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: November 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Weekly Environmental Conditions for Systems Operations

Summary

Weather Conditions and Forecast

A complex weather pattern is unfolding across much of South and Central Florida, with the potential for widespread heavy rainfall and significant localized rainfall amounts over the next several days. A frontal boundary is forecast to lift northward into South Florida as a warm front on Wednesday. This will support a surge of moisture across the region, while increasingly favorable upper-level conditions will provide additional support for widespread heavy rainfall. As a result, the potential for very heavy rainfall remains elevated across much of the SFWMD on Wednesday, including portions of the Gulf coast, where the location of the frontal zone could favor the development of additional heavy showers and thunderstorms. Considerable uncertainty remains regarding the location of the heaviest rainfall, as relatively small changes in the location of the frontal zone could substantially affect rainfall amounts across the region. By late week, persistent heavy thunderstorm activity offshore of Florida's southeast coast could contribute to additional pressure falls and the development of a surface low-pressure system along the frontal boundary. Although the development and evolution of this feature remain highly uncertain, it could prolong the threat of heavy rainfall along portions of the upper east coast, with heavy thunderstorms potentially spreading into the Kissimmee Valley on Thursday. Depending on the location, track, and strength of the developing low, heavy rainfall could continue along portions of the upper east coast into Friday. Forecast confidence remains lower than normal, particularly for the latter half of the week, as the evolution of the frontal boundary, upper-air disturbance, and associated thunderstorms Tuesday will have important implications for the subsequent development and movement of any surface low-pressure system. Relatively small differences in how these features evolve could result in substantial changes in the location, timing, and amount of rainfall.

For the 7-day period ending next Tuesday morning, much above-average total SFWMD weekly rainfall is forecast, with the greatest rainfall expected along portions of the east coast.

Kissimmee

In the last week, releases were made from East Lake Toho, Lake Toho and Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha to begin lowering lake 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 November 15, 2026, was 5,100 cfs and 5,500 cfs at S-65 and S-65A, respectively. Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain increased by 0.98 feet to 2.55 feet. The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River decreased from 1.3 mg/L the previous week to 1.1 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 13.25 feet NAVD88 (14.56 ft NGVD29) on November 15, 2026, which was 0.30 feet higher than the previous week and 2.11 feet higher than a month ago. Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) decreased from 24,600 cfs the previous week to 12,450 cfs. From November 1 to 15, the Lake received approximately 541,300 acre-feet of inflows and 222,300 acre-feet of direct rainfall. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) have been 0 cfs since the end of August. The November 15, 2026, satellite image from NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests minimal cyanobacteria potential across the Lake.

Estuaries

Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 7,317 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Mean salinities increased at all sites within the estuary over the past week. Salinity in the middle estuary was in the damaging range for adult eastern oysters (<5).

Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary averaged 3,477 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Over the past week, salinities remained the same at S-79 and decreased at the remaining sites in the estuary. Salinities were in the optimal range (0-10) for tape grass in the upper estuary. Salinities were in the lower stressed range (5-9) at Cape Coral for adult eastern oysters, optimal range (10-25) at Shell Point, and in the upper stressed range (>25) at Sanibel.

Stormwater Treatment Areas

For the week ending November 15, 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 779,000 acre-feet. Most online STA treatment cells are at or 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 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

Much less rainfall occurred throughout most of the Everglades Protection Area (EPA) last week compared to the prior. Less rainfall, combined with the operational response to the heavy regional rainfall the previous week, resulted in stage recessions in the north and ascensions in the central and southern system. Water depths fell quickly in WCA-2A and WCA-1 last week, increasing more gradually in WCA-3A, -3B and Everglades National Park (ENP). Incremental operational changes moving water south have contributed to rising water depths in central and southern WCA-3A; important to drought recovery in that region. Water depths in far southern WCA-3A continue to approach the 20-year average but remain relatively shallow. Southern WCA-3A, -3B and ENP remain near or below the 30th percentile. A recovery from the stage deficits in the central Everglades can have systemwide ecological benefits, including a recovery of prey (fish) production, apple snails and protection from subsequent dry outs. Stages fell slightly in Taylor Slough last week but remain above the recent seasonal average. Florida Bay experienced a decrease in salinity last week but remains well above the recent seasonal average. Salinities fell below the hypersalinity threshold in all regions. Below normal rainfall throughout the wet season has contributed to persistently elevated salinities across much of Florida Bay, with limited seasonal freshening.

Supporting Information

Kissimmee Basin

Upper Kissimmee

On November 15, 2026, mean daily lake stages were 56.7 feet NAVD88 (0.3 feet below schedule) in East Lake Toho, 53.7 feet NAVD88 (0.3 feet below schedule) in Lake Toho, and 51.5 feet NAVD88 (0.1 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 November 15, 2026, mean weekly discharge was 5,100 cfs and 5,500 cfs at S-65 and S-65A, respectively. Mean weekly discharge from the Kissimmee River was 5,200 cfs and 5,100 cfs at S-65D and S-65E respectively (**Table KB-2**). Mean weekly headwater stages were 46.4 feet NAVD88 at S-65A and 35.2 feet NAVD88 at S-65D. Mean weekly river channel stage increased by 1.2 feet to 38.1 feet NAVD88 (**Figure KB-4**). Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain increased by 0.98 feet to 2.55 feet (**Table KB-2**, **Figure KB-5**). The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River decreased from 1.3 mg/L the previous week to 1.1 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 returning to Zone B1 and flood control releases declining, as possible begin to return to normal operations between 1,400 and 3,000 cfs at S-65A using the Increment 1 Interpolation Tool to determine discharge relative to stage in KCH.

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)	
							11/15/26	*11/8/26*
Lakes Hart and Mary Jane	S-62	LKMJ	120	59.7	R	60.0	-0.3	-0.2
Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel	S-57	S-57	74	60.7	R	60.9	-0.2	-0.2
Alligator Chain	S-60	ALLI	540	62.7	R	62.9	-0.2	0.2
Lake Gentry	S-63	LKGT	620	60.1	R	60.4	-0.3	0.0
East Lake Toho	S-59	TOHOE	520	56.7	R	57.0	-0.3	0.1
Lake Toho	S-61	TOHOW S-61	1600	53.7	R	54.0	-0.3	0.2
Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha	S-65	KUB011 LKIS5B	5100	51.5	T	51.6	-0.1	0.2

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.

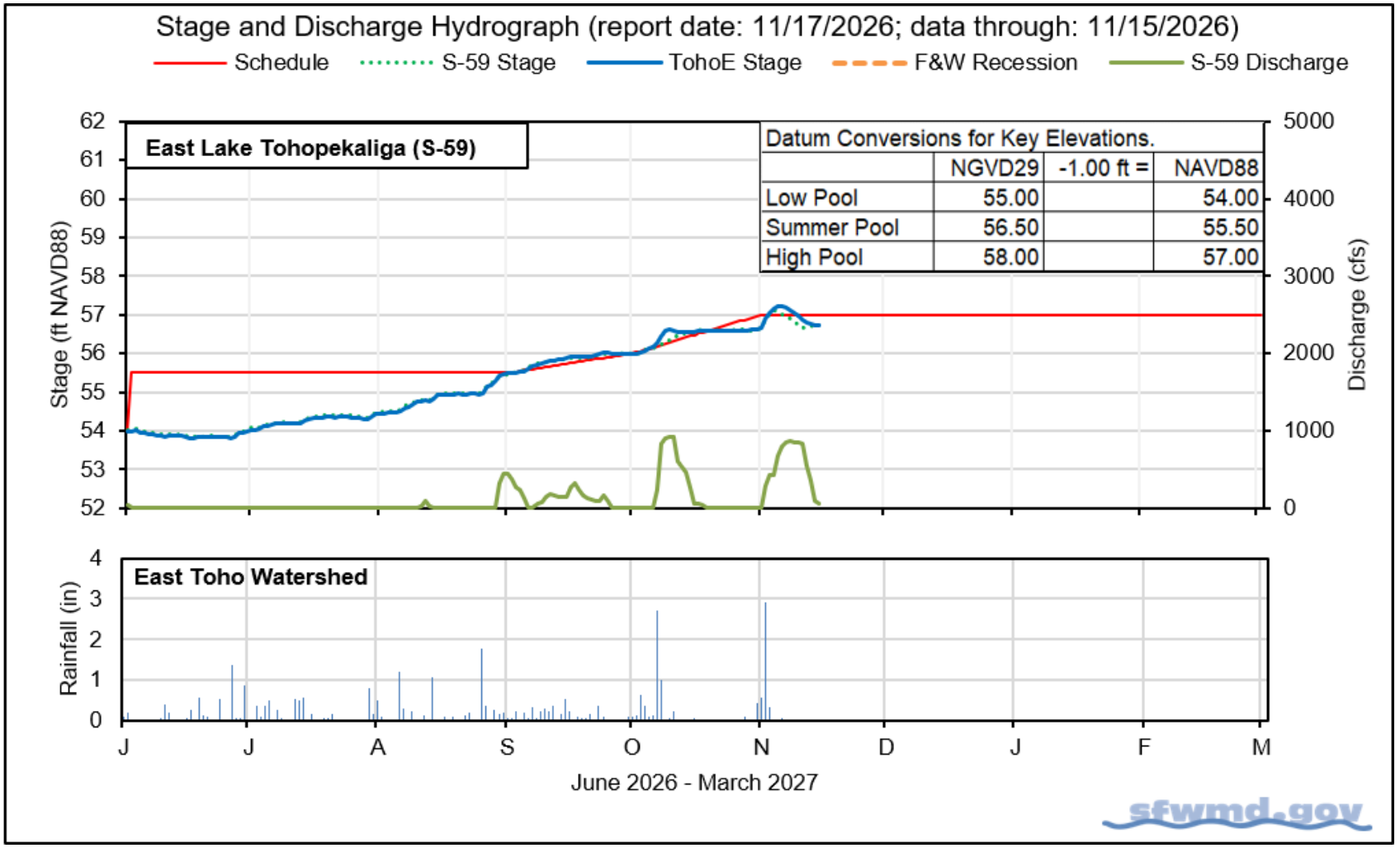


Figure KB-1. East Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

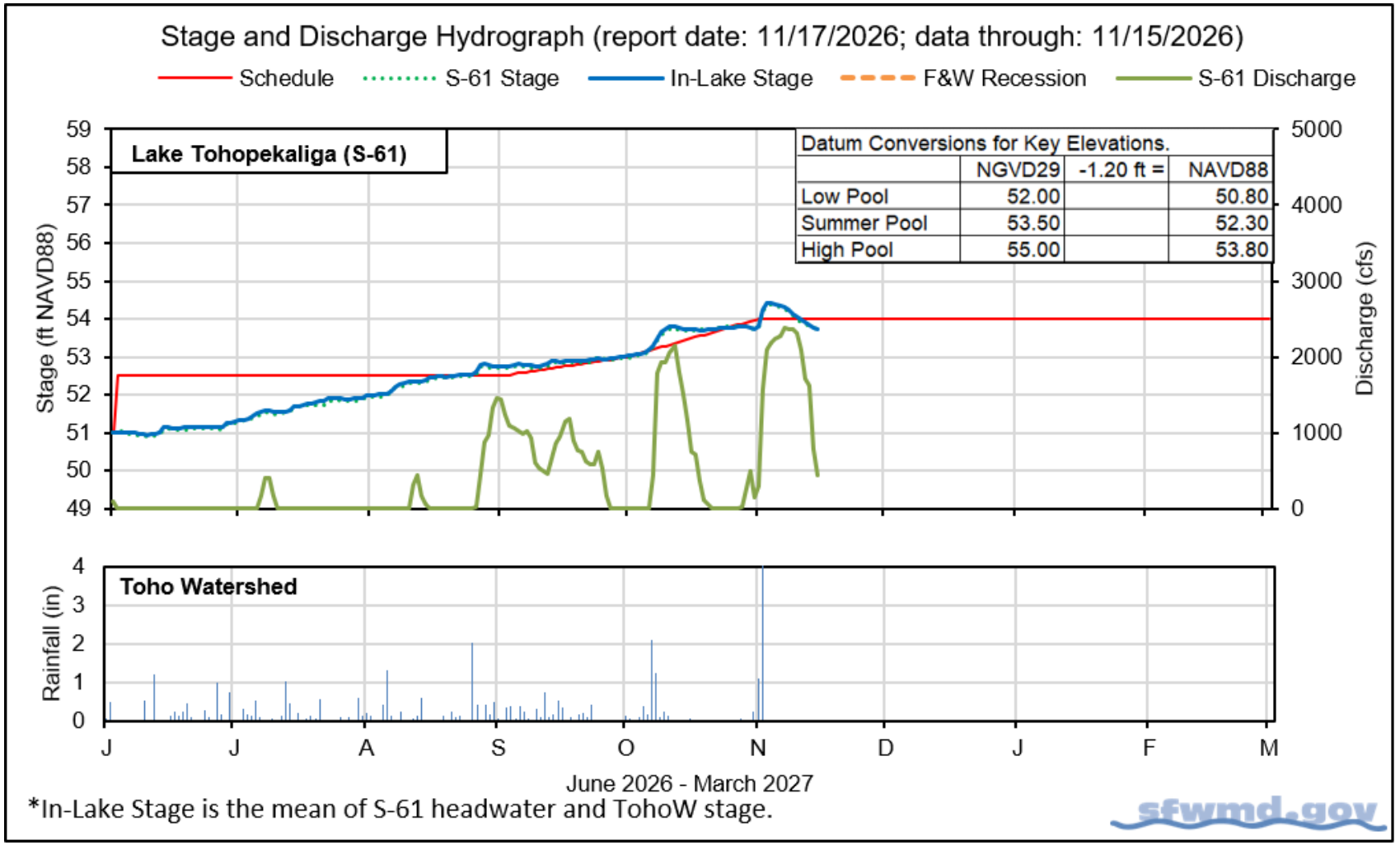


Figure KB-2. Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

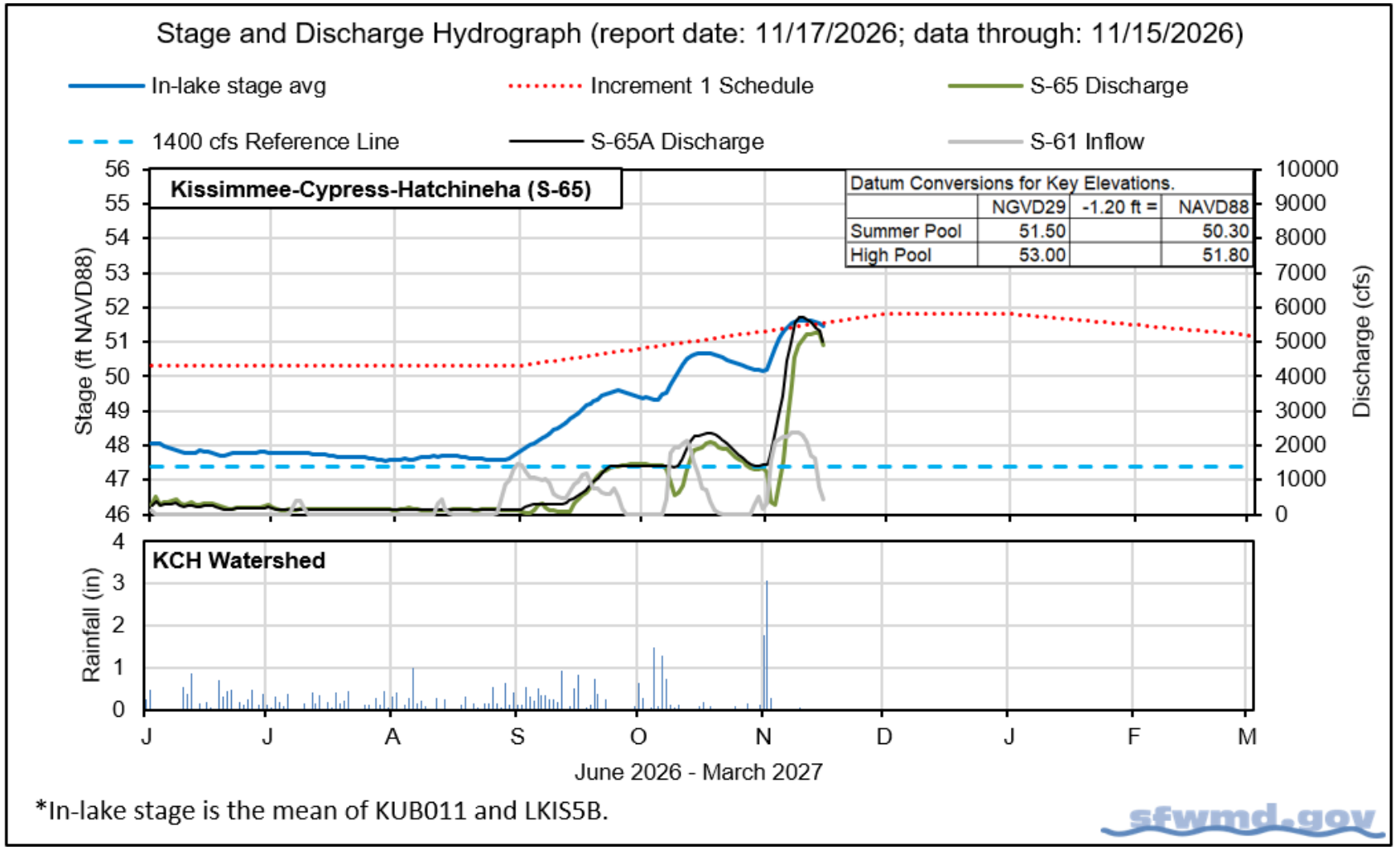


Figure KB-3. Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

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			
		11/15/26	11/15/26	11/8/26	11/1/26	10/25/26
Discharge	S-65	4,900	5,100	2,000	1,400	1,800
Discharge	S-65A[a]	5,000	5,500	3,600	1,500	2,000
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65A	46.2	46.4	46.4	45.2	45.2
Discharge	S-65D[b]	6,100	5,200	3,300	2,500	2,300
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65D[c]	27.6	35.2	34.1	33.3	33.3
Discharge (cfs)	S-65E[d]	5,800	5,100	3,600	2,400	2,100
Discharge (cfs)	S-67	0	10	270	0	0
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)[e]	Phase I, II/III river channel	1.8	1.1	1.3	2.3	1.5
River channel mean stage (feet NAVD88)[f]	Phase I river channel	38.2	38.1	36.9	36.1	36.3
Mean depth (feet)[g]	Phase I & II/III floodplain	2.73	2.55	1.57	0.91	1.11

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).

