

# Extended Hydrologic Outlook

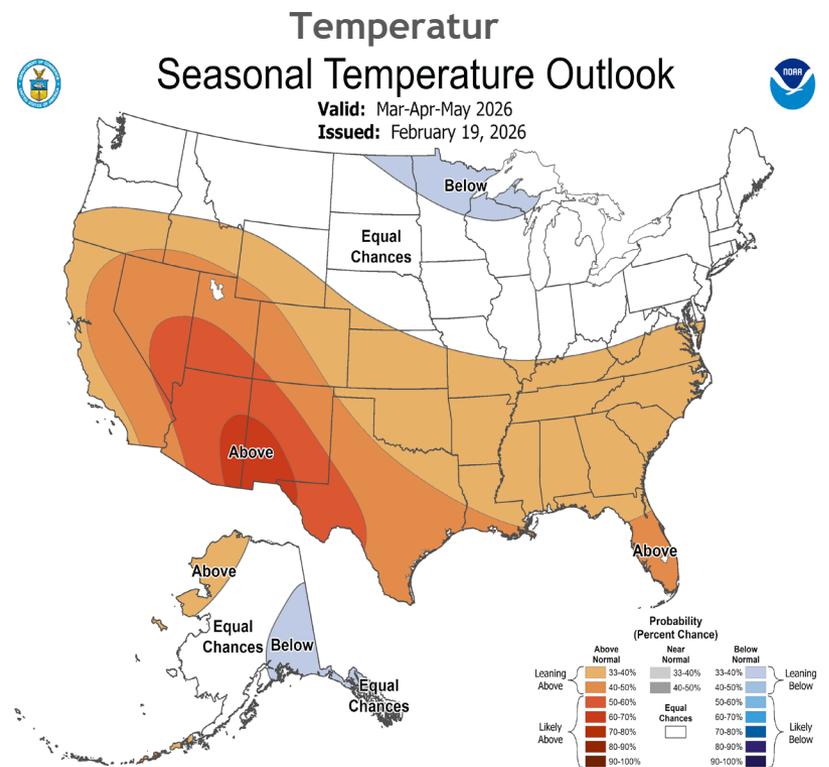
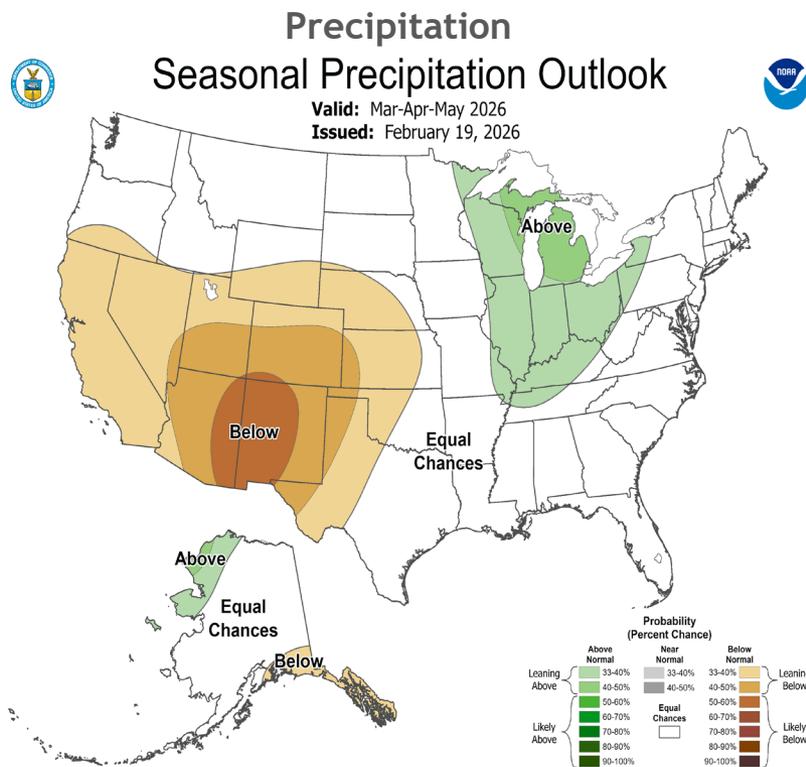
March 9, 2026

