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, Assistant Executive Director, Executive Office Staff

FROM: SFWMD Staff Environmental Advisory Team

DATE: January 21, 2026

SUBJECT: Weekly Environmental Conditions for Systems Operations

Summary

Weather Conditions and Forecast

Increasing moisture associated with a front will reach the southeastern portion of the SFWMD by Wednesday afternoon and increase further by Thursday. However, recent model guidance indicates total area-averaged rainfall on Wednesday and Thursday will generally remain limited. With some of the front's associated moisture arriving, isolated shower activity could reach the east coast late in the day and overnight. By Thursday, there is greater potential for light shower activity across the southeastern part of the SFWMD, particularly near the east coast, as the frontal boundary edges closer. Additional light shower activity is anticipated across the eastern to southeastern portions of the SFWMD on Friday, with a favored corridor from the southern interior to the east coast and the highest coverage during the afternoon hours. During the weekend, shallow moisture should persist across the area, supporting some additional light rainfall however, coverage is expected to be lower than on Thursday and Friday, and it would be unsurprising if Sunday was entirely dry. Temperatures will trend sharply upward, with near-record or record heat possible by Sunday and even more so on Monday ahead of a front. Some all-time monthly maxima could even be threatened Monday afternoon. A cold front may pass through the SFWMD Monday afternoon. While moisture will increase ahead of the front, the primary band of rainfall will likely weaken before reaching, or while entering, the northwestern portions of the SFWMD. Behind the front, another modified arctic air mass will spread across Florida ushering in a renewed period of well below normal temperatures from Tuesday into Wednesday of next week. For the week ending next Tuesday morning, total SFWMD rainfall is likely to be much below normal and below normal and January rainfall could rank among the driest on record.

Kissimmee

In the past week, releases were made as needed from East Lake Toho and Lake Toho to continue snail kite nesting season stage recessions to reach low pool by June 1, 2026. Releases from Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha followed the Headwaters Revitalization Schedule (HRS) Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan. Weekly average discharge on January 18, 2026, was 530 cfs at S-65 and 470 cfs at S-65A. Mean

weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain remained at 0.35 feet. The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River increased from the previous week's value of 7.8 mg/L to 8.6 mg/L, which is above both the potentially lethal level of 1.0 mg/L and the stressful level of 2.0 mg/L for Florida bass and other species.

Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 11.78 feet NAVD88 (13.09 ft NGVD29) on January 18, 2026, which was 0.14 feet lower than the previous week and 0.44 feet lower than a month ago. Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) increased from 290 cfs the previous week to 400 cfs. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) increased from 1,740 cfs the previous week to 2,020 cfs. The most recent non-obscured satellite image from January 19, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate cyanobacteria potential along the western nearshore region of the lake. The January 8, 2026, wading bird survey counted approximately 1,300 birds across 7 flocks actively foraging around the Lake.

Estuaries

Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 261 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Mean salinities increased at the HR1 and US1 Bridge sites over the past week and remained similar to the previous week at HR1 and the US1 Bridge and increased slightly at the A1A Bridge. Salinity in the middle estuary was in the upper stressed range (> 25) for adult eastern oysters.

Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary averaged 204 cfs over the past week with 68 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee. Over the past week, surface salinities increased at Val I-75 and Cape Coral and decreased at the remaining sites within the estuary. Mean salinities were in the optimal range (0-10) for tape grass at S-79 and Val I-75 and in the damaging range (>15) at Fort Myers in the upper estuary. Salinities were in the optimal range (10-25) for adult oysters at Cape Coral and in the upper stressed range (>25) at Shell Point and Sanibel.

Stormwater Treatment Areas

For the week ending January 18th 2026, 6,200 ac-feet of Lake Okeechobee water was delivered to the FEBs/STAs. The total amount of Lake releases sent to the FEBs/STAs in WY2026 is approximately 41,800 ac-feet. The total amount of inflows to the STAs in WY2026 is approximately 546,000 ac-feet. Online STA treatment cells are at or above target stage. STA-1E Central Flow-way is offline for construction activities. STA-1W Eastern Flow-way is offline for vegetation management activities. Operational restrictions are in effect in STA-1E Western Flow-way, STA-2 Flow-ways 2, 3 and 4, and STA-3/4 Eastern Flow-way for vegetation management activities. This week, if LOSOM recommends Lake releases to the WCAs and conditions allow, releases will be sent to STA-2 and STA-3/4.

Everglades

Due to the MLK holiday break, the Florida Bay portion of this report discusses data between 1/12/26-1/16/26 while the Everglades portion of this report discusses data from 1/12/26-1/19/26. The Everglades Protection Area received a mixture of above and below average rainfall as a result of a frontal system pushing through South Florida. Water depth recessions responded by slowing down across the Conservation Areas, except WCA-2B which continues to gradually increase. Recession rates at monitored sites slowed last week to an average of 0.01 feet/week, supporting water conservation during a period of below-average water depths across the Everglades. Southern WCA-2A remains unseasonably deep, while most of WCA-3A continues to be below the 10th percentile, as it has for much of the water year. Below-average depths in the central Everglades limit aquatic prey production, increase the risk of damaging wildfires, peat oxidation, and ridge/slough degradation. Large flocks were observed along the southwestern coast in Everglades National Park in the last wading bird survey (2 weeks prior), but very few birds were found along the coast of Florida Bay or elsewhere in the Everglades. Taylor Slough stages continued to drop last week and remain well below the recent averages for this time of year. Average Florida Bay salinities increased last week and remains above recent averages for this time of year.

Supporting Information

Kissimmee Basin

Upper Kissimmee

On January 18, 2026, mean daily lake stages were 56.7 feet NAVD88 (0.3 feet below schedule) in East Lake Toho, 53.7 feet NAVD88 (0.3 feet below schedule) in Lake Toho, and 48.6 feet NAVD88 (3.0 feet below the Increment 1 Temporary Deviation schedule) in Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha (KCH) (**Table KB-1**, **Figures KB-1-3**).

Lower Kissimmee

For the week ending January 18, 2026, mean weekly discharge was 530 cfs at S-65 and 470 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly discharge from the Kissimmee River was 510 cfs at S-65D and 400 at S-65E (**Table KB-2**). Mean weekly headwater stages were 45.2 feet NAVD88 at S-65A and 29.4 feet NAVD88 at S-65D. Mean weekly river channel stage increased by 0.5 feet from 31.6 feet the previous week to 32.1 feet NAVD88 (**Figure KB-4**). Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain remained at 0.35 feet (**Table KB-2**, **Figure KB-5**). The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River increased from 7.8 mg/L the previous week to 8.6 mg/L (**Table KB-2**, **Figure KB-6**).

Water Management Recommendations

Continue the stage recessions in East Lake Toho and Lake Toho to reach their low pools on June 1, 2026. In KCH, follow the Headwaters Revitalization Schedule (HRS) Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A (**Figure KB-7**). With KCH stage in Zone B3, target flows between 300 cfs and 1,400 cfs at S-65A, using the Increment 1 Interpolation Tool to determine discharge relative to stage in KCH. When stage increases into Zone B2, target flows of 1,400 cfs.

Table KB-1. Average discharge for the preceding seven days, Sunday's average daily stage and Sunday's average daily departure from Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (KCOL) flood regulation lines or temporary schedules. All data are provisional.