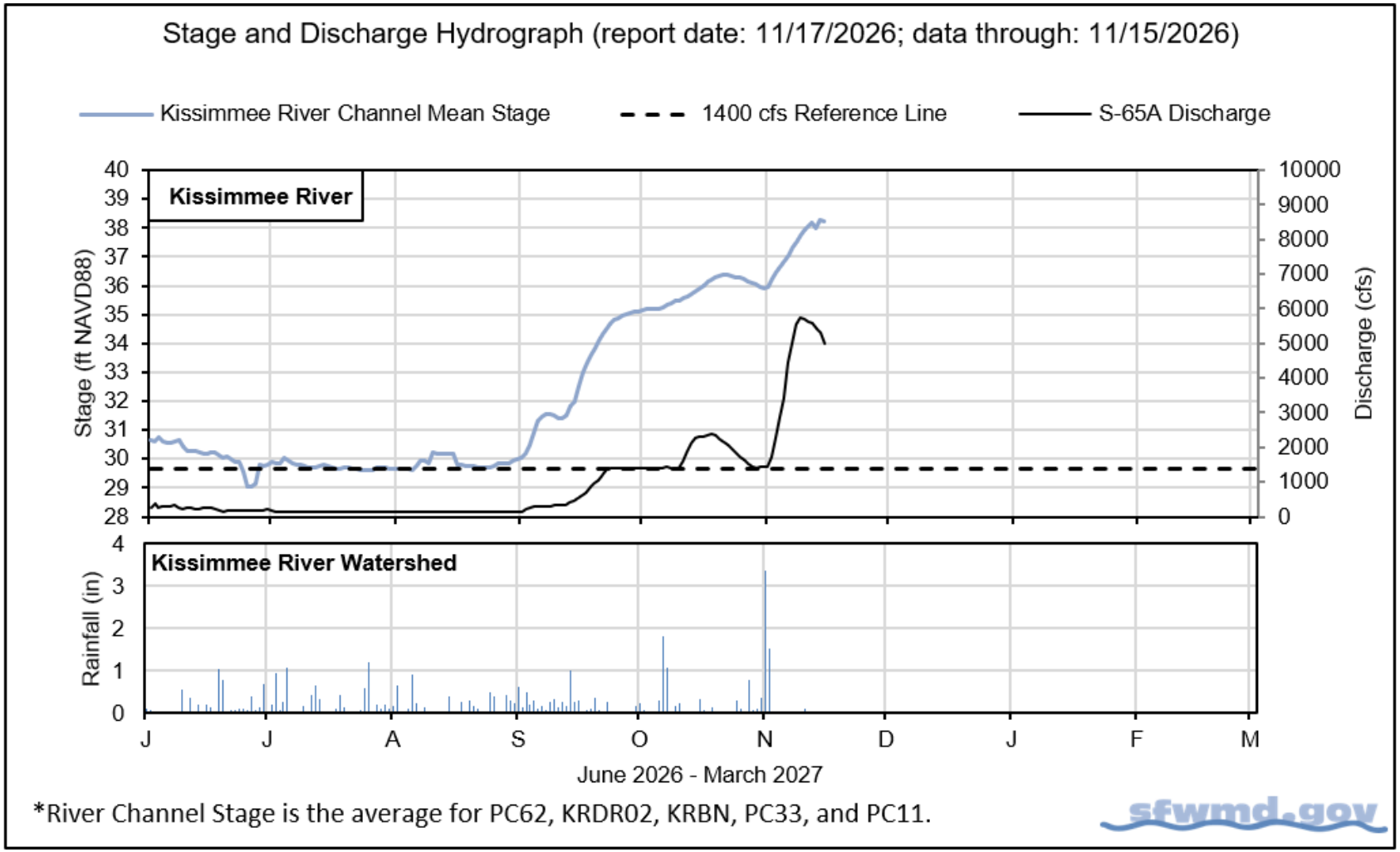


Figure KB-4. Kissimmee River stage, discharge, and rainfall.

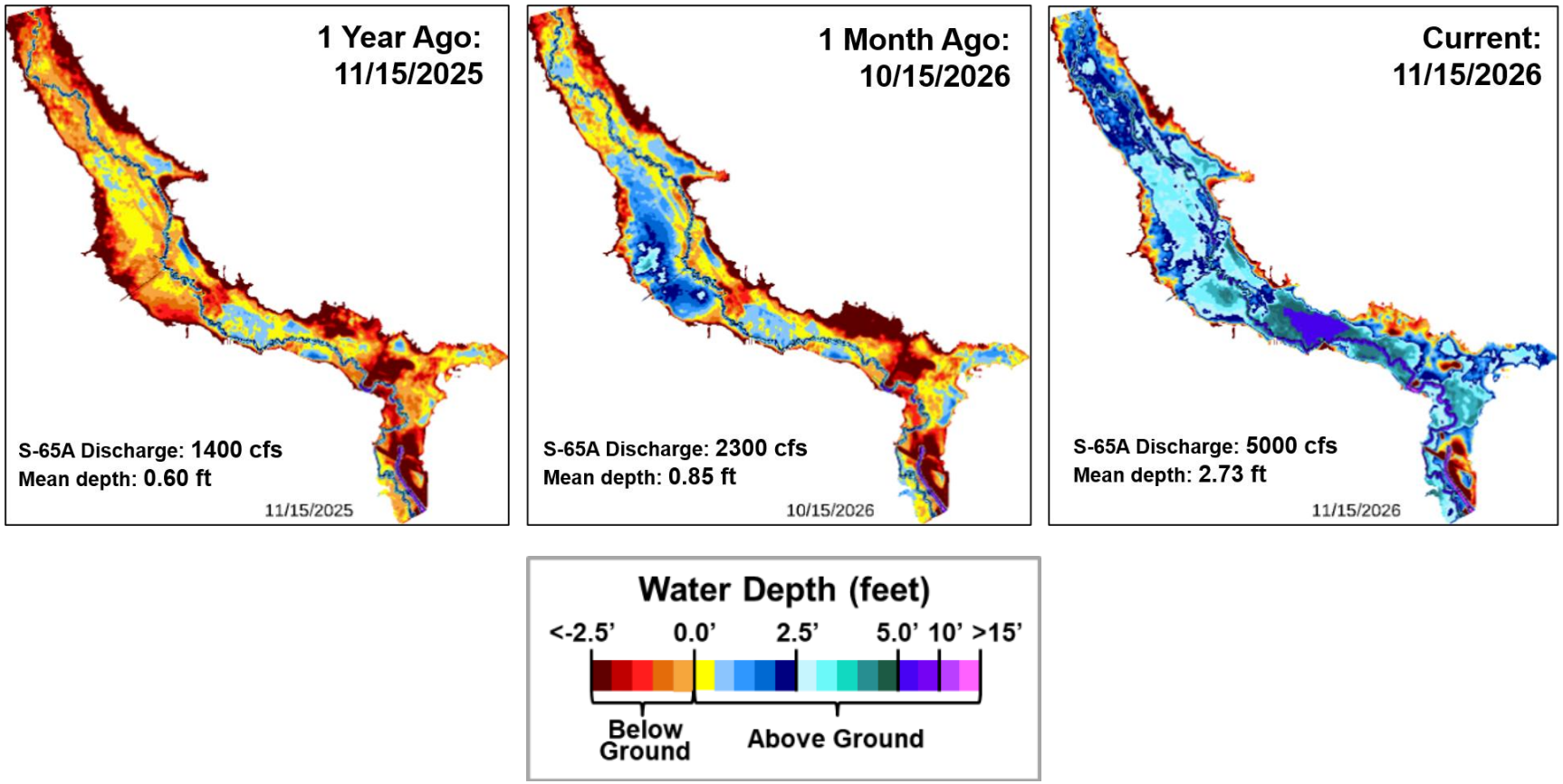
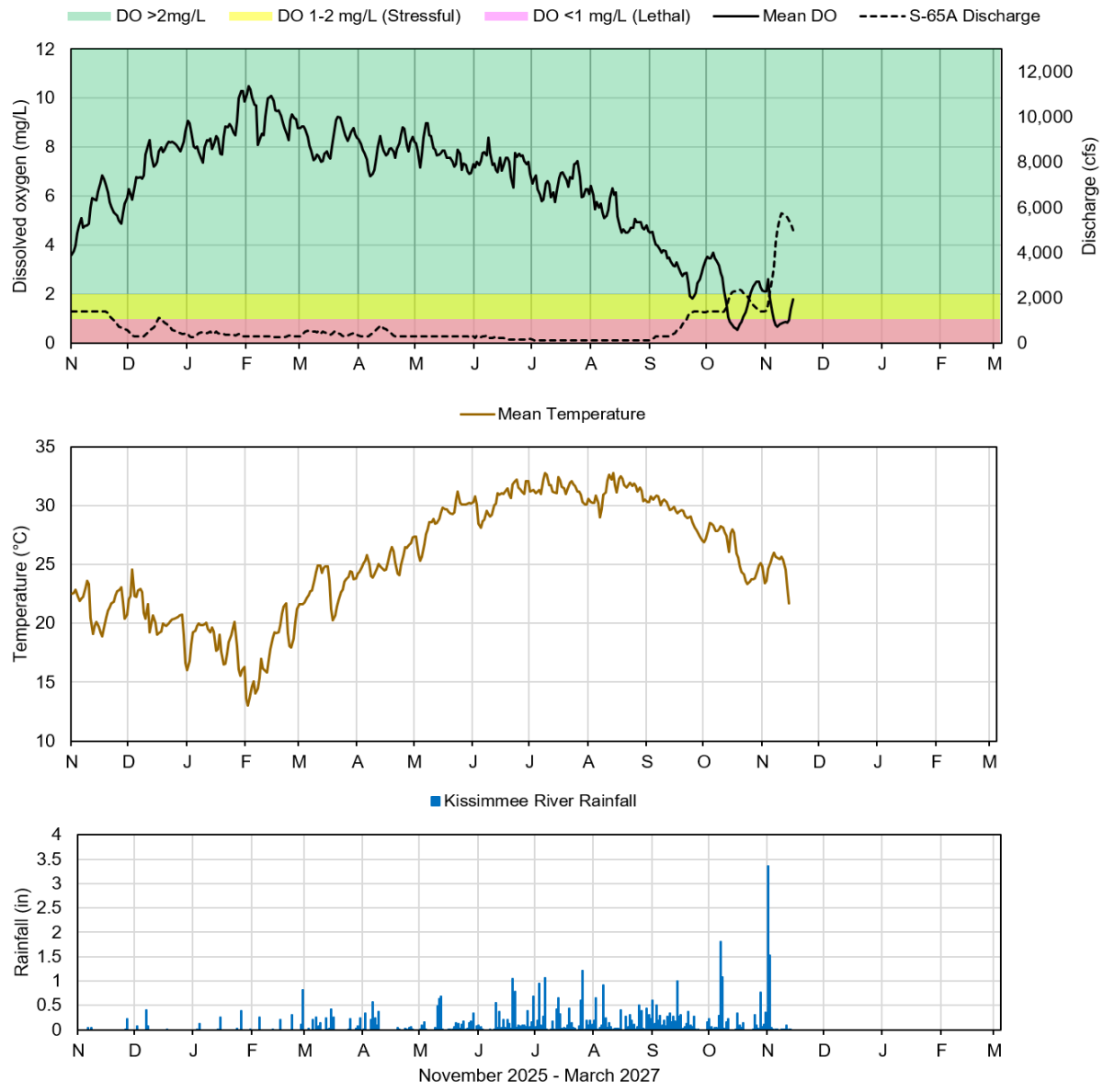


Figure KB-5. Phase I-II-III area Kissimmee River floodplain water depths (from left to right) one year ago, one month ago, and current.



Report Date: 11/17/2026; data are through: 11/15/2026

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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

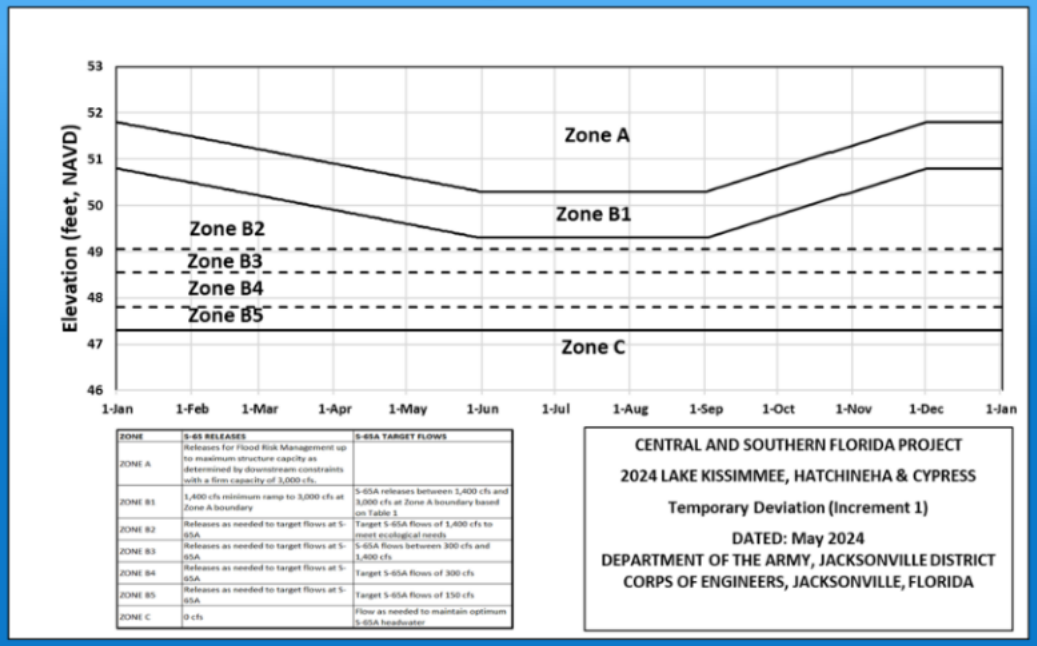
HRS Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A

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 13.25 feet NAVD88 (14.56 ft NGVD29) on November 15, 2026, which was 0.30 feet higher than the previous week and 2.11 feet higher than a month ago (**Figure LO-1**). With the large increase in stage, the Lake is no longer in the water shortage management band (1.96 feet above the upper limit, **Figure LO-2**) and is now within the ecological envelope (**Figure LO-3**). According to NEXRAD, 0.10 inches (approximately 3,500 acre-feet) of rain fell directly over the Lake during the previous week, and 0.73 inches (approximately 25,200 acre-feet) were lost to evapotranspiration.

Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) decreased from 24,600 cfs the previous week to 12,450 cfs. The largest single structure inflow came from the Kissimmee River (5,080 cfs via S65E(X)). There was also considerable inflow from the C-41A Canal (2,260 cfs via S-84(X)), Fisheating Creek (1,430 cfs), and the L-8 Canal (980 cfs via S-271). Between November 1 and 15, the Lake received approximately 541,300 acre-feet of inflows and 222,300 acre-feet of direct rainfall, causing a stage rise of 1.55 feet. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) have been 0 cfs since the end of August. **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 November 15, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests minimal cyanobacteria potential across Lake Okeechobee (**Figure LO-6**).

The most resent phytoplankton sampling event occurred on October 20-21. Provisional phytoplankton results indicated that 8 of the 30 phytoplankton samples collected had detectable levels of cyanotoxins, 7 had cylindrospermopsin, 1 had microcystins. All detections were less than 1 µg/L, which is well below the USEPA recreational guidelines (**Figure LO-7**). None of the 30 sites sampled had chlorophyll *a* values > 40 µg/L, the bloom concentration threshold, but 9 samples had values between 20 and 40 µg/L (**Figure LO-7**).

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

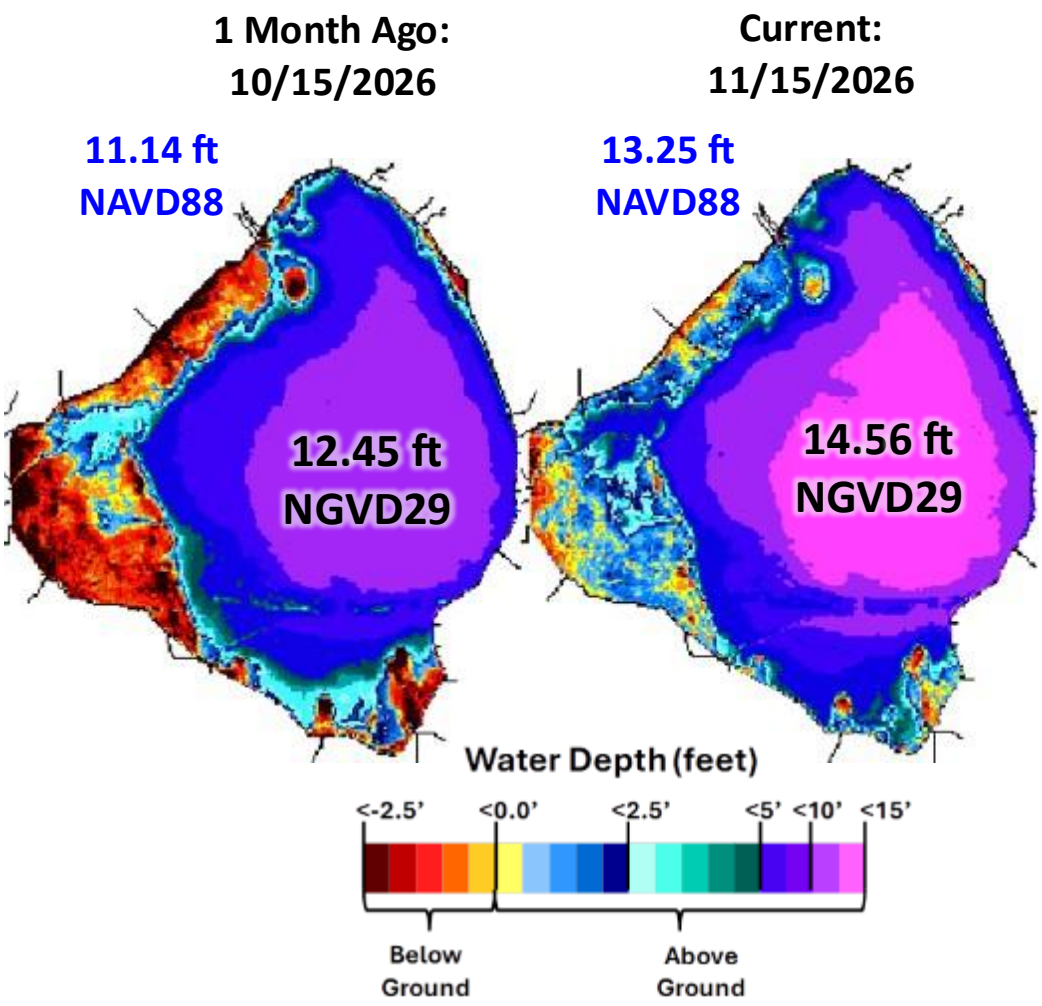

Figure LO-1. Lake Okeechobee water depth estimates based on South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

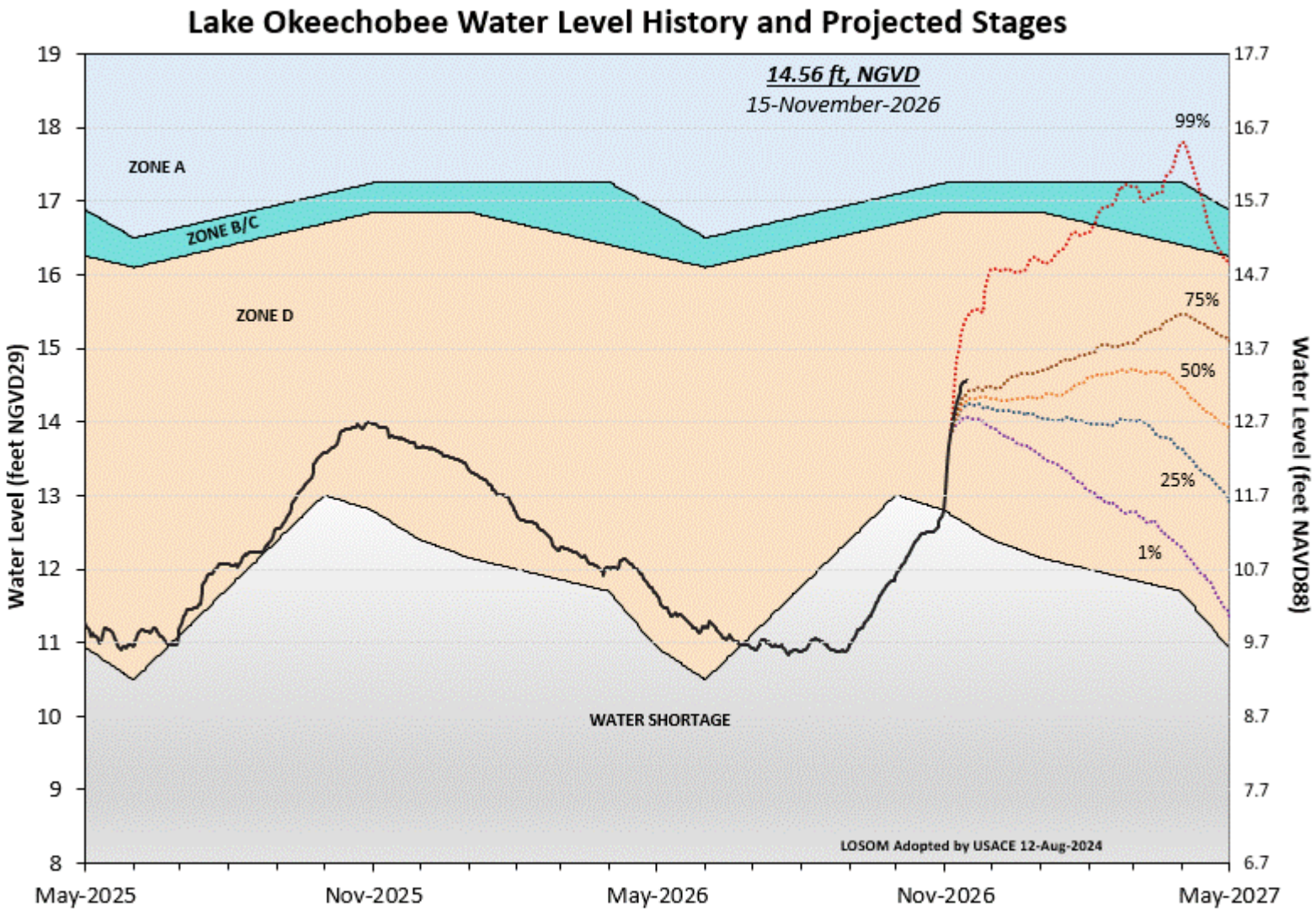

Figure LO-2. Recent Lake Okeechobee stages with projected stages based on a conditional position analysis. Note: stages are in NGVD29, approximate NAVD88 values are shown for reference.