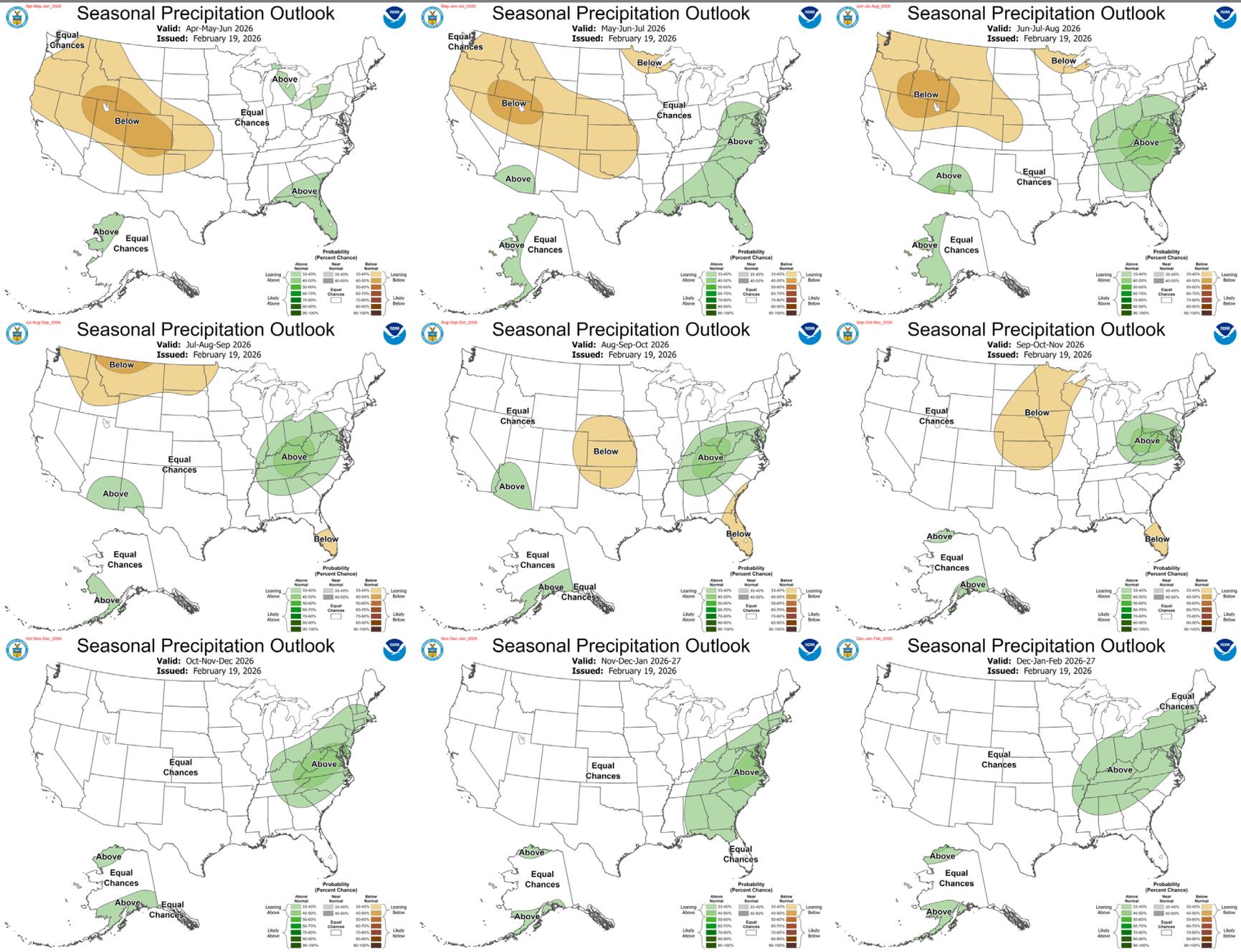
- The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is forecasting equal chances of above normal, normal or below normal rainfall for March through May.
- La Niña is present, a transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral is expected in February-April 2026 (60% chance), with ENSO-neutral likely persisting through the summer (56% chance in June-August 2026).
- Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO) is currently in the warm phase:
  - Average annual inflow to Lake Okeechobee is nearly 50% greater during the warm phase compared to the cold phase.

# U. S. Seasonal Outlooks

March - May 2026

The seasonal outlooks combine the effects of long-term trends, soil moisture, and, when appropriate, ENSO.





# Teleconnections to South Florida

Climate anomalies being related to each other at large distances:

## El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

- El Niño increases the chances of a wetter-than-normal dry season and decreased tropical activity, La Niña increases the chances of a drier-than-normal dry season and increased tropical activity (both have most influence in south Florida from November through March)

## Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)

- Increases variations in south Florida dry season rainfall, positive leads to more El Niño events, negative leads to more La Niña events
- The current PDO is negative

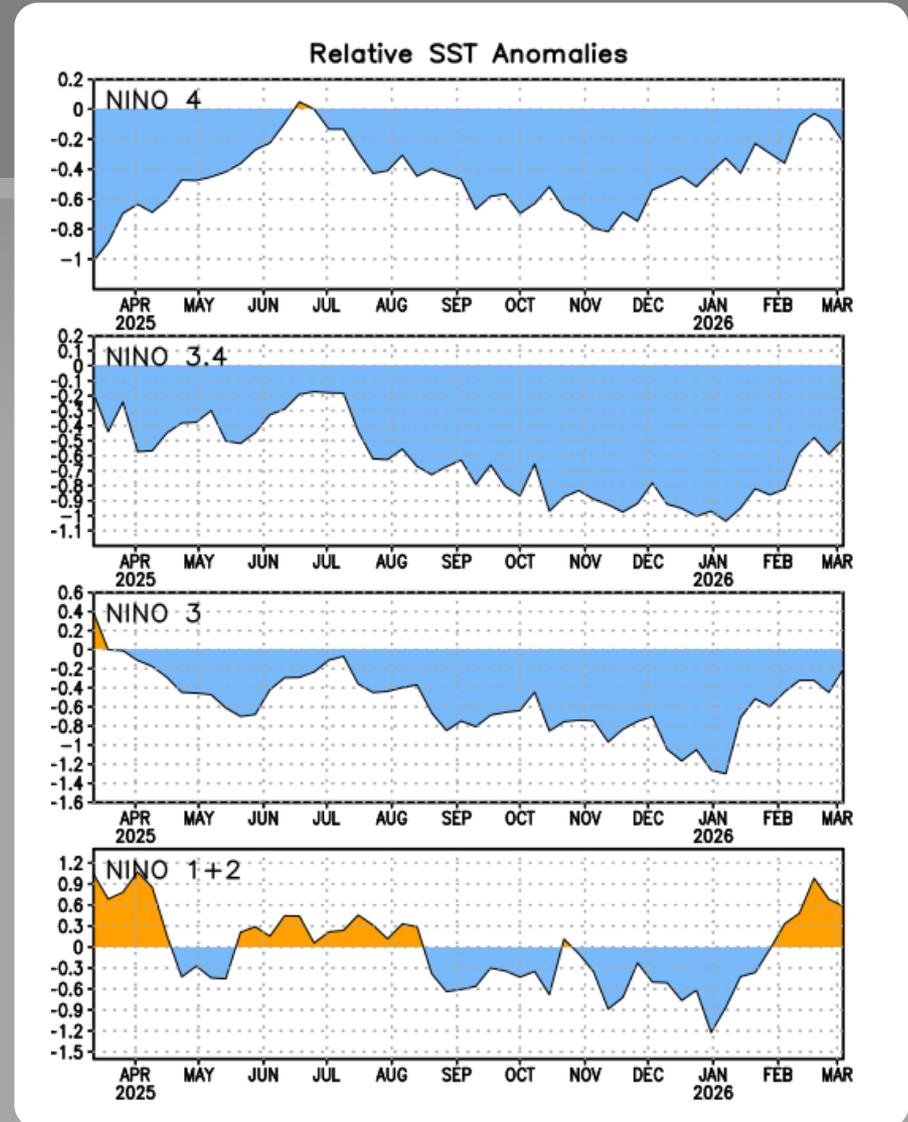
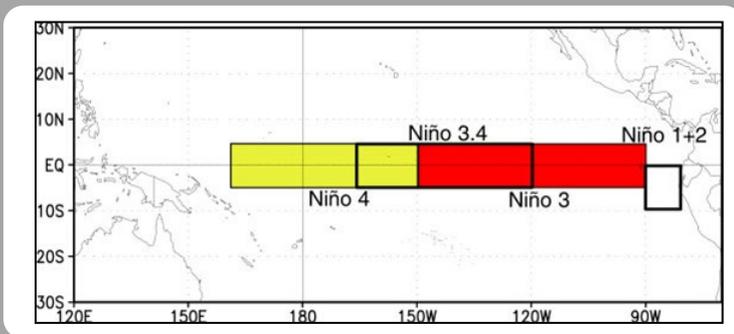
## Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO)

