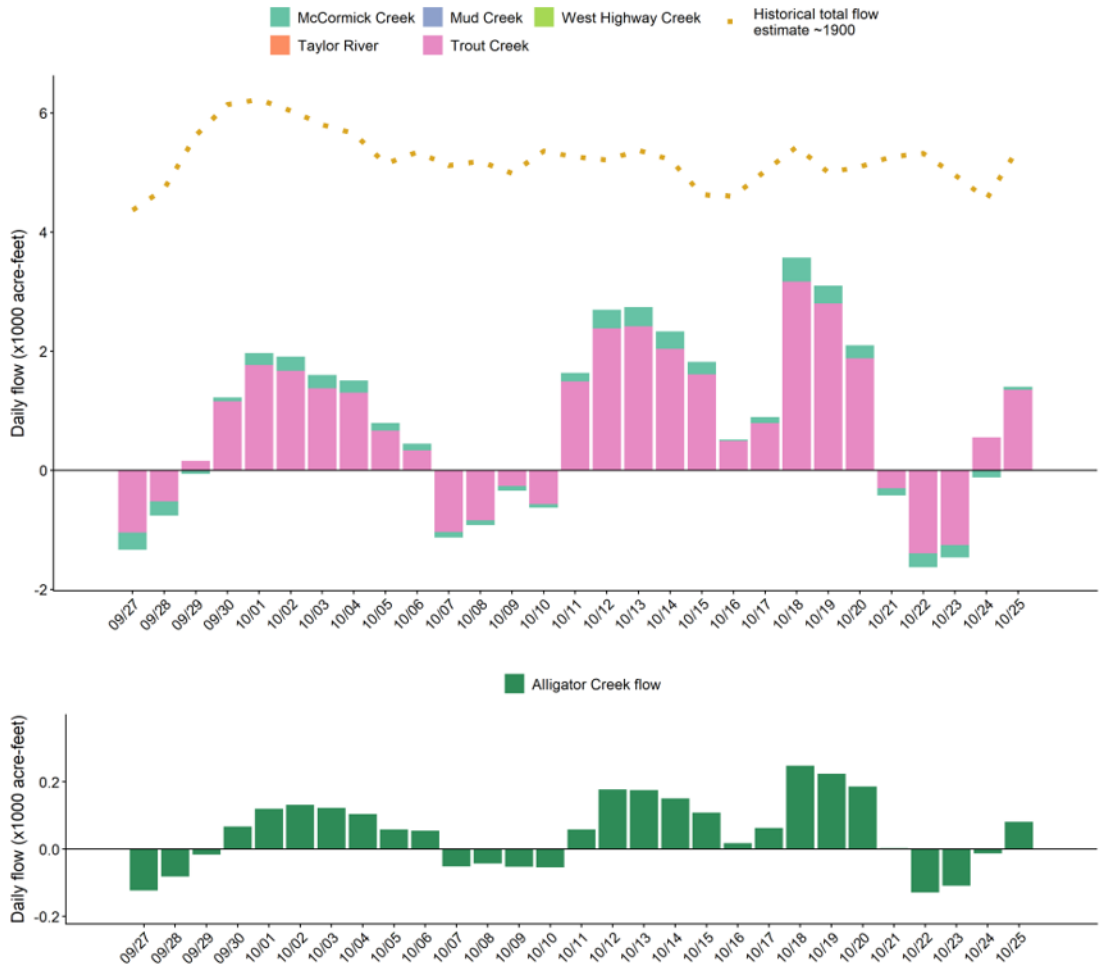


Figure EV-12. Top: daily average creek flow summed between the five major creeks with estimated historical daily flow over the past four weeks (**note**: data from Taylor River, Mud Creek and West Highway Creek are currently unavailable since May 28th, 2026). Bottom: Daily average Alligator Creek flow data.

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

SFWMD Everglades Ecological Recommendations, October 25, 2026 (red is new)			
	Weekly change	Recommendation	Reasons
WCA-1	Stage decreased by 0.04 feet	Limit stage change when possible to + or – 0.15' per week	Maintain within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Maintain maintenance access for vegetation management.
WCA-2A	Stage decreased by 0.22 feet	Limit stage change when possible to + or – 0.15' per week	Maintain within basin (north versus south) and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-2B	Stage increased by 0.08 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.25 feet per week	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NE	Stage increased by 0.14 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.25 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 0.17 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.25 feet per week	
Central WCA-3A S	Stage increased by 0.17 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.25 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 increased by 0.24 feet		
WCA-3B	Stage increased by 0.01 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.25 feet per week	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
ENP-SRS	Stage decreased by 0.06 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 -0.15 feet to +0.08 feet	Move water southward as possible	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.
FB- Salinity	Salinity changes ranged from —1.6 to +10.5	Move water southward as possible	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.