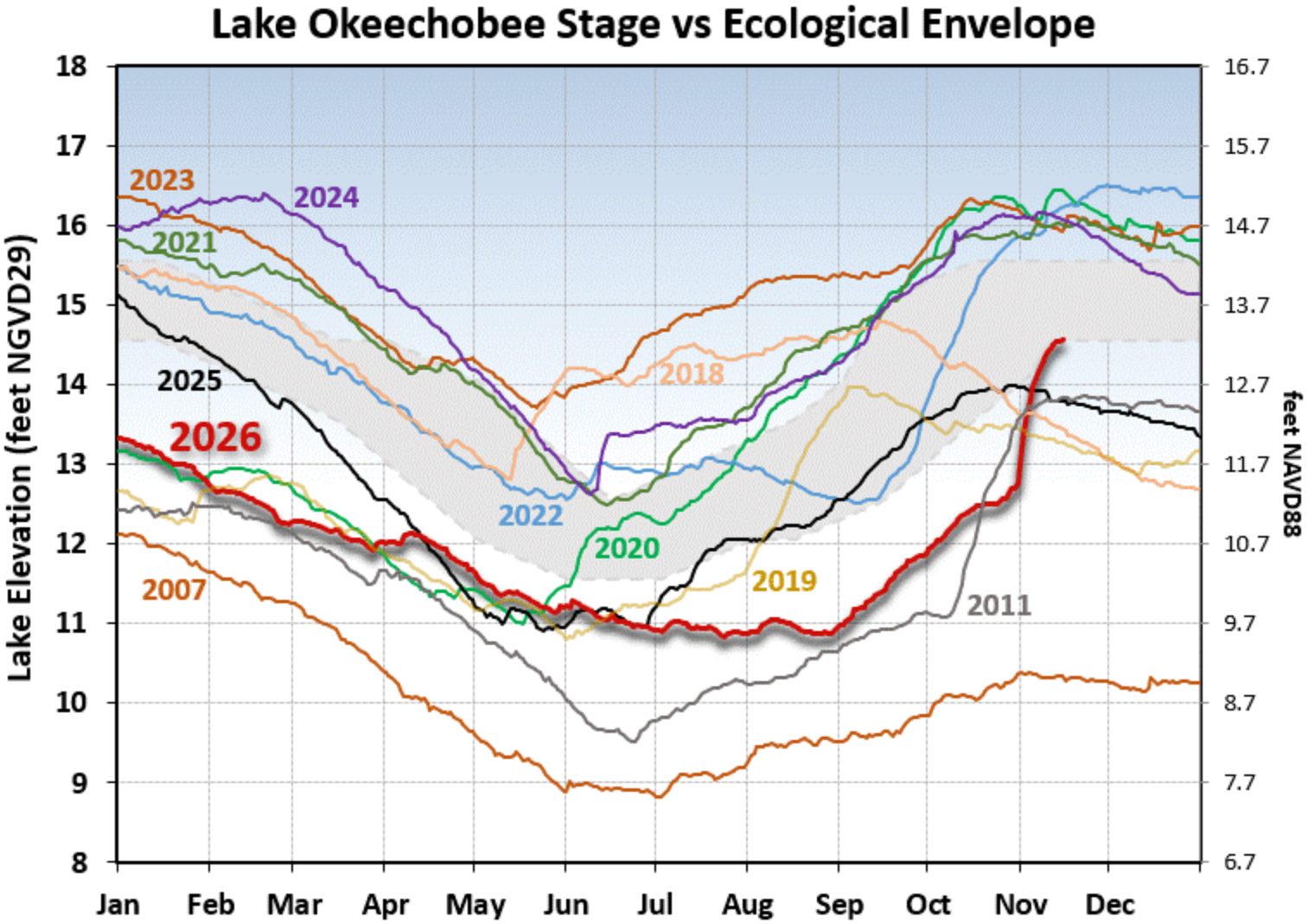

Figure LO-3. The current and select prior year's annual lake stage hydrographs in comparison to the Lake Okeechobee ecological envelope (light grey).

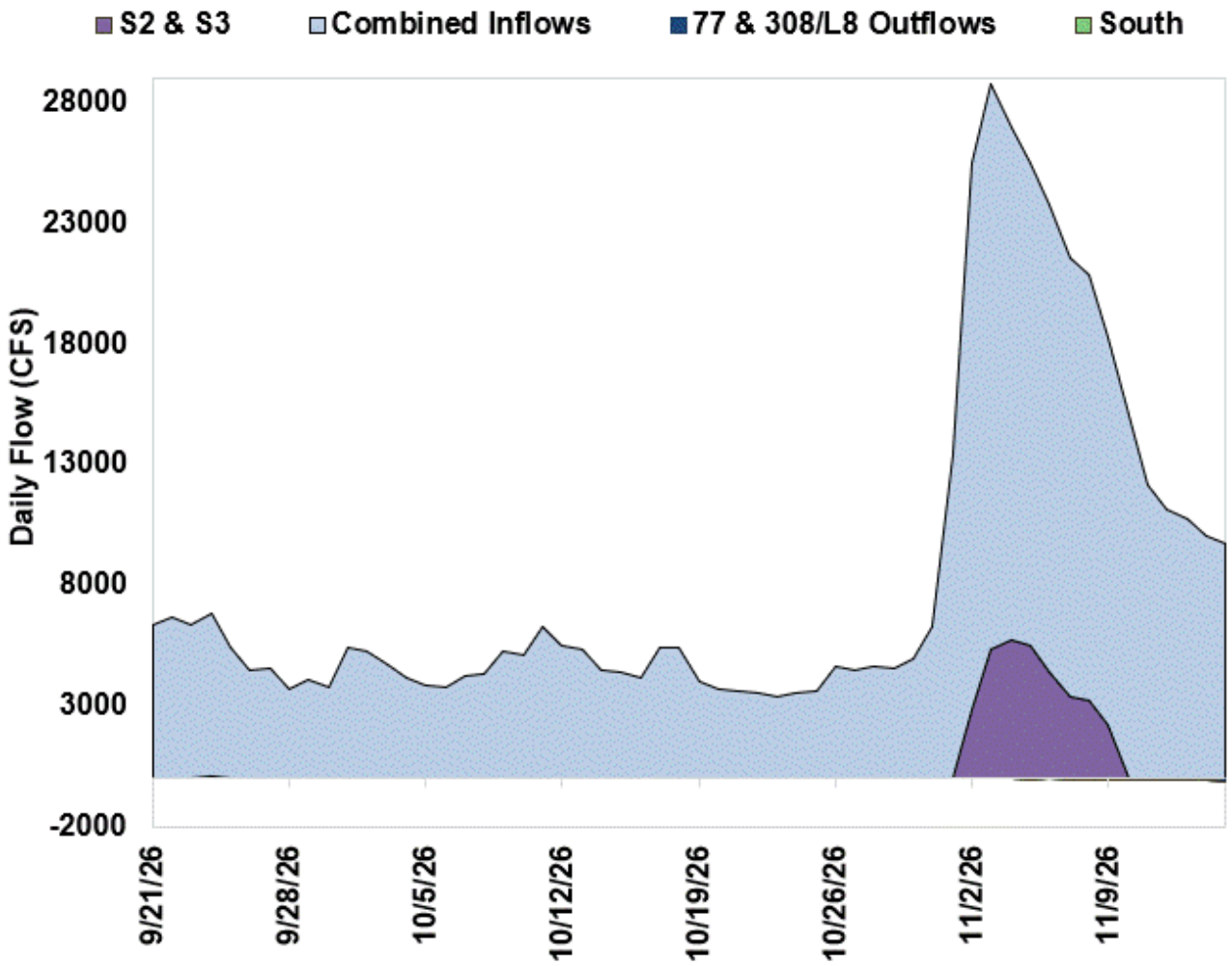

Figure LO-4. Major inflows (orange) to and outflows east and west (blue) from Lake Okeechobee. Outflows south are shown in green. Flows into Lake Okeechobee from the L-8 canal through S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) or from the C-44 canal through the S-308 are included as inflows. Conversely, flows from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

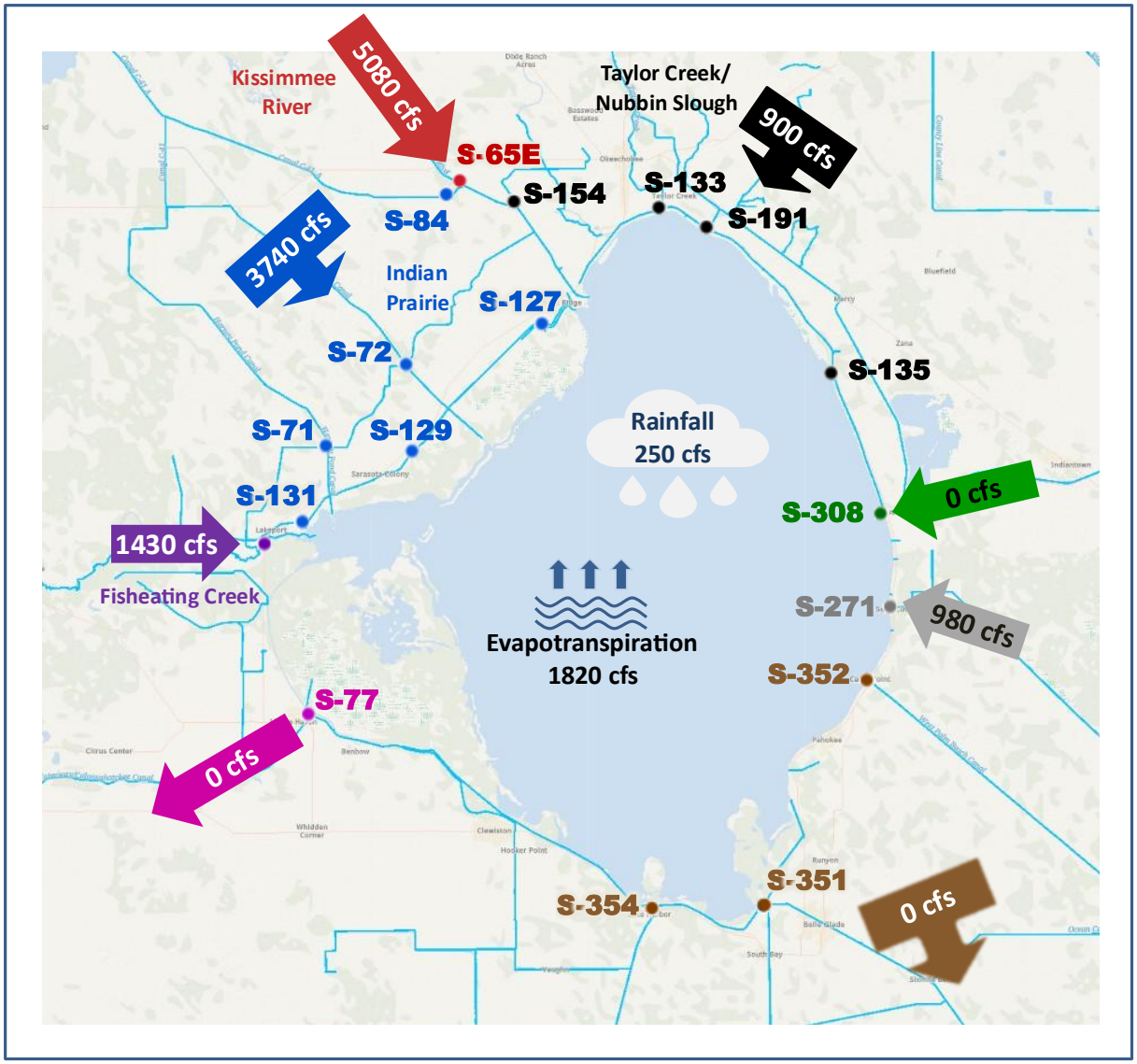

Figure LO-5. Inflows into Lake Okeechobee from Indian Prairie basins, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek (currently no flow data available for FECR), and outflows to the west via S-77, to the east via S-308, to the south via S-351, S-352, S-354, and to southeast via S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) for the week of November 9 – 15, 2026.

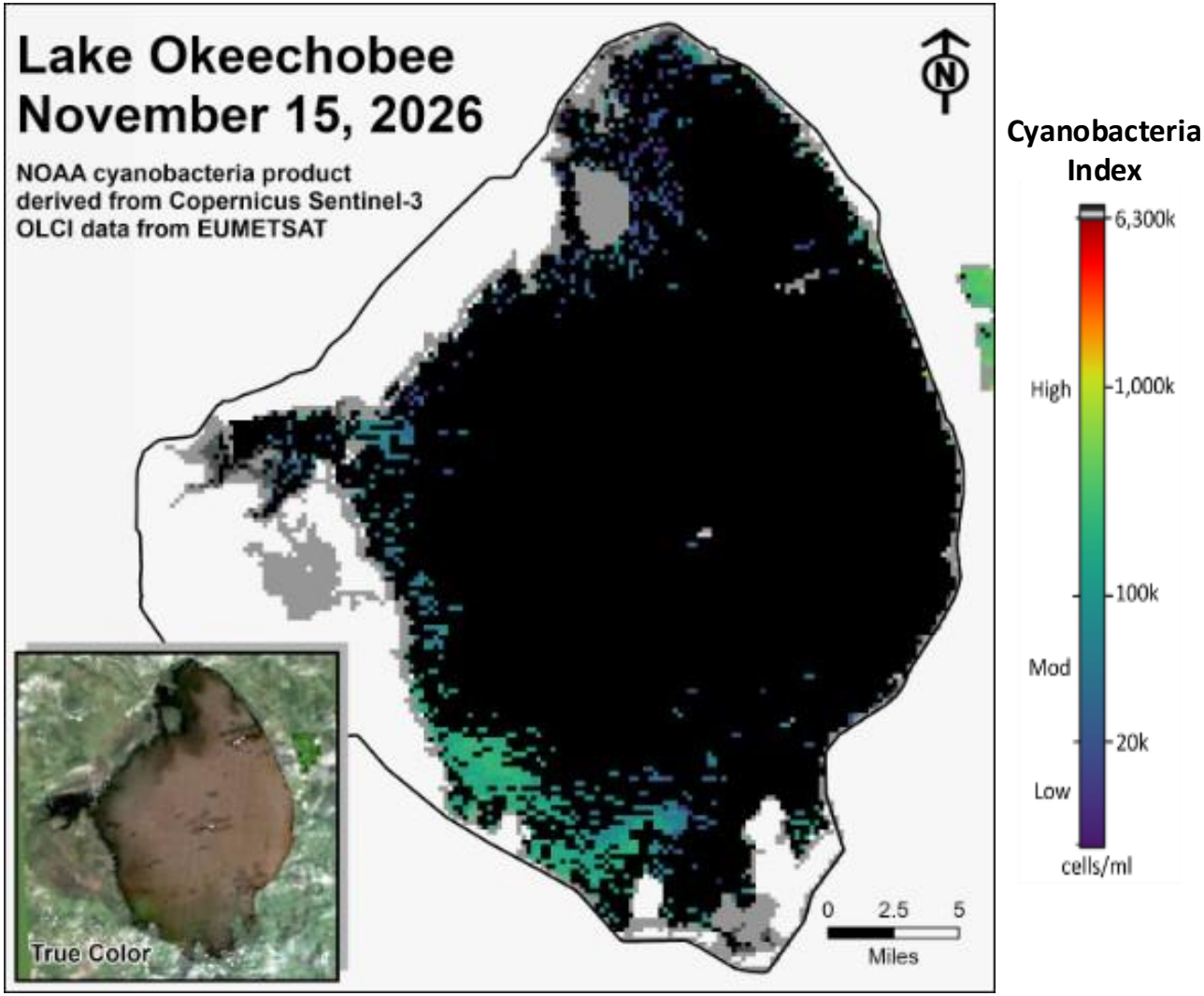

Figure LO-6. Cyanobacteria bloom index level on Lake Okeechobee, based on NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover. *Provisional NOAA image, subject to change*.