- Average annual inflow to Lake Okeechobee is nearly 50% greater during the warm phase compared to the cold phase of the AMO, easterly flow toward south Florida affected by phase
- The AMO is currently in the warm phase

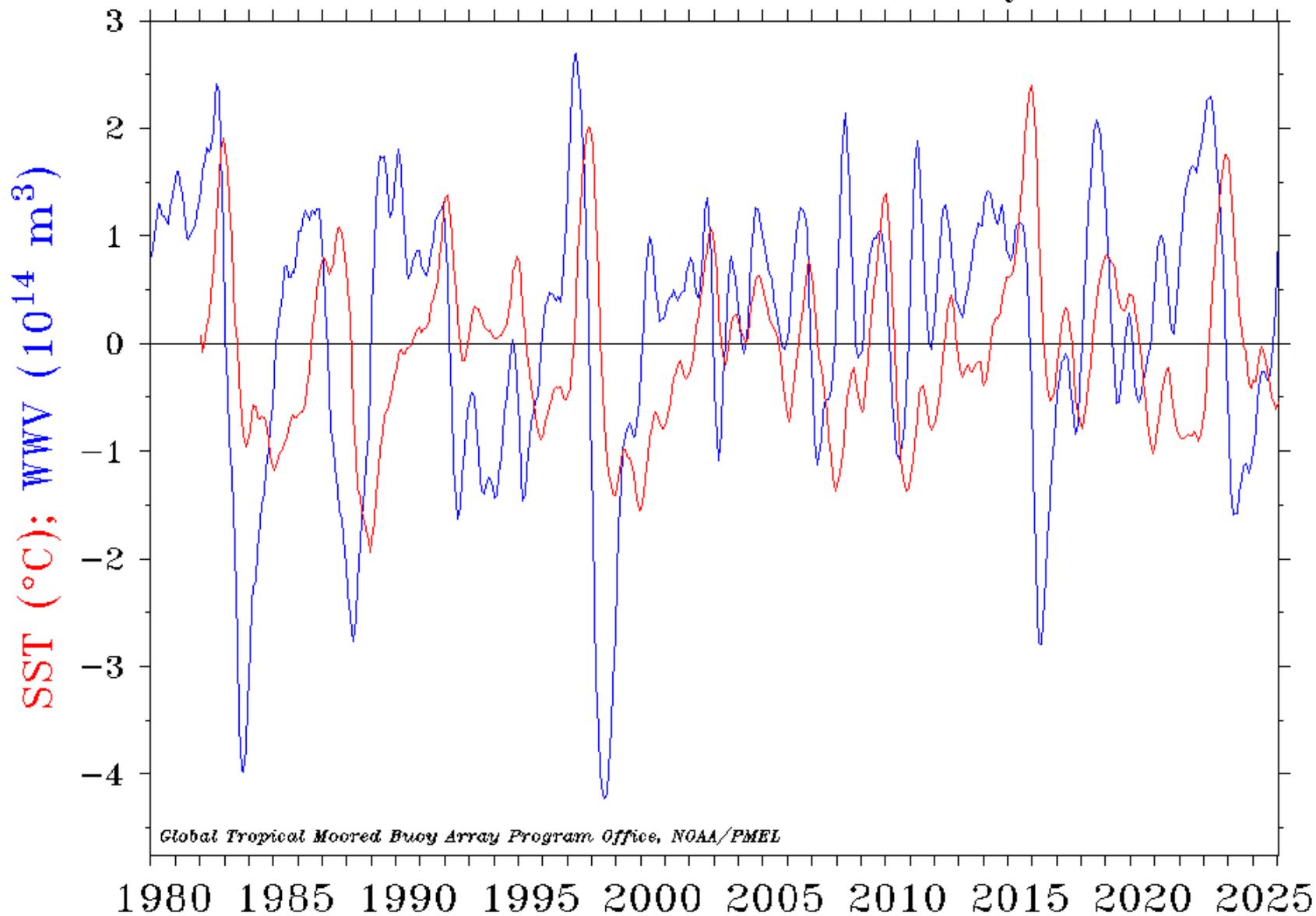
# Niño Region SST Departures (°C) Recent Evolution