Water Body	Structure	Stage Monitoring Site	Weekly (7-Day) Average Discharge (cfs)	Sunday Lake Stage (feet NAVD88)[a]	Schedule Type[b]	Sunday Schedule Stage (feet NAVD88)	Sunday Departure from Regulation (feet)	
							1/18/26	*1/11/26*
Lakes Hart and Mary Jane	S-62	LKMJ	21	60.0	R	59.9	0.1	0.2
Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel	S-57	S-57	14	60.4	R	60.4	0.0	0.0
Alligator Chain	S-60	ALLI	11	62.9	R	62.9	0.0	0.1
Lake Gentry	S-63	LKGT	17	60.4	R	60.4	0.0	0.0
East Lake Toho	S-59	TOHOE	190	56.7	R	57.0	-0.3	-0.2
Lake Toho	S-61	TOHOW S-61	400	53.7	R	54.0	-0.3	-0.2
Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha	S-65	KUB011 LKIS5B	530	48.6	T	51.6	-3.0	-3.1

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

b. A: projected recession line; R: USACE regulation schedule; S: temporary recession target line; T: temporary schedule; NA: not applicable or not available.

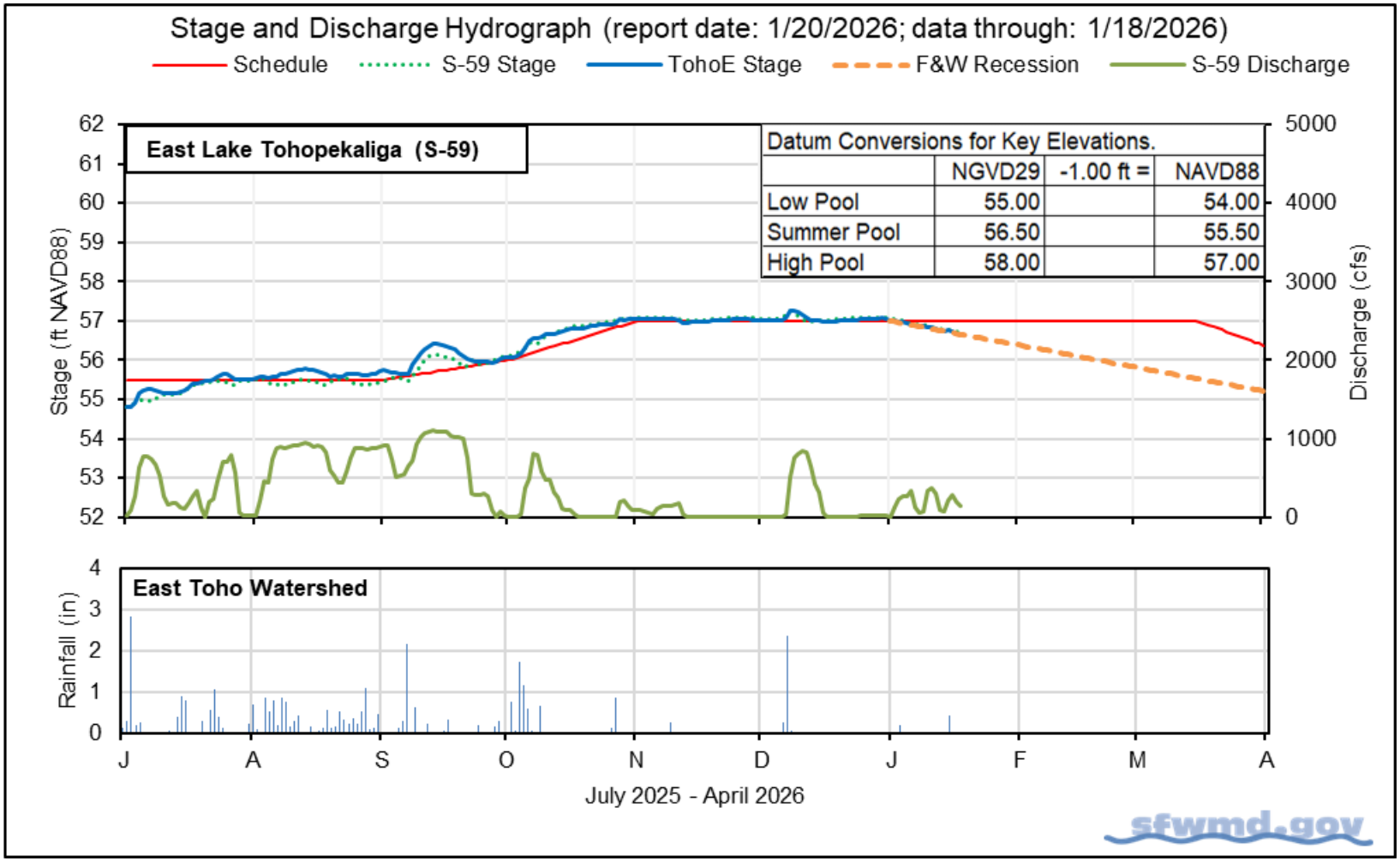


Figure KB-1. East Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

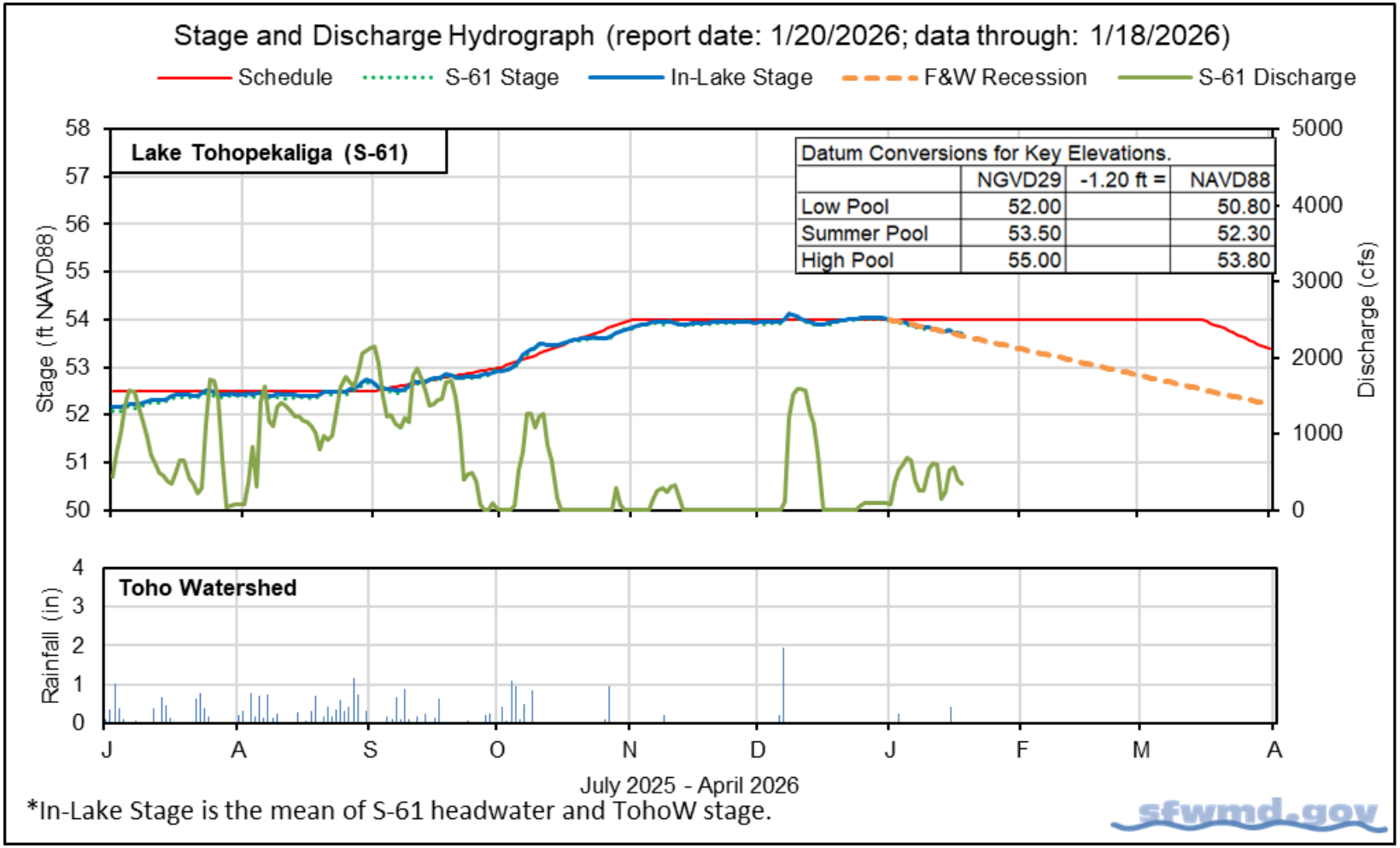


Figure KB-2. Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

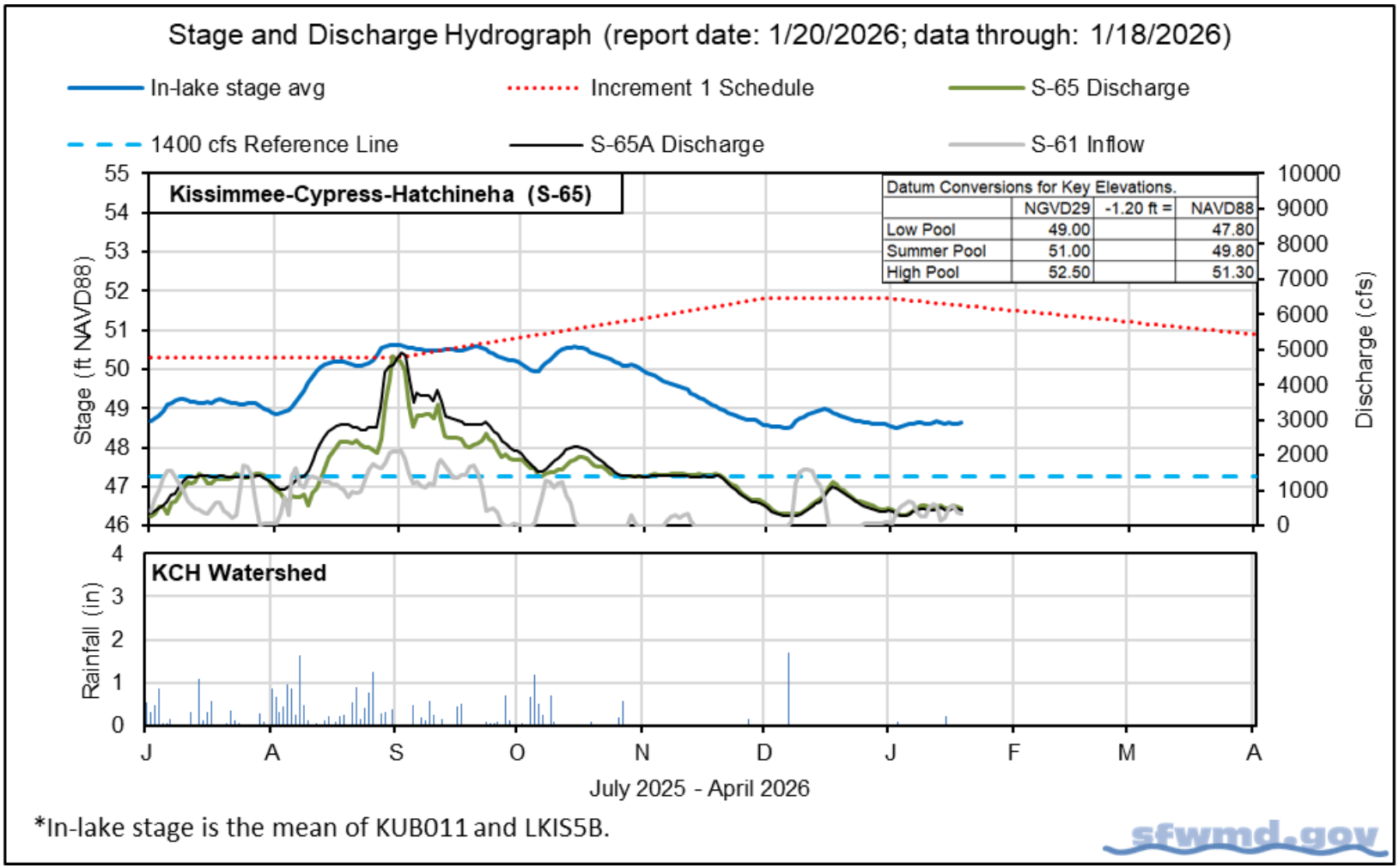


Figure KB-3. Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

Table KB-2. One- and seven-day average discharge and stage at Lower Kissimmee basin structures, river channel dissolved oxygen concentrations and water depths in the Phase I area floodplain. All data are provisional.