Collection Date: October 20-21, 2026

Station	CHL*a* (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA
FEBIN			
FEBOUT			
KISSR0.0	15.0	BDL	*mixed*
L005	**33.9**	0.2	*Microcys*
LZ2	8.7	BDL	*mixed*
KBARSE	**26.6**	BDL	*mixed*
RITTAE2	19.9	BDL	*Microcys*
PELBAY3	18.1	BDL	*mixed*
POLE3S	16.8	BDL	*Microcys*
LZ25A	7.1	BDL	*mixed*
PALMOUT	17.8	0.1	*Micro/Raphi*
PALMOUT1	**24.2**	0.3	*Dolichos*
PALMOUT2	**20.5**	0.2	*Microcys*
PALMOUT3	16.3	0.1	*Micro/Plank*
POLESOUT	**20.9**	BDL	*Planktol*
POLESOUT1	**28.0**	BDL	*Planktol*
POLESOUT2	**21.4**	BDL	*Microcys*
POLESOUT3	**24.6**	BDL	*Microcys*
EASTSHORE	13.5	BDL	*mixed*
NES135	9.6	BDL	*mixed*
NES191	3.3	BDL	*mixed*

Station	CHL*a* (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA
L001	17.9	BDL	*mixed*
L004	9.3	BDL	*mixed*
L006	6.9	BDL	*mixed*
L007	7.3	BDL	*Microcys*
L008	**24.8**	BDL	*Micro/Plank*
LZ30	9.8	0.3	*Microcys*
LZ40	9.3	0.1	*Microcys*
CLV10A	9.3	BDL	*Microcys*
NCENTER	13.5	BDL	*mixed*
S308C	3.2	BDL	*mixed*
S77	11.1		

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

Toxins include cylindrospermopsin* and/or microcsytins

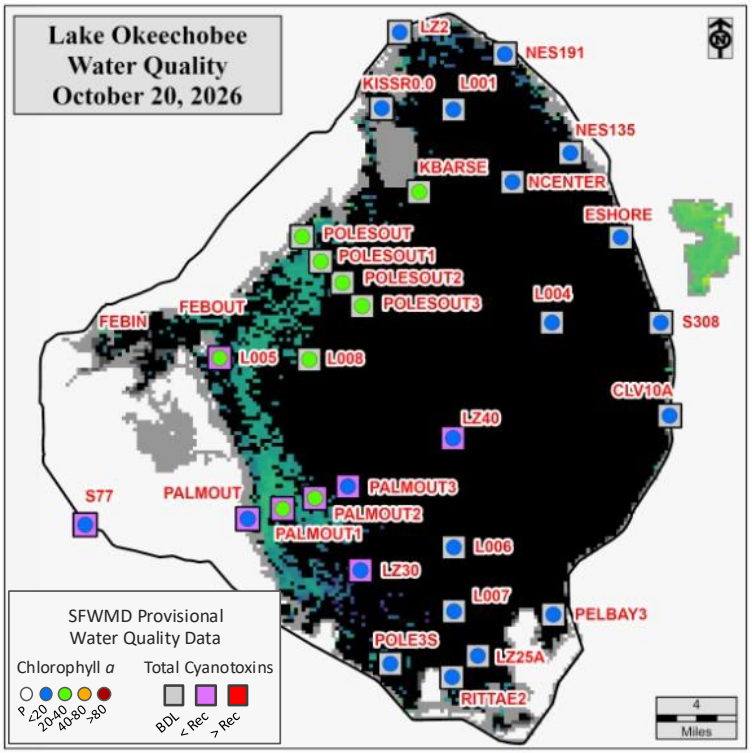

Figure LO-7. Dominant taxa, cyanotoxins (µg/L) and chlorophyll *a* (µg/L) concentration data from October 20-21, 2026. Sampling locations, chlorophyll *a*, and total toxin concentrations are overlaid on the October 20, 2026, image from NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover.

Estuaries

St. Lucie Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was 7,317 cfs (**Figures ES-1** and **ES-2**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 6,895 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-2**. Flow measuring equipment at Gordy Rd. was offline after 11/2/2026 due to breaching. A stage measurement was taken on 11/4/2026, and flow was estimated at 1,750 cfs. The SFWMD projected a daily decrease in flow of 100 cfs through 11/15/2026.

Over the past week, salinities increased at all sites within the estuary (**Table ES-1** and **Figure ES-3**). The seven-day moving average water column salinity at the US1 Bridge was 2.8. Salinity conditions in the middle estuary were estimated to be within the damaging range for adult eastern oysters (**Figure ES-4**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rate reported by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) for October was 1.0 spat/shell at Rio, which is a decrease from the previous month (**Figure ES-5**).

Caloosahatchee River Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary was 3,477 cfs (**Figures ES-6** and **ES-7**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 3,986 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from the contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-7**.

Over the past week, salinities remained the same at S-79 and 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 was in the optimal range (0–10) for tape grass in the upper estuary (**Table ES-2**). The seven-day mean salinity values for adult eastern oysters were within the upper stressed range at Sanibel, the optimal range at Shell Point, and the lower stressed range at Cape Coral (**Figure ES-10**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rates reported by the FWRI in October were 2.4 spat/shell at Iona Cove and 12.7 spat/shell at Bird Island, which is a decrease and increase, respectively, 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 694 cfs. Model results from all scenarios predict daily salinity to be 0.3 and the 30-day moving average surface salinity to be 0.7 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 November 13, 2025, 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 Zone D. Current climatological and hydrological conditions are wet. The LOSOM release guidance suggests up to 2,000 cfs release at S-79 to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary and no releases at S-80 to the St. Lucie Estuary.

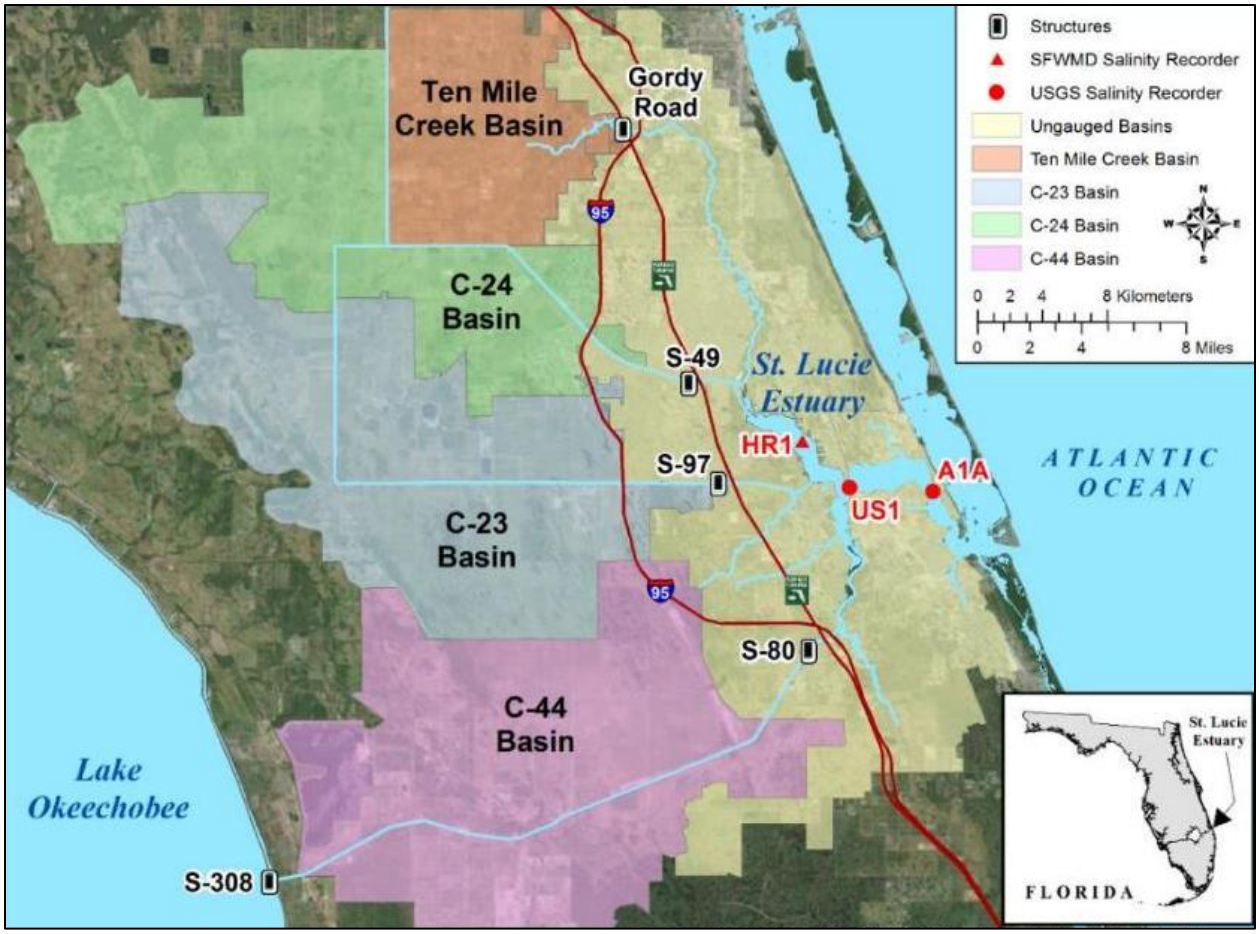

Figure ES-1. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

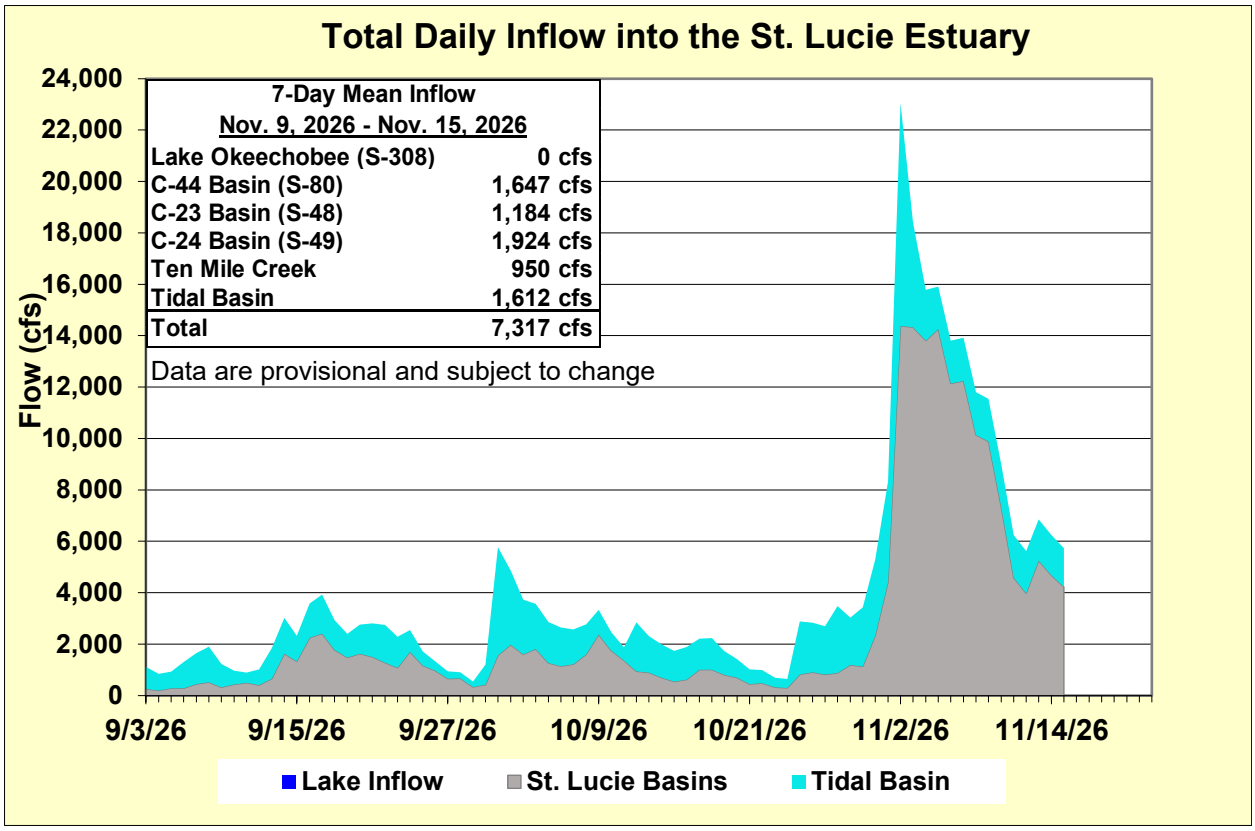

Figure ES-2. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-44, C-23, C-24, Ten Mile Creek, and Tidal Basins into the St. Lucie Estuary.

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)	**0.2** (0.1)	**0.5** (0.1)	10.0 – 25.0
US1 Bridge	**2.2** (0.2)	**3.3** (0.3)	10.0 – 25.0
A1A Bridge	**4.5** (0.4)	**15.3** (1.1)	10.0 – 25.0

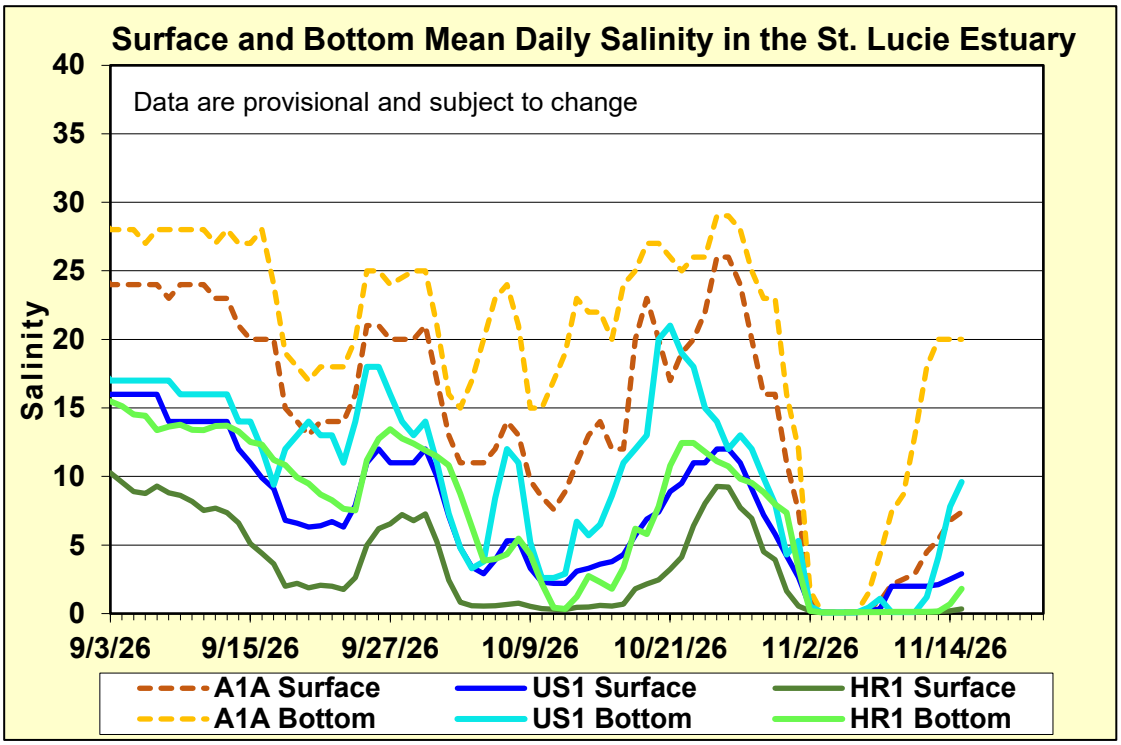

Figure ES-3. Mean daily salinity at the A1A, US1, and HR1 sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

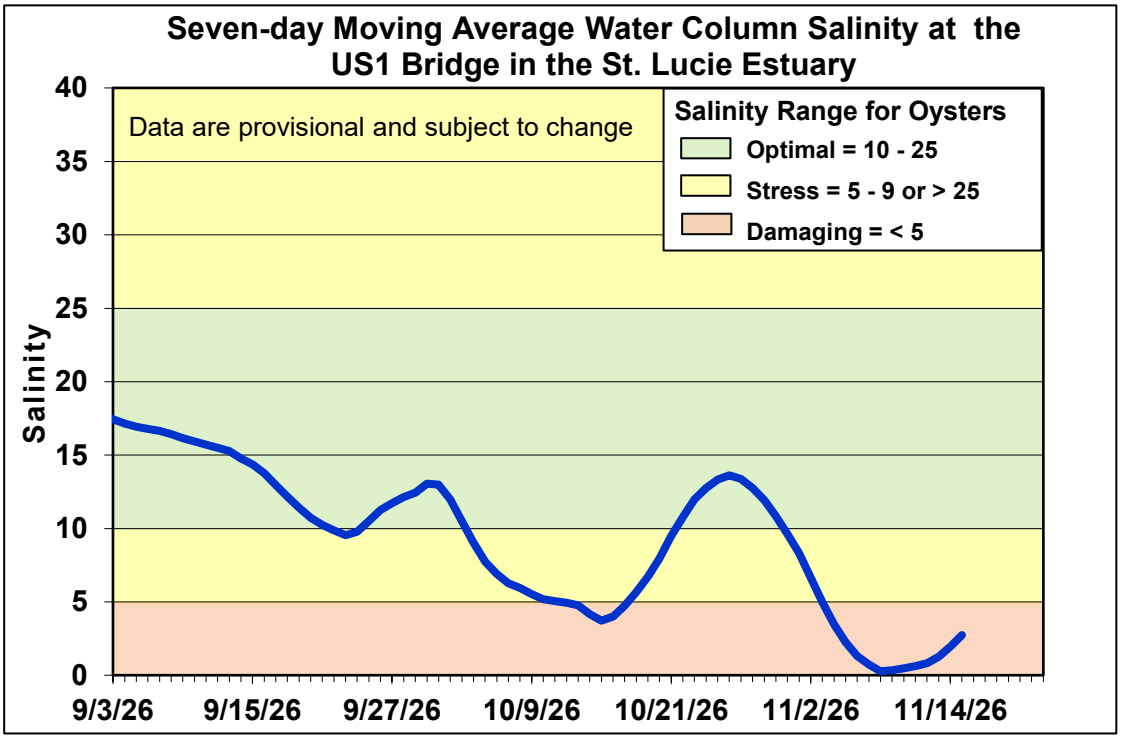

Figure ES-4. Seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge in the St. Lucie Estuary.

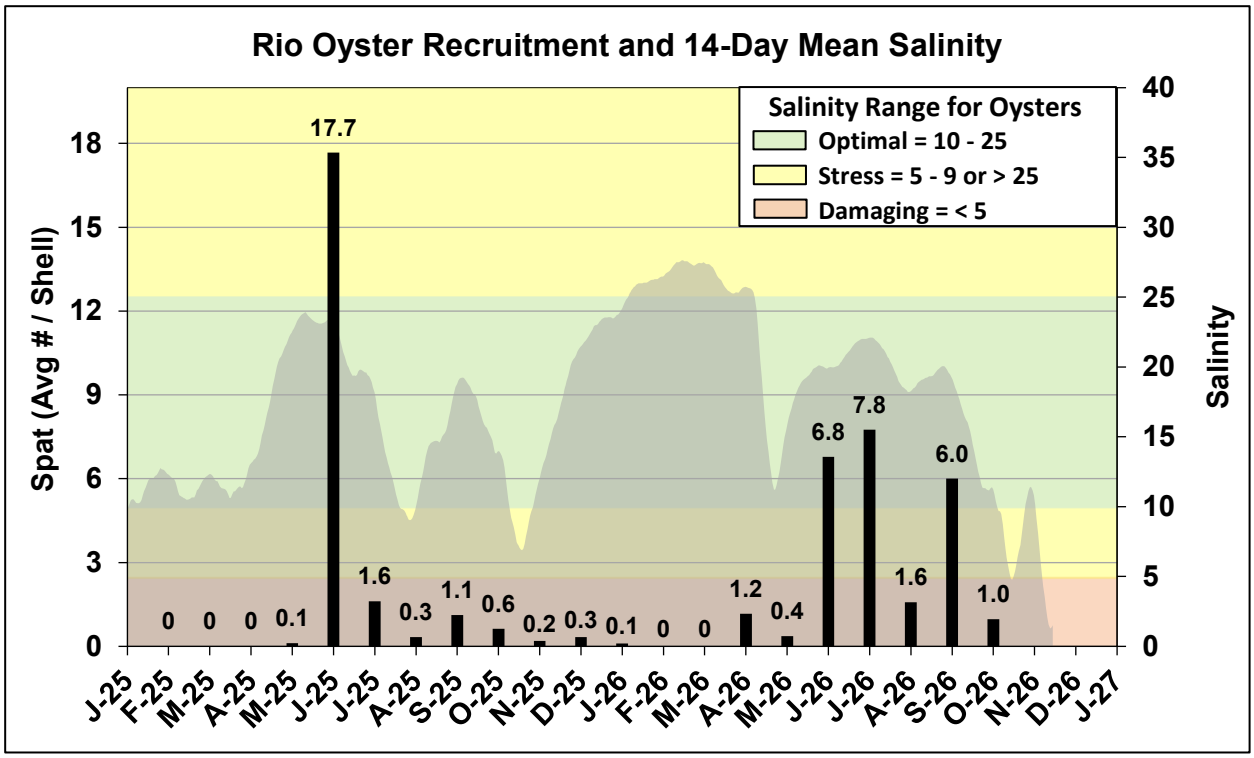

Figure ES-5. Mean oyster recruitment at the Rio oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at US1 Bridge.