The latest weekly SST departures are:

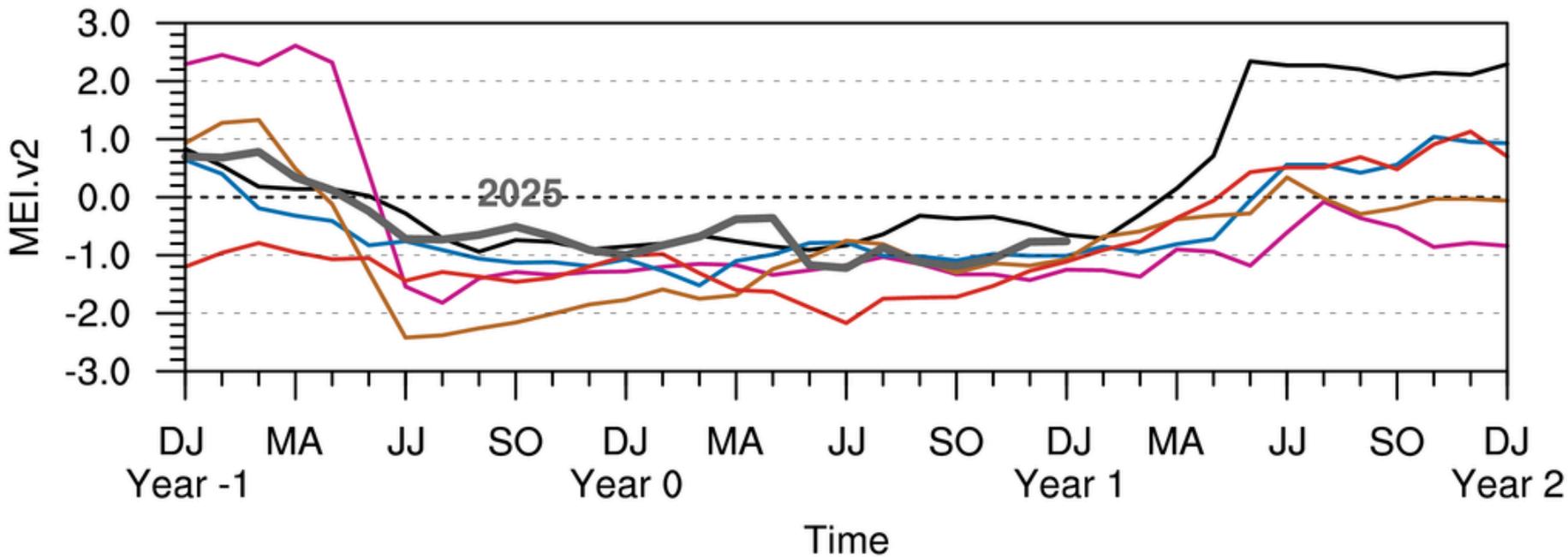
Niño 4	-0.2°C
Niño 3.4	-0.5°C
Niño 3	-0.3°C
Niño 1+2	0.6°C