Metric	Location	Sunday Daily Average	Weekly Average for Previous Seven Day Periods			
		1/18/26	1/18/26	1/11/26	1/4/26	12/28/25
Discharge	S-65	510	530	500	420	650
Discharge	S-65A[a]	430	470	430	370	580
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65A	45.2	45.2	45.2	45.2	45.2
Discharge	S-65D[b]	540	510	410	470	810
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65D[c]	24.9	29.4	29.0	29.3	30.7
Discharge (cfs)	S-65E[d]	440	400	290	370	680
Discharge (cfs)	S-67	0	0	0	0	0
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)[e]	Phase I, II/III river channel	8.4	8.6	7.8	8.5	8.1
River channel mean stage (feet NAVD88)[f]	Phase I river channel	32.1	32.1	31.6	31.8	33.3
Mean depth (feet)[g]	Phase I & II/III floodplain	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.36	0.39

a. Combined discharge from main and auxiliary structures.

b. Combined discharge from S-65D, S-65DX1, and S-65DX2.

c. Average stage from S-65D and S-65DX1.

d. Combined discharge from S-65E and S-65EX1.

e. Dissolved oxygen is the average of values from sondes KRBN, PC62, PC33, PD62R, and PD42R.

f. Mean of five river channel stations (PC62, KRDR02, KRBN, PC33, PC11) in the Phase I area.

g. One-day spatial average obtained from the South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

