

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, Interim Assistant Executive Director, Executive Office Staff

FROM: SFWMD Staff Environmental Advisory Team

DATE: July 3, 2019

SUBJECT: Weekly Environmental Conditions for Systems Operations

Summary

Weather Conditions and Forecast

Daily thunderstorm coverage begins recovering Wednesday. Upper level high pressure over the eastern Gulf of Mexico combined with a low- and mid-level trough located east of Florida is bringing a drier pattern to the District today. Expect northwesterly steering winds to focus some scattered shower activity across over the interior and along the east coast. Moisture should rebound a bit and allow daily thunderstorm coverage to begin recovering to closer to typical levels Wednesday and steering winds should focus activity over the interior Wednesday and then west Thursday. A surge of moisture is forecast to move into southeastern areas late Thursday night and then spread across the District Friday bringing an increase in thunderstorm activity over the District. Behind this surge, moisture should decrease a bit and daytime heating should generate scattered afternoon thunderstorm activity Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Kissimmee

Tuesday morning stages were 55.5 feet NGVD (1.0 feet below schedule) in East Lake Toho, 52.7 feet NGVD (0.8 feet below schedule) in Toho, and 49.6 feet NGVD (1.4 feet below schedule) in Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha (KCH); headwater stages were 46.3 feet NGVD at S-65A and 25.6 feet NGVD at S-65D. Tuesday morning discharges were 418 cfs at S-65, 626 cfs at S-65A, 1,769 cfs at S-65D and 1,648 cfs at S-65E. Dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration in the Kissimmee River averaged zero mg/L for the week through Sunday. Kissimmee River mean floodplain depth on Sunday was 0.69 feet. Recommendations this week are: 1) to continue discharge reductions at S-65A at up to double the normal ramp-down rate as possible in order to reduce river channel stage to allow DO recovery and 2) manage S-65 discharge to reduce rate of stage ascension in lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha.

Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage is 11.32 feet NGVD, increasing 0.04 feet from the previous week, and 0.53 ft higher than the previous month, but still 2.94 ft below the stage one year ago. The Lake dropped into the Beneficial Use sub-band on March 7, 2019 and has been staying roughly parallel with the Water Shortage sub-band, currently 0.18 feet above. The Lake remains below the bottom of the ecological envelope (currently 0.68 feet below), which varies seasonally from 12.5 – 15.5 feet NGVD (+/- 0.5 feet). With the onset of the wet season, lake stage ascension rates will become important in the continued recovery of SAV and EAV (Submerged and Emergent Aquatic Vegetation) in the nearshore zone; high ascension rates will stress newly established plants and could dramatically reduce the beneficial effects of low lake stages experienced throughout the dry season. The latest viable satellite image which was clear enough to estimate cyanobacteria bloom potential on the Lake was from June 30, 2019 and suggests an increase in potential bloom coverage in the central and eastern portions of the Lake.

Estuaries

Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 266 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Over the past week, salinities increased throughout the estuary. The seven-day average salinity at the US1 Bridge is within the good range for adult eastern oysters. Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged 1,228 cfs over the past week with 121 cfs coming from the Lake. Over the past week, salinity decreased throughout the estuary. The 30-day moving average surface salinity is 1.5 at Val I-75 and 5.2 at Ft. Myers. Salinity conditions between Val I-75 and Ft. Myers are good for tape grass. Salinities are estimated to be in the good range for adult eastern at Shell Point and Sanibel. Given the current estuarine conditions, there are no ecological benefits to the upper estuary associated with freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee, but some benefits may accrue to the areas further downstream.

Stormwater Treatment Areas

Over the past week, no Lake water was delivered to the STAs. The total amount of Lake releases sent to the STAs/FEBs in WY2020 (since May 1, 2019) is approximately 7,000 acre-feet. The total amount of inflows to the STAs in WY2020 is approximately 188,000 acre-feet. All STA cells are at or above target depths. STA-1W Northern Flow-way is offline for STA-1W Expansion project construction activities, STA-1E Western Flow-way is offline for levee repairs in the West Distribution Cell, and STA-5/6 Flow-ways 2 and 3 are offline for the Restoration Strategies project to grade non-effective treatment areas. Operational restrictions are in place in STA-5/6 Flow-ways 1 and 4 to facilitate the Restoration Strategies grading project in Flow-ways 2 and 3, and in STA-1E Central Flow-way and STA-2 Flow-way 3 for vegetation management activities. It is recommended that no Lake regulatory releases be sent to the STAs this week.

Everglades

Over the past week, stages increased in all the WCAs except WCA-1. The wildfire that had been reported last week in northern WCA-3A has stopped burning as of June 27, 2019, and no peat damage has been noted. The wading bird nesting season is ending as water levels are rising. Downstream, stages in Taylor Slough are 1 inch higher than the historical averages for this time of year, and Florida Bay salinities are 4 psu higher than the historical averages. Salinity in the nearshore area, currently in the 20-39 psu range, needs to decrease to near 25 psu to prevent additional stress to the system.

Supporting Information

KISSIMMEE BASIN

Kissimmee Basin Rainfall

The Upper Kissimmee Basin received 1.24 inches of rainfall in the past week and the Lower Basin received 1.19 inches (SFWMD Daily Rainfall Report 6/30/2019).

Upper Kissimmee Basin

Stages and departures in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (KCOL) are shown in **Table 1**. KCOL stage hydrographs with respective regulation schedules and rainfall are shown in Figures 1-7.

Table 1. Average discharge (cfs) for the preceding seven days, one-day stage (feet NGVD), and departures from KCOL flood regulation (R) or temporary schedules (T, A, or S). Provisional, real-time data are from SFWMD.
Report Date: 7/2/2019

Water Body	Structure	7-day Average Discharge (cfs) ¹	Stage Monitoring Site ²	Lake Stage (feet)	Schedule Type ³	Schedule Stage (feet)	Daily Departure (feet)						
							6/30/19	6/23/19	6/16/19	6/9/19	6/2/19	5/26/19	5/19/19
Lakes Hart and Mary Jane	S-62	0	LKMJ	59.6	R	60.0	-0.4	-0.3	-0.5	-0.7	-0.6	-0.1	-0.2
Lakes Myrtle, Preston, and Joel	S-57	0	S-57	59.8	R	61.0	-1.2	-1.1	-1.1	-1.3	-1.2	-0.1	0.0
Alligator Chain	S-60	0	ALLI	62.2	R	63.2	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.3	-1.2	0.0	0.0
Lake Gentry	S-63	0	LKGT	59.5	R	61.0	-1.5	-1.4	-1.4	-1.6	-1.5	0.0	0.0
East Lake Toho	S-59	0	TOHOE	55.5	R	56.5	-1.0	-1.1	-1.4	-1.6	-1.5	-0.1	-0.3
Lake Toho	S-61	87	TOHOW, S-61	52.7	R	53.5	-0.8	-1.0	-1.1	-1.4	-1.5	-0.1	-0.3
Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress, and Hatchineha	S-65	400	KUB011, LKISSB	49.6	R	51.0	-1.4	-1.4	-1.9	-2.1	-2.0	-0.1	-0.1

¹ Seven-day average of weighted daily means through midnight.

² Names of in-lake monitoring sites and structures used to determine lake stage; if more than one site is listed, an average is reported.

³ A = projected ascension line, R = USACE regulation schedule, S = temporary recession target line, T = temporary schedule, N/A = not applicable or data not available.
DATA ARE PROVISIONAL

Lower Kissimmee Basin

Discharges at Lower Basin structures are shown in Table 2. SFWDAT depth maps for the Phase I restoration area are shown in Figure 8. Kissimmee River floodplain stages at selected stations are shown in Figure 9.

Table 2. One-day and seven-day averages of discharge at S-65x structures, of dissolved oxygen concentration in the Phase I area river channel, and water depth in the Phase I area floodplain. Data are provisional real-time data from SFWMD.

Report Date: 7/2/2019

Metric	Location	1-Day Average		Average for the Preceding 7-Days ¹								4/28/19
		6/30/2019	6/30/19	6/23/19	6/16/19	6/9/19	6/2/19	5/26/19	5/19/19	5/12/19	5/5/19	
Discharge (cfs)	S-65	405	400	106	165	284	319	596	984	1,014	428	438
Discharge (cfs)	S-65A ²	715	673	1,014	255	215	244	456	815	823	314	314
Discharge (cfs)	S-65D ²	1,983	1,801	975	290	222	329	706	920	795	403	466
Headwater Stage (feet NGVD)	S-65D ²	25.68	25.84	25.80	25.84	25.78	25.79	25.80	25.82	25.78	25.81	25.76
Discharge (cfs)	S-65E ²	1,860	1,606	903	331	208	313	591	810	703	351	441
Discharge (cfs)	S-67	84	62	96	22	0	0	0	79	102	68	107
DO (mg/L) ³	Phase I river channel	0.1	0.0	2.5	5.9	5.7	6.0	6.7	5.9	5.9	6.7	6.7
Mean depth (feet) ⁴	Phase I floodplain	0.69	0.82	0.39	0.13	0.06	0.07	0.11	0.16	0.15	0.10	0.12

¹ Seven-day average of weighted daily means through Sunday midnight.

² S-65A discharge combines S-65A with auxiliary structures; S-65D discharge combines discharge at S-65D, S-65DX1, and S-65DX2; S-65D stage averages stage at S-65D and S-65DX1; S-65E discharge combines S-65E and S-65EX1.

³ DO is the average for sondes at PC62 and PC33.

⁴ 1-day spatial average from South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

KCOL Hydrographs (through Sunday midnight)

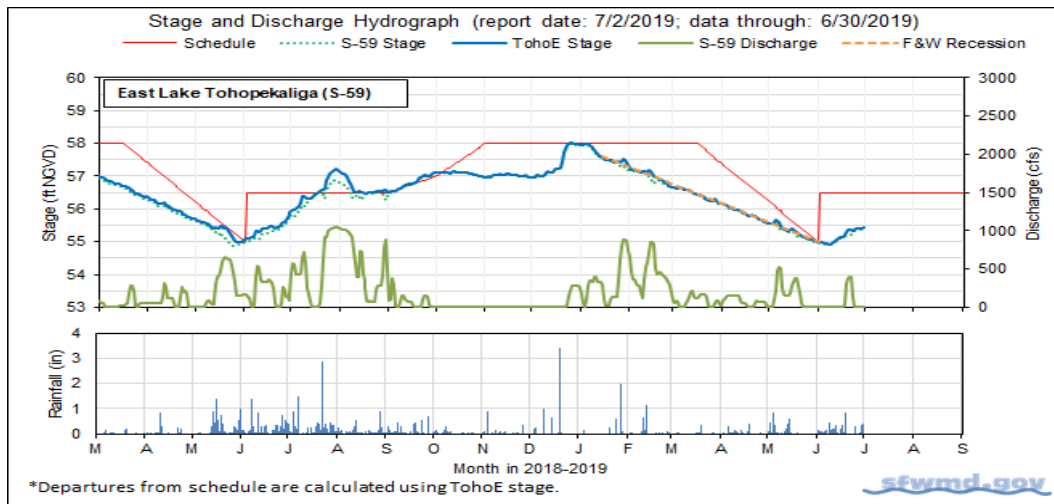


Figure 1.

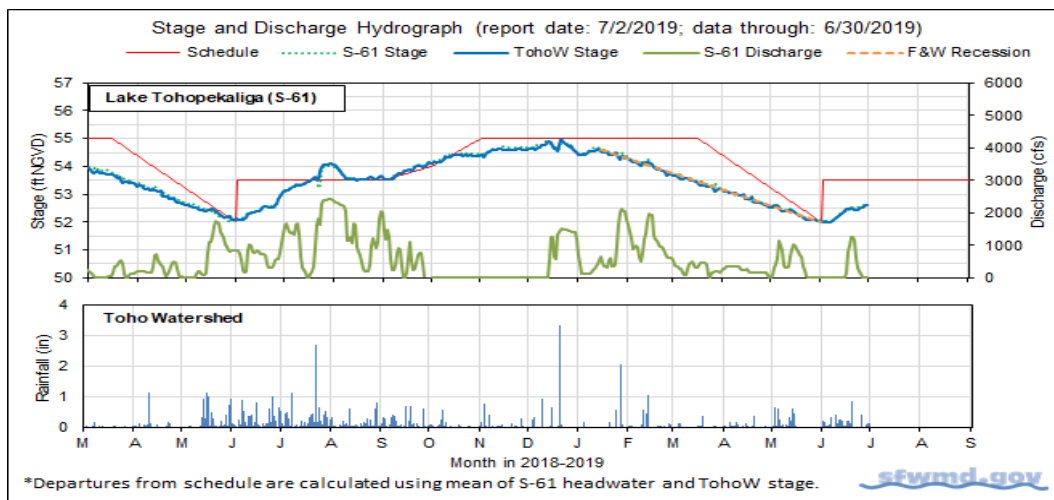


Figure 2.

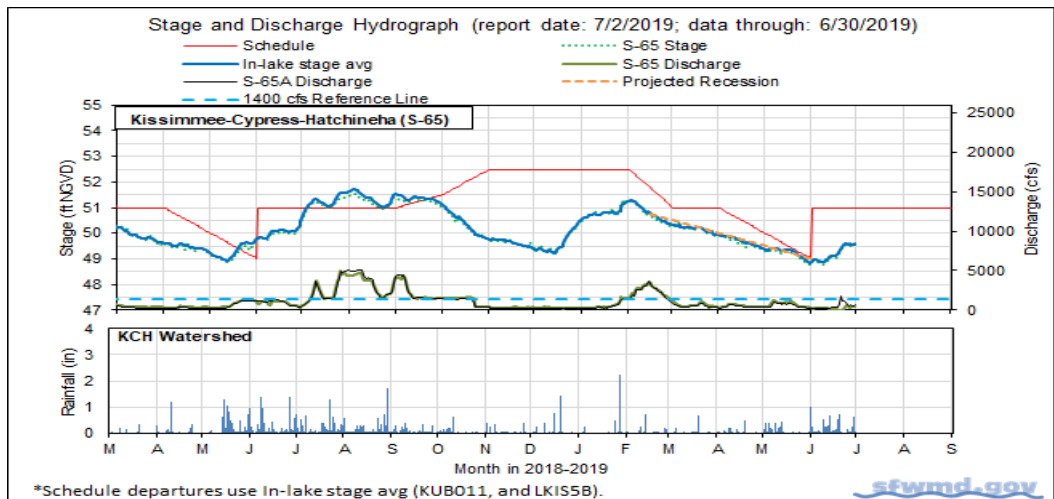


Figure 3.

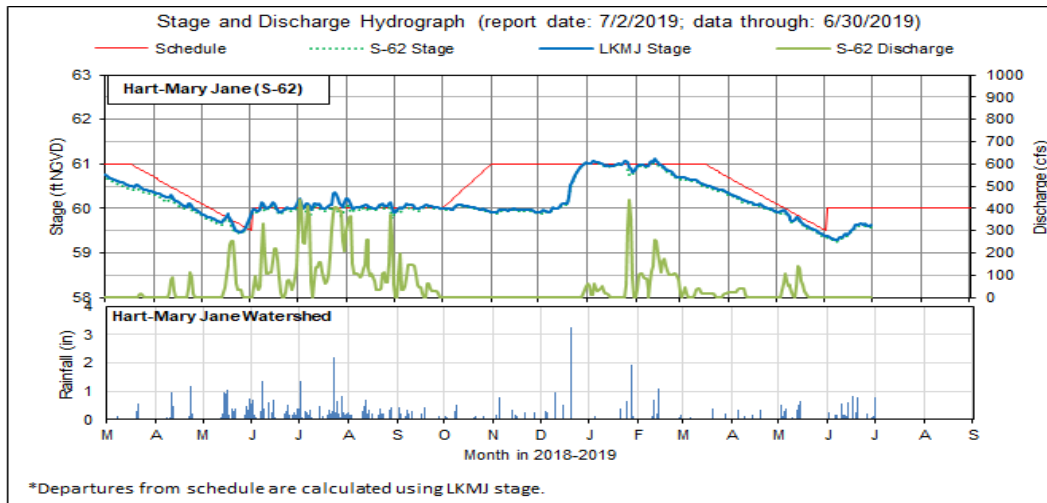


Figure 4.

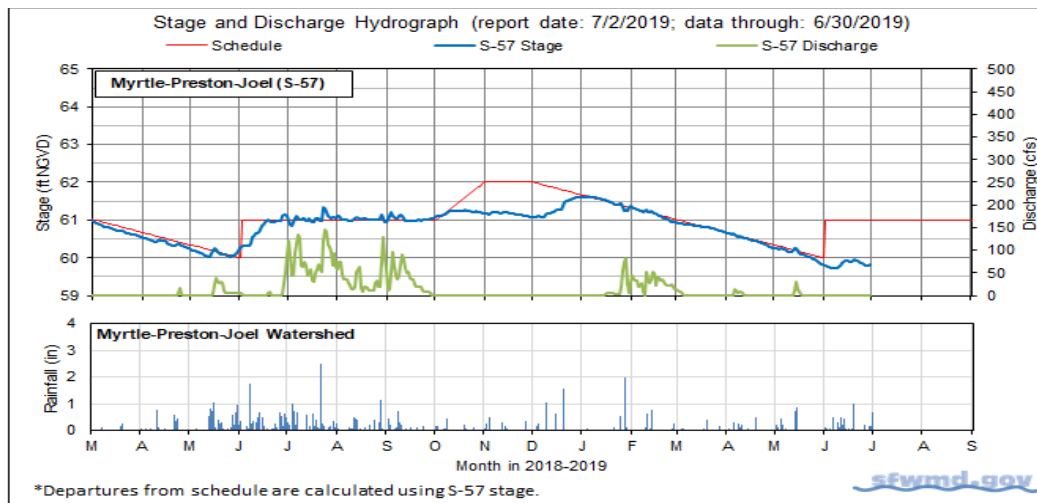


Figure 5.

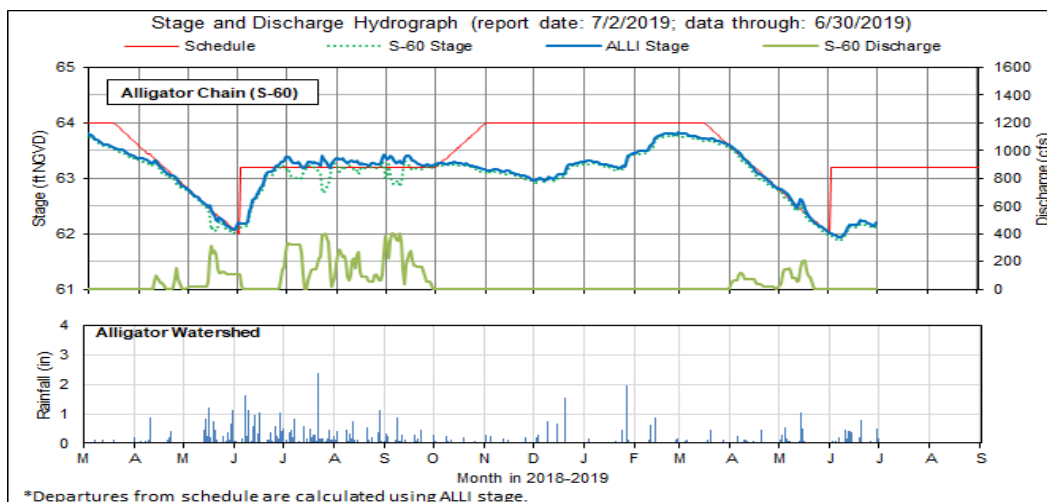


Figure 6.