# Warm Water Volume (5°N–5°S, 120°E–80°W) and NINO 3.4 SST Anomaly



# MEI.v2 Evolution of Current ENSO Event in Historical Context



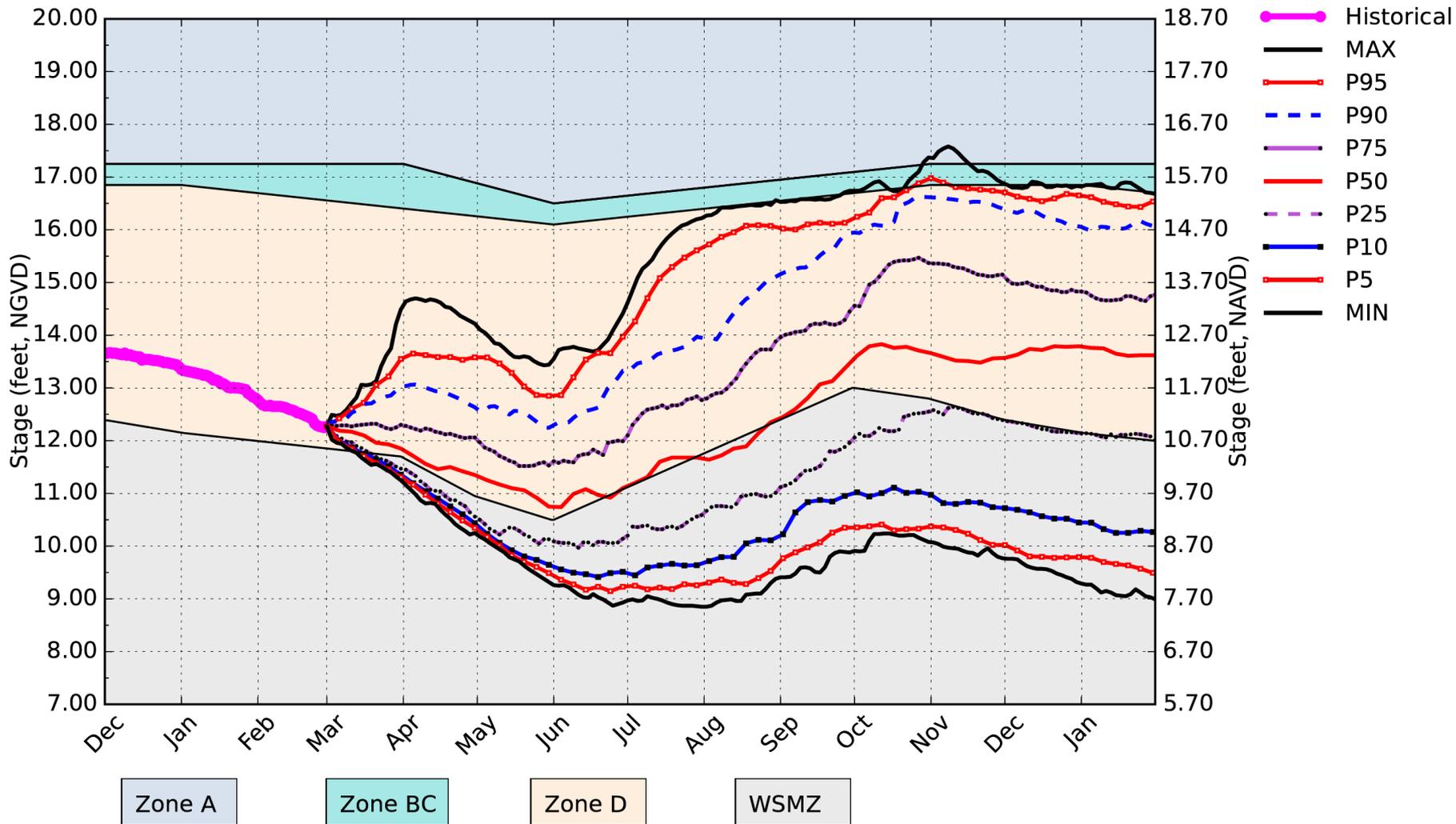
— 1996    — 1999    — 2008    — 2011    — 2022

# March 1, 2026 DPA Assumptions

- The March 1, 2026 Dynamic Position Analysis (DPA) simulation is based on historical climatic conditions spanning the period 1965-2016. This DPA posting is made with the South Florida Water Management Model (SFWMM) v7.3.6.
- The March 1, 2026 DPA resets the initial stages for Lake Okeechobee (LOK) and the Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) on February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year of the DPA simulation and conditions the simulation to real time data during February to achieve real time stages on March 1 for LOK and WCAs.
- The Lake Okeechobee operations follow the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). Modeling assumptions are consistent with modeling performed for LOSOM Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).
- LOK Temporary Forward Pump operations will be in place, whenever necessary, to improve water supply deliveries from LOK under low LOK stages.
- STA surface area values are modified to reflect current flow ways under operation. STA depths are maintained to a minimum of 6 inches using Lake Okeechobee releases.
- Lake Okeechobee Water Shortage Management (LOWSM) is included in the simulation which reflects the currently approved 40E-21 and 40E-22 water shortage rules.