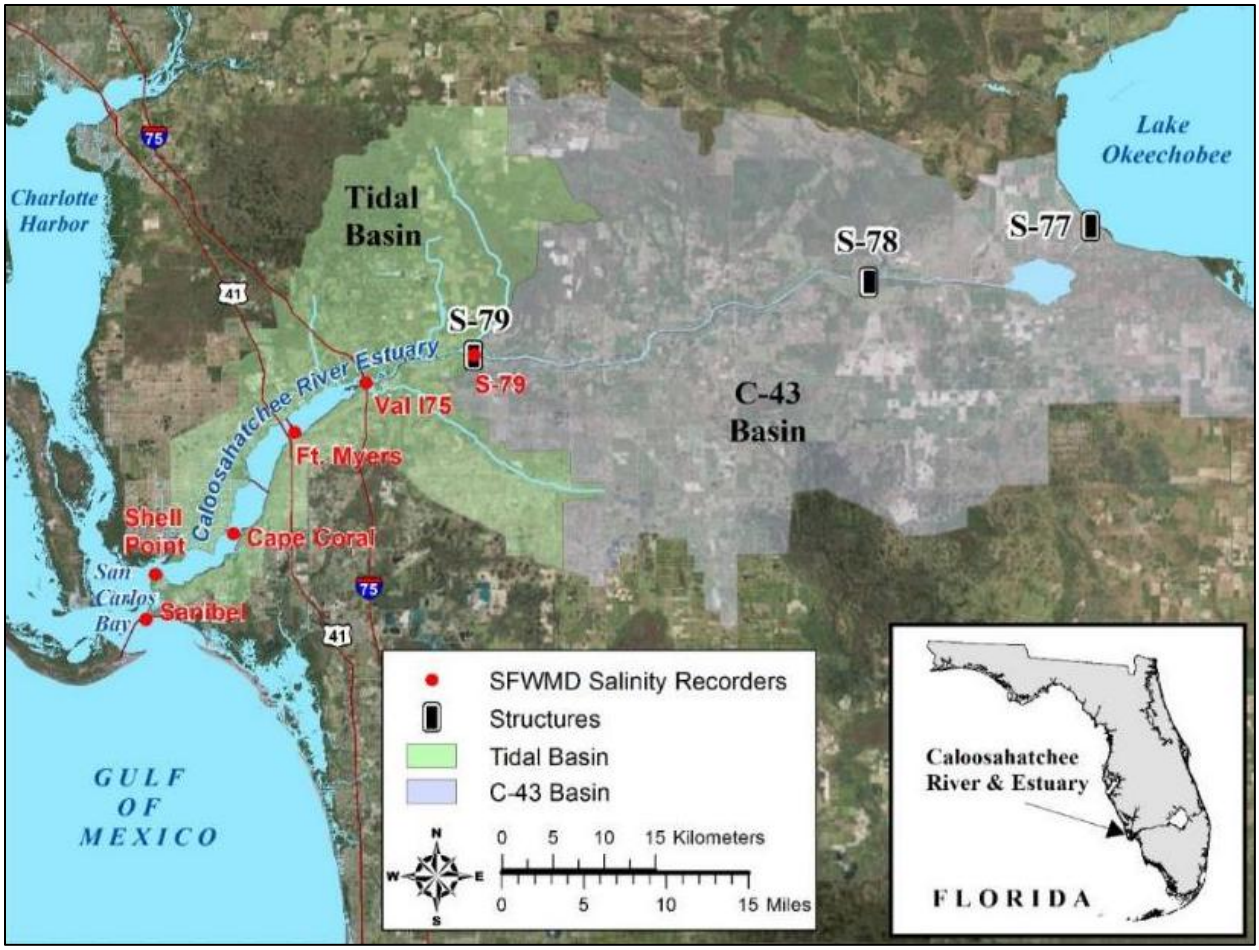

Figure ES-6. Basins, water control structures, and salinity monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

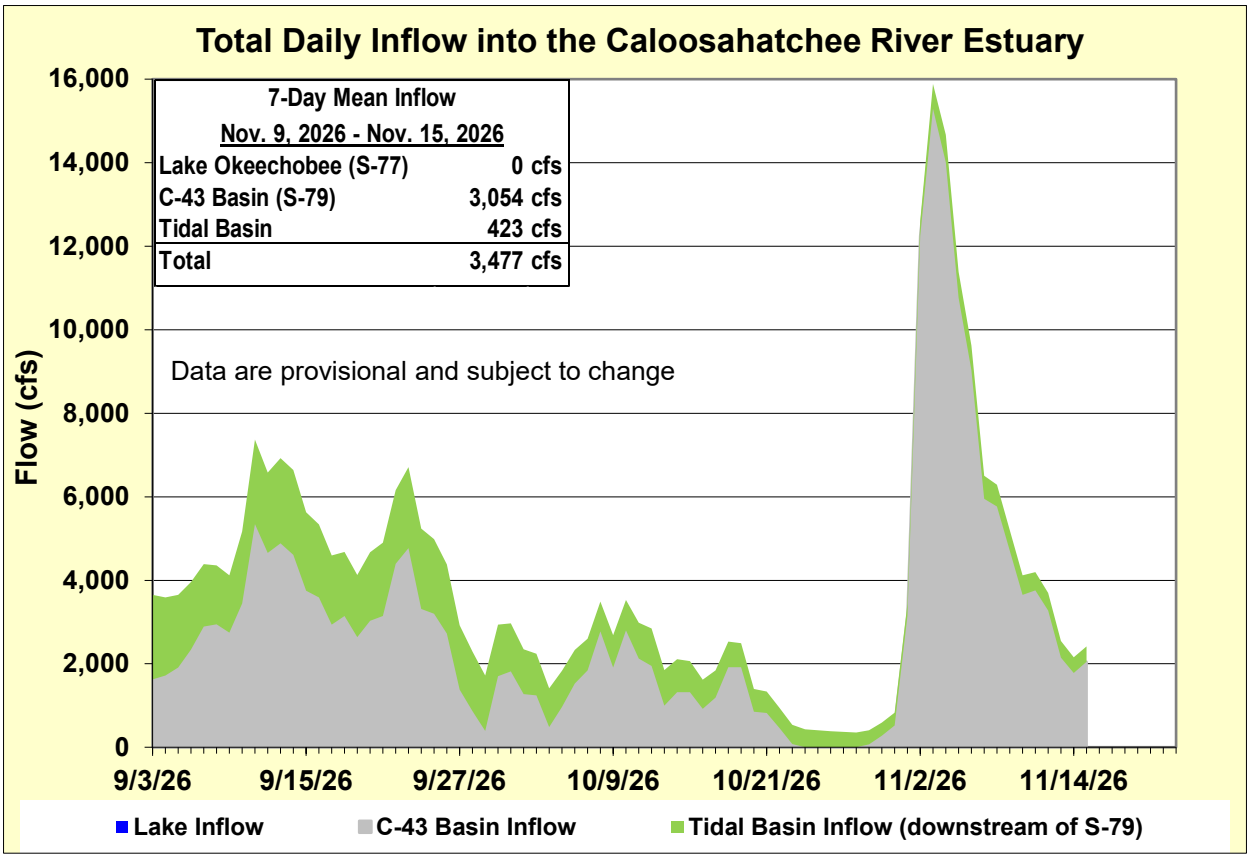

Figure ES-7. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee, and runoff from the C-43 and Tidal basins into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

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

Sampling Site	Surface	Bottom	Optimum Envelope
S-79 (Franklin Lock)	**0.2** (0.2)	**0.2** (0.2)	0.0 – 10.0
Val I-75	**0.2** (0.6)	**0.2** (0.7)	0.0 – 10.0
Fort Myers Yacht Basin	**0.2** (2.6)	**0.2** (5.1)	0.0 – 10.0
Cape Coral	**5.0** (7.4)	**5.2** (7.9)	10.0 – 25.0
Shell Point	**19.3** (19.6)	**21.6** (21.7)	10.0 – 25.0
Sanibel	**26.8** (27.9)	**28.9** (30.1)	10.0 – 25.0

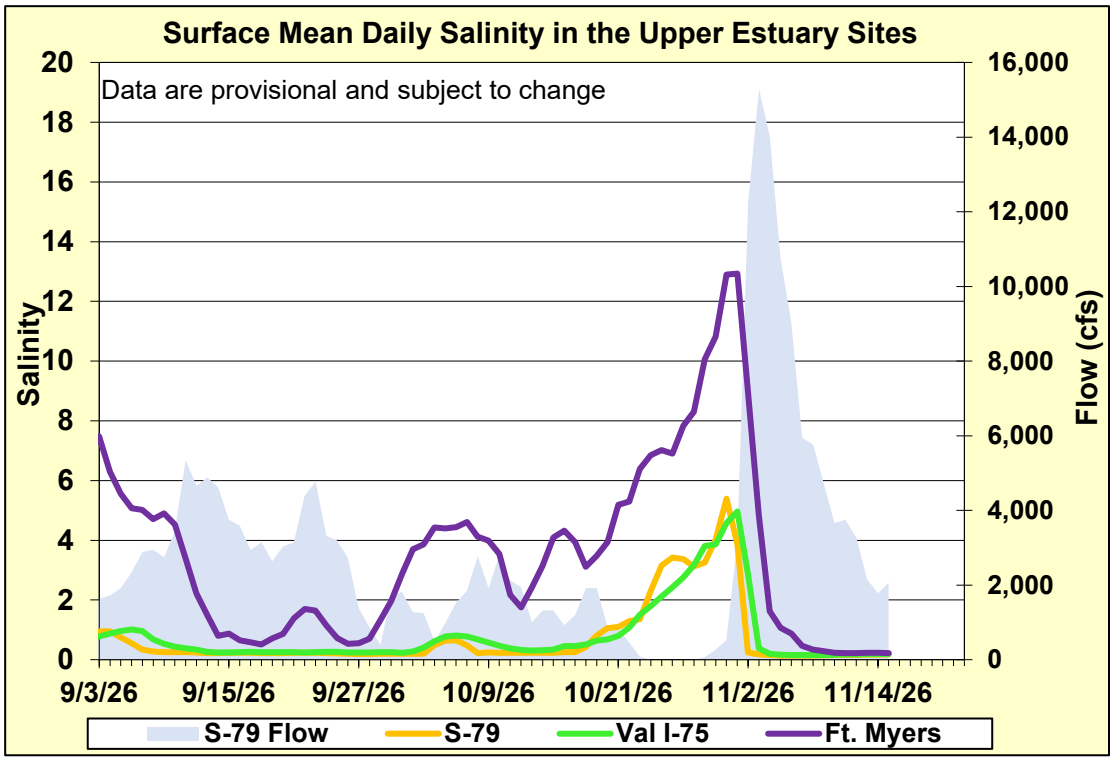

Figure ES-8. Mean daily salinity at upper Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

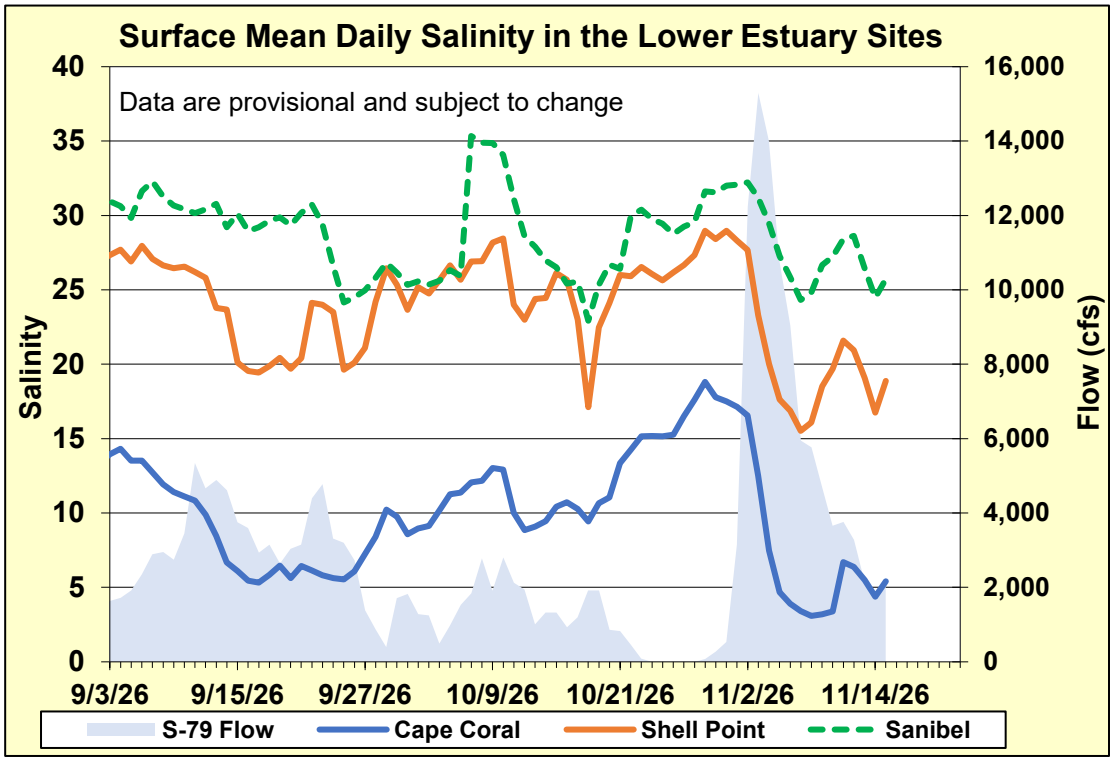

Figure ES-9. Mean daily surface salinity at lower Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

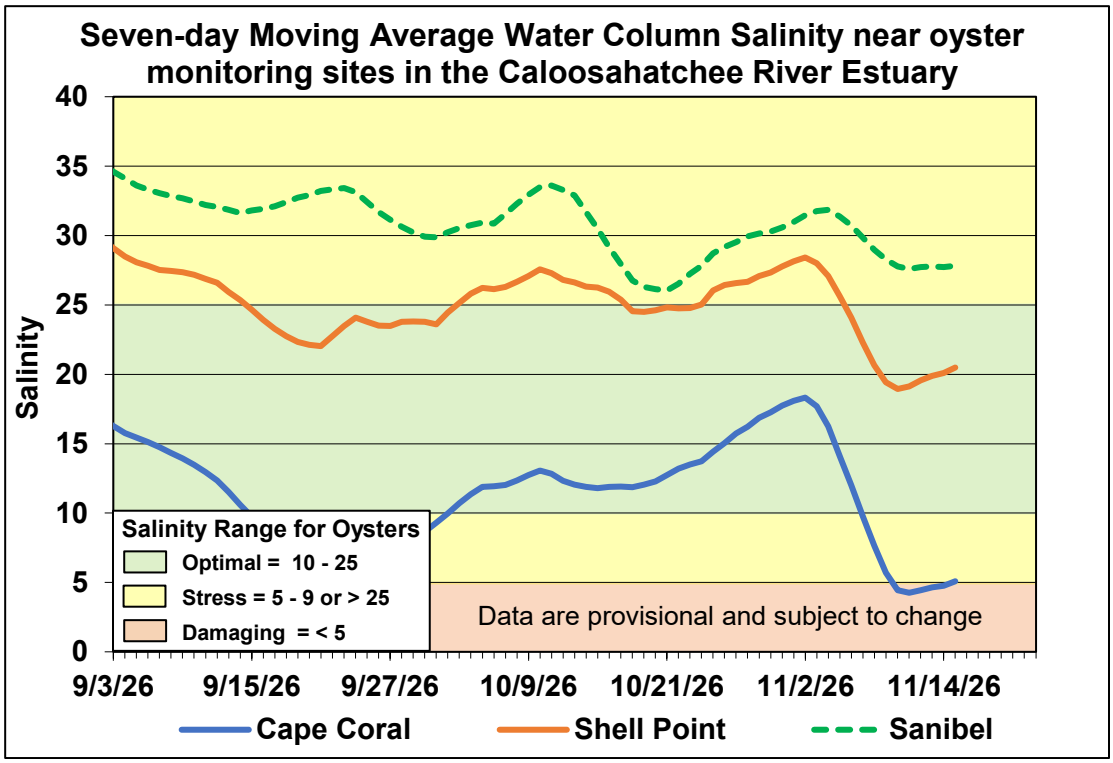

Figure ES-10. Seven-day moving average of surface and bottom salinities at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

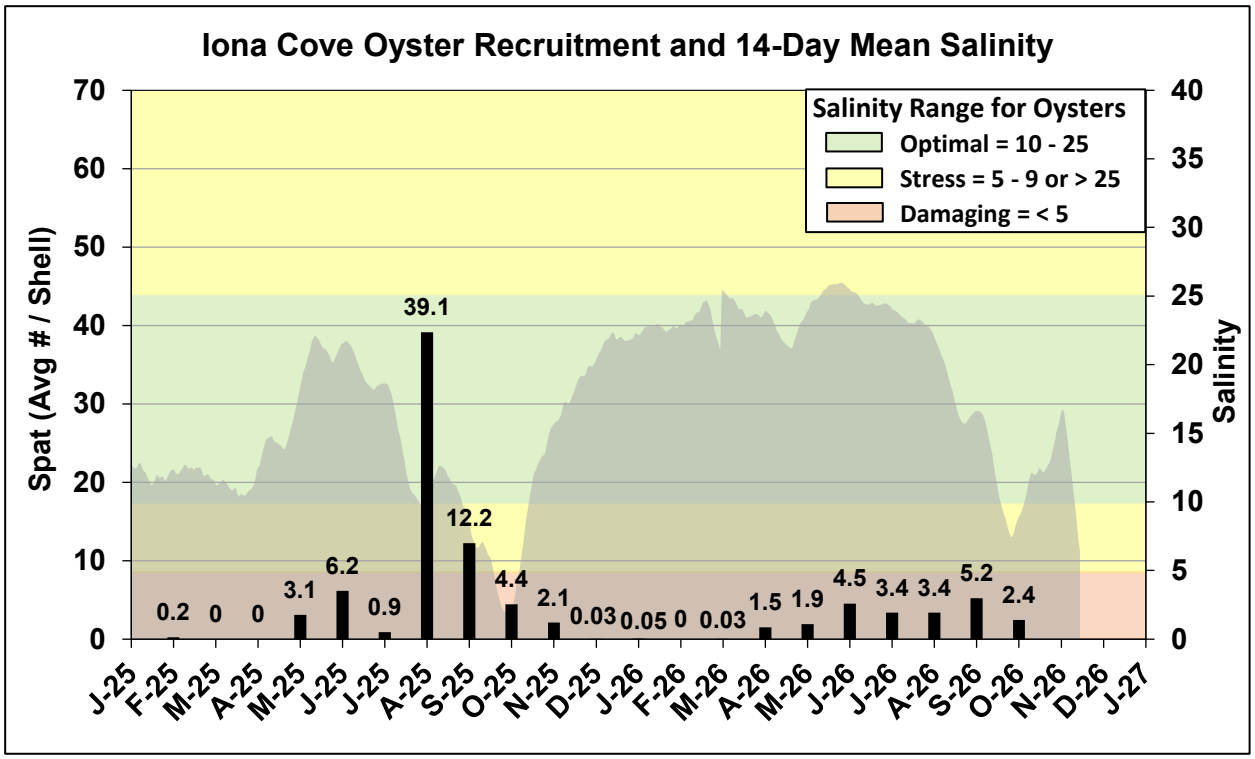

Figure ES-11. Mean oyster recruitment at the Iona Cove oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Cape Coral.