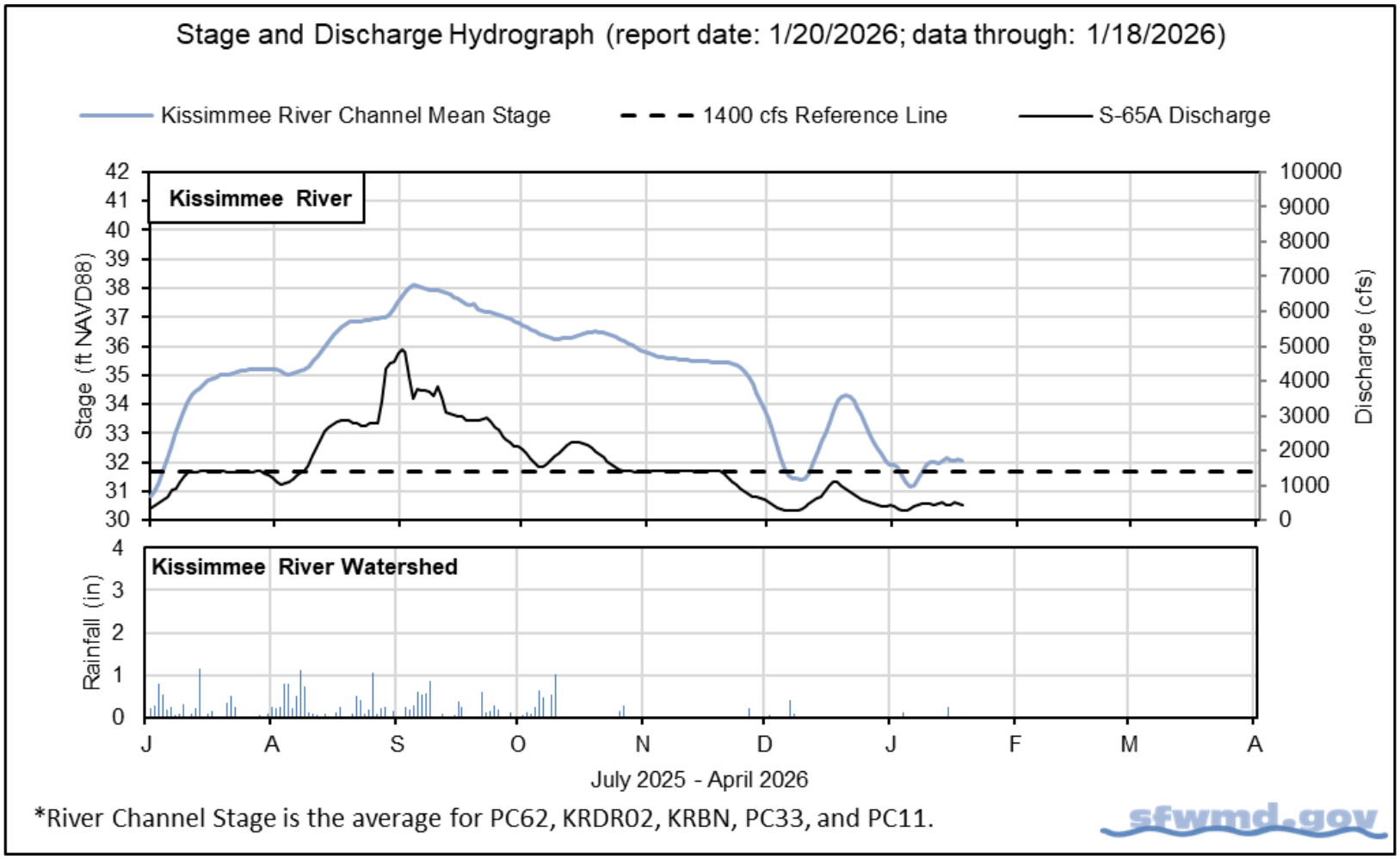


Figure KB-4. Kissimmee River stage, discharge, and rainfall.

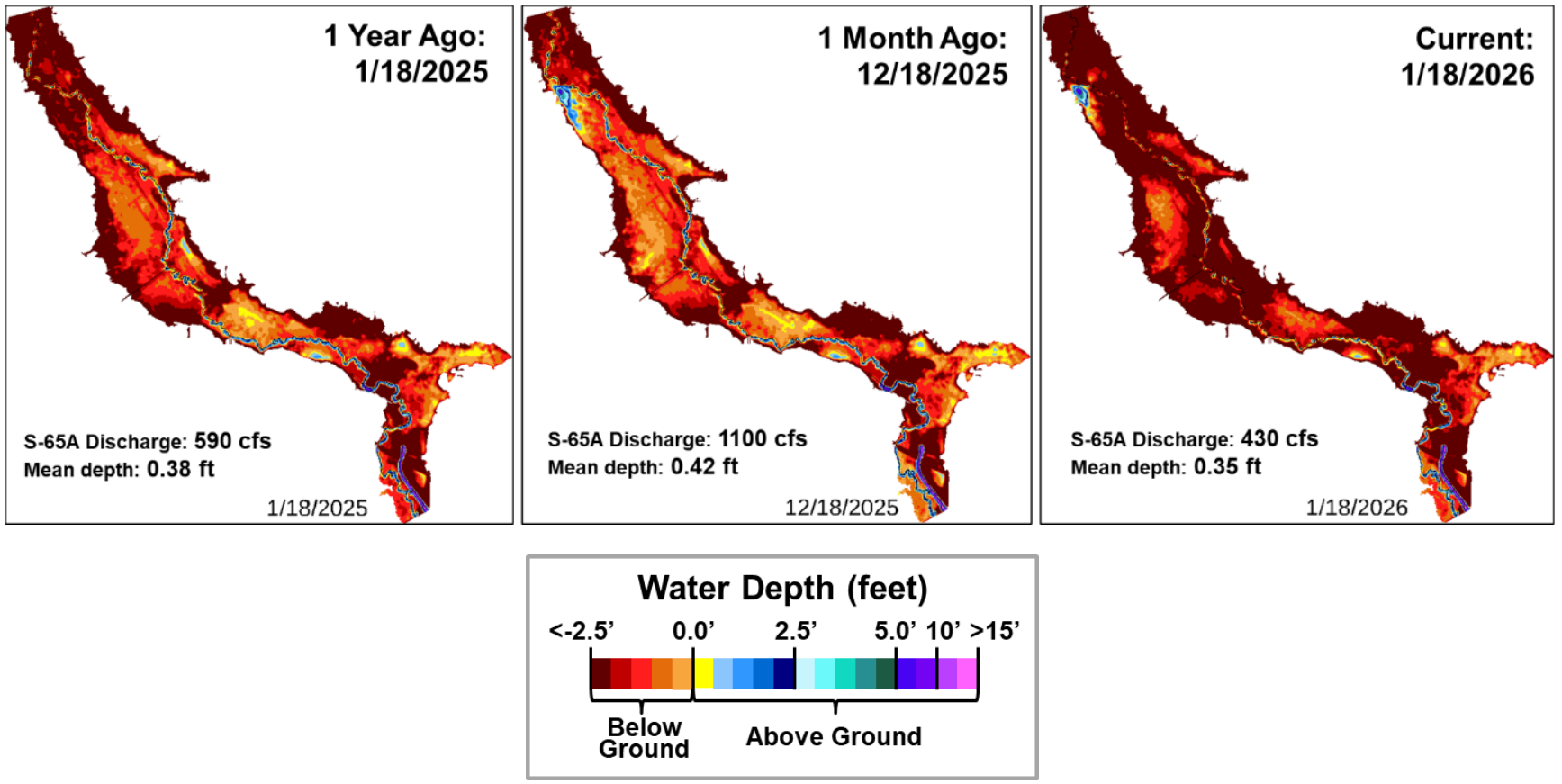


Figure KB-5. Phase I-II-III area Kissimmee River floodplain water depths (from left to right) one year ago, one month ago, and current.