# Lake Okeechobee SFWMM March 2026 Position Analysis

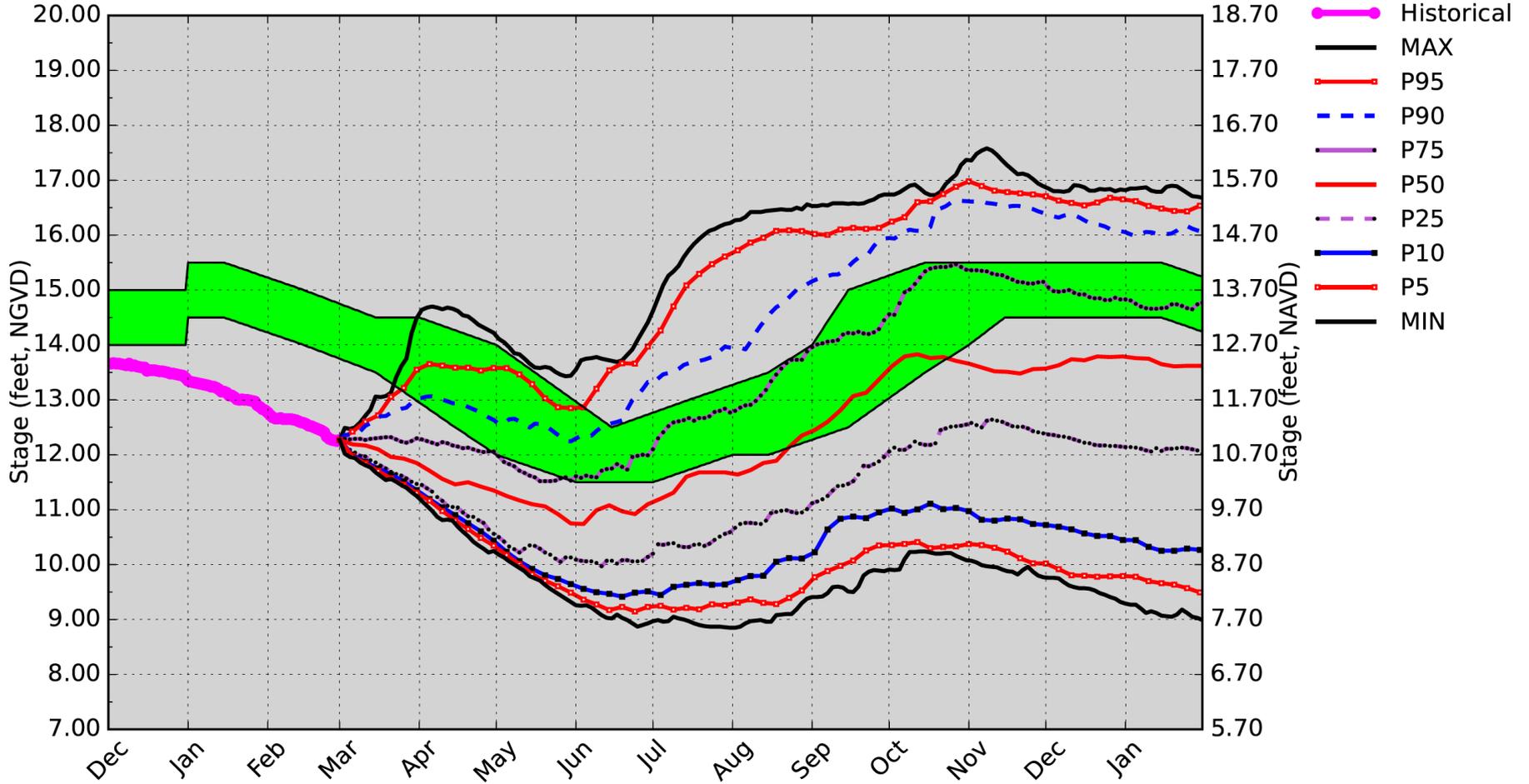
## Percentiles PA



(See Assumptions on the Operational Planning Website)

# Lake Okeechobee SFWMM March 2026 Position Analysis

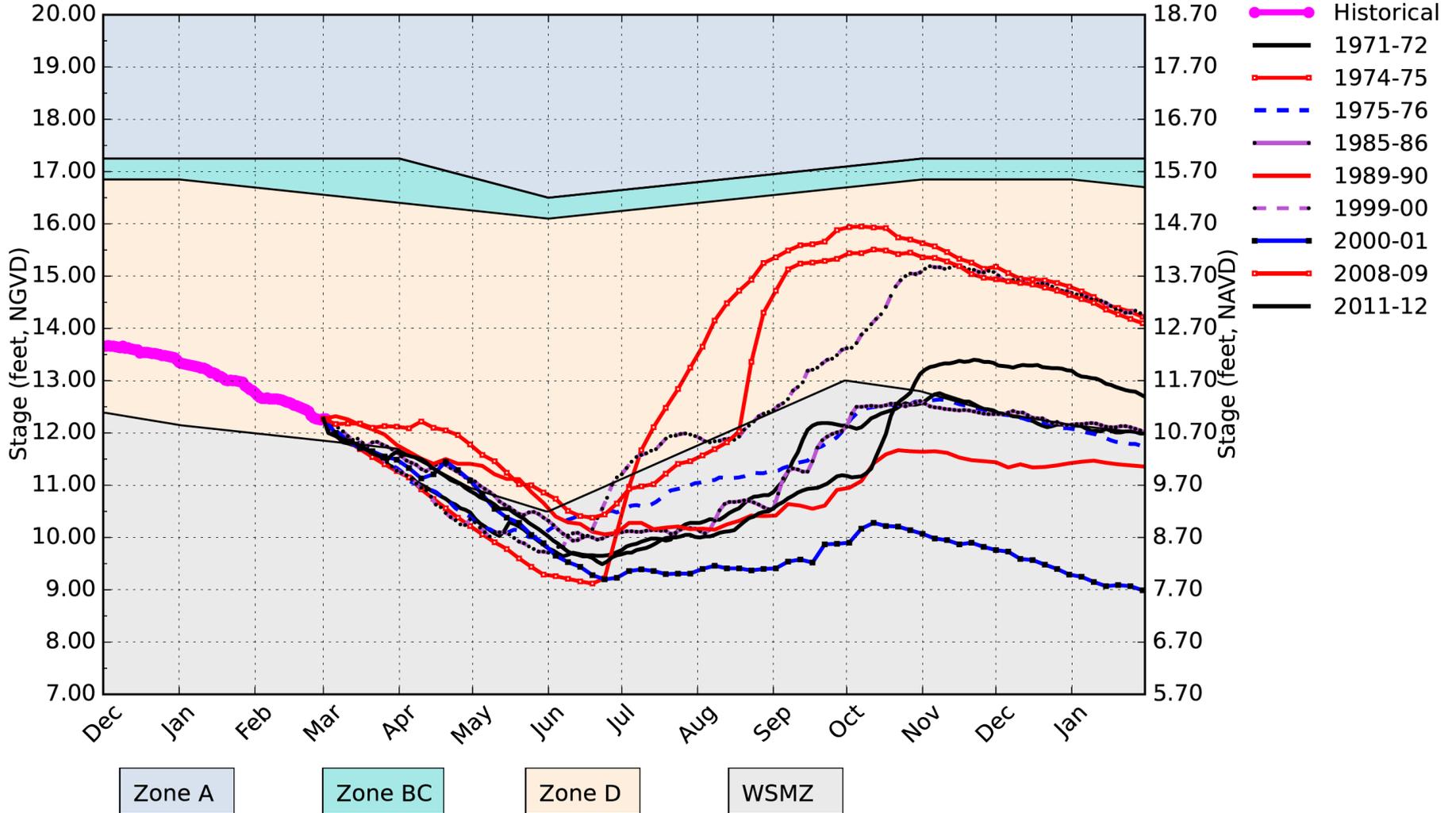
## Percentiles PA with Ecological Envelopes



(See Assumptions on the Operational Planning Website)

