MEMORANDUM

TO: Jason Engle, Chief, Engineering Division (USACE)

FROM: John Mitnik, Chief District Engineer (SFWMD)

DATE: Jun 04, 2026

SUBJECT: System Operational Position Statement Jun 02, 2026 to Jun 08, 2026

This Position Statement is to provide operational input for the one-week period from Jun 02, 2026 to Jun 08, 2026 based on system conditions and data observed during the previous Monday to Sunday 7-day period.

Current climate conditions: District May rainfall was normal (101% normal). The rainfall forecast (issued Jun 3) calls for below normal rainfall for the coming 7-day period and above normal for the following period.

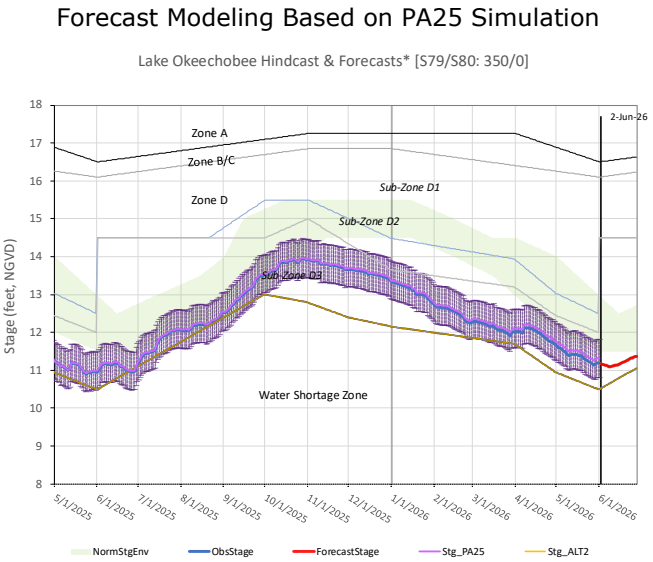
Climate and weather forecasts: The most recent CPC precipitation outlook for Jun 2026 is increased chances (40-50%) of above normal rainfall for the Lake Okeechobee, and slightly increased chances (33-40%) of above normal for the further south areas of the District. El Niño is likely to emerge in May - July 2026 and continue through Northern Hemisphere winter 2026-27. The 3-month windows from Jul 2026 – Aug 2026 to Sep 2026 – Oct 2026 are equal chances of below, normal and above normal rainfall (EC) for the entire District. The transition into the 2026 – 2027 Dry Season goes through the 3-month window Oct 2026 – Dec 2026 shows substantial increased chances (50-60%) of above rainfall for the Kissimmee River and north, and increased chances (40-50%) of above normal for the lower Kissimmee areas and slightly increased chances (33-40%) of above normal rainfall for the respective remainder areas of the District. The precipitation outlook for the 2026 - 2027 Dry Season indicates slightly increased chances (33-40%) to increased chances (40-50%) of above normal rainfall for south Florida. The transition into the 2027 wet season shows slightly increased chances (33-40%) of above normal rainfall for the state of Florida.

Hydrologic and tropical outlooks: Current climatological conditions are Normal. Current hydrological conditions are Dry. The lake stage is projected to remain in Zone D3 as per LOSOM modeling assumptions.

Water-supply conditions: The Lake Okeechobee seasonal net inflow outlook is Normal and at Low risk for water supply. The multi-seasonal net inflow outlook is Wet and at Low risk for water supply.

Estuary conditions: For the past 7-day periods, May 25 to May 31, 2026, total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary averaged approximately 550 cfs with 100 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee through S-77. Salinities in the upper estuary were within the optimal range (0-10) for tape grass at S-79 and in the stressed range (10–15) at Val I-75, and in damaging range (>15) at Ft. Myers. Salinities were in the upper stressed range (>25) at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel for adult eastern oysters. Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was about 400 cfs with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee, C-24 Basin, C-23 Basin, and C-44 Basin, about 50 cfs coming from the Ten Mile Creek Basin, and about 300 cfs coming from Tidal Basin. The average salinity in the middle estuary was within the optimal range (10-25) for adult eastern oysters.