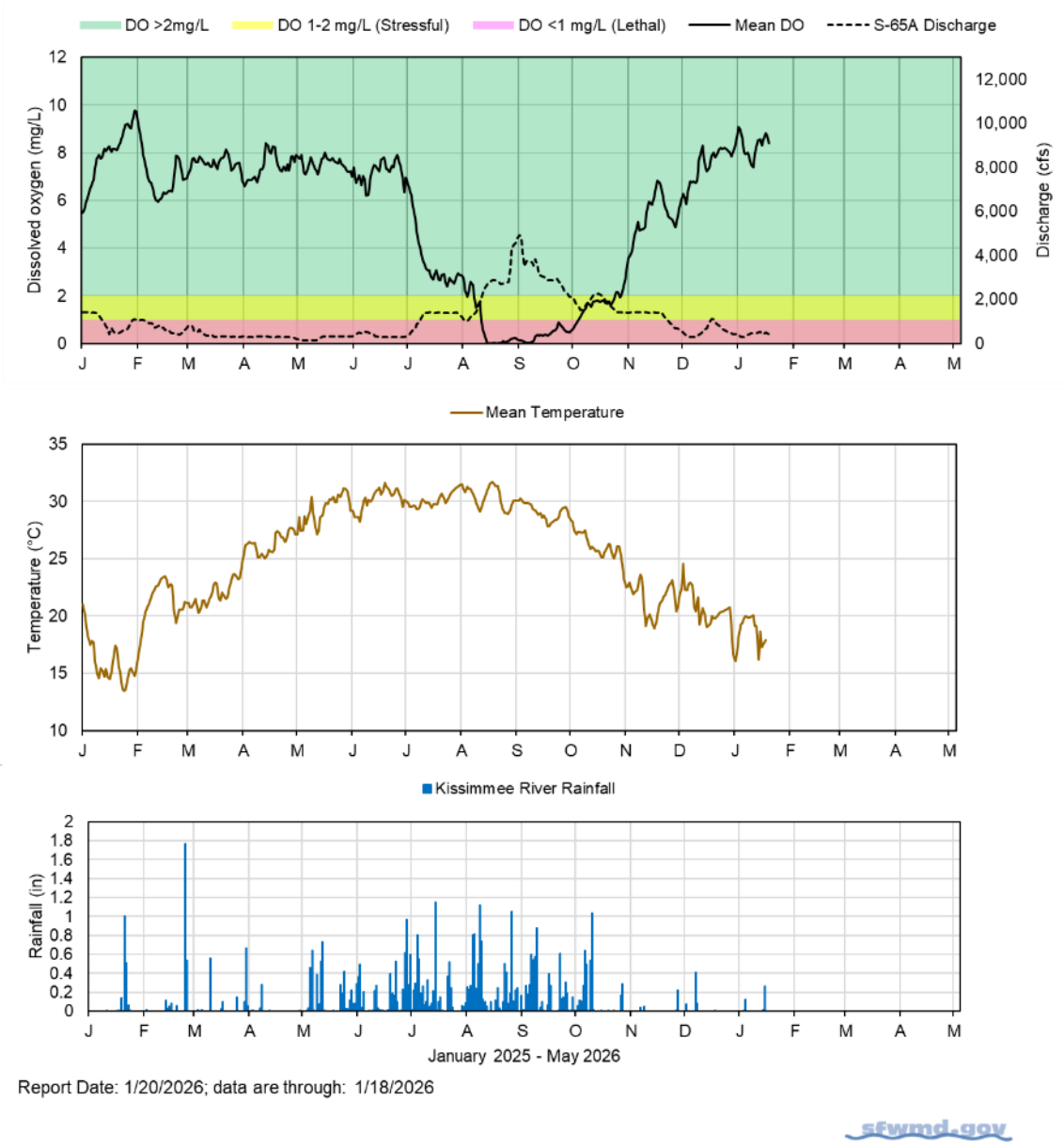


Figure KB-6. Kissimmee River channel mean daily dissolved oxygen concentration (mg/L), S-65A discharge (cfs), temperature (°C) and rainfall (inches). Dissolved oxygen (DO) and temperature are mean daily values averaged for PC62, KRDR02, KRBN, PC33, PC11, PD62R, and PD42R with an average of five stations reporting this week. Rainfall values are daily totals for Kissimmee River (Pool BCD) AHED watershed.

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

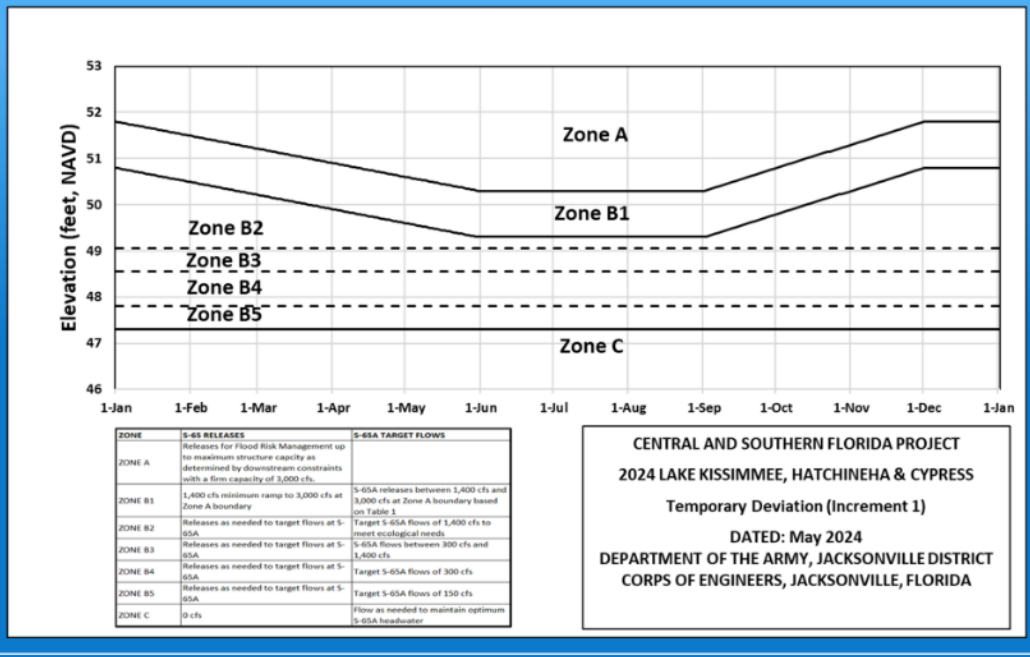
HRS Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A

Discharge Guidance for Increment I Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan		
ZONE	**S-65 RELEASES**	**S-65A TARGET FLOWS**
ZONE A	Releases for Flood Risk Management up to maximum structure capcity as determined by downstream constraints with a firm capacity of 3,000 cfs.	
ZONE B1	1,400 cfs minimum ramp to 3,000 cfs at Zone A boundary	S-65A releases between 1,400 cfs and 3,000 cfs at Zone A boundary based on Table 1
ZONE B2	Releases as needed to target flows at S-65A	Target S-65A flows of 1,400 cfs to meet ecological needs
ZONE B3	Releases as needed to target flows at S-65A	S-65A flows between 300 cfs and 1,400 cfs
ZONE B4	Releases as needed to target flows at S-65A	Target S-65A flows of 300 cfs
ZONE B5	Releases as needed to target flows at S-65A	Target S-65A flows of 150 cfs
ZONE C	0 cfs	Flow as needed to maintain optimum S-65A headwater

Table KB-3. Maximum Rate of Change Limits for S-65A

MAXIMUM Release Rate of Chane Limits for S-65A. **In general recommended rates of change will be slower than shown in this table.**

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



Other Considerations

- When possible, limit lake ascension rate in the Jun 1 - Aug 15 window to 0.25 ft per 7 days in Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress, Hatchineha (S-65), East Toho (S-59) and Toho (S-61).
- If outlook is for extreme dry conditions meet with KB staff to discuss modifications to this plan.