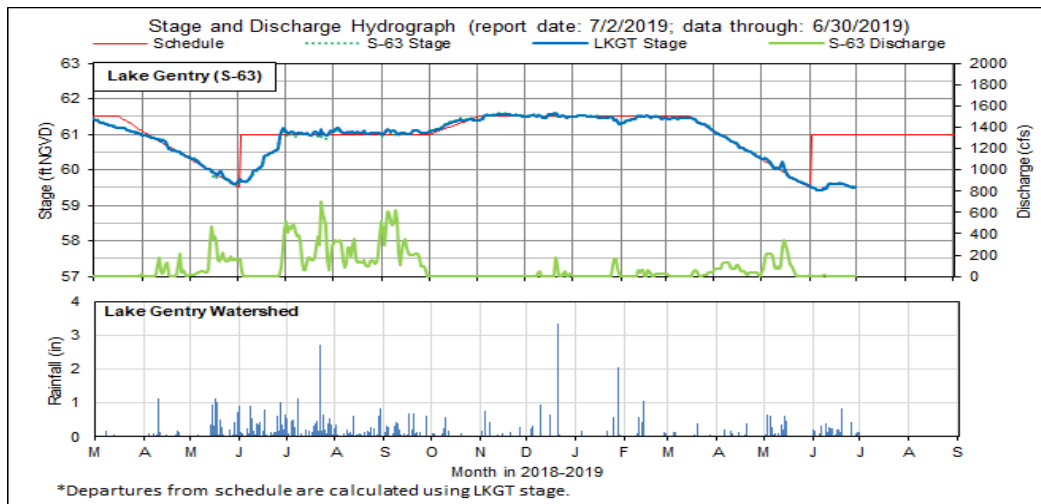


Figure 7.

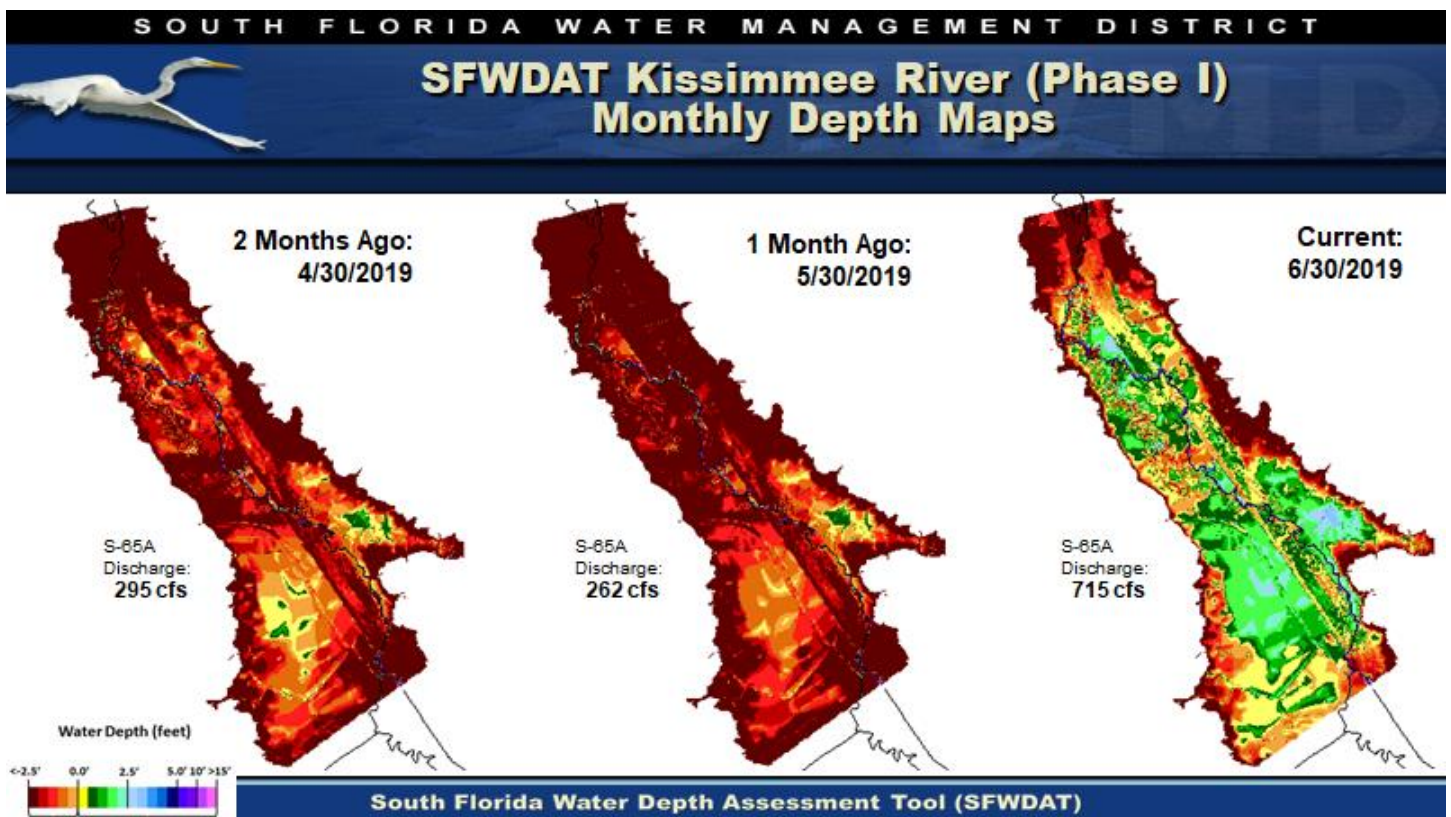


Figure 8. Phase I area floodplain water depths for this week, one month ago, and two months ago. Note that the WDAT color-coding has been modified to accommodate greater water depths; these maps are not directly comparable to Kissimmee Basin WDAT maps published prior to January 16, 2012.

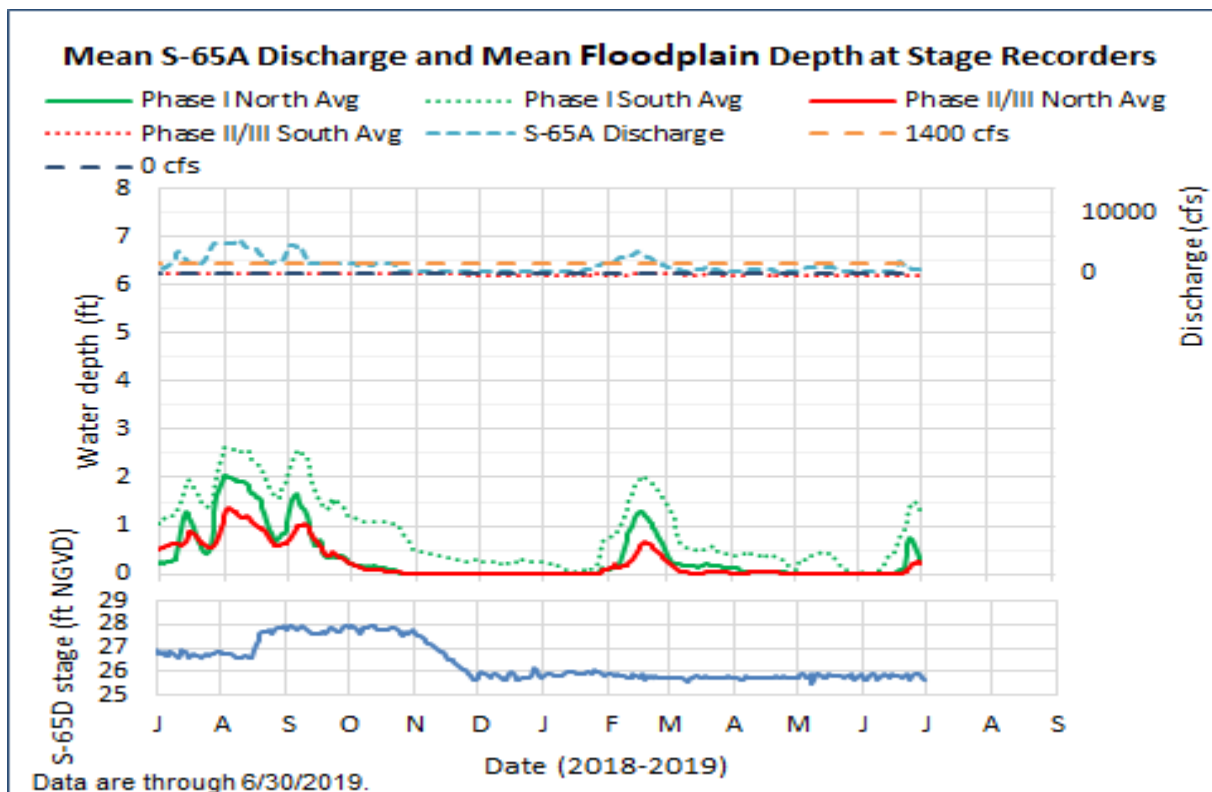
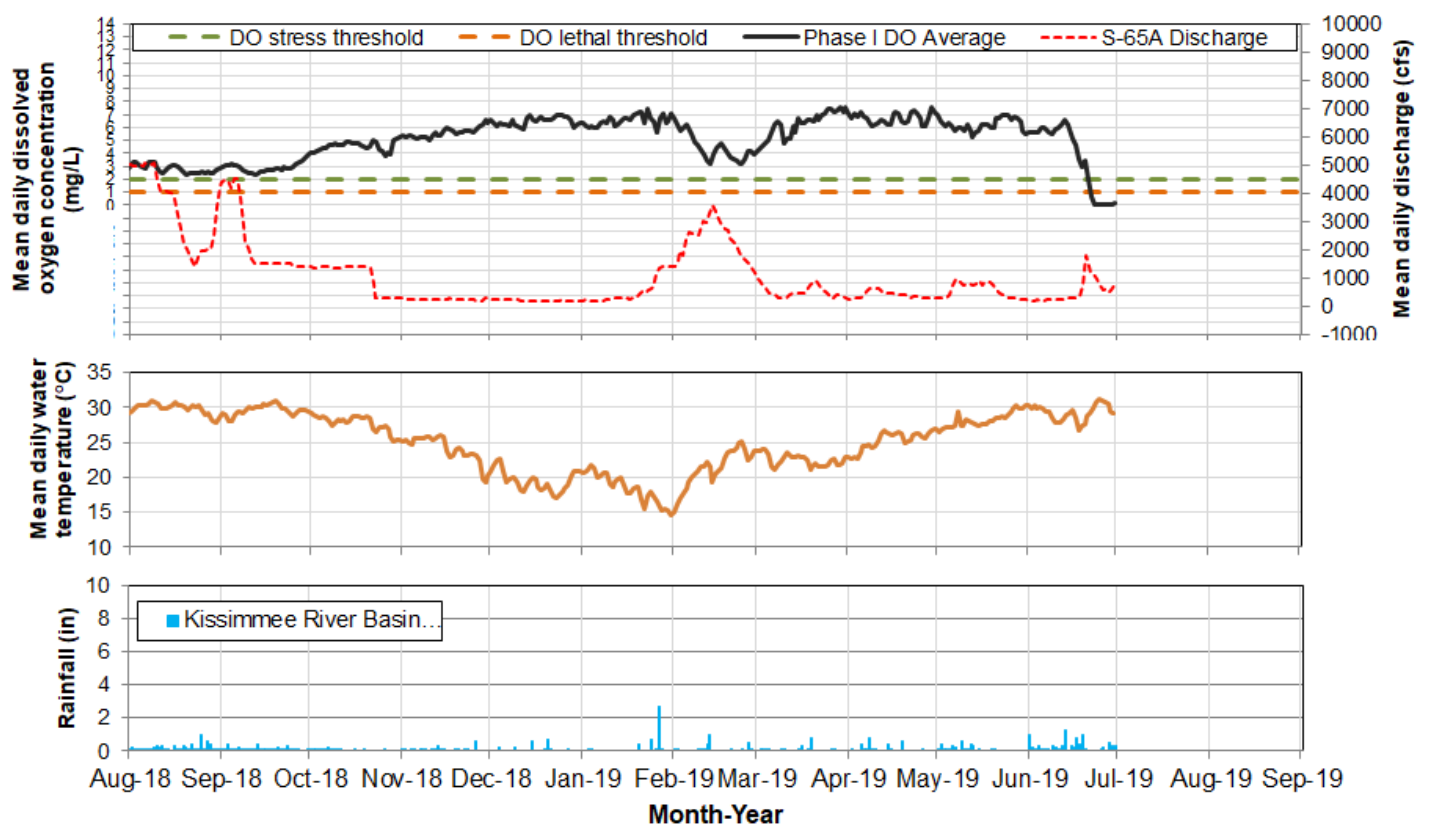


Figure 9. Mean water depth at stage recorders in the northern Phase I, southern Phase I, northern Phase II/III, and southern Phase II/III areas in relation to the S-65A discharge and S-65D headwater stage.



Report Date: 7/2/2019; data are through: 6/30/2019.

Figure 10. Mean daily dissolved oxygen, discharge, temperature and rainfall in the Phase I river channel.

Water Management Recommendations

Kissimmee Basin Adaptive Recommendations and Operational Actions

Recommendation Date	Recommendation	Purpose	Outcome	Source	Report Date
6/27/2019	Continue discharge reductions at S-65A at up to double the normal rampdown rate, as possible.	Reduce river channel stage to allow DO recovery.	TBD	KB Ops	7/2/2019
6/27/2019	Manage S65 discharge to slow stage ascension to the extent possible.	Slow the rate of stage ascension in KCH.	TBD	KB Ops	7/2/2019
6/24/2019	Continue discharge reductions at S-65A at up to double the normal rampdown rate, as possible.	Reduce river channel stage to allow DO recovery.	Implemented	KB Ops	6/25/2019
6/21/2019	Reduce discharge at S-65A to below 1400 cfs as soon as possible.	Reduce chance of DO crash given the need for continued high discharge.	Implemented	KB Ops	6/25/2019
6/19/2019	Start flood control measures as headwater stage at S-65A reaches 47 ft	Avoid flooding in Pool A.	Implemented (flow increased to 2000 cfs)	SFWMD Water Management/KB Ops	6/25/2019
6/17/2019	If needed, double rates of discharge increase for S-65/S-65A up to 150 cfs/day.	Slow rate of rise in KCH if necessary.	TBD	KB Ops	6/18/2019
6/17/2019	Increase flow at S-61.	Slow Lake Toho ascension rate	Implemented	KB Ops	6/18/2019
6/13/2019	Increase discharge at S-65A. Double the rate of discharge increase if necessary to maintain headwater at S-65A.	Purpose: Control stage in Pool A due to heavy rain overnight in Pool A basin.	Implemented	Water Management/KB Ops	6/18/2019
6/1/2019	Begin implementation of the 2019 Wet Season Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A (see figure).	Provide variable flow from S-65/S-65A to balance Kissimmee River and Headwaters Lakes objectives, including Kissimmee River floodplain inundation, moderate rates of change in discharge, and controlled rate of stage rise in the lakes.	Planned	KB Ops	6/11/2019
5/31/2019	Reduce S-65 flow by 100 cfs over 2 days (5/31 and 6/1) to about 280 cfs.	Slow rate of stage decline in KCH while sustaining about 150 cfs at S-65A. (Note: Unexpected rainfall late on 6/1 allowed S-65A discharge to be returned to about 220 cfs on 6/2).	Implemented	KB Ops/SFWMD Water Management	6/4/2019
5/28/2019	No new recommendations.		N/A		5/28/2019
5/20/2019	No new recommendations.		N/A		5/21/2019
5/13/2019	No new recommendations.		N/A		5/14/2019
5/6/2019	Due to the rainfall, increase S65-A to 1000 cfs today in two increments and increase flow at S-65 accordingly. We will reassess the rise in KCH stage tomorrow 5/7.	Short-term goals: try to keep S65-A discharge at or below 1000 cfs for KR fish sampling this week and next, while keeping the reversal in KCH less than about 0.4 ft.	Implemented	KB Ops	5/7/2019
4/29/2019	No new recommendations.		N/A		4/30/2019
4/23/2019	No new recommendations.		N/A		4/23/2019
4/15/2019	No new recommendations.		N/A		4/16/2019
4/8/2019	No new recommendations.		N/A		4/9/2019
4/1/2019	No new recommendations.		N/A		4/2/2019
3/25/2019	No new recommendations.		N/A		3/26/2019

Stage and Discharge Guidance for Wet Season 2019.		
Zone	KCH Stage (ft NGVD)	S-65/S-65A Discharge*
A	Above regulation schedule line.	Flood control releases as needed with no limits on the rate of discharge change.
B1	In flood control buffer zone (0.5 ft below the schedule line).	Adjust S-65 discharge so that S-65A discharge is between 1400 cfs at the buffer zone line and 3000 cfs at the schedule line.
B2	Between the Flood Control Buffer and the 50.0 ft line.	Adjust S-65 discharge to maintain at least 1400 cfs at S-65A. Use ± 0.2 ft buffer (gray band) above and below the 50.0 ft line to decide when to begin ramping up to 1400 cfs or down to 300 cfs; do not continue reducing discharge if stage rises back to or above the threshold stage line.
B3	Between the 50.0 ft line and 49 ft.	Adjust S-65 discharge to maintain at least 300 cfs at S-65A.
B4	Between 48.5 ft to 49 ft.	Adjust S-65 discharge to maintain S-65A discharge between 0 cfs at 48.5 ft and 300 cfs at 49 ft.
C	Below 48.5 ft.	0 cfs.
*Changes in discharge should not exceed limits in inset table below.		
Discharge Rate of Change Limits for S65/S65A (revised 7/13/18).		
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

Revised 5/16/2019

Kissimmee Basin 2019 Wet Season

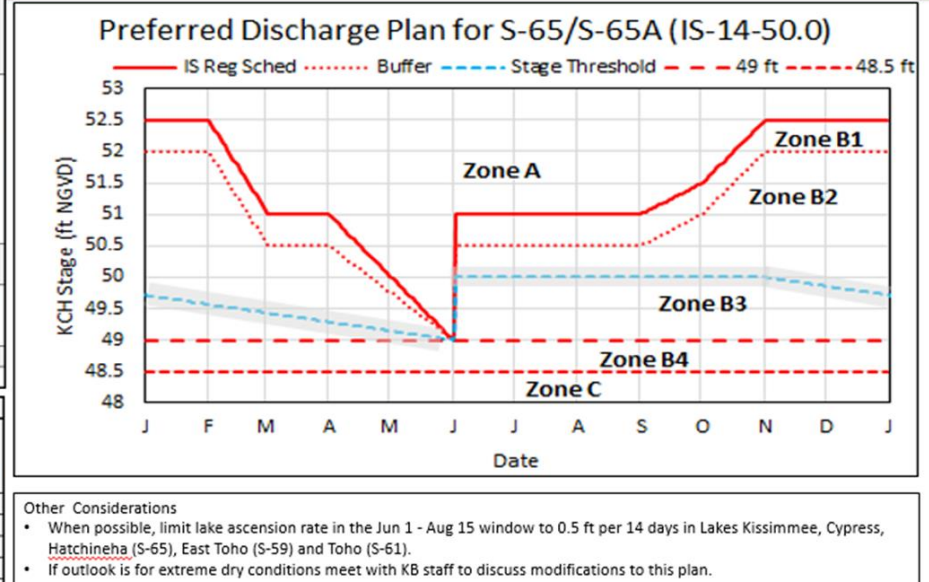


Figure 11. The 2019 Wet Season Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A.