Lake Okeechobee stage and ecological conditions:



On May 31, the daily average Lake Okeechobee stage was 9.89 feet NAVD88 (11.19 feet NGVD29), which placed it within the lower portion of Zone D (Zone D3 of the PA25 simulation) of the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). Lake stage decreased by 0.03 feet over the preceding 7-day period. El Niño is likely to emerge in May - July 2026. The District will continue to monitor conditions in the estuaries, as well as the systemwide conditions. Normal Lake Operations continue pursuant to the considerations in LOSOM as informed by PA25. It is recommended that flow targets for the Caloosahatchee Estuary should rely on basin flows to ensure the delivery of the Minimum Flow and Level, but use Lake Okeechobee flows from S-77 to ensure S-79 flows remain above a targeted steady release of 350 cfs; flow targets for the St. Lucie Estuary and Lake Worth Lagoon should remain at 0 cfs consistent with Normal Operations within Zone D. The District will continue to monitor salinity conditions in the estuaries and water supply conditions within the Lake Okeechobee Service Area. The USACE typically implements the releases to the estuaries over a 7-day period starting on Saturday and ending on Friday.

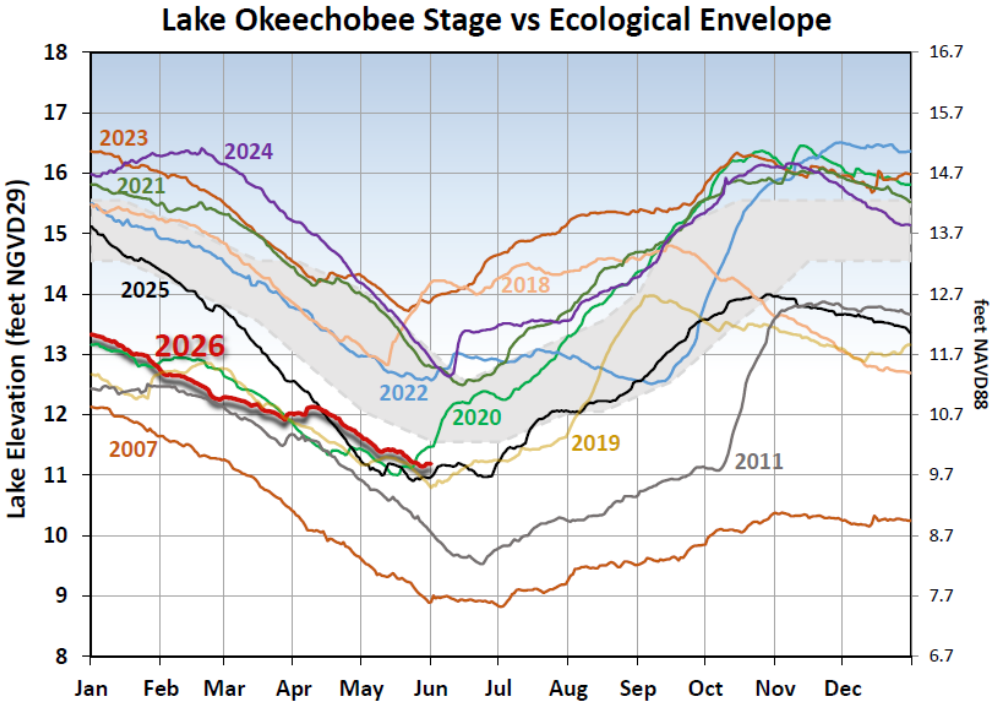


Figure LO-3. The current and select prior year's annual lake stage hydrographs in comparison to the Lake Okeechobee ecological envelope (light grey).

The current and seven prior years' annual stage hydrographs for Lake Okeechobee in comparison to the ecological envelope (light grey).

Navigation and recreation conditions: Multiple navigational locks on Lake Okeechobee's north shore are temporarily closed for safety purposes. S-135/G-36/S-127/S-131 Boat Locks are completely closed to navigation. The S-193 Boat Lock will remain open only on Saturdays and Sundays. Boaters are encouraged to exercise caution on the Kissimmee River (C-38 Canal). Public access along the L-29, L-67A and L-67C Canals near Tamiami Trail in Miami-Dade County is closed for maintenance activities.

STOF water supply conditions: Current Lake Okeechobee stage is sufficiently high that water supply deliveries to the Seminole Tribe of Florida (STOF) Brighton Reservation, if needed, will not be impacted. When Lake Okeechobee stage recedes below 8.75 feet NAVD88 (10 feet NGVD29) and 6.75 feet NAVD88 (8 feet NGVD29), water supply delivery is not achievable via Pump Station G-207 on the Harney Pond Canal and Pump Station G-208 on the Indian Prairie Canal, respectively, as the respective canals become disconnected from Lake Okeechobee.