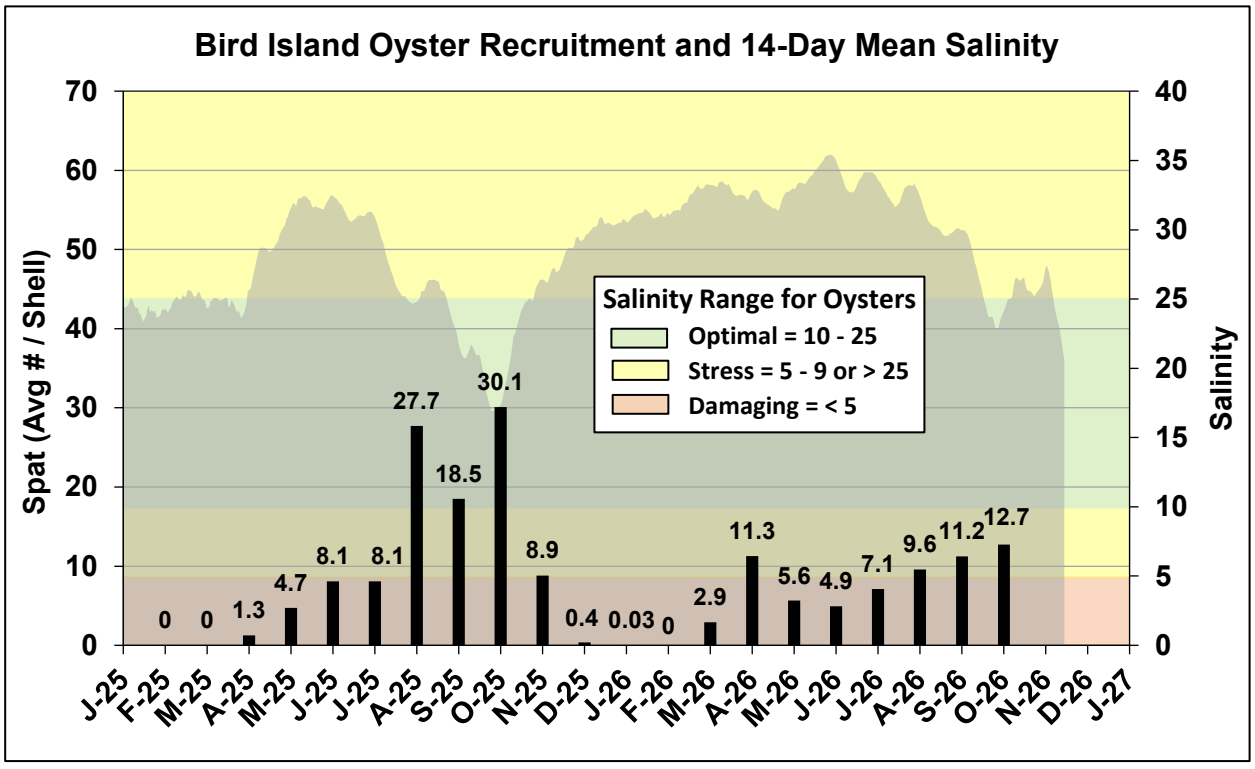

Figure ES-12. Mean oyster recruitment at the Bird Island oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Shell Point.

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	694	0.3	0.7
B	750	694	0.3	0.7
C	1,000	694	0.3	0.7
D	1,500	694	0.3	0.7
E	2,000	694	0.3	0.7

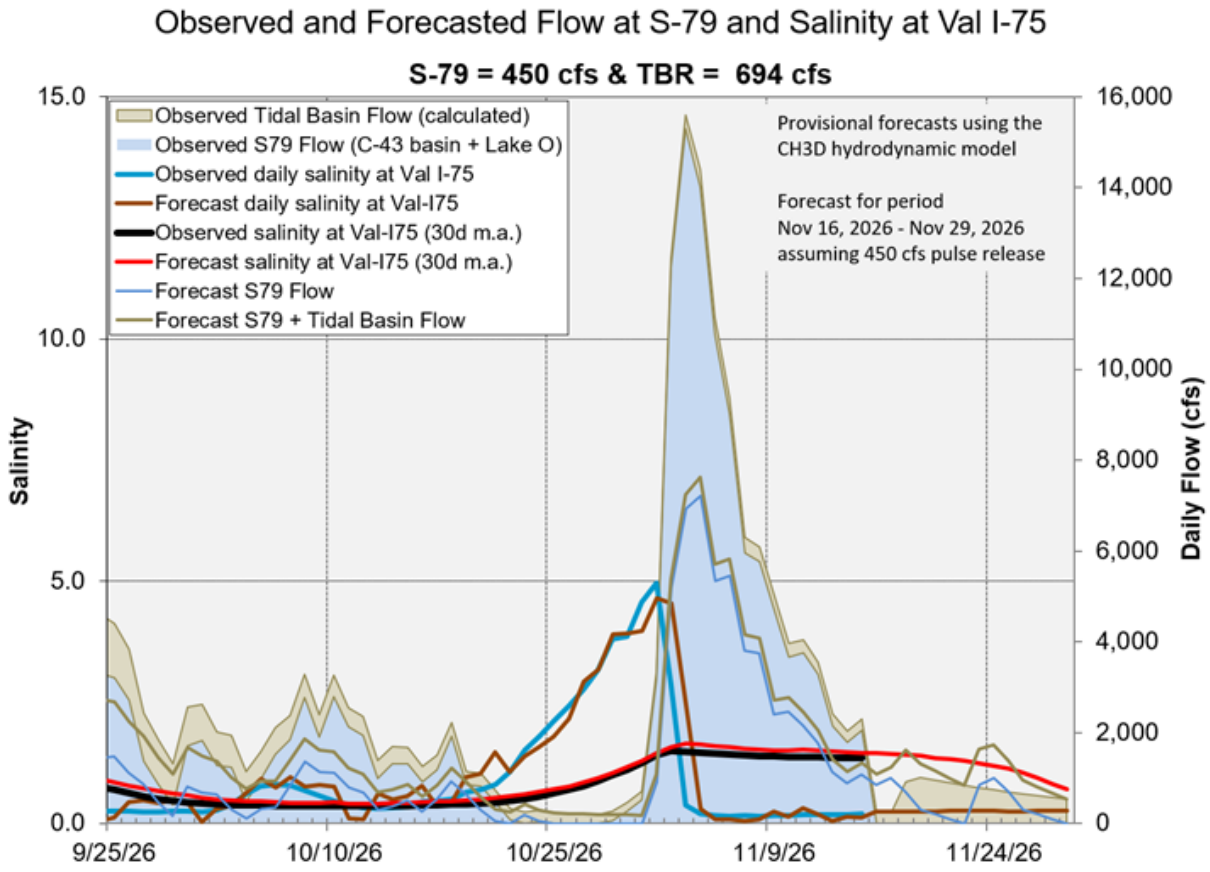

Figure ES-13. Surface salinity forecast at the Val I-75 site assuming a 450 cfs pulse release at S-79.

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 at or above target stage. The 365-day PLR for the Western Flow-way is below 1.0 g/m^2/year, and Eastern Flow-way is above 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-ways 1, 2, 3 and 4 for vegetation management activities. The 365-day PLRs for Flow-ways 2, 4, and 5 are below 1.0 g/m^2/year and Flow-ways 1 and 3 are above 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 11/15/2026): ~779,000 ac-ft
- Lake Okeechobee releases to FEBs/STAs
  - 11/9/2026 to 11/15/2026: 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
Nov. 9th, 2026 - Nov. 15th, 2026 *Includes preliminary data*

	Total Inflow (acre-feet)	Total Outflow (acre-feet)
STA-1E	7,000	6,300
STA-1W	9,900	15,000
STA-2	15,000	19,000
STA-3/4	21,000	17,000
STA-5/6	9,100	14,000

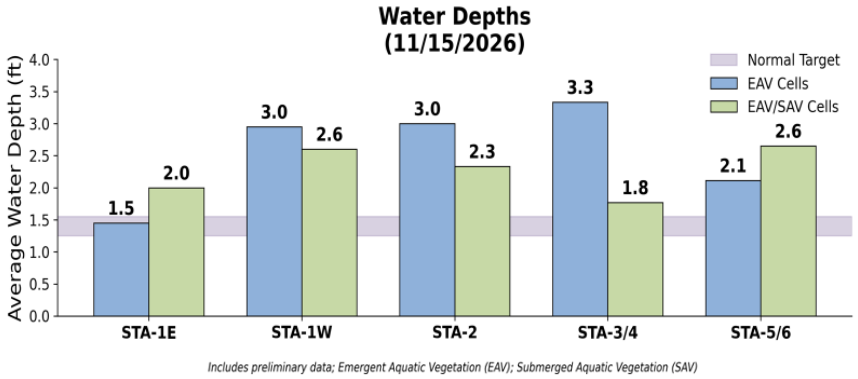

Figure S-1. STA depths and flow volumes

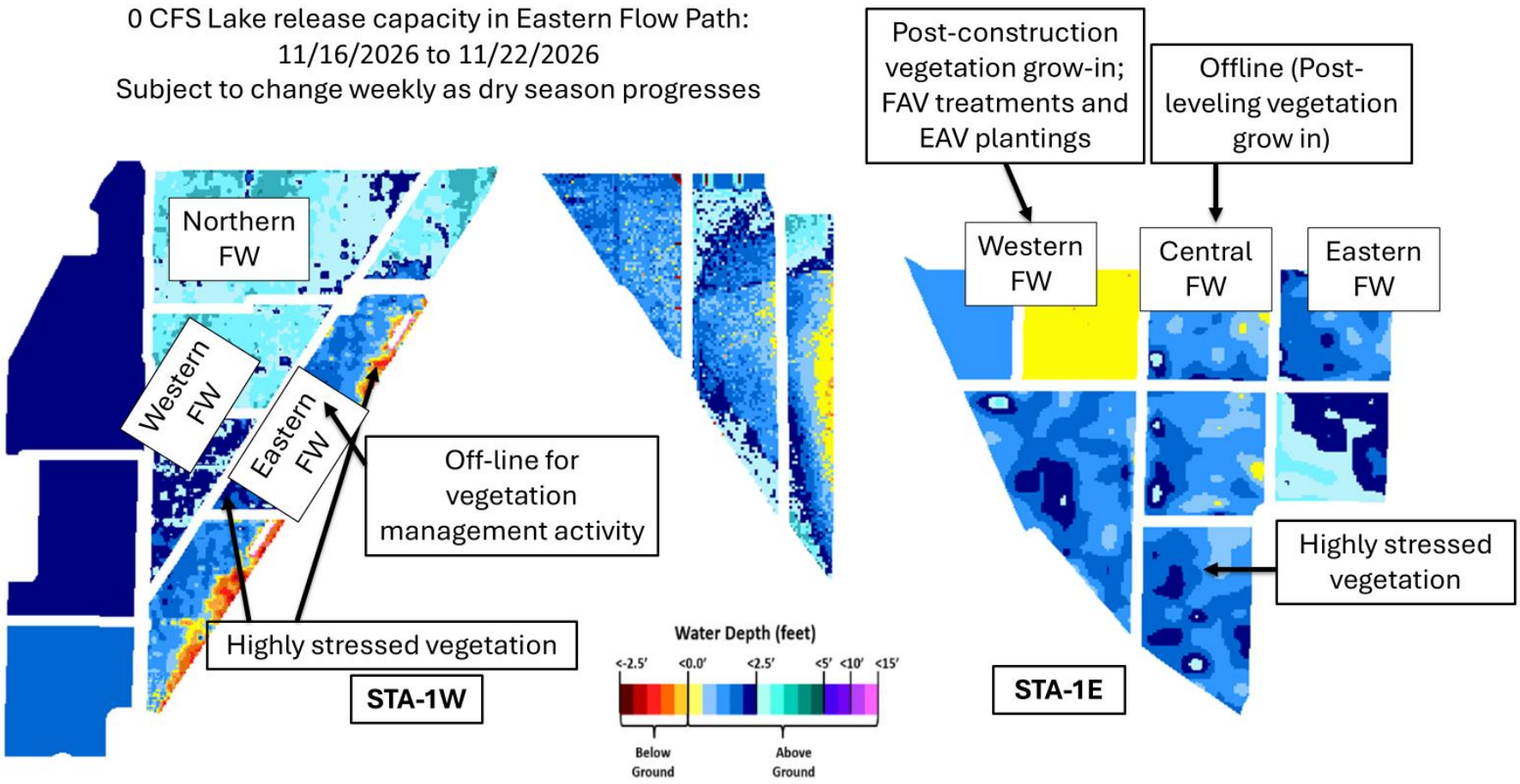

Figure S-2. Eastern Flow Path Weekly Status Report

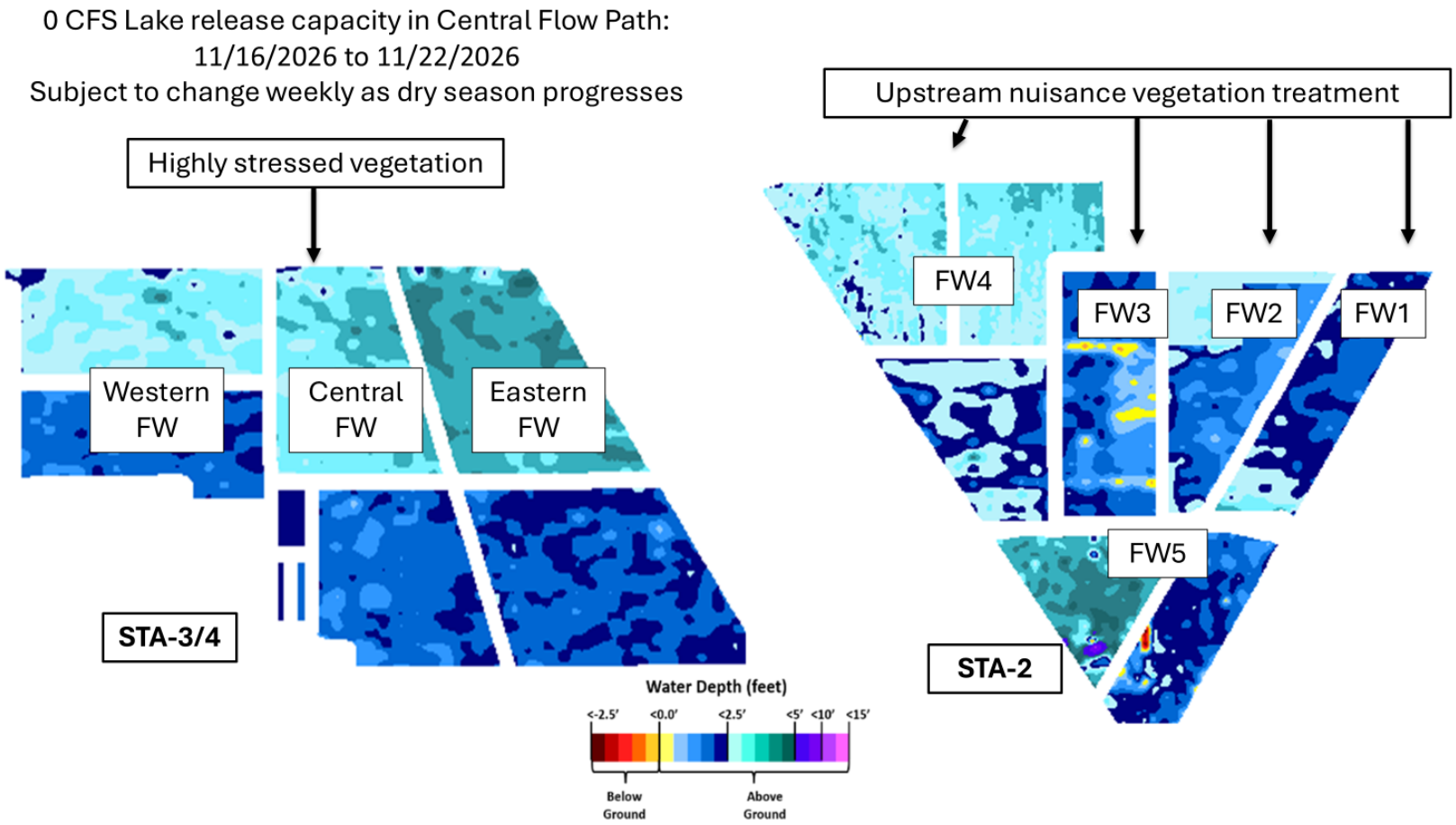

Figure S-3. Central Flow Path Weekly Status Report

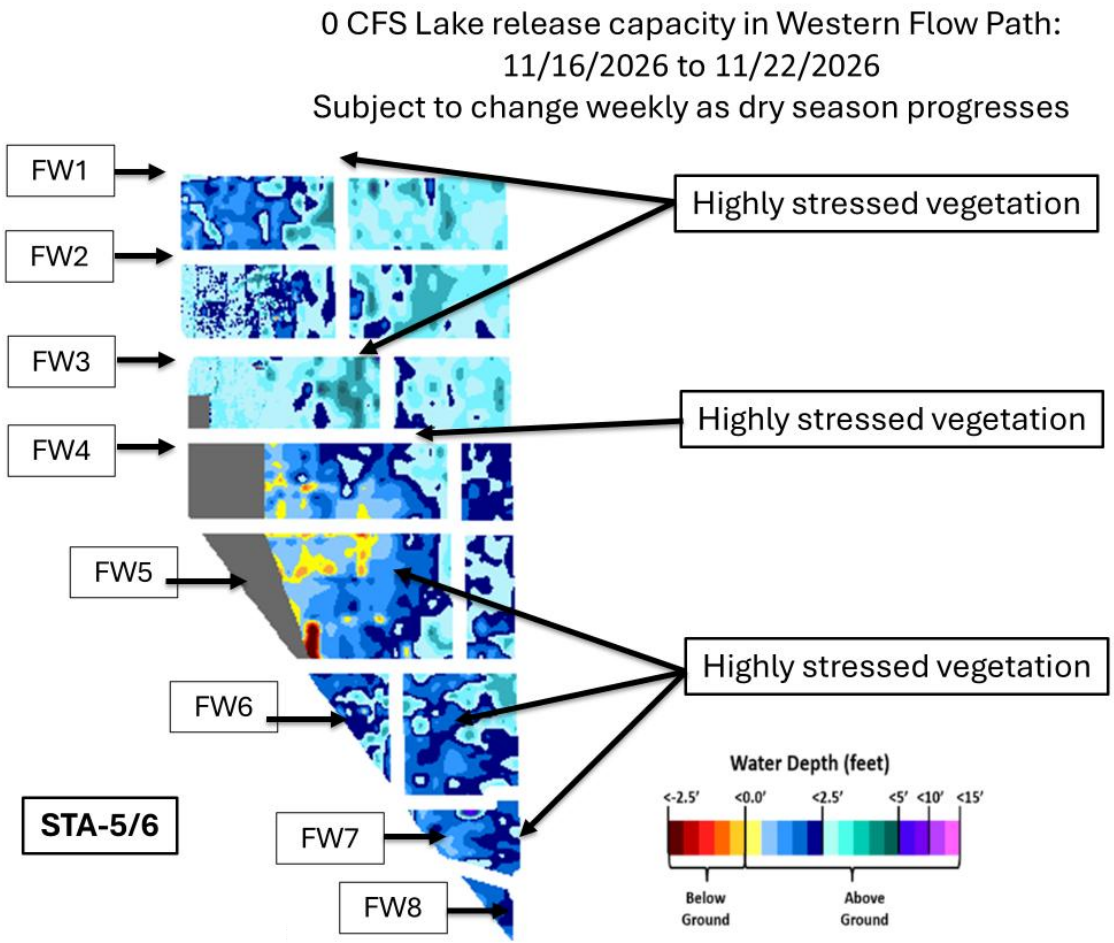

Figure S-4. Western Flow Path Weekly Status Report

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 quickly at the 1-8C gauge last week falling below the A-1 regulation line by 0.26 feet on Sunday, November 15, 2026 (**Figure EV-1**).