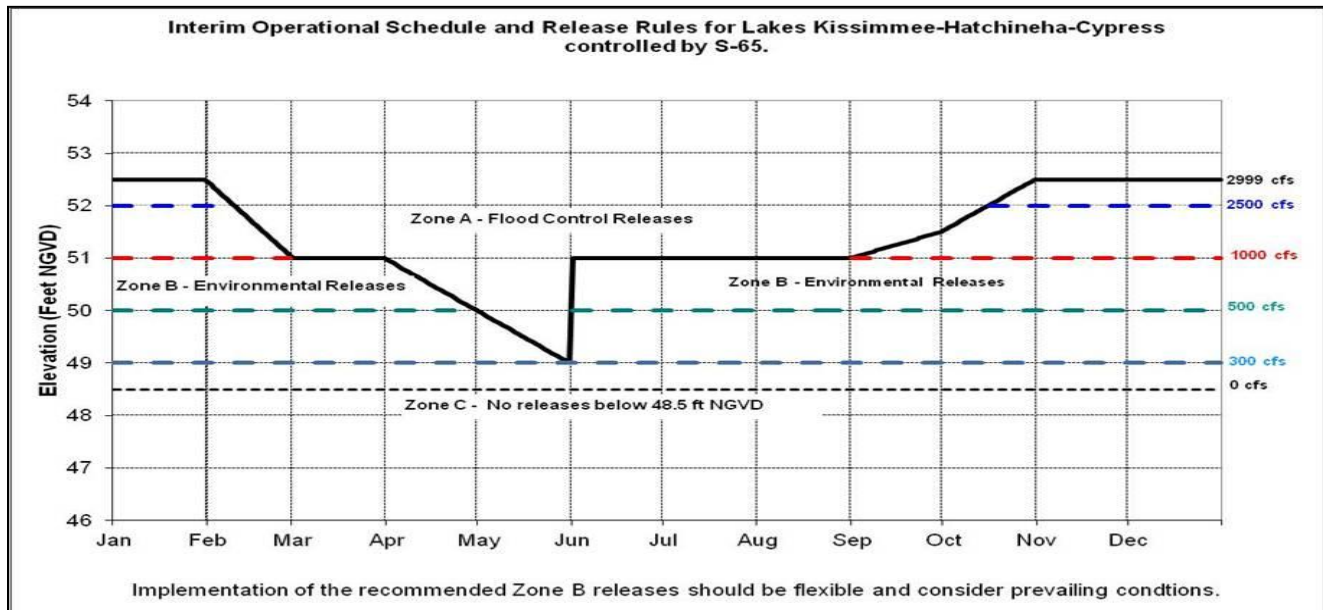


Figure 12. Interim operations schedule for S-65. The discharge schedule shown to the right has not been used in recent years.

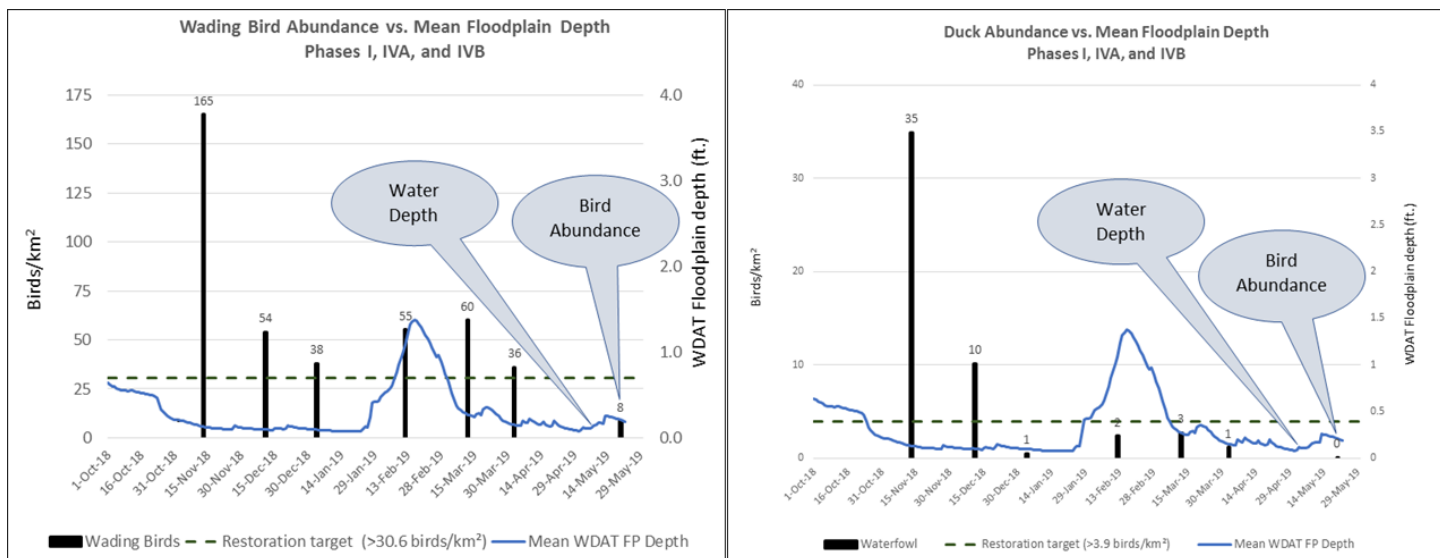


Figure 13. Kissimmee River Wading Bird and Waterfowl Surveys from November 2018 to May 2019.

Table 3. Upper Kissimmee Basin Snail Kite Survey Update
Survey 4: May 19-21, 2019

WATERBODY	KITES	TOTAL NESTS	SUCCESSFUL	ACTIVE
East Toho	2	4	0	2
Toho	97	55	19	11
Kissimmee	225	55	7	30
KCOL Total	324	114	26	43

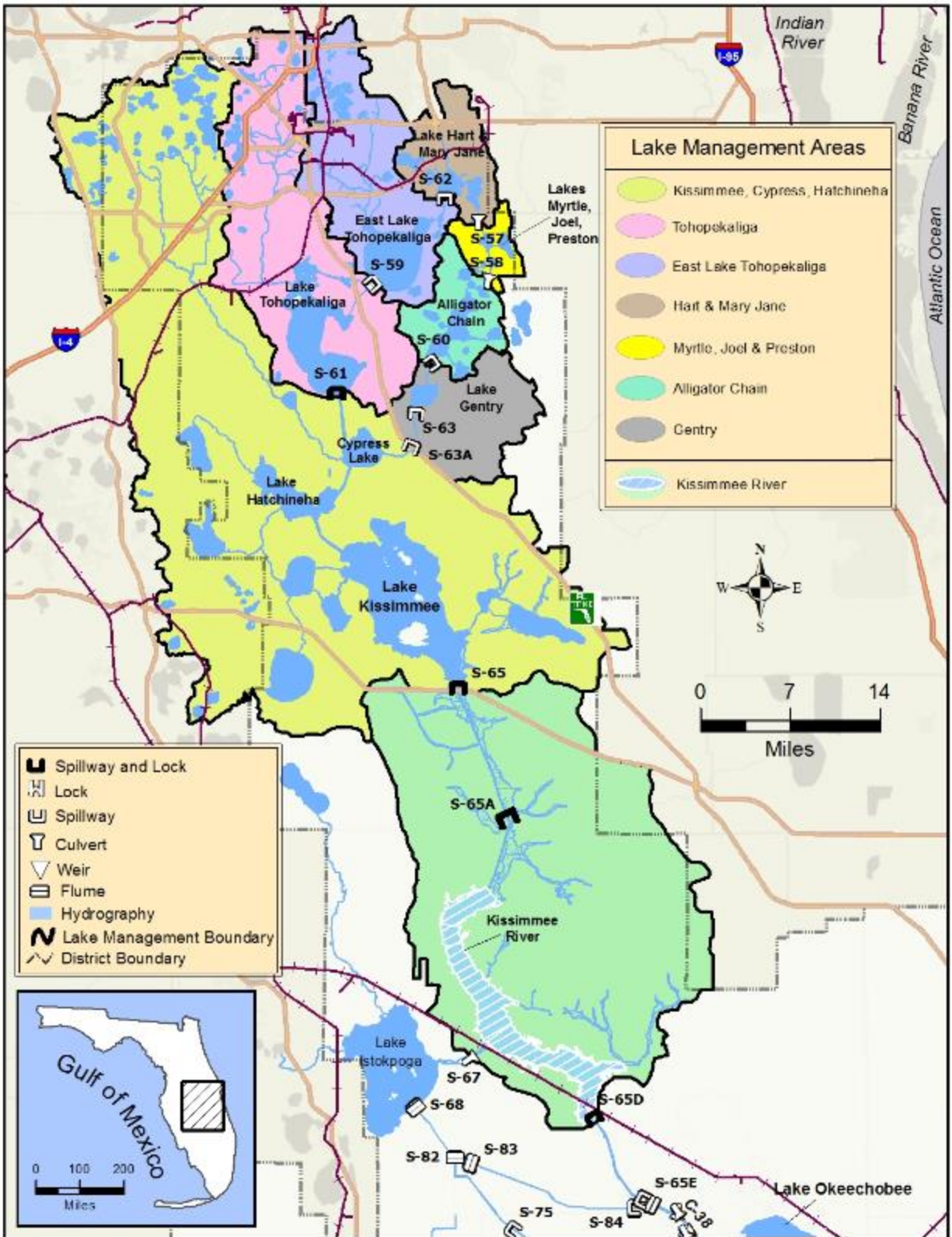


Figure 14. The Kissimmee Basin.

LAKE OKEECHOBEE

According to the USACE web site, Lake Okeechobee average daily lake stage is at 11.32 feet NGVD for July 2, 2019 increasing 0.04 feet from the previous week. This value is based on the use of four interior lake stations (L001, L005, L006 and LZ40) and three perimeter stations (S-308, S-4 and S-133). The Lake is now 0.53 feet higher than a month ago and 2.94 feet lower than a year ago when stages were roughly a foot higher than the top of the preferred ecological envelope (Figure 1). The Lake dropped into the Beneficial Use sub-band on March 7, 2019 and is currently 0.18 feet above the Water Shortage sub-band but running parallel to it over the past few weeks (Figure 2). Lake stage is currently at the lowest levels for this time of year since 2011 (Figure 3). According to RAINDAR, during the week of June 25 to July 01, 2019, 0.99 inches of rain fell directly over the Lake, compared to 0.66 inches the previous week. The lower Kissimmee Basin, western and southern regions received between 1.5 - 3 inches of rain while the remainder of the watershed received less than 1.5 inches (Figure 4).

The average daily inflows (minus rainfall) to the Lake decreased from the prior week, going from 2,410 cfs to 2,117 cfs. The inflows from the Kissimmee River (S-65E) increased from 1,006 cfs to 1,656 cfs, while those from Lake Istokpoga (via S-84 and S71) decreased three-fold from 1,231 cfs to 348 cfs (Table 1).

Outflows (minus evapotranspiration) increased from the previous week, going from 28 cfs to 399 cfs most of which was to the south through the S-350 structures. Flows south increased from 0 cfs last week to 237 cfs this week. Outflows to the west through S-77 increased from 28 cfs last week to 162 cfs this week (Table 1). The corrected average daily evapotranspiration value for the week based on the L006 and LZ40 weather platform solar radiation was down from the previous week to 0.17 inches.

Total lake inflows and outflows for the past week are detailed in Table 1, as well as the approximate change in lake stage from each major structure's total flows over the period. Figure 5 shows the combined average daily cfs for inflows and outflows for the Lake over the past eight weeks. These data are provisional and are subject to change.

Water quality samples collected on June 4 and 5 found two of nine stations in the nearshore zone with Chlorophyll a (Chla) values $>20 \mu\text{g/L}$. In the pelagic region, one of the eight stations had Chlorophyll a (Chla) values $>20 \mu\text{g/L}$ and one had a value above what the District considers bloom density, or $40 \mu\text{g/L}$ (Figure 6). Station L001, at the north end of the Lake had Chla of $43.0 \mu\text{g/L}$. Two of six stations had a microcystin value above the detection limit of $0.20 \mu\text{g/L}$; one was the nearshore station KISSR0.0 at the mouth of the Kissimmee River, with a value of $0.31 \mu\text{g/L}$, and the other was station CLV10A on the east side of the Lake with a value of $0.40 \mu\text{g/L}$ (Figure 6).

The most recent viable satellite imagery (June 30, 2019) using NOAA's cyanobacteria monitoring product derived from EUMETSAT's Sentinel OLCI sensor data showed an increase in bloom potential in the center/east portions of the Lake (Figure 7). The Environmental Protection Agency has developed a mobile app to monitor cyanobacteria blooms across the nation using this satellite data, and conditions on the Lake can be monitored as well (Figure 8). More information on the product is available at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/cyanobacteria-assessment-network-mobile-application-cyan-app>.

Water Management Recommendations

Lake Okeechobee stage is 11.32 feet NGVD, increasing 0.04 feet from the previous week and 0.53 ft higher than the previous month, but still 2.94 ft below the stage one year ago. The Lake dropped into the Beneficial Use sub-band on March 7, 2019 and has been staying roughly parallel with the Water Shortage sub-band, currently 0.18 feet above. The Lake remains below the bottom of the ecological envelope (currently 0.68 feet below), which varies seasonally from 12.5 – 15.5 feet NGVD (+/- 0.5 feet). With the onset of the wet season, lake stage ascension rates will become important in the continued recovery of SAV and EAV (Submerged and Emergent Aquatic Vegetation) in the nearshore zone; high ascension rates will stress newly established plants and could dramatically reduce the beneficial effects of low lake stages experienced throughout the dry season. The latest viable satellite image which was clear enough to estimate cyanobacteria bloom potential on the Lake was from June 30, 2019 and suggests that the bloom potential has increased in the central and eastern portions of the Lake.

Table 1. Average daily inflows and outflows and the approximate depth equivalents on Lake Okeechobee for various structures.

INFLOWS	Previous week Avg Daily CFS	Avg Daily Flow cfs	Equivalent Depth Week Total (in)
S-65E & S-65EX1	1006	1656	0.8
S-71 & S-72	331	29	0.0
S-84 & S-84X	900	319	0.2
Fisheating Creek	45	50	0.0
S-154	0	0	0.0
S-191	0	0	0.0
S-133 P	0	0	0.0
S-127 P	0	0	0.0
S-129 P	7	0	0.0
S-131 P	9	0	0.0
S-135 P	0	51	0.0
S-2 P	0	0	0.0
S-3 P	0	0	0.0
S-4 P	0	0	0.0
L-8 Backflow	128	13	0.0
Rainfall	1360	2055	1.0
Total	3785	4172	2.0

OUTFLOWS	Previous week Avg Daily CFS	Avg Daily Flow cfs	Equivalent Depth Week Total (in)
S-77	28	162	0.1
S-308	0	0	0.0
S-351	0	105	0.1
S-352	0	0	0.0
S-354	0	132	0.1
L-8 Outflow			
ET	2587	2443	1.2
Total	2615	2842	1.4

Provisional Data

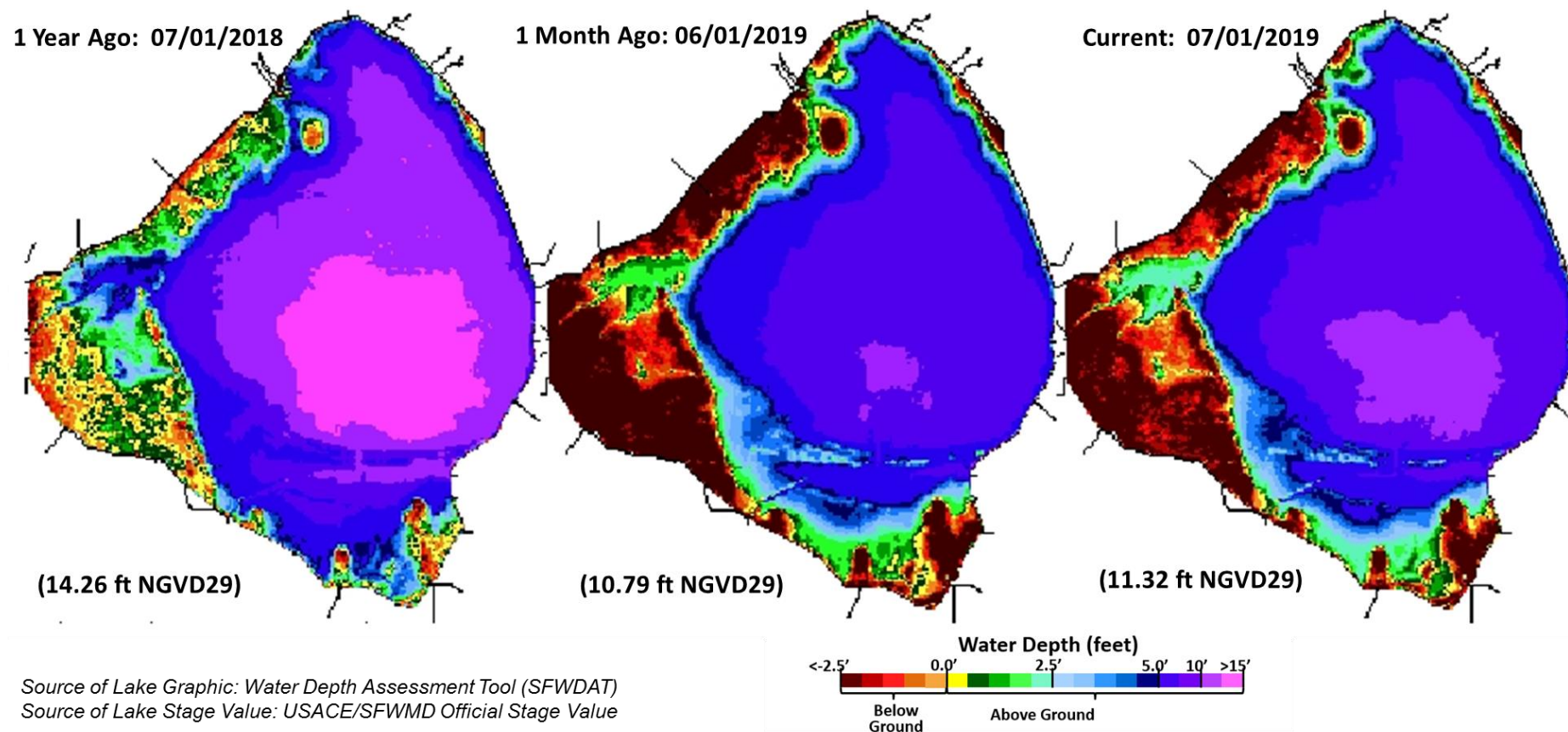


Figure 1. Water depth estimates on Lake Okeechobee based on the South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool.

