



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

August 8, 2014

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### **Henry Creek Lock to Receive Updated Manatee Protection System**

*The navigation lock is scheduled to reopen to boat traffic August 22*



**Okeechobee, FL** – The Henry Creek Navigation Lock, or G-36, on the north shore of Lake Okeechobee is scheduled to close to boat traffic beginning August 11 to install an upgraded manatee protection system.

As one of the first of 19 SFWMD gates and locks to receive the unique system in the 1990s to protect this endangered and iconic Florida species, it was time to replace parts at the end of their useful life.

Developed by Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University, the system uses sensors at the bottom of the lock that prevent gates from closing when a manatee is present.

Work is scheduled to be complete and the lock reopened to boaters by Friday, August 22.

For information about the lock and manatee protection system, please contact Gary Ritter at (863) 462-5260, ext. 3017, or [gitter@sfwmd.gov](mailto:gitter@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.*