



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

MEDIA ADVISORY

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CONTACT:

Missie Barletto

[Okeechobee Service Center](#)

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (863) 462-5260, ext. 3006 or Cellular: (863) 634-0774

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Three Navigation Locks on Lake Okeechobee to Close for Repairs *Eight-month overhaul planned for Henry Creek, J&S Fish Camp and Lakeport locks*

Okeechobee, FL – The G-36, S-135 and S-131 navigation locks on Lake Okeechobee at Henry Creek, J&S Fish Camp and Lakeport are being taken out of service for major overhauls that could take up to eight months. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is completely refurbishing the locks, including repairs to the hydraulic lift mechanisms on the navigation lock gates.

The S-131 navigation lock at Lakeport was taken out of service earlier this week. Work on the G-36 lock at Henry Creek and the S-135 lock at J&S Fish Camp will begin at later dates. Refurbishment of all three locks is scheduled to be completed by late December 2010.

The South Florida Water Management District appreciates the public's patience during these activities. For more information about the lock closures or general information about the District, please contact the Okeechobee Service Center at (863) 462-5260.

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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.