Lake Okeechobee Water Level History and Projected Stages

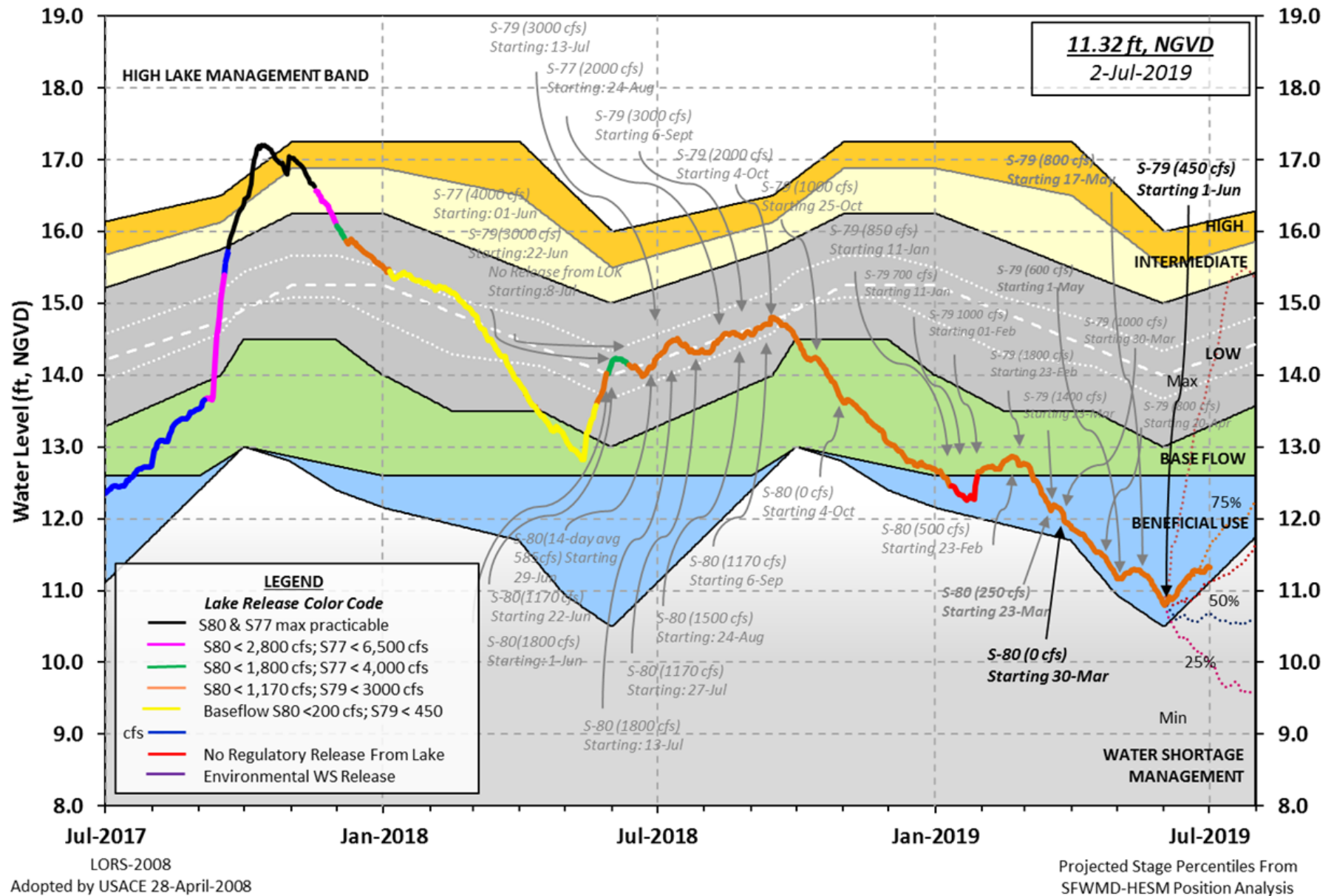


Figure 2. Recent Lake Okeechobee stage and releases, with projected stages based on a dynamic position analysis.

Lake Okeechobee Water Level Comparison

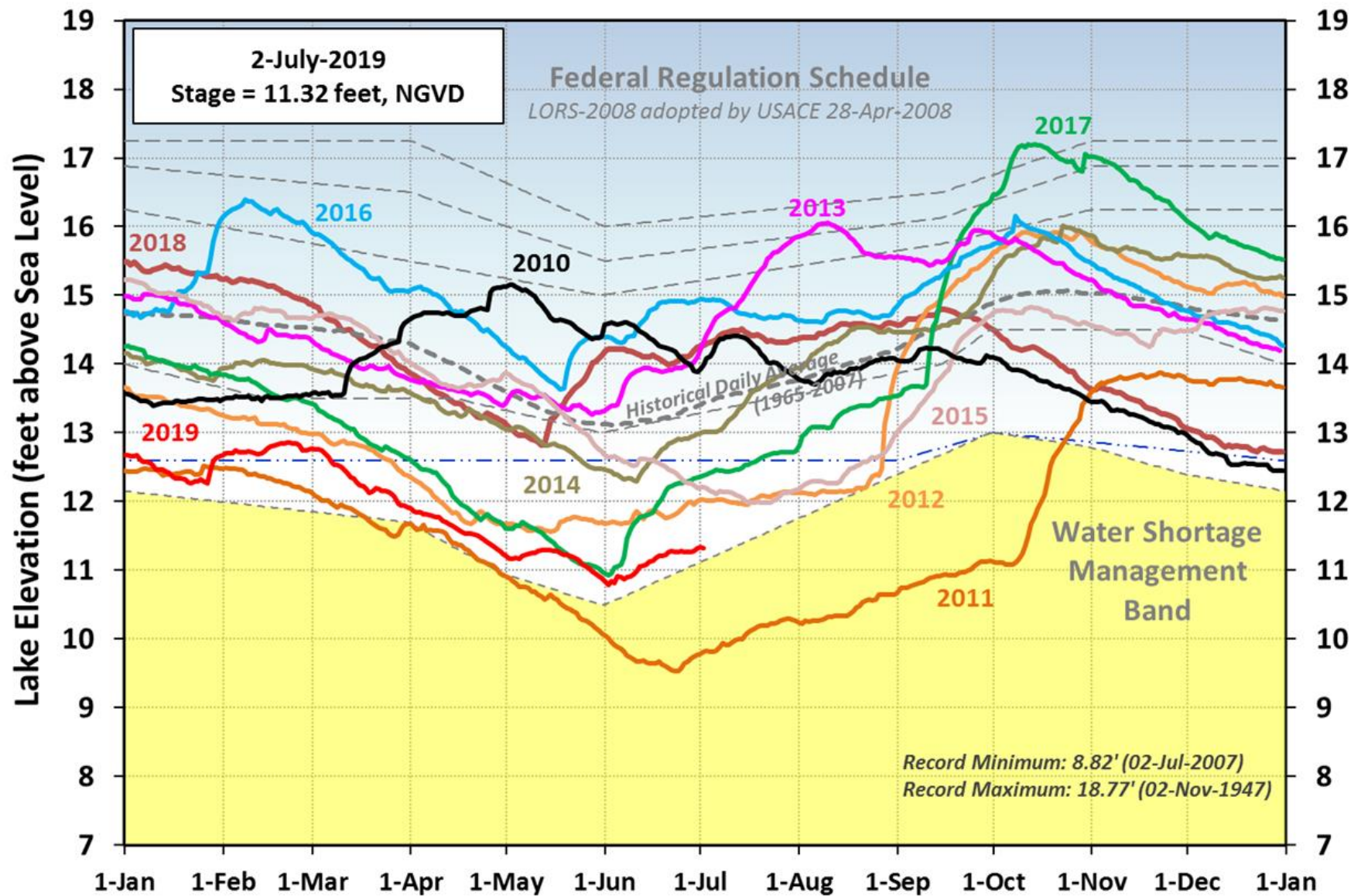


Figure 3. Select annual stage hydrographs for Lake Okeechobee from 2010 – 2019.

SFWMD PROVISIONAL RAINDAR 7-DAY BASIN RAINFALL ESTIMATES

FROM: 0515 EST, 06/25/2019 THROUGH: 0515 EST, 07/02/2019

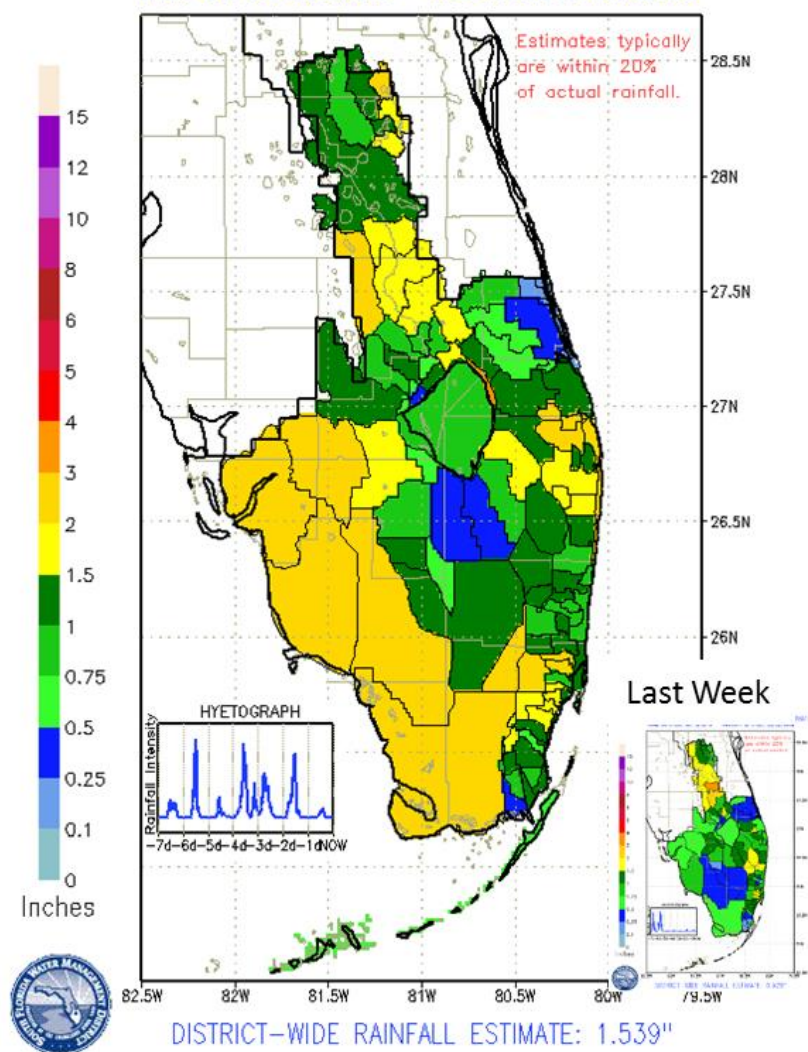


Figure 4. Rainfall estimates by basin.

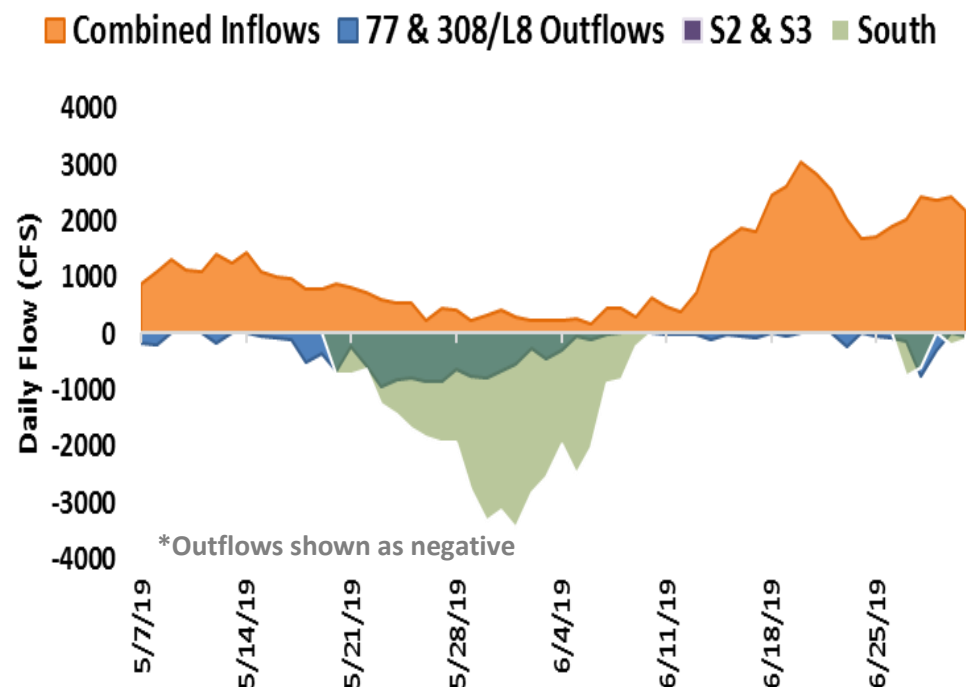
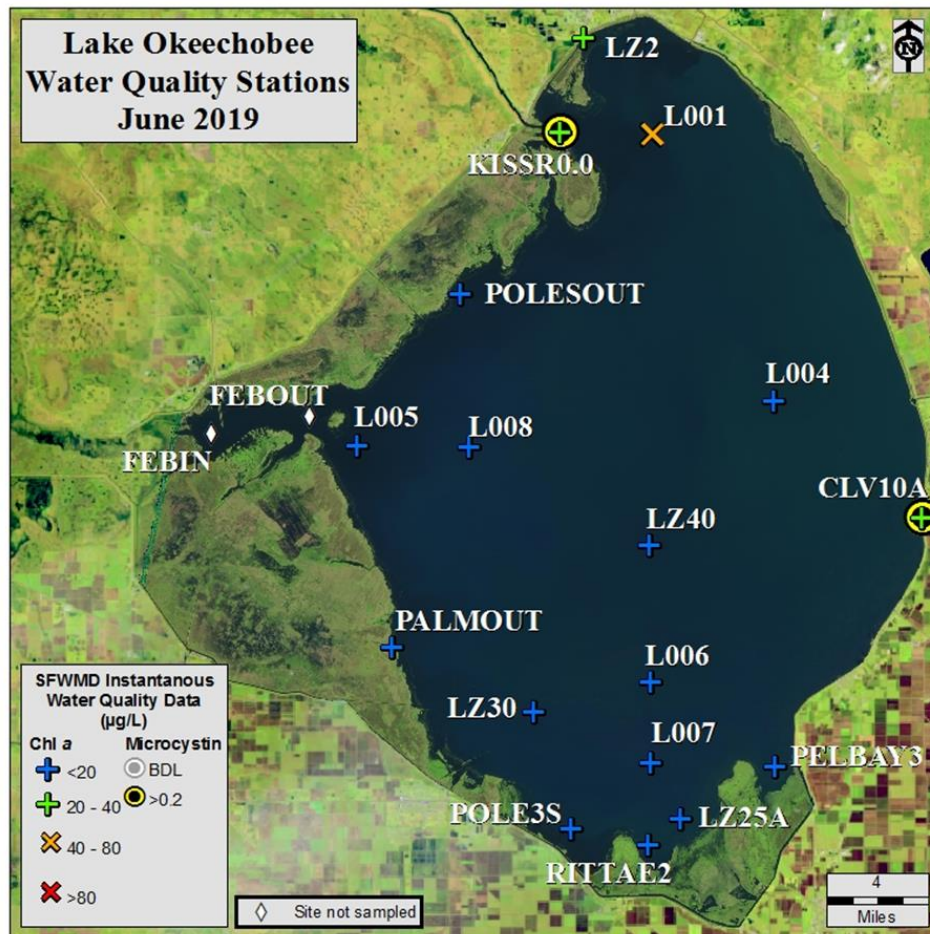


Figure 5. Major inflows (orange) and outflows (blue) of Lake Okeechobee, including the S-350 structures designated as South (green). The L-8 Canal flows through Culvert 10A are included as outflows when positive, and as inflows when backflowing into the lake. All inflows and outflows are shown as positive and negative, respectively, for visual purposes.



Jun 4 - 5, 2019		
Site	Chlorophyll <i>a</i> ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	Microcystin ($\mu\text{g/L}$)
Nearshore Stations		
KISSR0.0	31.3	0.31
L005	7.7	BDL
LZ2	30.3	BDL
LZ25A	3.0	
PALMOUT	3.7	
PELBAY3	2.9	
POLE3S	3.8	
POLESOUT	19.6	BDL
RITTAE2	1.7	
Pelagic Stations		
L001	43.0	
L004	6.3	
L006	16.7	
L007	7.9	
L008	17.1	
LZ30	8.3	BDL
LZ40	10.1	
CLV10A	22.8	0.40

Figure 6. Chlorophyll *a* ($\mu\text{g/L}$) and microcystin ($\mu\text{g/L}$) values for nearshore and pelagic stations for June 2019. SFWMD classifies an algal bloom as having Chl *a* values >40 $\mu\text{g/L}$. Microcystin values <0.20 $\mu\text{g/L}$ are below the detection limit (BDL).