Algal Bloom conditions: The Fish and Wildlife Research Institute reported on May 29, 2026, that *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide dinoflagellate, was not observed at bloom concentrations in any samples collected within the District region. In the most recent non-obscured satellite image from May 29, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate to high cyanobacteria potential in Fisheating Bay and along much of the Indian Prairie shoreline.

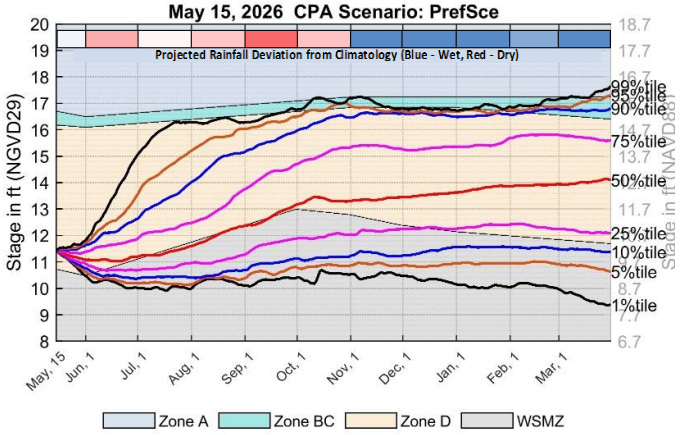
STA conditions:
In STA-1E, Central Flow-way is offline for construction activities. An operational restriction is in place in the Western Flow-way for post-construction vegetation grow-in. Online treatment cells are at or near target stage. In STA-1W, Eastern Flow-way is offline for vegetation management activities. Treatment cells are at or near target stage. Vegetation in the Western and Eastern Flow-ways is highly stressed. The 365-day PLRs for the Northern and Western Flow-ways are below 1.0 $g/m^2/yr$. In STA-2, treatment cells are at target stage. An operational restriction is in place in Flow way 2 and Flow-way 4 for vegetation management activities. The 365-day PLRs for all Flow-ways are below 1.0 $g/m^2/yr$. In STA-3/4, an operational restriction is in place in the Eastern Flow-way for vegetation management activities. Most treatment cells are at or slightly above target stage. Vegetation in the Central Flow-way is highly stressed. The 365-day PLR for the Eastern, Central, and Western Flow-ways are below 1.0 $g/m^2/yr$. For the current operational period, USACE is not requesting flows south from Lake Okeechobee towards the WCAs. The District will continue to work with the USACE to manage Lake Okeechobee levels in an effort to curtail harmful discharges over this year. To help with this objective the District will move as much water south through the Stormwater Treatment Areas as possible under the current permits as regional conditions allow.

WCA conditions: On May 31, the daily average stage in WCA-1 was at 14.58 feet NAVD88 (16.18 feet NGVD29), in Zone A and 0.43 feet above regulation schedule. The daily average stage in WCA-2A was at 9.39 feet NAVD88 (10.86 feet NGVD29), in Zone B and 0.14 feet below regulation schedule. The daily average stage in WCA-3A was at 6.56 feet NAVD88 (8.08 feet NGVD29), in Zone B and 1.43 feet below regulation schedule. Over the 7-day period, May 25, 2026 to May 31, 2026, no regulatory releases were sent from Lake Okeechobee south to the STAs. No Lake regulatory releases reached Lake Worth Lagoon through the C-51 canal during this period.

ENP conditions: Releases from WCA-3A to the ENP continue through the S12D and the S333 structures. In ENP, there is very little hydrologic connectivity from north to south, however downstream Taylor Slough shows more connection to the coast. WCA-1 water depths are now mostly above average with some ponding to the south. WCA 2A water depths are below average in the far north, above average along the southeast perimeter of that basin. Within WCA-3A and WCA-3B, water depths remain low and below the 10th percentile. Inflows to the northwest are keeping a portion of northern WCA-3A above average. Stages have increased in Taylor Slough over the past week and remain above the recent average. Salinity increased on average in Florida Bay compared to last week and remains above the estimated historical average and within the WY2001-2016 Interquartile Range (IQR) for all three regions. The Tamiami Trail Flow Formula (TTFF) recommends 203 cfs of daily target releases from WCA-3A to ENP. The District recommends continuing with the current operations for the releases from WCA-3A in accordance with the Combined Operating Plan.

May 2026 Conditional Position Analysis (CPA) results for Lake Okeechobee, WCA-1, WCA-2A and WCA-3A under LOSOM Recovery Operations.