WCA-2A: Water depth decreased quickly at the 2-17 gauge last week. Stage was above the falling regulation line on Sunday by 1.88 feet (**Figure EV-2**).

WCA-3A: The 3-gauge average stage continues to rise into Zone B, increasing steadily over the past week. On Sunday, stages were 0.41 feet above the Zone A regulation line. Stage at Gauge 62 (NW corner) was stable over the last week, above the Upper Schedule line by 0.26 feet on Sunday (**Figures EV-3** and **EV-4)**.

Water Depths

The SFWDAT model output for November 15, 2026, illustrates an increase in water depths across the Everglades Protection Area (EPA), particularly in already unseasonably wet WCA-1 and WCA-2A compared to one and two months ago. Conditions remain above the 90th percentile throughout WCA-2A and have fallen just below that in WCA-1. Water levels have risen across WCA-3A most of that basins are within the 80th percentile, except in the far south where depths remain below average (**Figures EV-5** and **EV-6).** The heavy rains experienced in South Florida over the last few weeks had different impacts to the ecology of the EPA. Already wet in the north, excess water has caused concern while the dry season rains are more welcome in the central and southern Everglades, helping to recover from the previous drought conditions. 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 increased but still fell below the 20th percentile in many regions. Connectivity in the major sloughs of ENP improved compared to last month (especially in the west) and this connection may be starting to result in a downstream moderation of above average salinities.

Taylor Slough and Florida Bay

Most stages decreased across Taylor Slough over the past week, with an average decrease of 0.09 feet. Changes ranged from −0.18 feet at Craighead Pond (CP) in the southern slough to +0.03 feet at Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB) in the northern slough (**Figure EV-7 and Figure EV-8**). Taylor Slough water levels are above the pre-Florida Bay Initiative average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 5.5 inches, with no change relative to last week. Stages at CP and TSB are below the estimated historical average by 0.29 and 0.88 feet, respectively.

Average salinity in Florida Bay was 32.9, a decrease of 2.4 from last week. Salinity changes ranged from −11.7 at Joe Bay (JB) in the eastern nearshore region to +1.8 at Whipray Basin (WB) in the central region (**Figure EV-7**). Salinity is above the estimated historical average, above the WY2001-2016 Interquartile Range (IQR) 75th percentile but

is now below the hypersalinity threshold in all regions (**Figure EV-9**). Bay-wide salinity is above the pre-Florida Bay Initiative average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 9.5, a decrease of 1.6 from last week.

Salinity at the Taylor River (TR) station in the mangrove zone (tracked for the Florida Bay MFL) was 9.8, a decrease of 9.2 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 0.04 inches over the past week, based on the 18 gauges used for this report. Rainfall ranged from 0.00 inches at 11 stations to 0.23 inches at Duck Key (DK) in the eastern region (**Figure EV-11**). Wind directions and speeds in Florida Bay ranged from 0.2 mph SW on November 12th to 20.2 mph NW on November 14th (**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 1,648 acre-feet, with net positive flows for the week. Total daily creek flow ranged from −104 acre-feet on November 12th to 2,961 acre-feet on November 15th (**Figure EV-12**). Average daily flow from Alligator Creek was 120 acre-feet, with net positive flows for the week (**Figure EV-12**).

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 and recover from damaging dry conditions.

- 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 feet/week) in the northern basins would be ecologically beneficial as conditions move into the dry season. Incremental and moderate operational changes have benefits to the ecology of the system.

- While now below the hypersalinity threshold, salinity conditions in Florida Bay remain elevated and the lack of continued freshening over the next couple months could affect the ecology of the Bay. 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 where drought recovery is still needed, 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	0.82	−0.34
WCA-2A	0.33	−0.39
WCA-2B	0.02	−0.18
WCA-3A	0.48	+0.16
WCA-3B	0.15	+0.05
ENP	0.27	+0.09

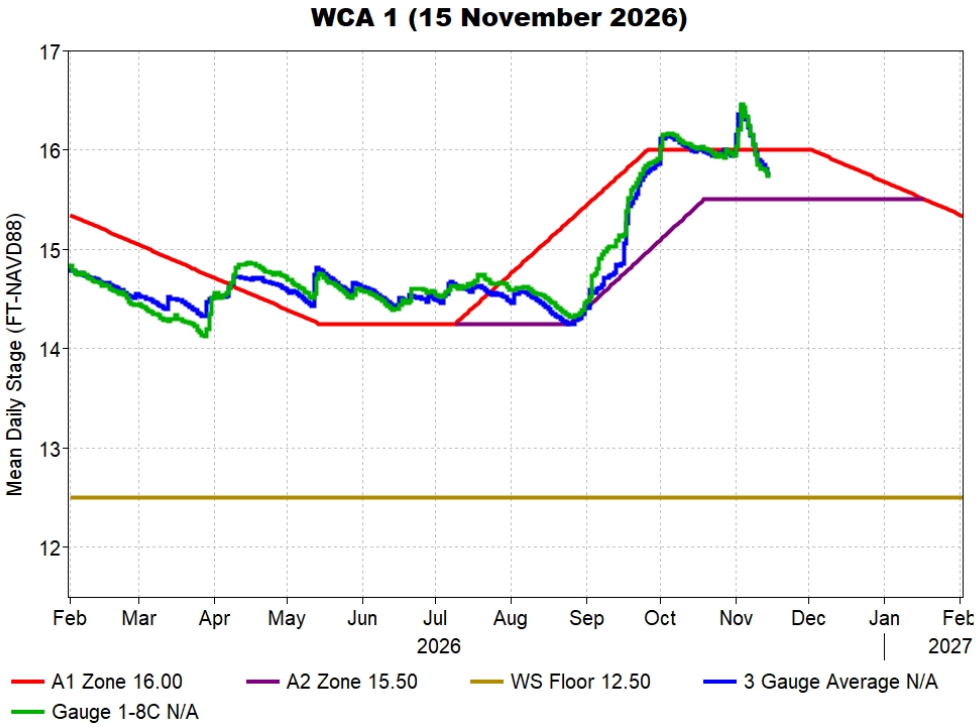

Figure EV-1. WCA-1 stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

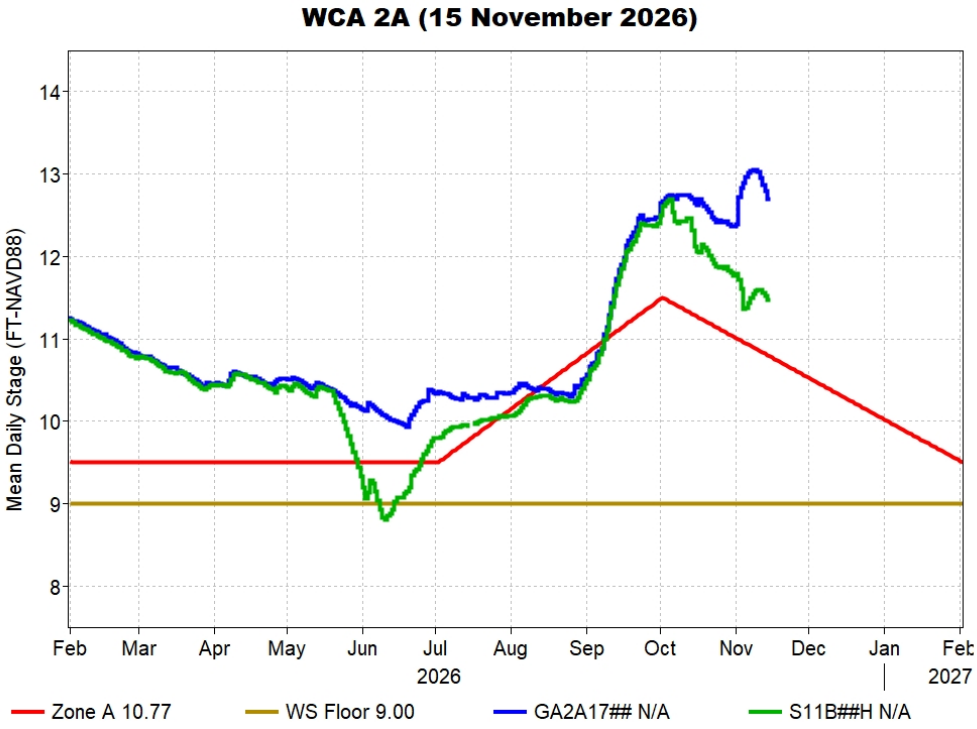

Figure EV-2. WCA-2A stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

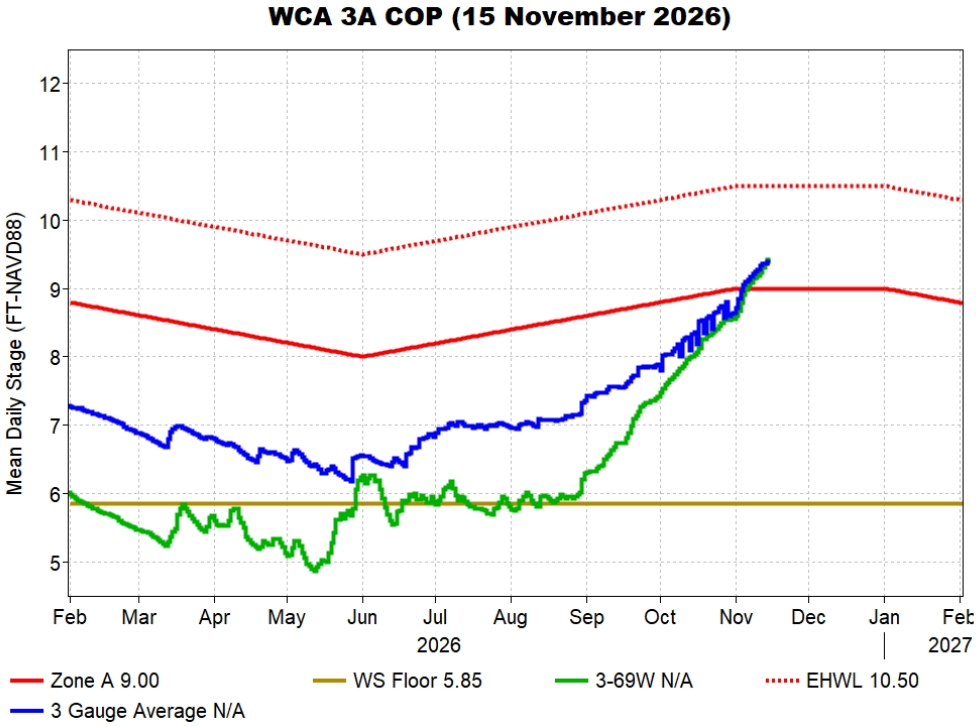

Figure EV-3. WCA-3A stage hydrographs (three-gauge average, 3-69W) and regulation schedule.

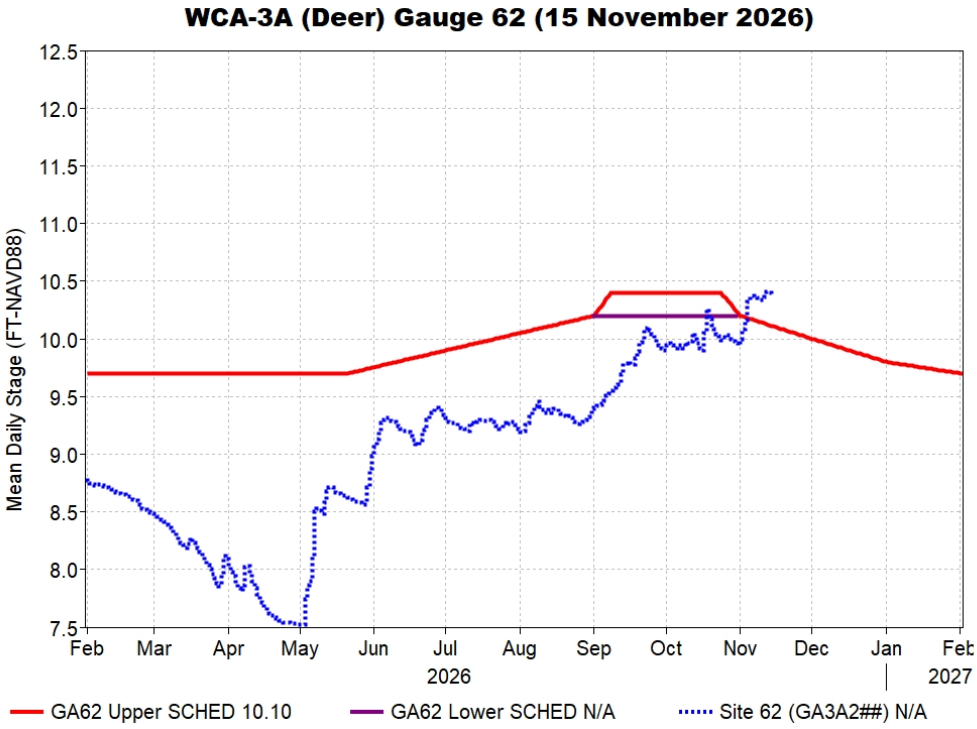

Figure EV-4. WCA-3A stage hydrograph (Deer gauge; Site 62) and regulation schedule.

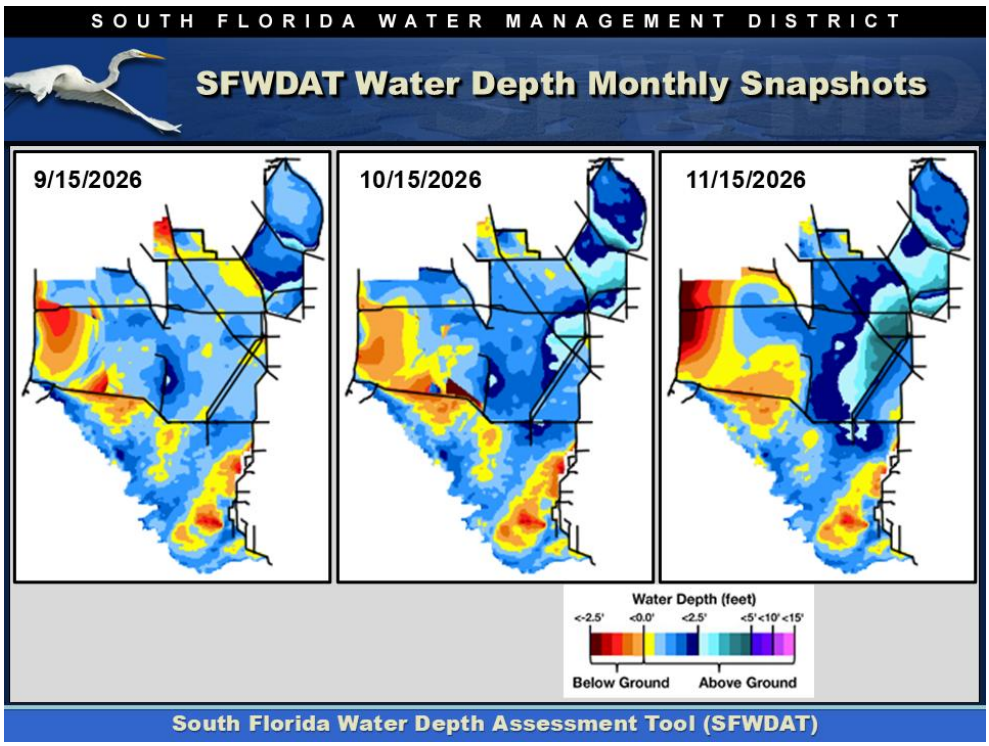

Figure EV-5. Everglades water depths from two months ago (left), one month ago (center) and present (right), based on SFWDAT.

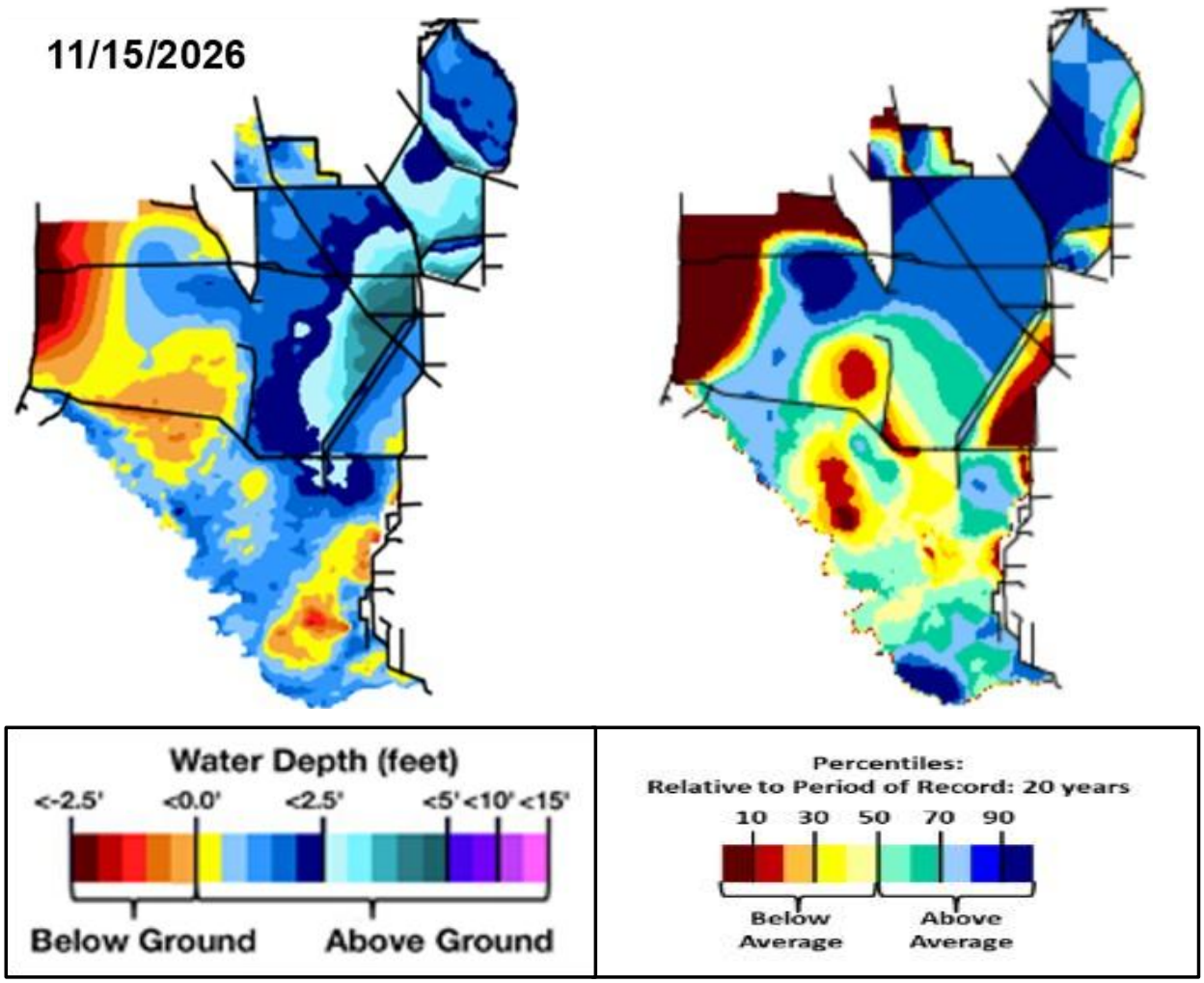

Figure EV-6. Present water depths (November 15, 2026) compared to the day of year relative to average (percentile) over the previous 20 years.