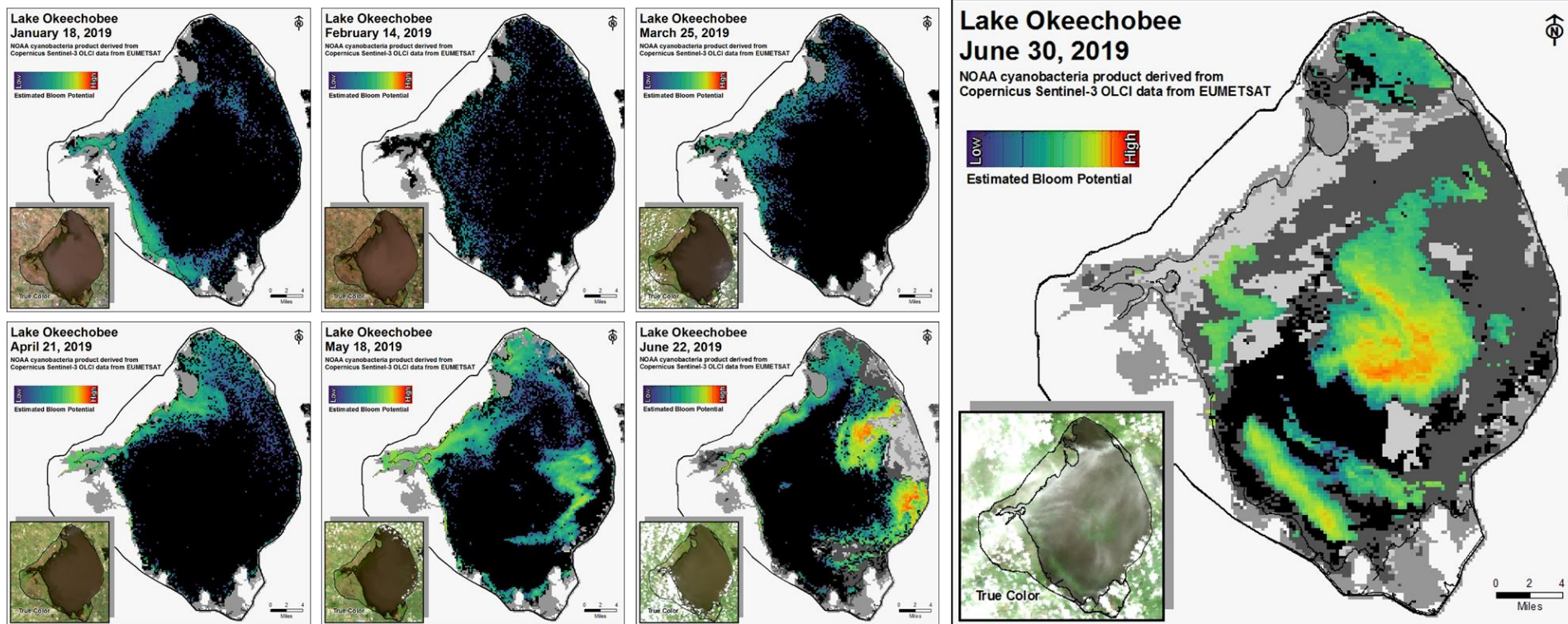


Figure 7. Potential for cyanobacterial blooms on Lake Okeechobee based on NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system derived from Copernicus Sentinel-3 OLCI data from EUMETSAT. Gray indicates cloud cover.

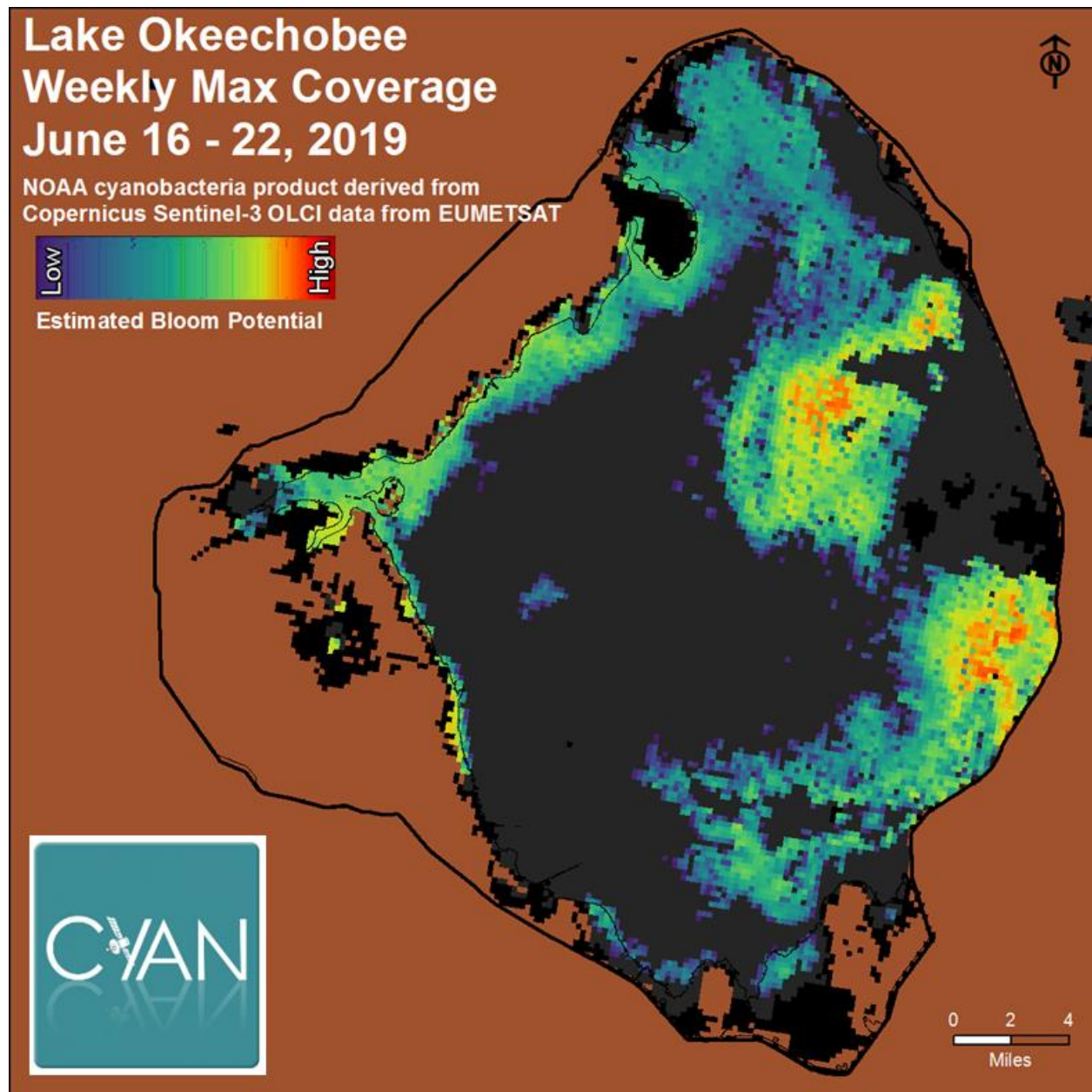


Figure 8. The weekly maximum coverage of cyanobacteria blooms on Lake Okeechobee. Modified from EPA's CyAN mobile application, which is based primarily on Copernicus Sentinel-3 OLCI data from EUMETSAT.
<https://www.epa.gov/water-research/cyanobacteria-assessment-network-mobile-application-cyan-app>

ESTUARIES

St. Lucie Estuary:

Last week total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged approximately 266 cfs (Figures 1 and 2) and last month inflow averaged about 543 cfs. Last week's provisional averaged inflows from the tidal basin and the structures are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Weekly average inflows (data are provisional).

Location	Flow (cfs)
Tidal Basin Inflow	198
S-80	0
S-308	0
S-49 on C-24	0
S-97 on C-23	0
Gordy Rd. structure on Ten Mile Creek	68

Over the past week, salinity increased throughout the estuary (Table 2, Figures 3 and 4). The seven-day moving average of the water column (an average of the surface and bottom salinity) at the US1 Bridge is estimated to be 20.7. Salinity conditions in the middle estuary are within the good range for adult eastern oysters (Figure 3).

Table 2. Seven-day average salinity at three monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary. Current average is in bold face type, previous average in parentheses. The envelope reflects the preferred salinity range for adult eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) in the middle estuary.

Sampling Site	Surface	Bottom	Envelope
HR1 (North Fork)	14.9 (11.2)	18.6 (15.9)	NA ¹
US1 Bridge	19.8 (17.1)	21.6 (19.1)	10.0-26.0
A1A Bridge	29.4 (25.7)	30.3 (28.4)	NA ¹

¹Envelope not applicable.

Caloosahatchee Estuary:

Last week total inflow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged approximately 1,228 cfs (Figures 5 and 6) and last month inflow averaged about 1,943 cfs. Last week's provisional averaged inflows from the structures are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Weekly average inflows (data is provisional).

Location	Flow (cfs)
S-77	162
S-78	228
S-79	1,064
Tidal Basin Inflow	164

Over the past week, salinity remained about the same throughout the estuary (Table 4, Figures 7 & 8). The seven-day average salinity values are estimated to be within the good range for adult eastern oysters at Shell Point and Sanibel and most likely in the fair range at Cape Coral (Figure 9). The 30-day moving average surface salinity is 1.5 at Val I-75 and 5.2 at Ft. Myers. Salinity conditions between Val I-75 and Ft. Myers are good for tape grass.

Table 4. Seven-day average salinity at six monitoring stations in the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Current average is in bold face type, previous average in parentheses. The envelope reflects the preferred salinity range for tape grass (*Vallisneria americana*) at Val I-75 and for adult eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) elsewhere.

Sampling Site	Surface	Bottom	Envelope
S-79 (Franklin Lock)	0.2 (0.2)	0.2 (0.2)	NA ¹
Val I75	0.3 (0.3)	0.3 (0.3)	0.0-5.0 ²
Ft. Myers Yacht Basin	1.9 (1.4)	2.6 (2.4)	NA
Cape Coral	8.7 (9.0)	11.5 (10.8)	10.0-30.0
Shell Point	EM ³ (22.7)	EM (24.9)	10.0-30.0
Sanibel	EM (29.4)	EM (EM)	10.0-30.0

¹Envelope not applicable, ²Envelope is based on a 30-day average, and ³Equipment Malfunction.

Forecast of surface salinity (Table 5 and Figure 10) at Val I-75 for the next two weeks using the autoregression model (Qiu and Wan, 2013) coupled with a linear reservoir model for the tidal basin predicts daily salinity ranging from 0.6 to 2.7 at the end of the next two weeks for pulse release at S-79 ranging from 0 to 800 cfs and Tidal Basin inflows of 145 cfs.

Table 5. Predicted salinity at Val I-75 at the end of forecast period

Scenario	Q79 (cfs)	TB runoff (cfs)	Daily salinity	30 day mean
A	0	145	2.7	0.6
B	300	145	1.8	0.5
C	450	145	1.3	0.4
D	650	145	0.9	0.3
E	800	145	0.6	0.3

Red tide

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute reported on June 28, 2019, that *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide dinoflagellate, not observed in samples collected from or offshore of Lee, St. Lucie, Martin, or Palm Beach counties (no samples from Broward or Miami-Dade counties).

Water Management Recommendations

Lake stage is in the Beneficial Use sub-band of 2008 LORS. Tributary hydrological conditions are normal. The 2008 LORS recommends no release at S-79 and S-80. Given the current estuarine conditions, there are no ecological benefits to the upper estuary associated with freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee, but some benefits may accrue to areas further downstream.

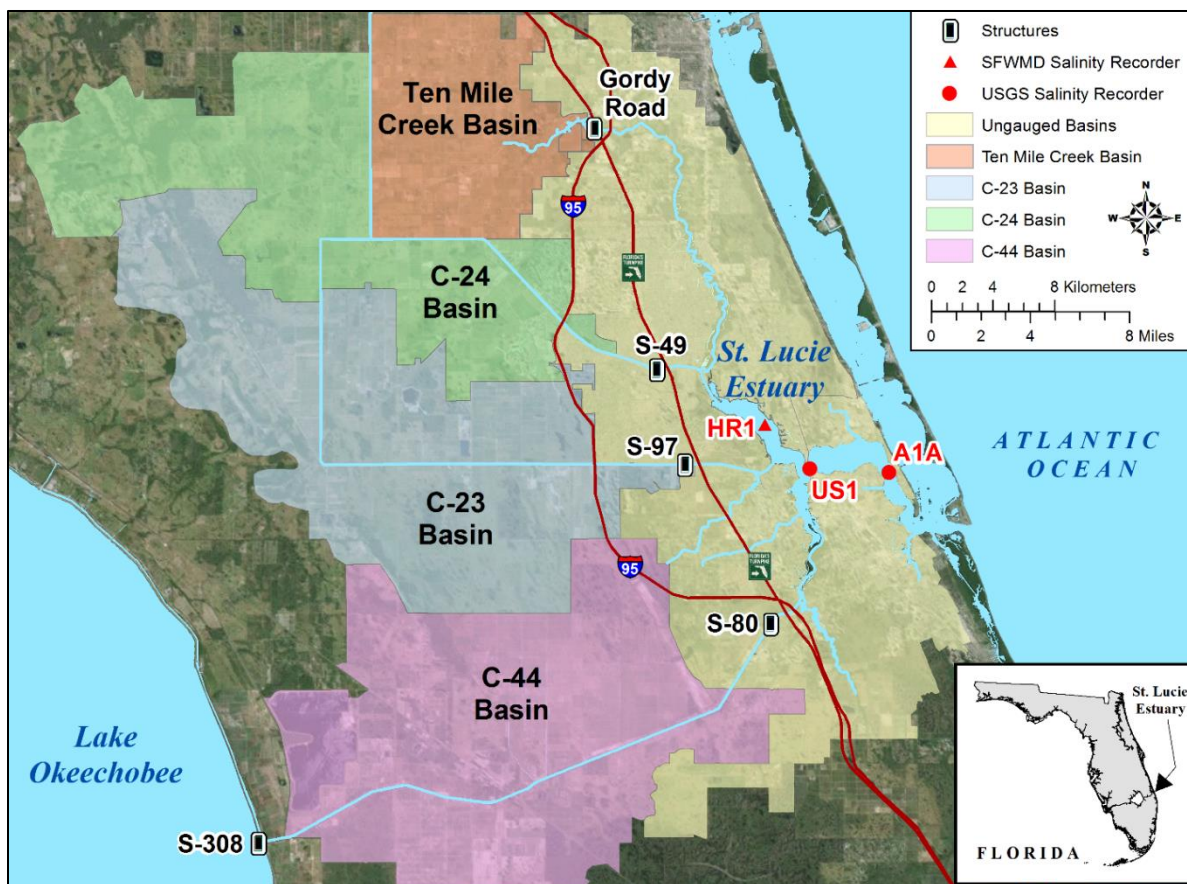


Figure 1. Basins, water control structures, and salinity monitoring for the St. Lucie Estuary.

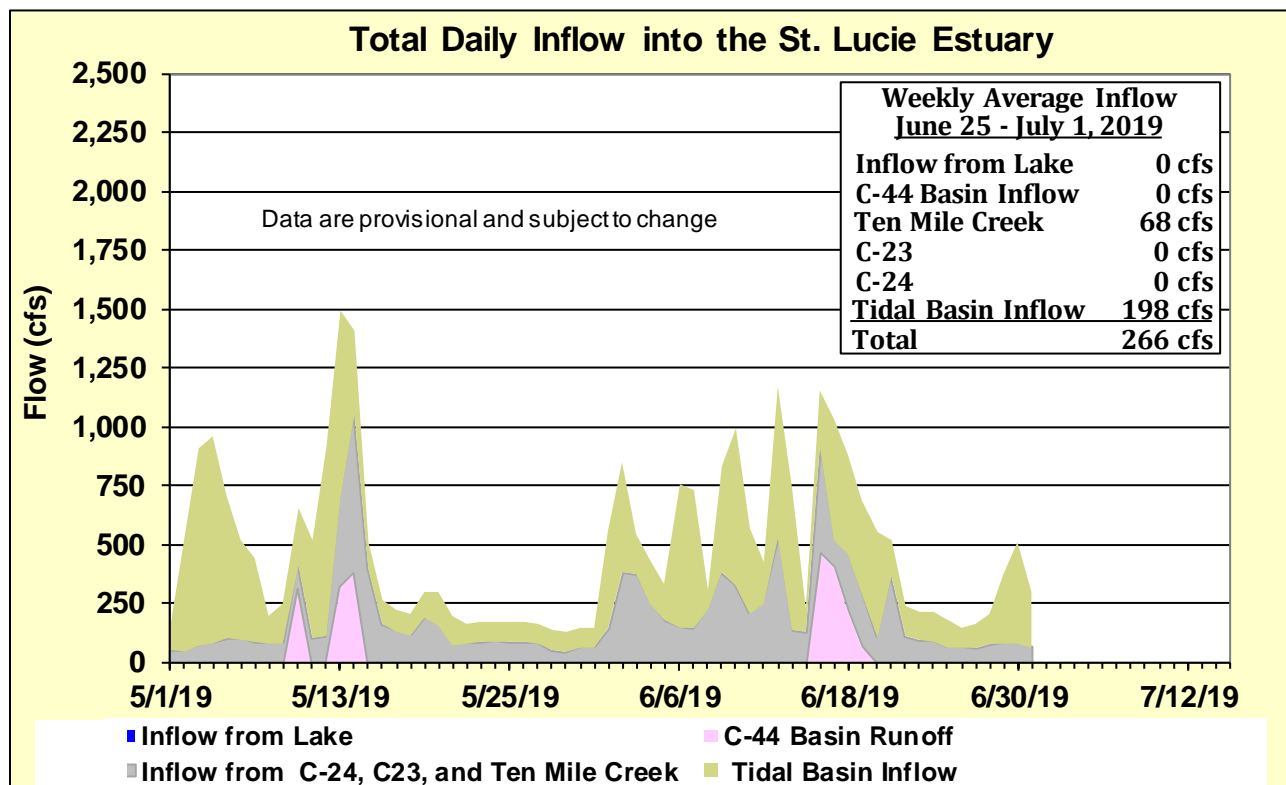


Figure 2. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-44, C-23, C-24, Ten Mile Creek, and tidal basins into the St. Lucie Estuary.

