



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Lake Okeechobee Navigation Lock Closes for Emergency Repairs *Crews are working to fix the manatee protection system*

WHAT: To ensure protection of the endangered West Indian manatee, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff is working to repair the manatee protection system at the S-135 Navigation Lock near the J&S Fish Camp north of the St. Lucie Canal.

The lock was closed today, and boaters may use the G-36 Navigation Lock as an alternative route.

WHEN: SFWMD staff is working to obtain the necessary parts to repair the system by early next week

WHO: For more information contact Bill Graf at the Orlando Service Center of the South Florida Water Management District at (407) 858-6100 Ext. 3837, or at wgraf@sfwmd.gov.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.