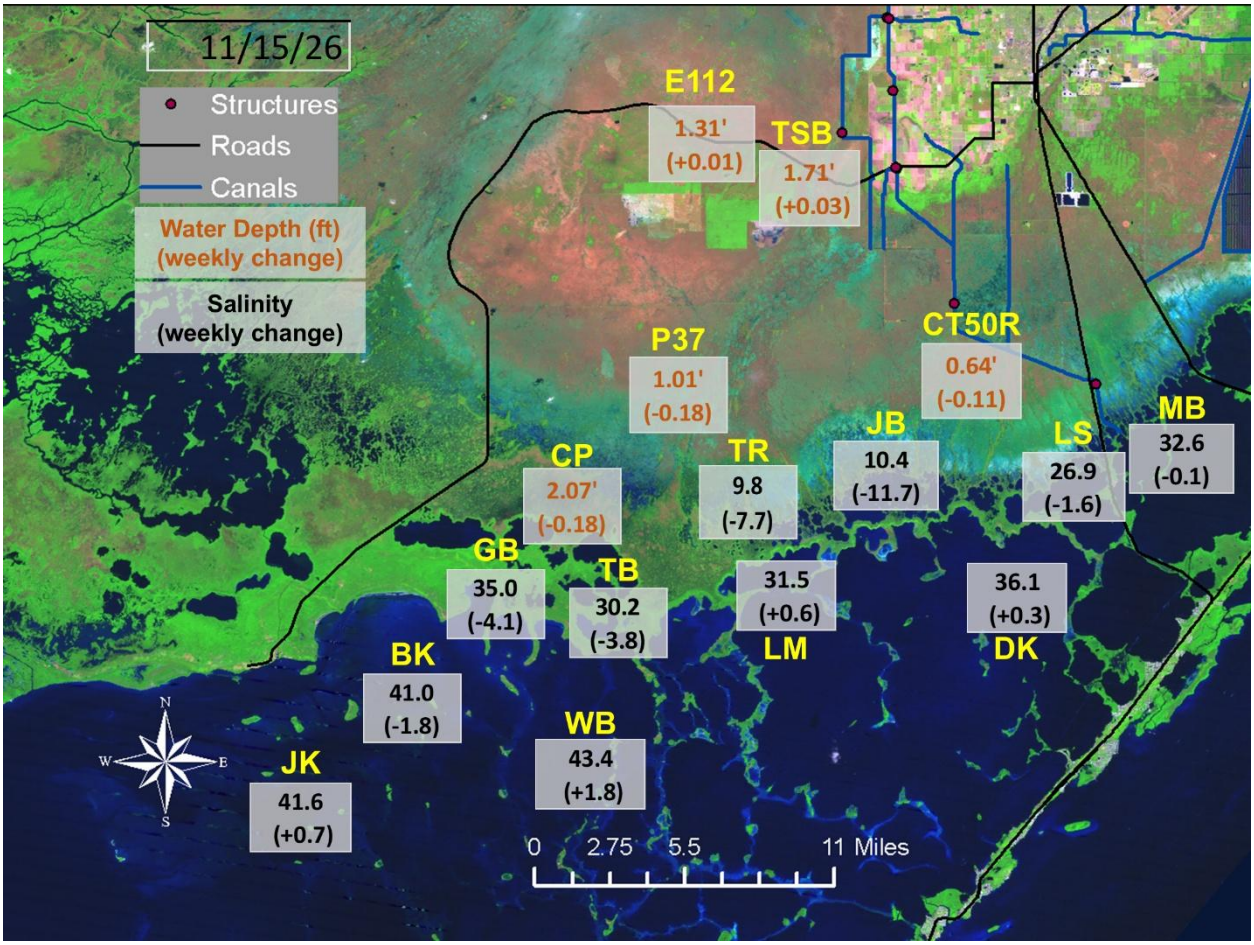

Figure EV-7. Taylor Slough water depths and Florida Bay salinities with changes since a week ago.

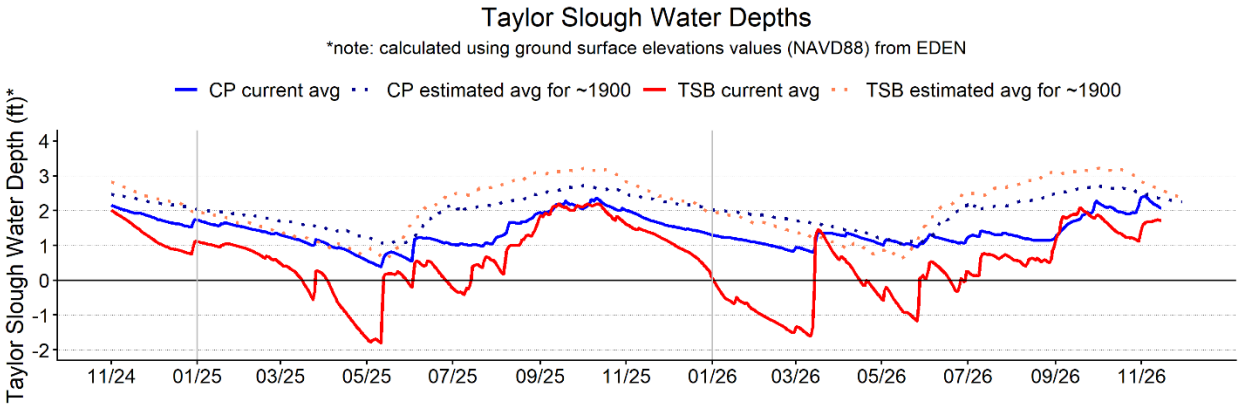

Figure EV-8. Taylor Slough water depth time series for Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB; northern slough) and Craighead Pond (CP; southern slough).

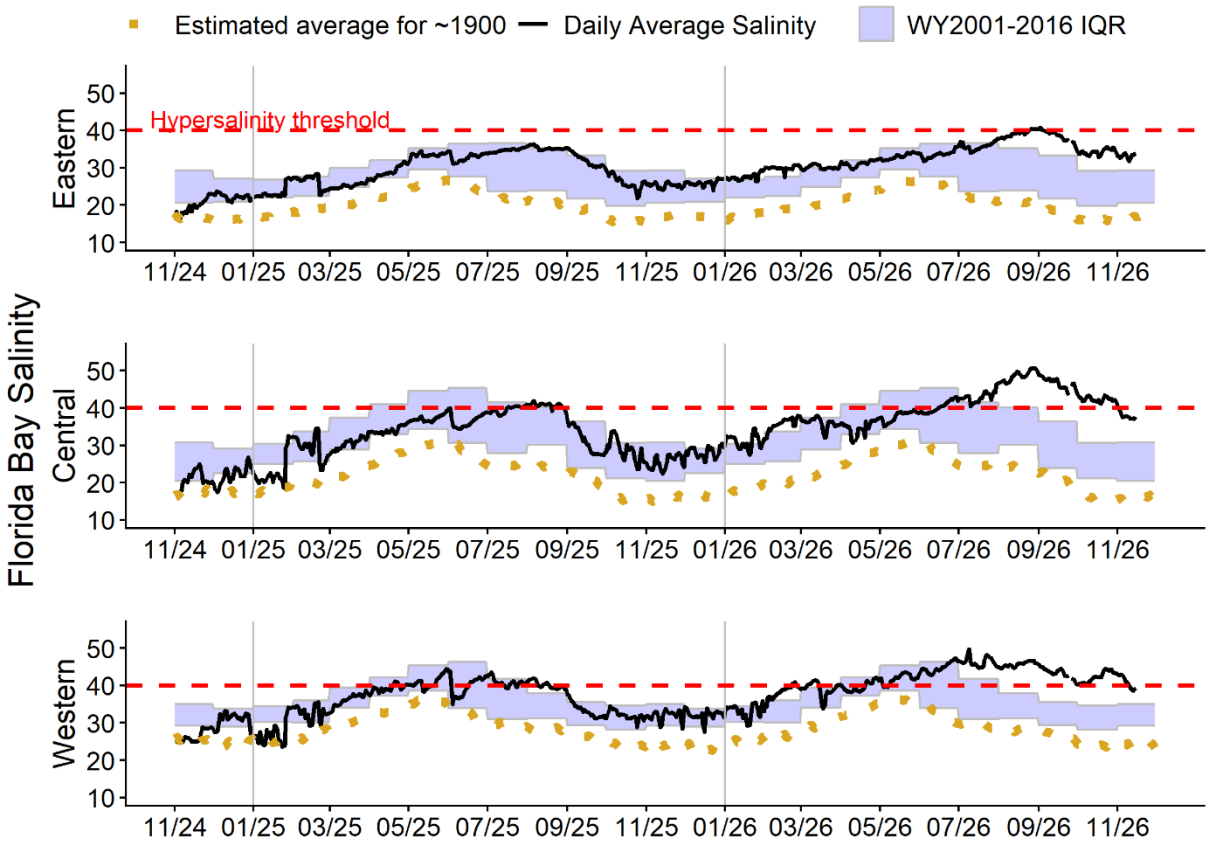

Figure EV-9. Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with WY2001-2016 interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges (IQR) and estimated historical daily average salinities. The hypersalinity threshold indicates the level at which salinities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

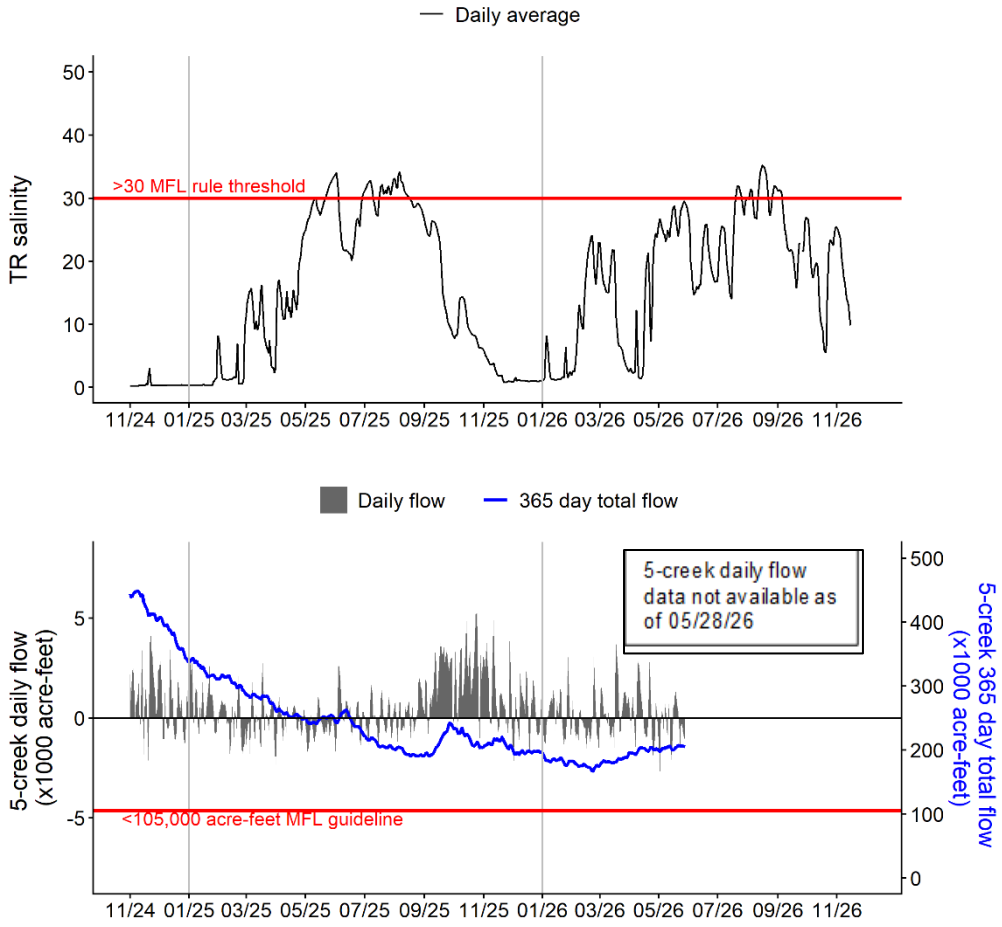

Figure EV-10. Daily average salinity at Taylor River (TR) tracked for the Florida Bay MFL criteria. The 365-day total creek flow MFL metric is not currently available due to missing creek flow data.

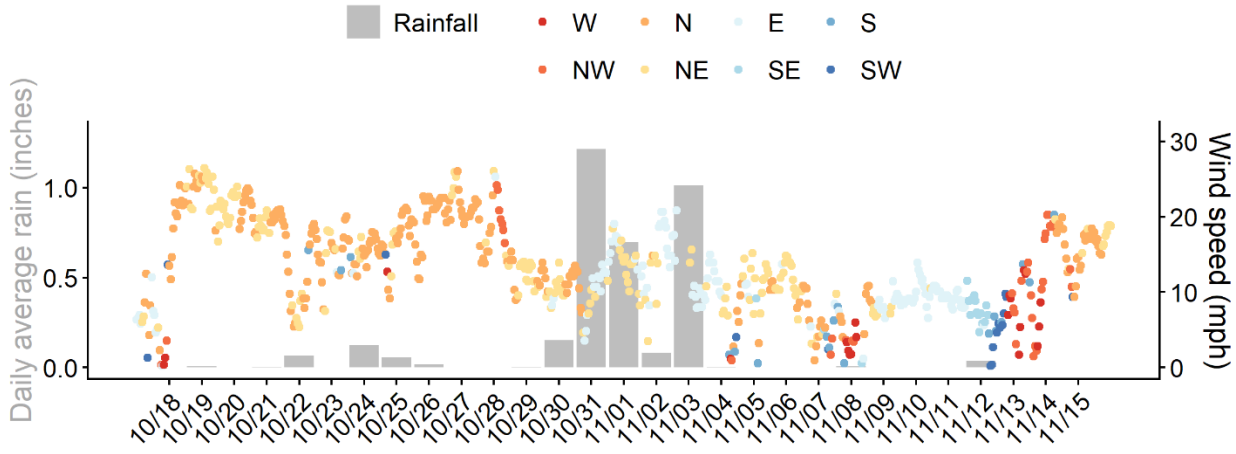

Figure EV-11. Daily average rain across Taylor Slough and Florida Bay, along with hourly average wind speed and direction (measured at Long Key) in Florida Bay over the past four weeks.

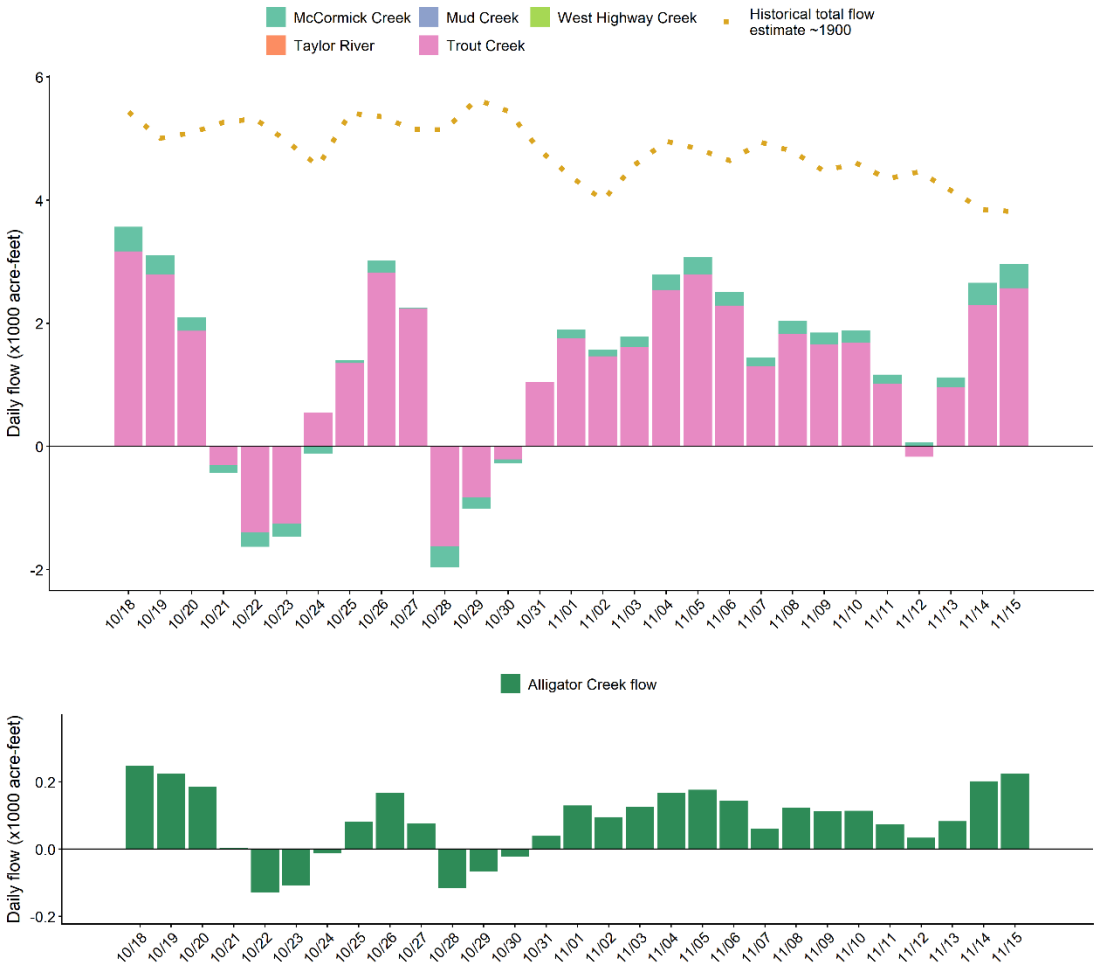

Figure EV-12. Top: daily average creek flow summed between the five major creeks with estimated historical daily flow over the past four weeks (**note**: data from Taylor River, Mud Creek and West Highway Creek are currently unavailable since May 28th, 2026). Bottom: Daily average Alligator Creek flow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

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

SFWMD Everglades Ecological Recommendations, November 17, 2026 (red is new)			
	Weekly change	Recommendation	Reasons
WCA-1	Stage decreased by 0.33 feet	Limit stage change when possible to + or – 0.15 feet per week	Maintain within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Maintain maintenance access for vegetation management.
WCA-2A	Stage decreased by 0.39 feet	Limit stage change when possible to + or – 0.15 feet per week	Maintain within basin (north versus south) and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-2B	Stage decreased by 0.18 feet	Limit stage change when possible to + or – 0.15 feet per week	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NE	Stage increased by 0.13 feet	Limit stage change when possible to + or – 0.15 feet per week	Conserve water, maintain within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Provide suitable depths for aquatic prey and protect against peat soil loss during the dry season.
WCA-3A NW	Stage increased by 0.01 feet	Limit stage change when possible to + or – 0.15 feet per week	
Central WCA-3A S	Stage increased by 0.26 feet	Limit stage change when possible to + or – 0.15 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 0.22 feet		
WCA-3B	Stage increased by 0.06 feet	Limit stage change when possible to + or – 0.15 feet per week	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
ENP-SRS	Stage increased by 0.09 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 - 0.18 feet to +0.03 feet	Move water southward as possible	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.
FB- Salinity	Salinity changes ranged from -11.7 to +1.8	Move water southward as possible	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.