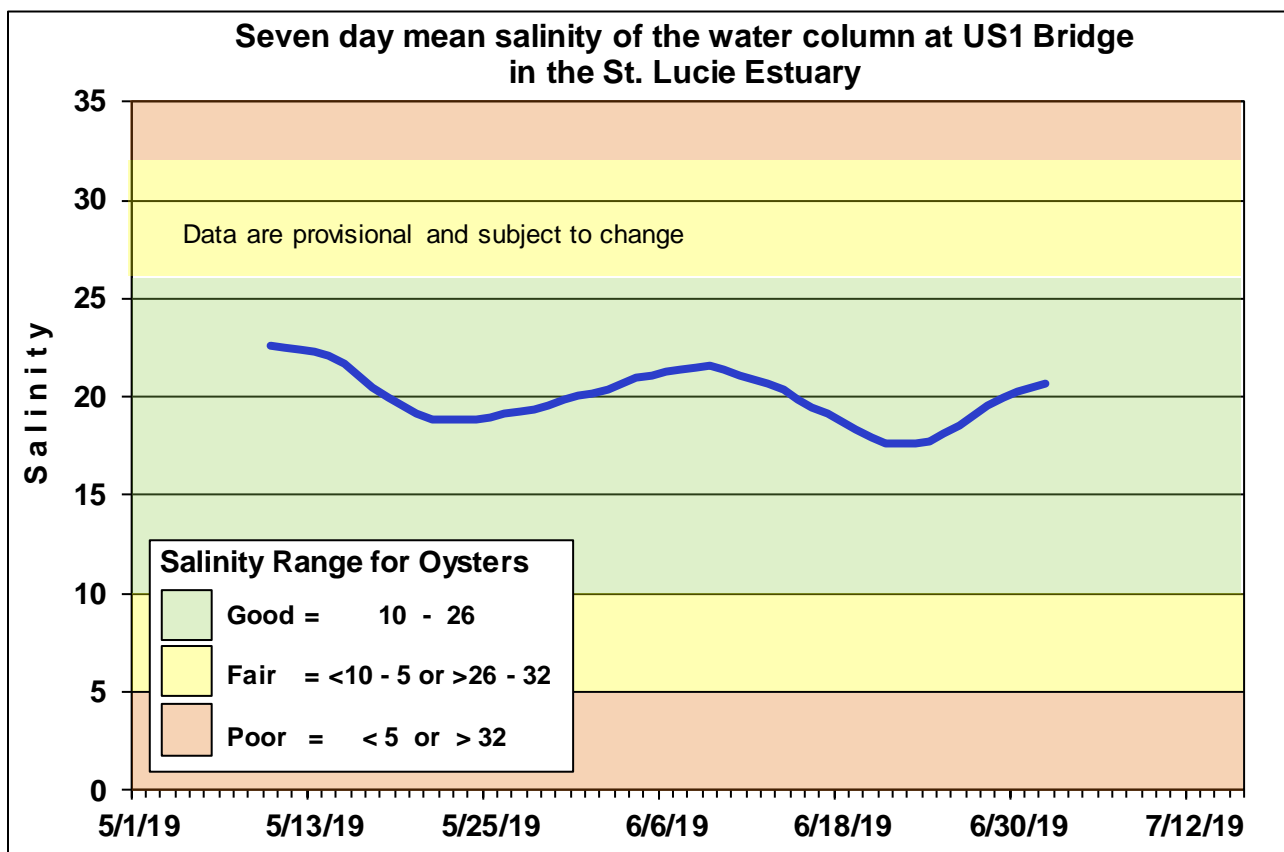


Figure 3. Seven-day mean salinity of the water column at the US1 Bridge.

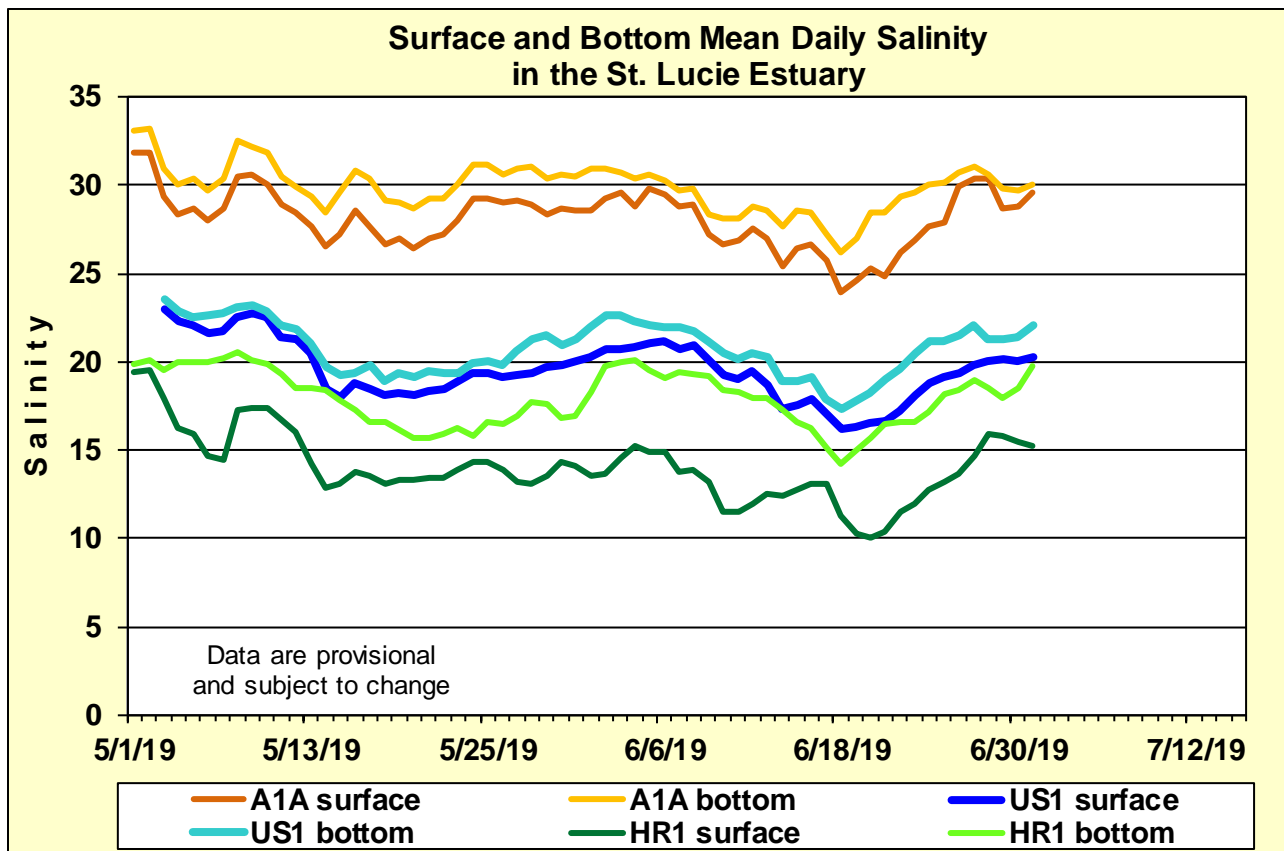


Figure 4. Daily mean salinity at the A1A, US1 and estimated HR1 stations.

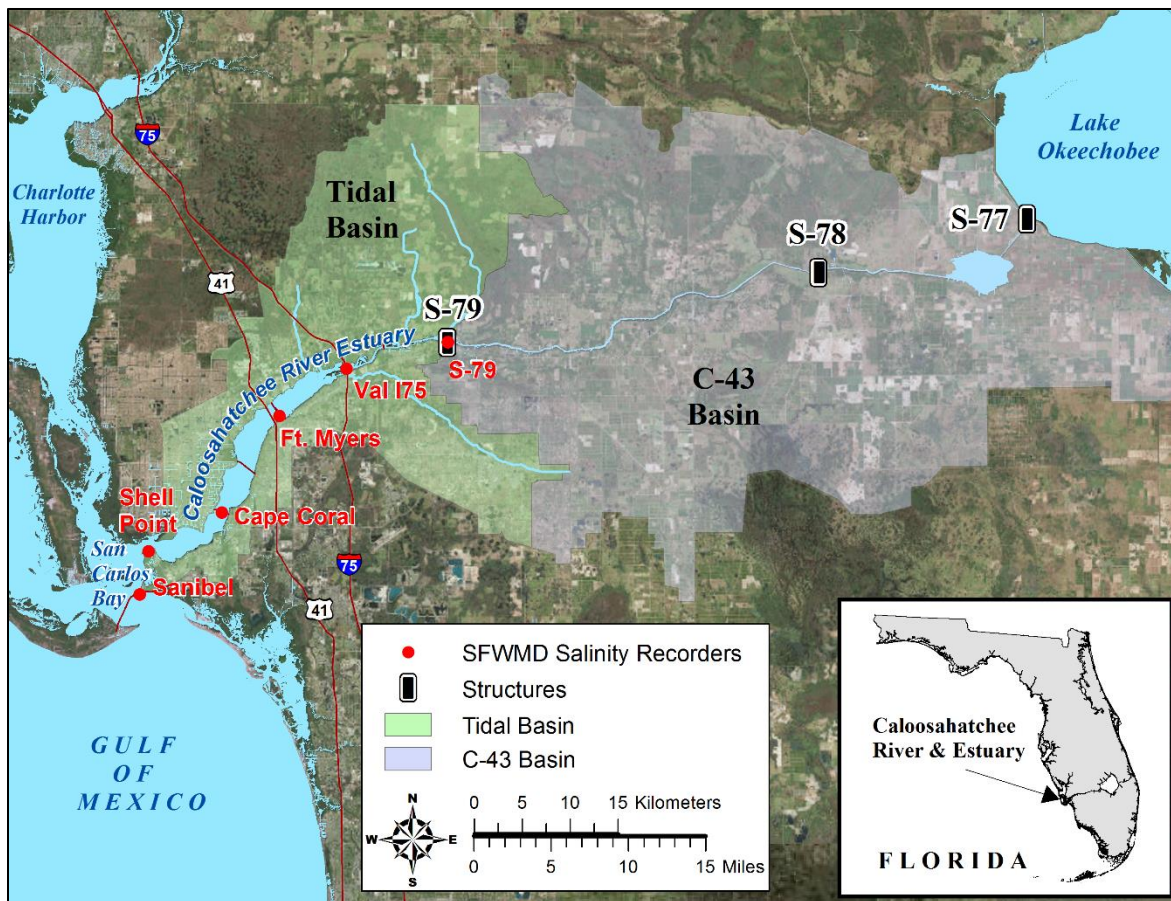


Figure 5. Basins, water control structures, and salinity monitoring for the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

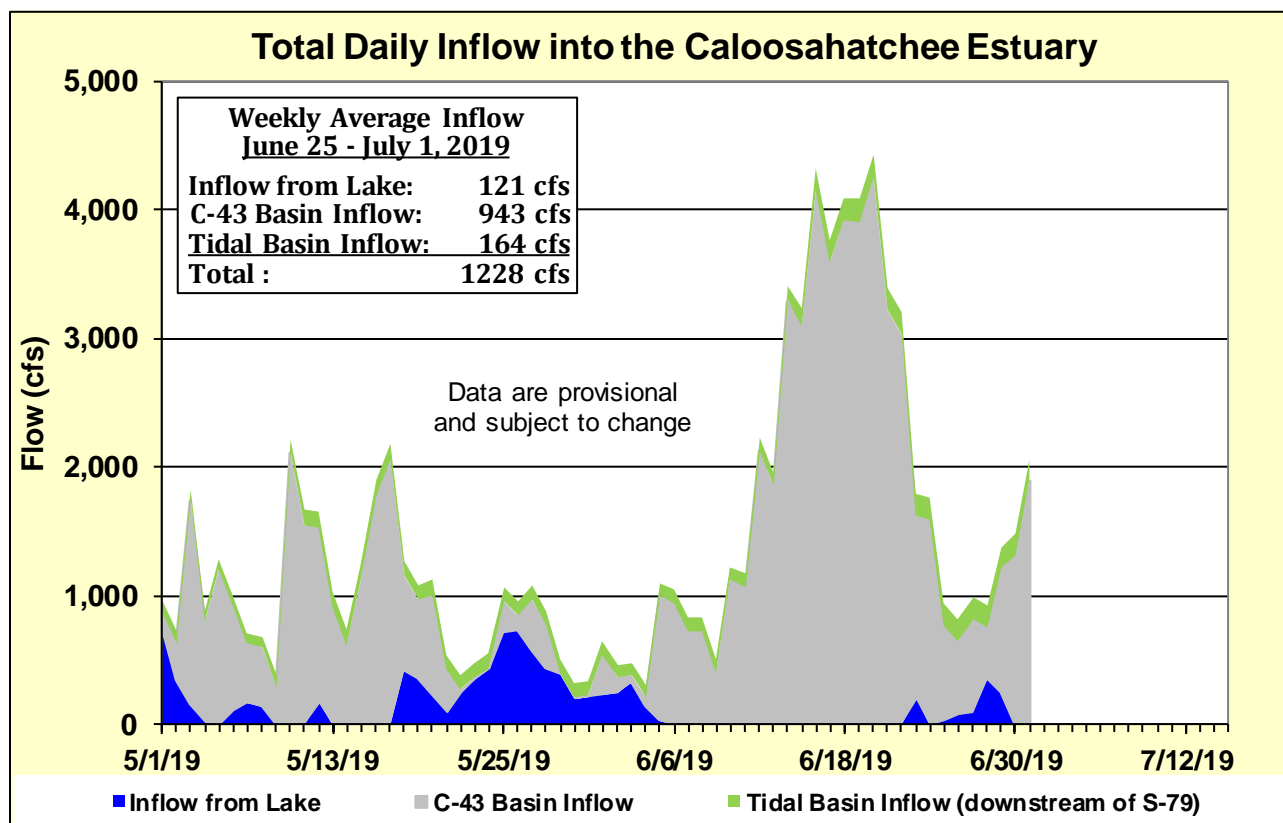


Figure 6. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee, runoff from the C-43 basin, and tributaries in the tidal basin into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

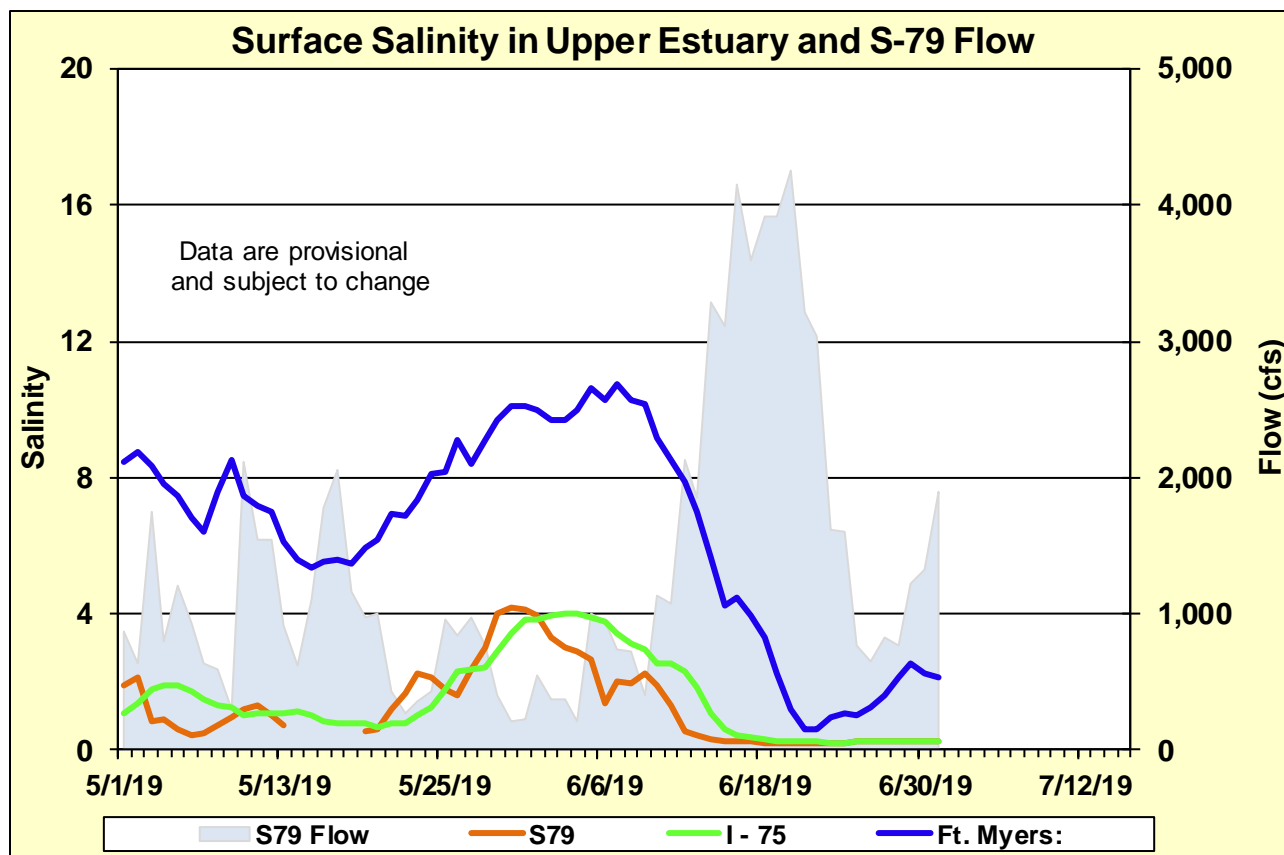


Figure 7. Daily mean flows at S-79 and salinity at upper estuary monitoring stations.

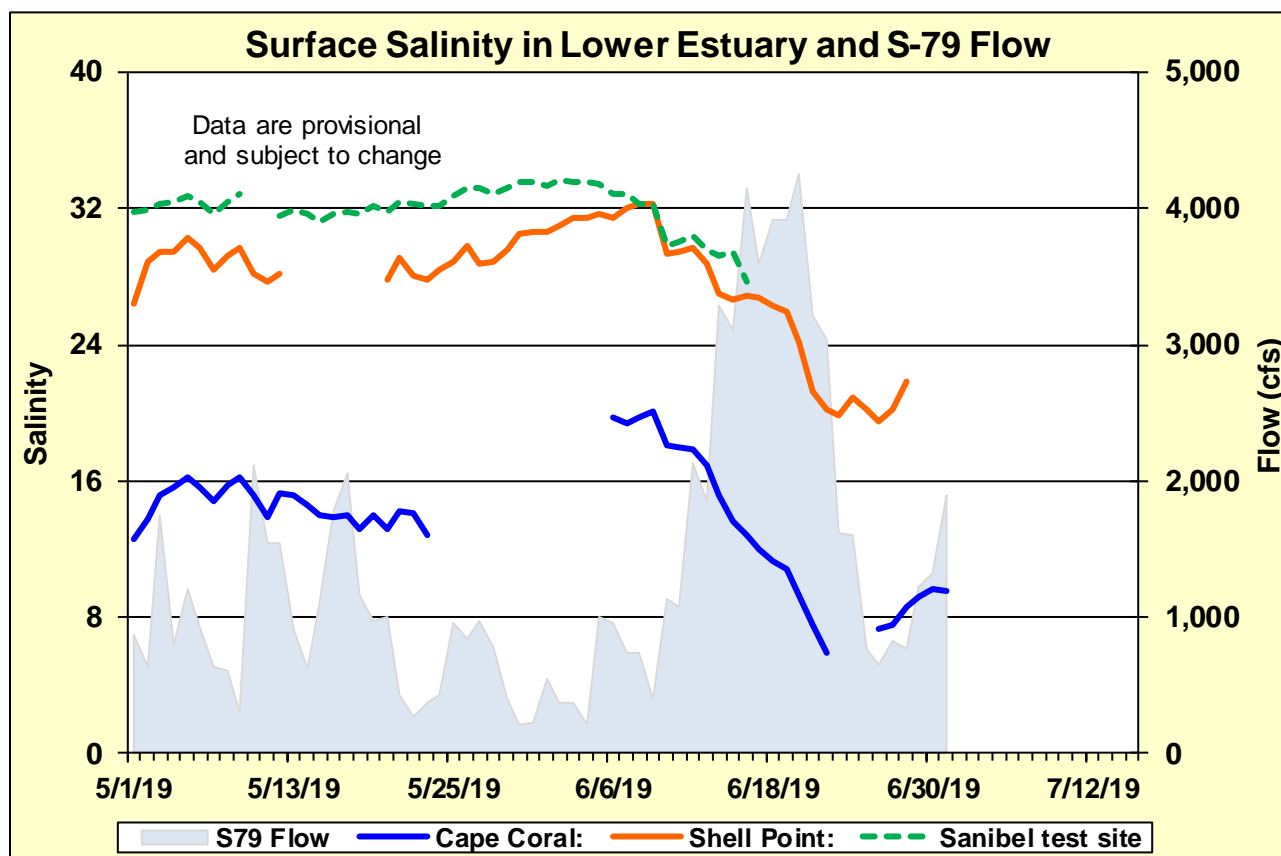


Figure 8. Daily mean flows at S-79 and salinity at lower estuary stations.