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Figure KB-7. Headwaters Revitalization Schedule (HRS) Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A.

Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 11.78 feet NAVD88 (13.09 ft NGVD29) on January 18, 2026, which was 0.14 feet lower than the previous week and 0.44 feet lower than a month ago (**Figure LO-1**). Lake stage is in Zone D of the regulation schedule (**Figure LO-2**) and is 1.36 feet below the ecological envelope (**Figure LO-3**). According to NEXRAD, 0.12 inches of rain fell directly over the lake during the previous week, and 0.56 inches were lost to evapotranspiration.

Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) increased from 290 cfs the previous week to 400 cfs. The only notable inflows came from the Kissimmee River (400 cfs via S-65E(X1)). Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) increased from 1,740 cfs the previous week to 2,020 cfs. The highest single structure release was to the south through the S-351 structure (610 cfs), with 880 cfs sent through the other S-350 structures. **Figures LO-4 and LO-5** show the combined average daily inflows and outflows for the lake over the past eight weeks, and average inflows and outflows last week, respectively.

In the most recent non-obscured satellite image from January 19, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests the recent strong winds and cooler temperatures have dispersed most of the moderate to high cyanobacteria potential in the southern and western regions of the lake (**Figure LO-6**).

The third wading bird survey of the 2026 season occurred on January 8. Approximately 1,300 birds across 7 flocks were seen actively foraging around the Lake (**Figure LO-7**). This is below the 5-year running average for January, but within the 5-year interquartile range.

Note: All data presented in this report are provisional and are subject to change.

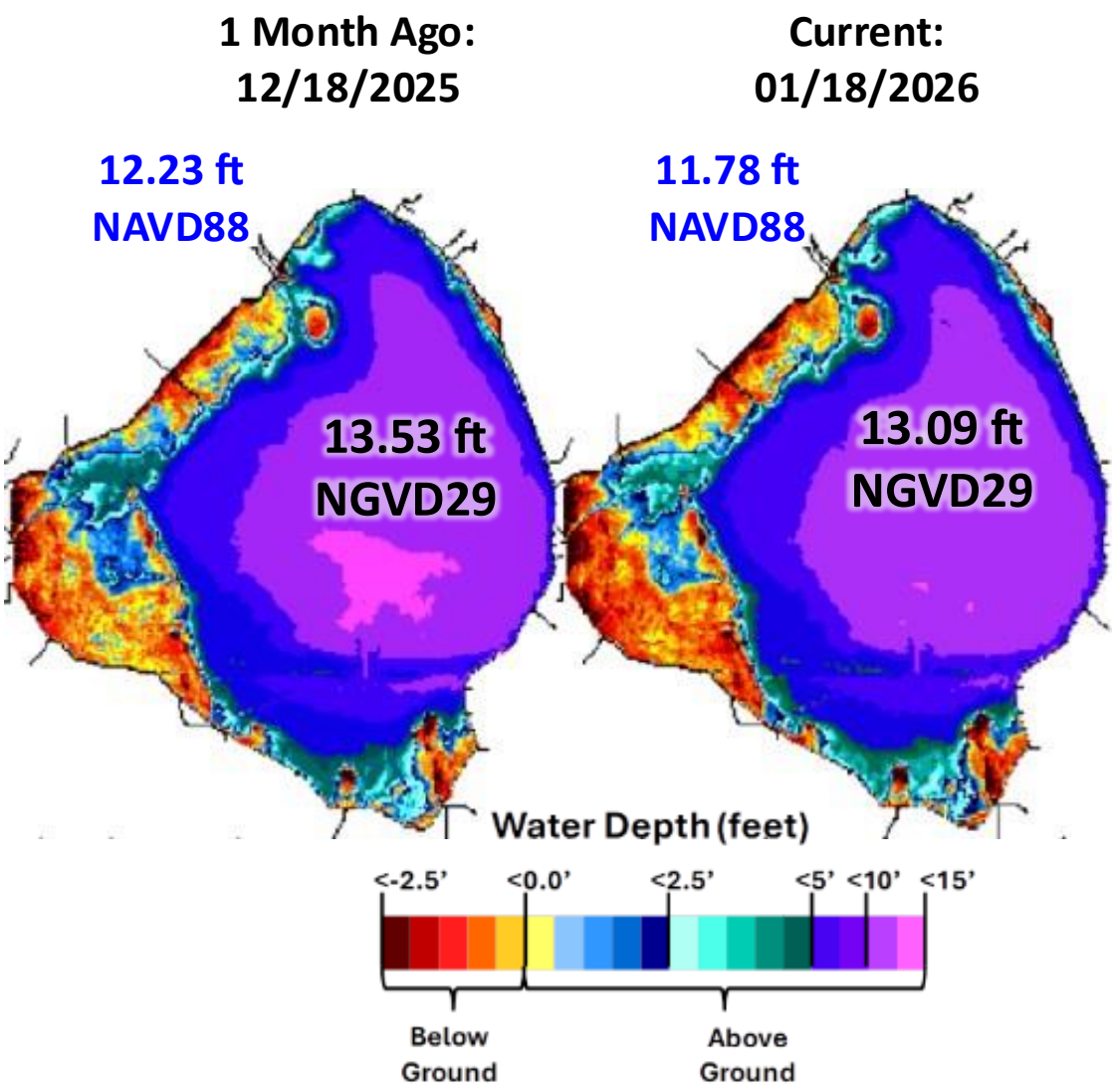

Figure LO-1. Lake Okeechobee water depth estimates based on South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

