



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Fixing Leads to Fishing at SFWMD Flood Control Structure *Upgrade to vital Jupiter spillway will create a public pier for anglers*



(Click the picture for a larger version.)

Jupiter, FL — Work to upgrade a spillway built in 1958 to provide flood control for northern Palm Beach County will create a new South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) fishing spot for the public on the C-18 Canal.

“Our first priority is to ensure South Florida’s \$13 billion dollar water management system is operating as designed,” said SFWMD Governing Board member Melanie Peterson. “One exciting aspect of this work is the opportunity to incorporate public recreation into the very infrastructure that enables us to live in the Sunshine State.”

Engineers determined a new downstream weir was the best option to ensure safe operation of the spillway well into the future. Weirs are water control structures resembling a dam that are built to regulate the level and flow of water in a canal or water body. Unlike a typical dam, water can flow over the top of the structure or via controlled releases with gates.

In a continuing commitment to providing recreation on public land, the SFWMD will install safety features such as handrails, fencing, warning signs and boat barriers to enable fishing adjacent to the new weir.

The structure will be approximately 180 feet across and 40 feet wide. Each side of the weir will have a fishing platform area of approximately 1,600 square feet.

Background

Known as the S-46, east of Interstate 95 on the north side of Indiantown Road, the structure moves water drained into the C-18 Canal from a large area of northern Palm Beach County out to the coast in Jupiter.

The three steel vertical lift gates, each 8 feet high, can move approximately 25,582 gallons a second. They also help prevent saltwater intrusion from the coast.

Numerous maintenance projects have been completed at the structure, however, engineers determined major work had to be completed to fix potentially serious long-term issues such as seepage.

Along with the new weir, the \$4.2 million infrastructure investment will include:

- Installing new stainless steel gates
- Rehabilitating riprap that protect the canal banks
- Repairing the canal channel

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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.