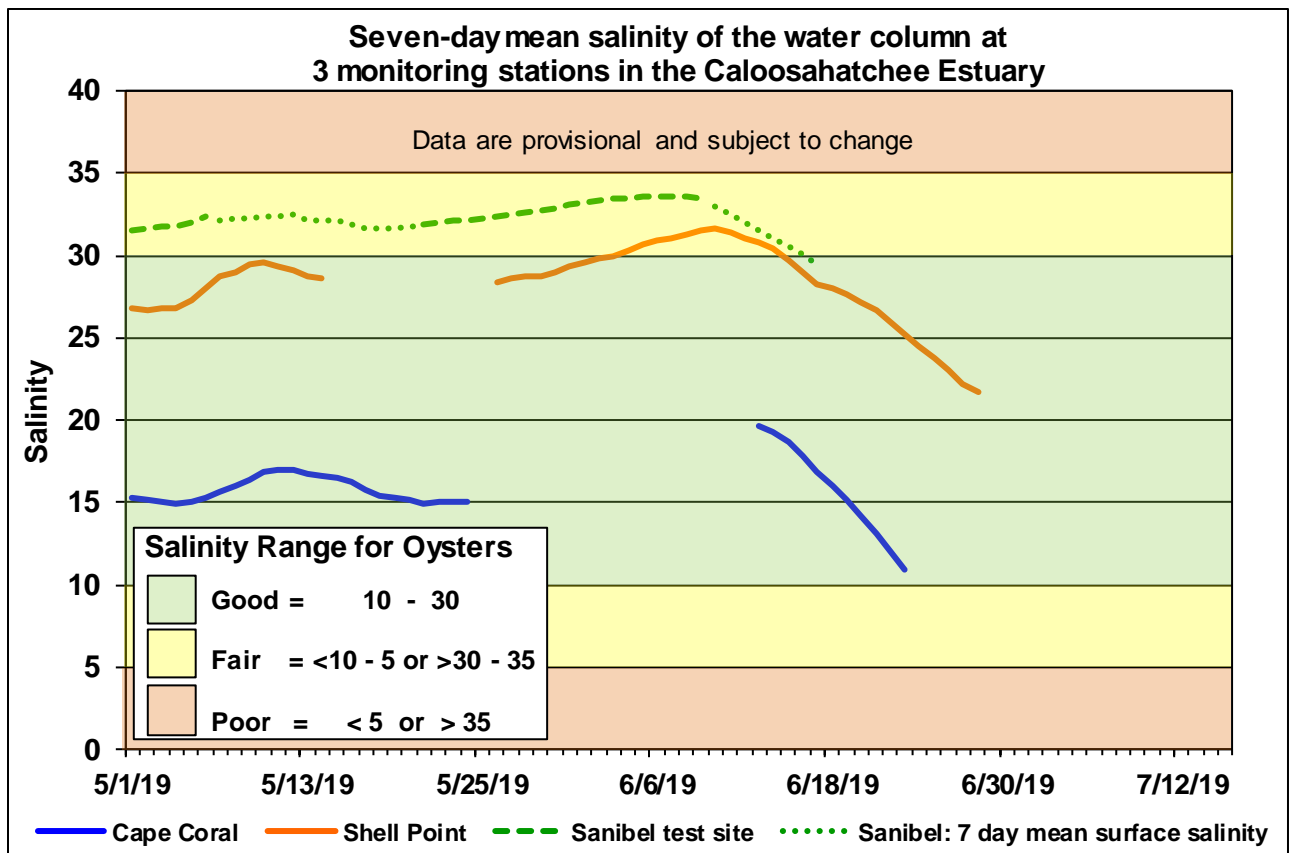


Figure 9. Seven-day mean salinity at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel monitoring stations.

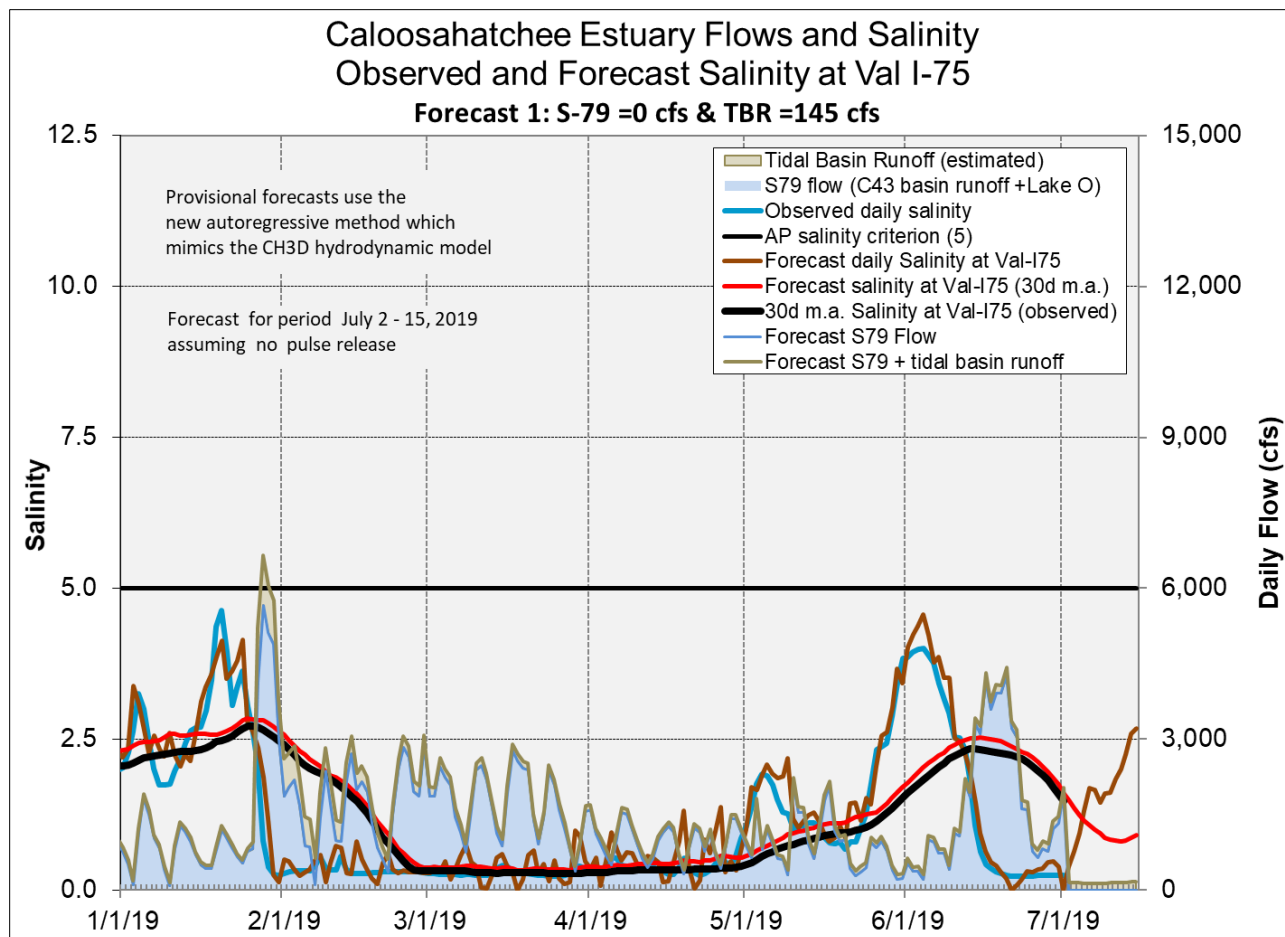
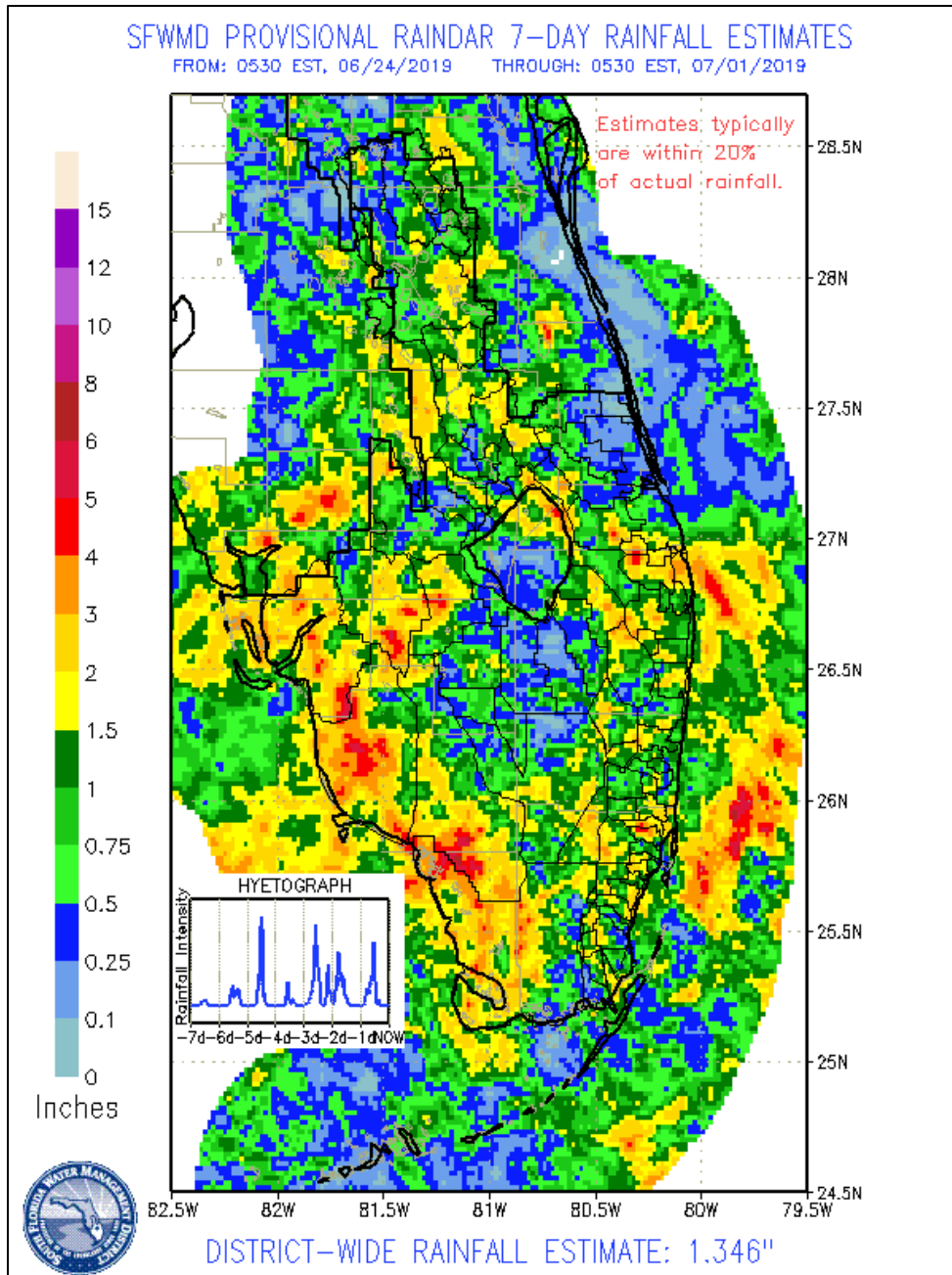


Figure 10. Forecasted Val I-75 surface salinity assuming no pulse release at S-79.

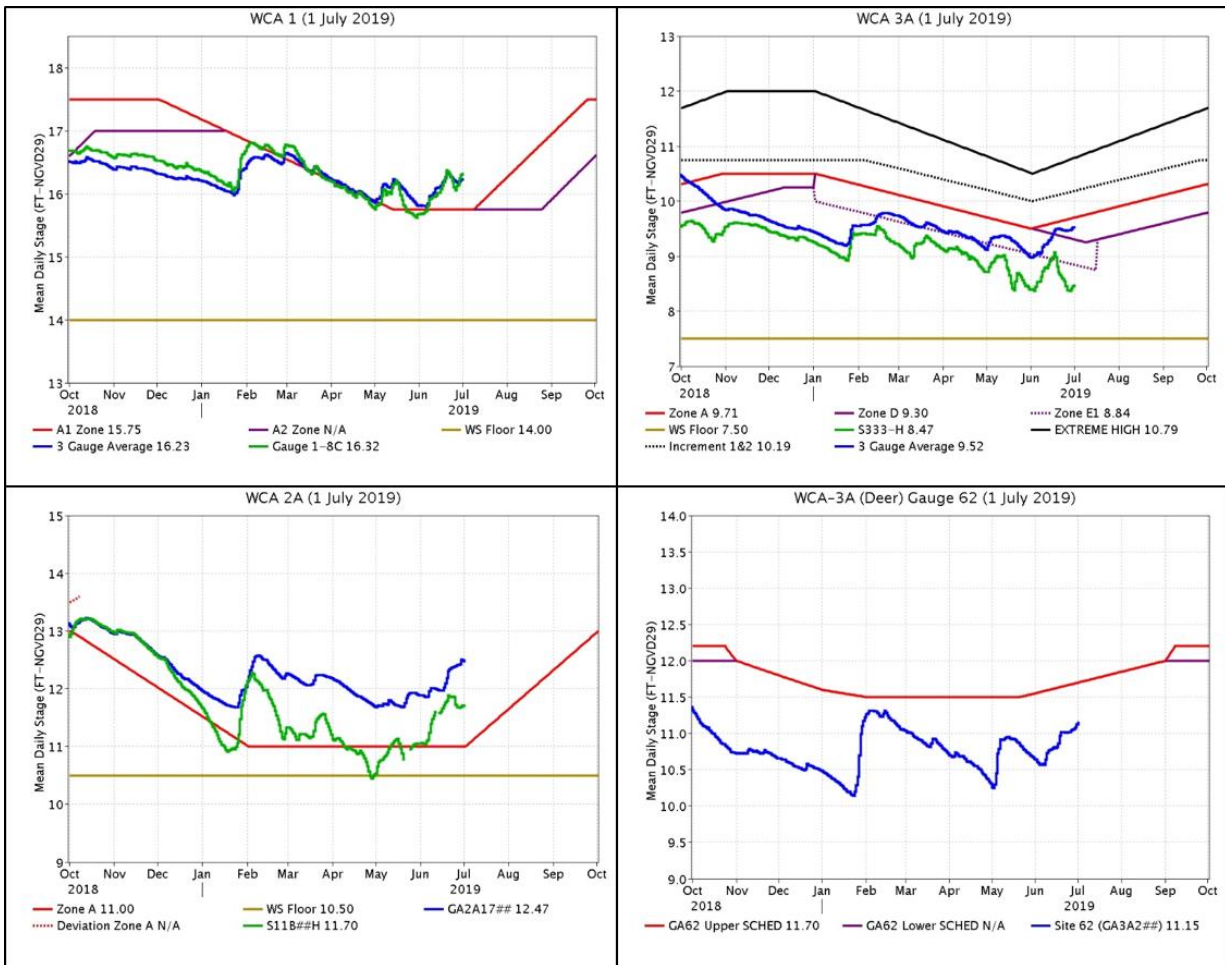
EVERGLADES

At the gauges monitored for this report, the stages in the Everglades increased on average 0.08 feet this past week. Individual gauge changes ranged from -0.04 feet (WCA-1) to +0.20 feet (ENP NESRS). Pan evaporation was estimated at 2.06 inches this week.

Everglades Region	Rainfall (Inches)	Stage Change (feet)
WCA-1	1.26	-0.03
WCA-2A	1.34	+0.10
WCA-2B	1.44	+0.09
WCA-3A	0.96	+0.08
WCA-3B	1.74	+0.05
ENP	1.91	+0.20



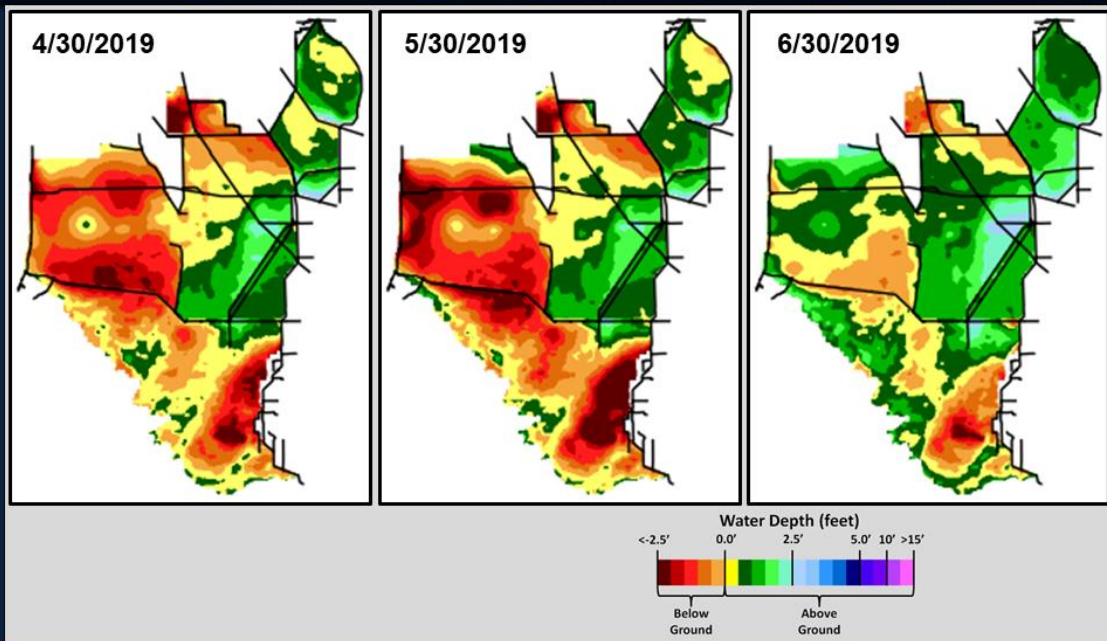
Regulation Schedules: WCA1: Gauge 1-8C, increasing away from the Zone A1 line, is currently 0.57 feet above the regulation line. WCA2A: S11B Headwater stage was just above the Zone A regulation line a month ago and is now 0.70 feet above the regulation line. Gauge 2-17 increased 0.1 feet over the last week which is below the recommended maximum of 0.25 feet per week. WCA-3A: The three-gauge average remains above the Zone D line this week and is 0.22 feet above that line and rising towards the Zone A line. WCA-3A at gauge 62 (Northwest corner) remains below schedule at 0.55 feet below the Upper Schedule.