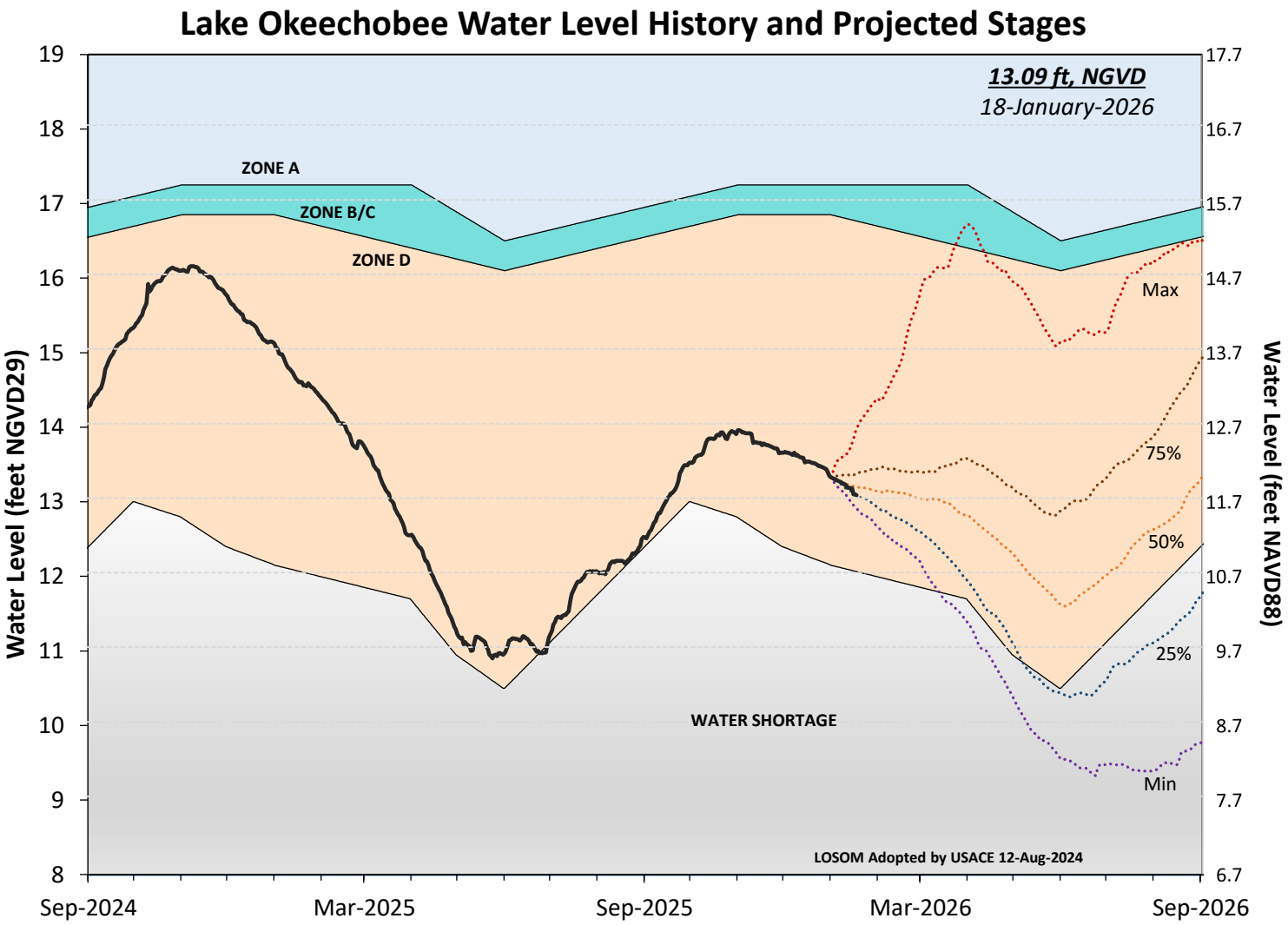

Figure LO-2. Recent Lake Okeechobee stages with projected stages based on a dynamic position analysis. Note: stages are in NGVD29, approximate NAVD88 values are shown for reference.

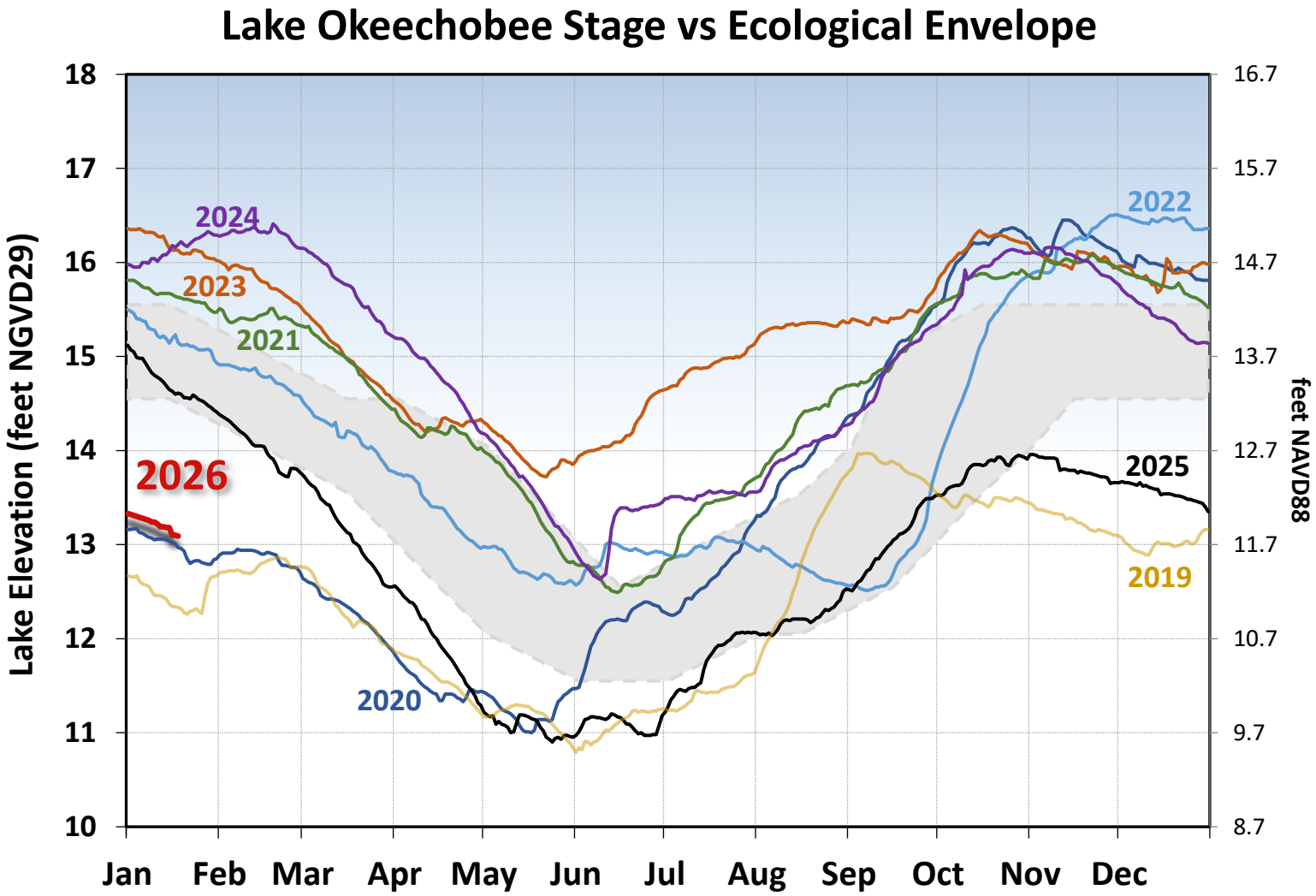

Figure LO-3. The current and seven prior year's annual lake stage hydrographs in comparison to the Lake Okeechobee ecological envelope (light grey).