# Lake Okeechobee SFWMM March 2026 Position Analysis

All La Nina Years Plot PA

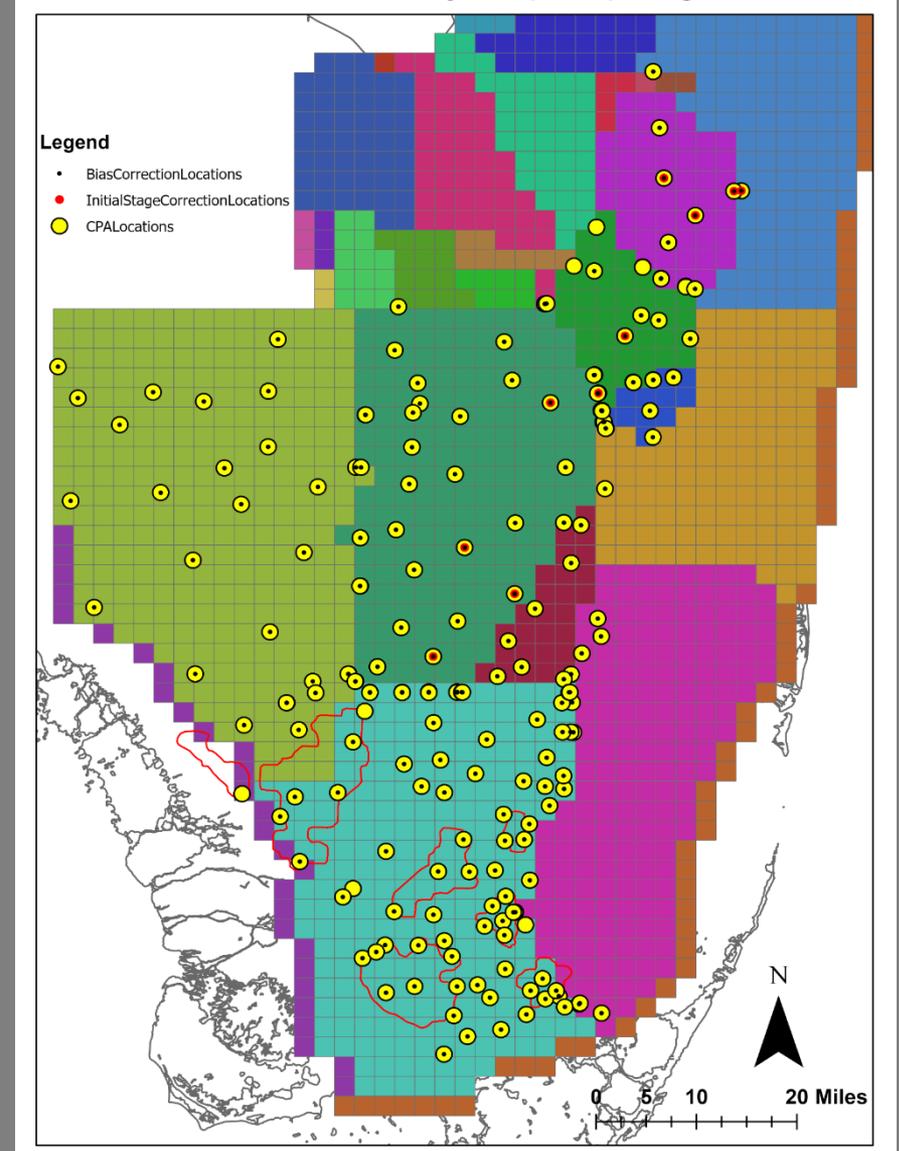


(See Assumptions on the Operational Planning Website)

# Conditional Position Analysis Overview

- CPA is a stochastic framework that transforms stages obtained from Dynamic Position Analysis (DPA) based on forecasted rainfall conditions over the next twelve months (Ali, 2016).
- CPA depends on DPA - DPA stage outputs are used as inputs to CPA. DPA uses a physically based model (SFWMM) to forecast stages progression over 1 year from the currently observed stages using 52 years of historical rainfall.
- CPA is implemented for 200+ locations in the Everglades including Lake Okeechobee.

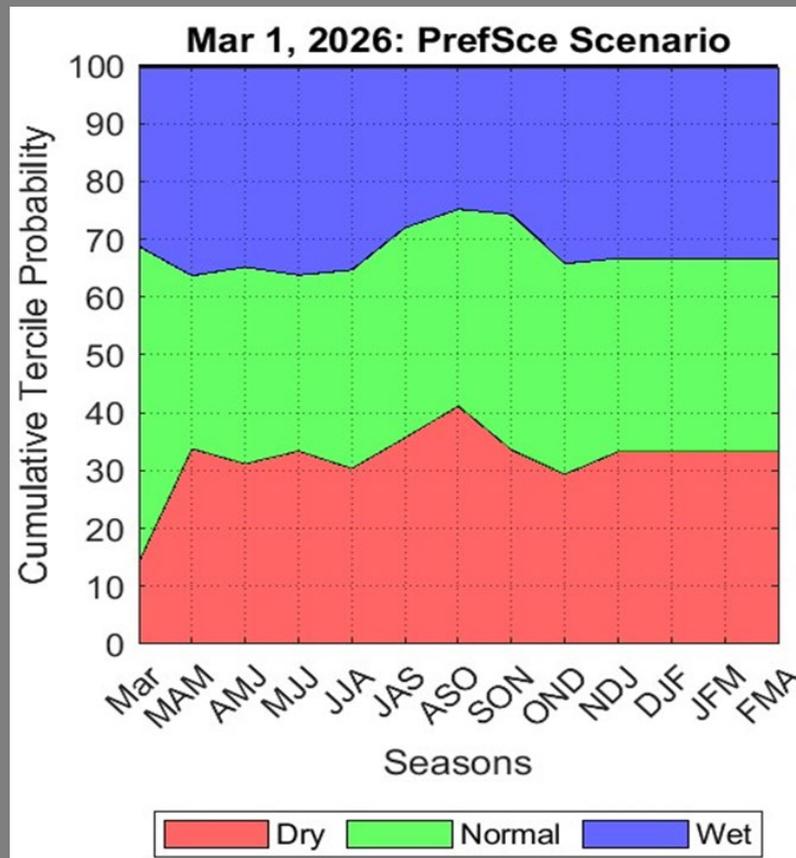
Conditional Position Analysis (CPA) Gage Locations