Water Depths and Changes: The WDAT tool for spatial interpolation of depth monthly snapshots indicates stages in northeastern WCA-3A North have been increasing slowly but remain near ground level. Conditions in WCA-1 look typical for this time of year as ponding depths are reached in the southern end of that basin. WCA-2A depths look typical to wet and stages are above ground throughout. Stages in WCA-3A South are building along the northern reach of the L-67 levees. WDAT difference maps show that depths have increased over the last month all over the Everglades Protection Area. However, conditions are mostly drier than last year at this time when the area was under a high-water emergency order for conditions in WCA-3A



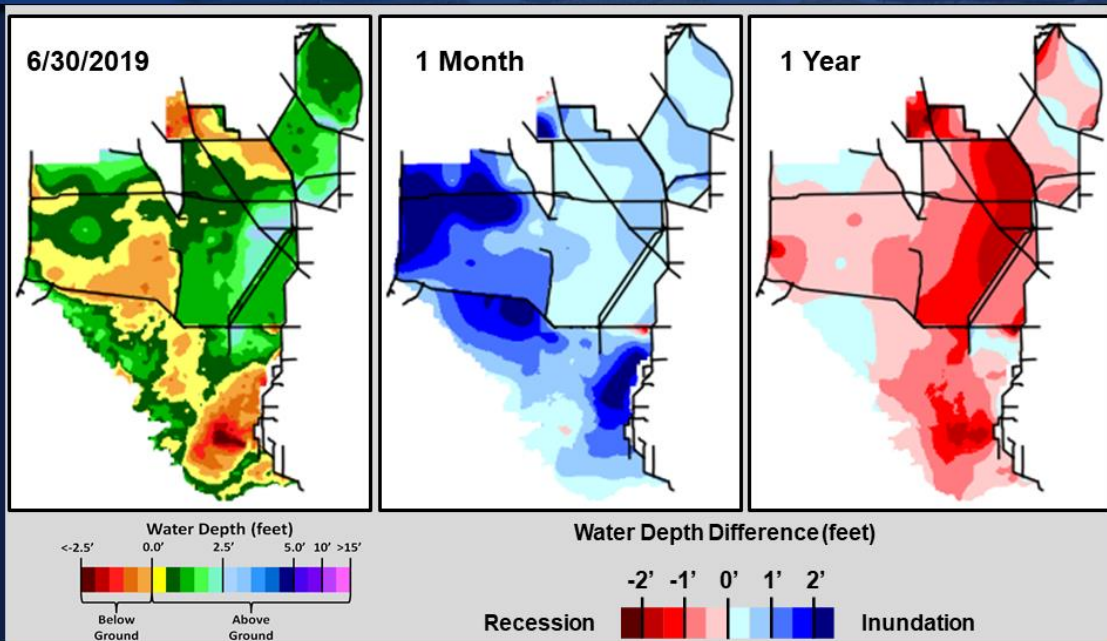
SFWDAT Water Depth Monthly Snapshots



South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT)



SFWDAT Everglades Difference Maps (Present – Past)

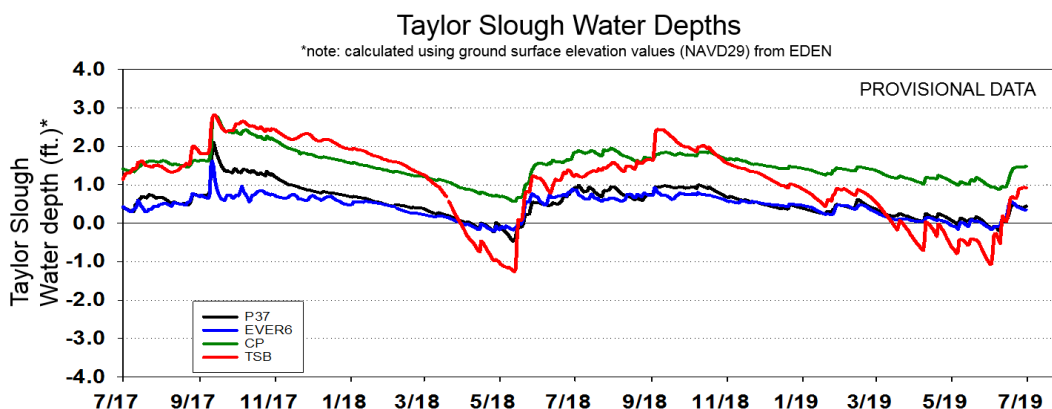
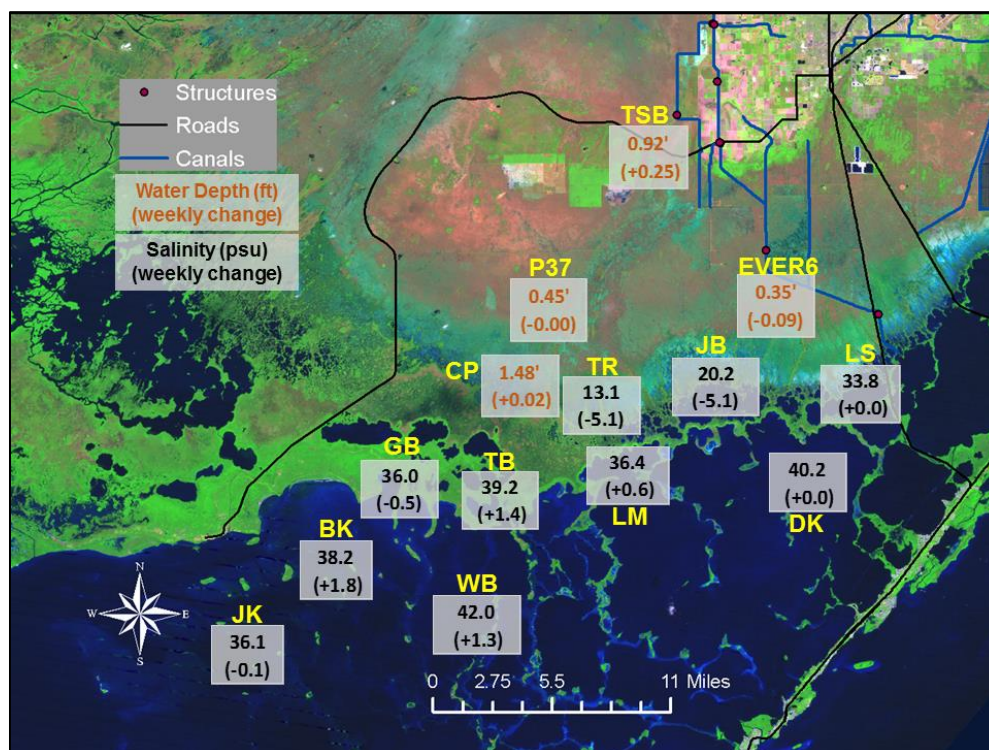


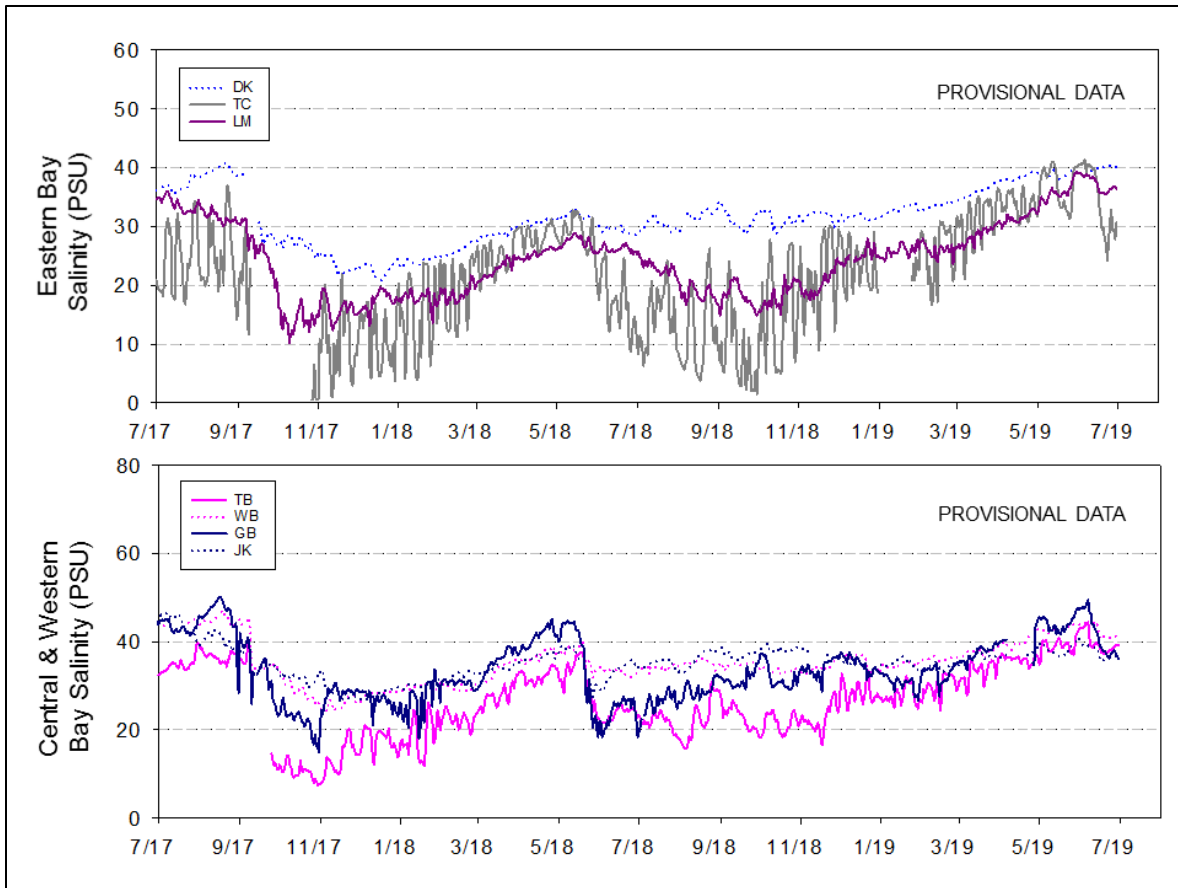
South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT)

Wading Bird Update: The nesting season appears to be coming to a close as stages rise within the Everglades Protection Area. The District's last survey flight for this breeding season in the Everglades will be July 3, 2019.

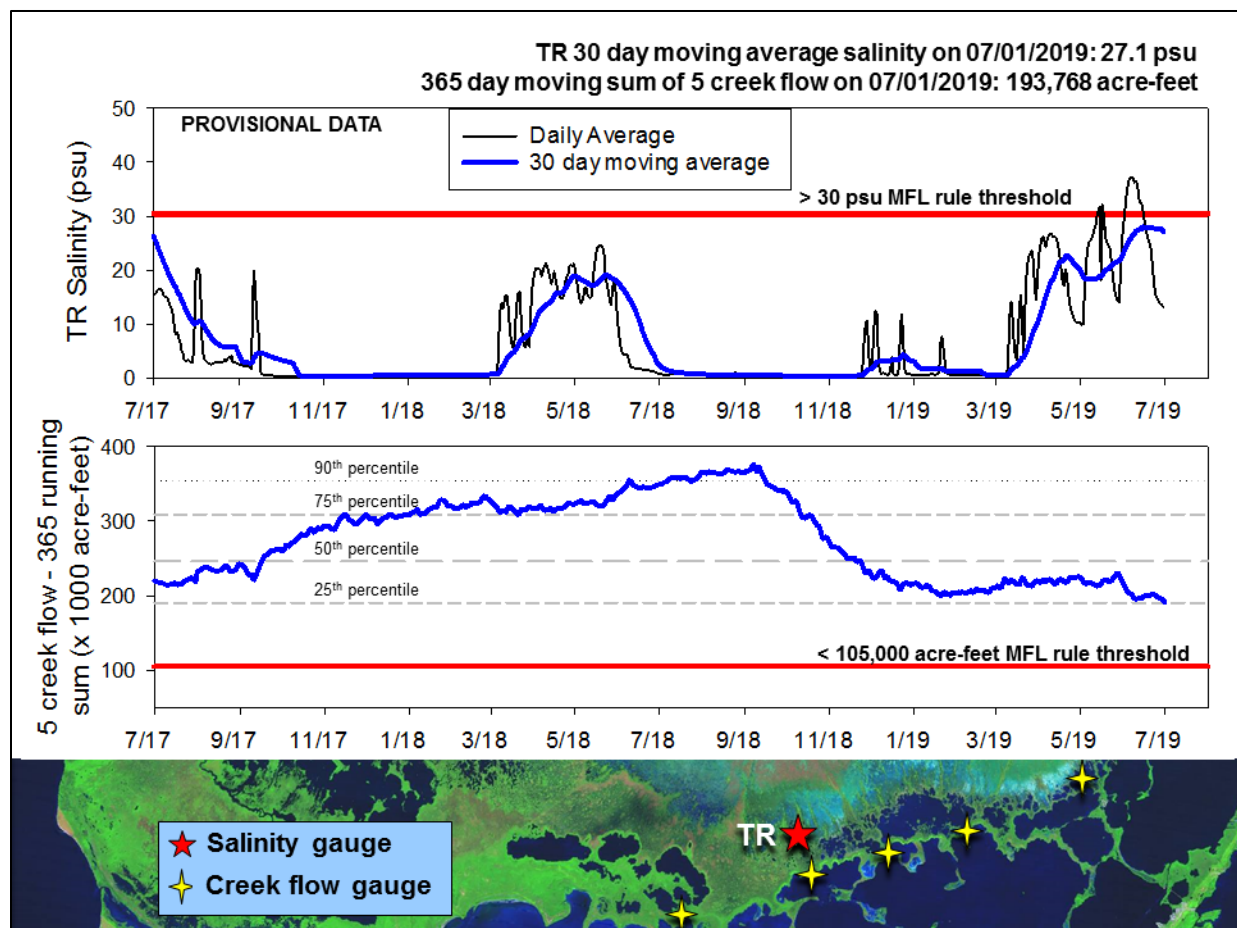
Taylor Slough Water Levels: An average of 0.56 inches of rain fell over Taylor Slough and the ENP panhandle. Stages increased only 0.04 feet on average, but northern Taylor Slough increased 0.25 feet over the week. Stages are 1 inch higher than average for this time of year, and water movements are being restricted by Sparrow season and water quality.

Florida Bay Salinities: Average salinity in Florida Bay stayed at 36 psu similar to last week. While still averaging 4 psu higher than historical averages for this time of year, salinities should continue to decrease with continued rain and water movement. Salinity in the nearshore area, which is currently in the 20-39 psu range, needs to decrease to near 25 psu to prevent additional stress to the system.





Florida Bay MFL: Salinity at the TR station in the mangrove zone (tracked for the Florida Bay MFL) continued to decrease this past week ending at 13 psu. The 30-day moving average decreased 0.7 to end the week at 27.1 psu. The weekly flow from the 5 creeks feeding Florida Bay was only 655 acre-feet which is much lower than the historical average of 7,000 acre-feet expected at this time of year. The 365-day moving sum of flow from the five creeks (tracked as part of the Florida Bay MFL criteria) decreased to 193,768 which is less than the long-term average of 257,628 acre-feet but slightly above the 25th percentile (190,165 acre-feet). Creek flow is provisional data from the USGS and is highly variable.



Water Management Recommendations

Moderating accretion rates in WCA-1, WCA-2A and WCA-3A South would have ecological benefit as wading birds are nesting in those basins. A rate of accretion less than 0.25 feet per week or less than 0.5 feet per 2 weeks is the general ecological recommendation. Moving water towards Taylor Slough and Florida Bay will freshen salinity conditions within the nearshore areas of Florida Bay and decrease the currently stressful conditions for seagrasses and fauna. More specific recommendations appear in the summary table below. The red text represents new or modified information or recommendations.

SFWMD Everglades Ecological Recommendations, July 2nd, 2019 (red is new)

Area	Weekly change	Recommendation	Reasons
WCA-1	Stage decreased by 0.03'	Manage for a rate of ascension less than +0.25' per week, or less than +0.5 per 2 weeks.	Protect tree islands, upstream/downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-2A	Stage increased by 0.10'	Manage for a rate of ascension less than +0.25' per week, or less than +0.5 per 2 weeks.	Protect tree islands, upstream/downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-2B	Stage increased by 0.09'	Maintain depths at regulation schedule.	Protect upstream/downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NE	Stage increased by 0.19'	Maintain depths at regulation schedule.	Protect habitat including peat soil development and wildlife.
WCA-3A NW	Stage increased by 0.12'	Maintain depths at regulation schedule.	
Central WCA-3A S	Stage increased by 0.03'	Maintain depths at regulation schedule. Manage for a rate of ascension less than +0.25' per week, or less than +0.5 per 2 weeks.	Protect tree islands, upstream/downstream habitat and wildlife. Protect conditions for snail kite nesting.
Southern WCA-3A S	Stage decreased by 0.03'		
WCA-3B	Stage increased by 0.05'	Manage for a rate of ascension less than +0.25' per week, or less than +0.5 per 2 weeks.	Protect upstream/downstream habitat and wildlife.
ENP-SRS	Stage increased by 0.20'	Make discharges to the Park according to the 2012 WCP rainfall plan.	Protect upstream/downstream habitat and wildlife.
Taylor Slough	Stage changes ranged from -0.09' to +0.24'	Move water southward as possible	When available, provide freshwater buffer for downstream conditions. Decrease potential for high phosphorus input to ENP.
FB- Salinity	Salinity changes ranged -5.8 to +1.8 psu.	Move water southward as possible	When available, provide freshwater to maintain low salinity buffer and promote water movement.