LOK



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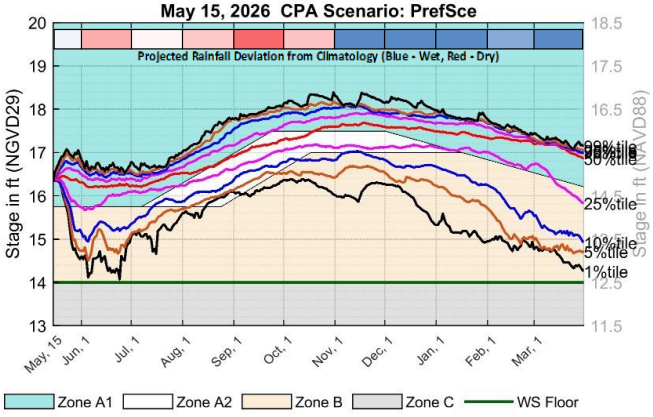

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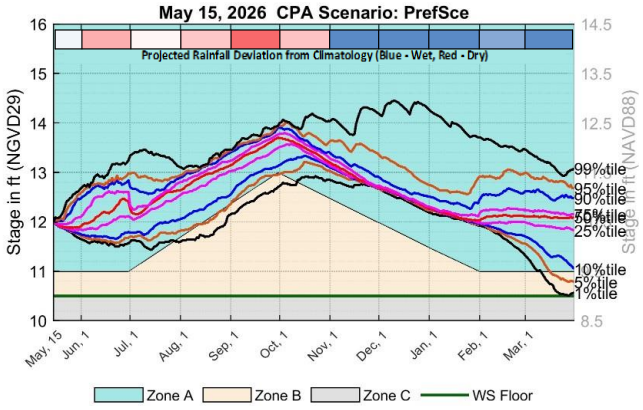

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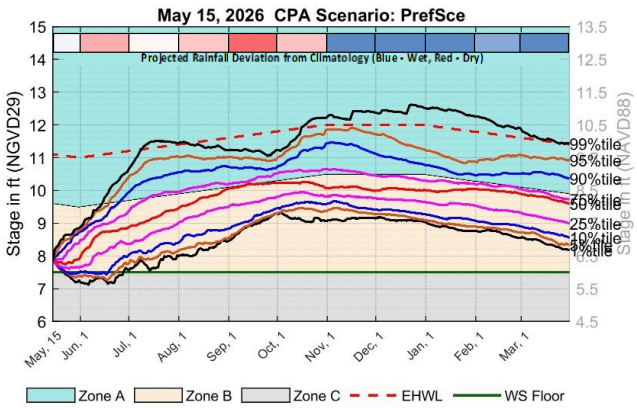

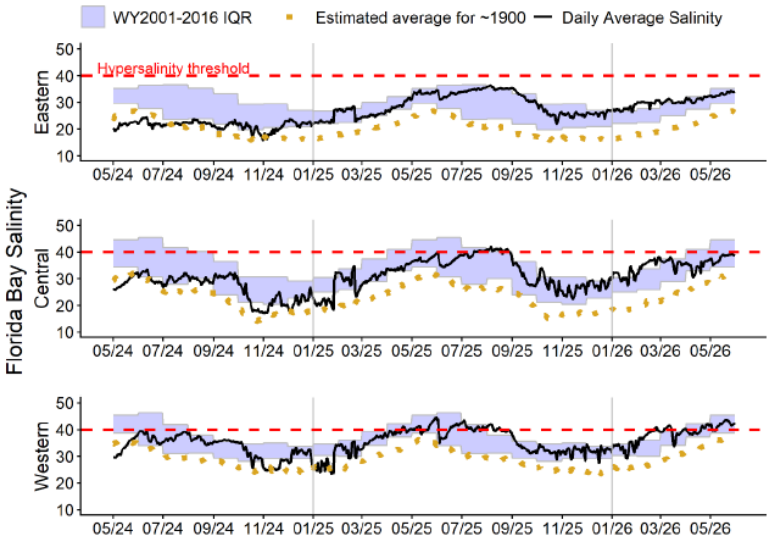

Figure EV-9. Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with WY2001-2016 interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges (IQR) and estimated historical daily average salinities. The hypersalinity threshold indicates the level at which salinities start to become harmful to seagrass.

Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with WY2001-2016 interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges (IQR) and estimated historical daily average salinities. The hyper salinity threshold indicates the level at which salinities start to become harmful to seagrass.