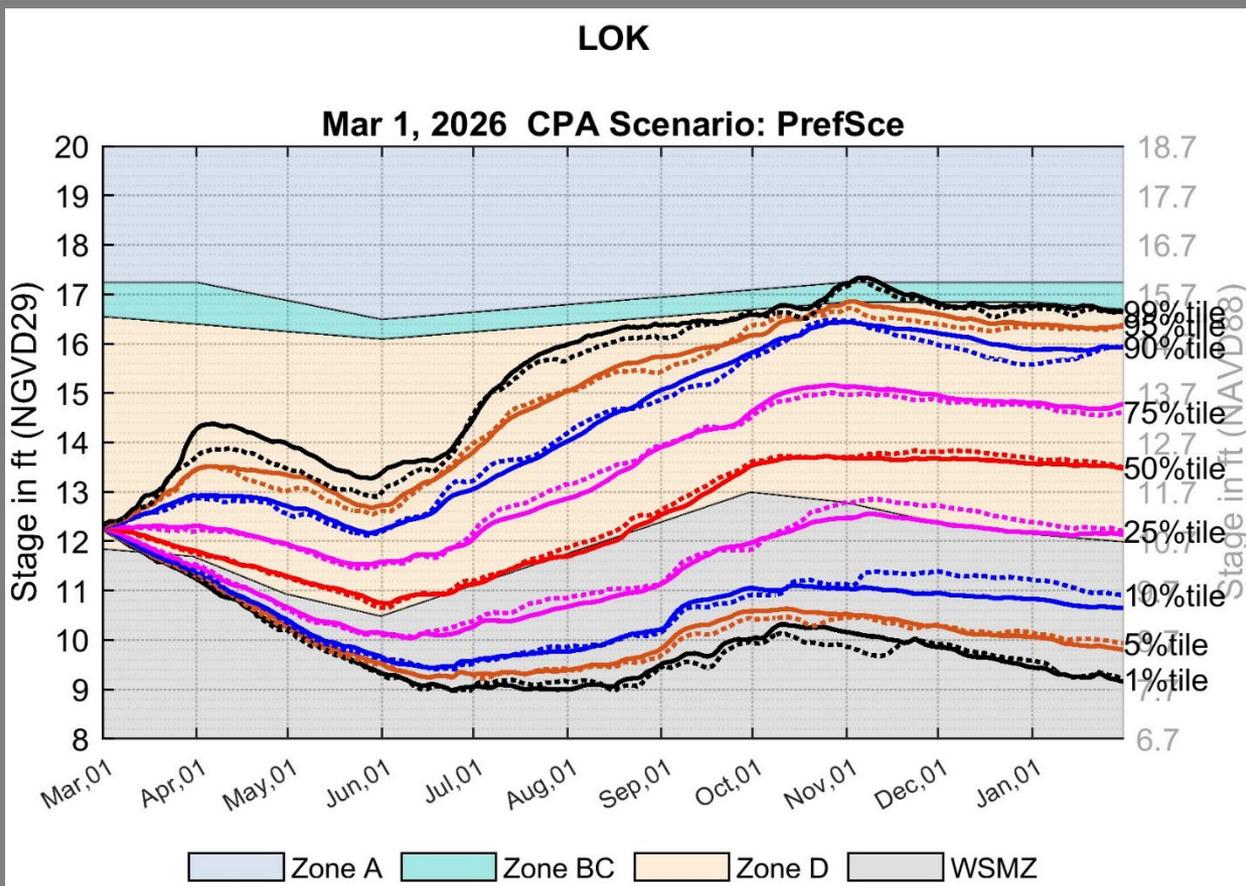
# March 1, 2026 CPA: Preferred Rainfall Scenario

Seasonal rainfall probabilities are calculated based on historical data and projected Niño-3.4 Index published by CPC. The monthly rainfall probability for March is derived from QPF estimates produced by WMD, WPC, ECMWF HRES, and 100 ECMWF ensembles, along with historical rainfall data from NEXRAD for 1991–2020.

[https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/enso\\_advisory/strengths/index.php](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/strengths/index.php)



Lake Okeechobee – The CPA implementation indicates that most CPA percentile lines are either on the DPA lines or shift downward from the respective DPA percentile lines at the beginning of the wet season in June 2026. Under the Preferred Scenario (PrefSce), the median (50<sup>th</sup> percentile) and 25<sup>th</sup> percentile trace project stage of ~10.65 feet NGVD29 (9.35 feet NAVD88) and ~10.11 feet NGVD29 (8.81 feet NAVD88) at the start of the wet season. Furthermore, the projected 25<sup>th</sup> percentile stage at the start of the wet season is in the Water Shortage Management Zone (WSMZ).



Solid lines → Climatological Scenario/DPA      Dotted lines → CPA Scenario: PrefSce