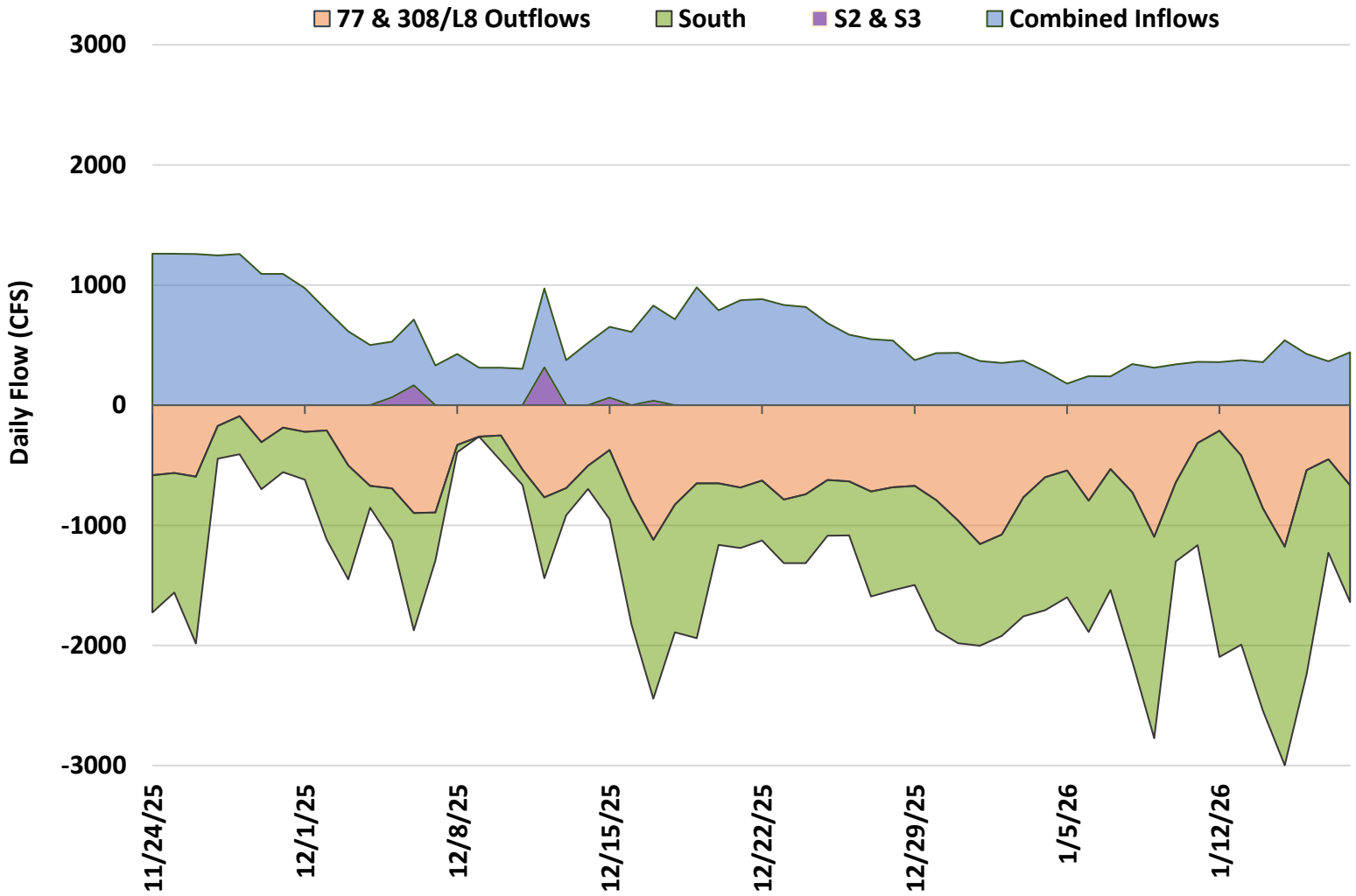

Figure LO-4. Major inflows (orange) to and outflows east and west (blue) from Lake Okeechobee. Outflows south are shown in green. Flows into Lake Okeechobee from the L-8 canal through S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) or from the C-44 canal through the S-308 are included as inflows. Conversely, flows from Lake Okeechobee into the L-8 or C-44 canals are included with outflows. Inflows are shown as positive values; outflows are negative. Outflows through the S-77 (Caloosahatchee) and S-308 (C-44 Canal) structures are based on downstream gauges to include flows to lock openings for navigation.

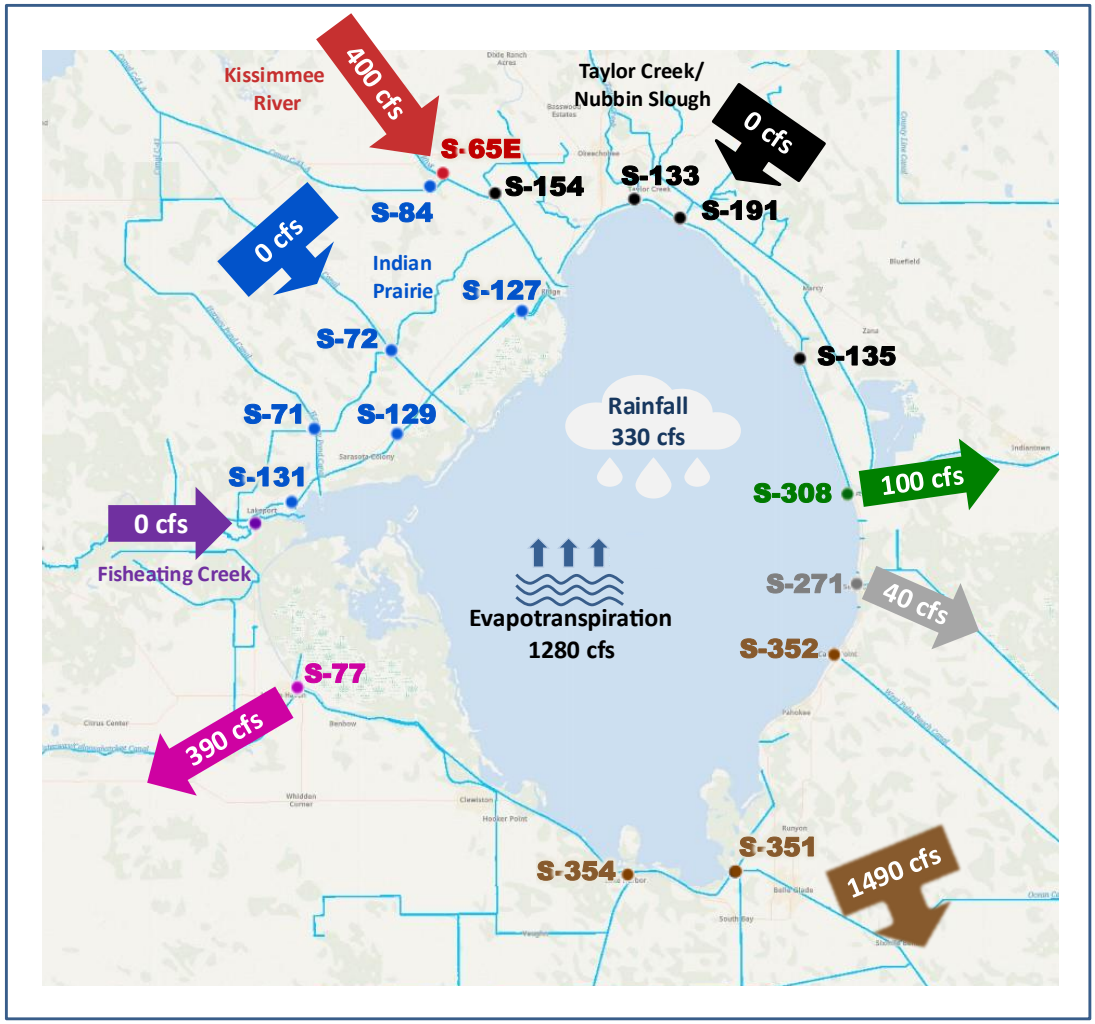

Figure LO-5. Inflows into Lake Okeechobee from Indian Prairie basins, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek (currently no flow data available for FECR), and outflows to the west via S-77, to the east via S-308, to the south via S-351, S-352, S-354, and to southeast via S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) for the week of Jan 12 - 18, 2026.

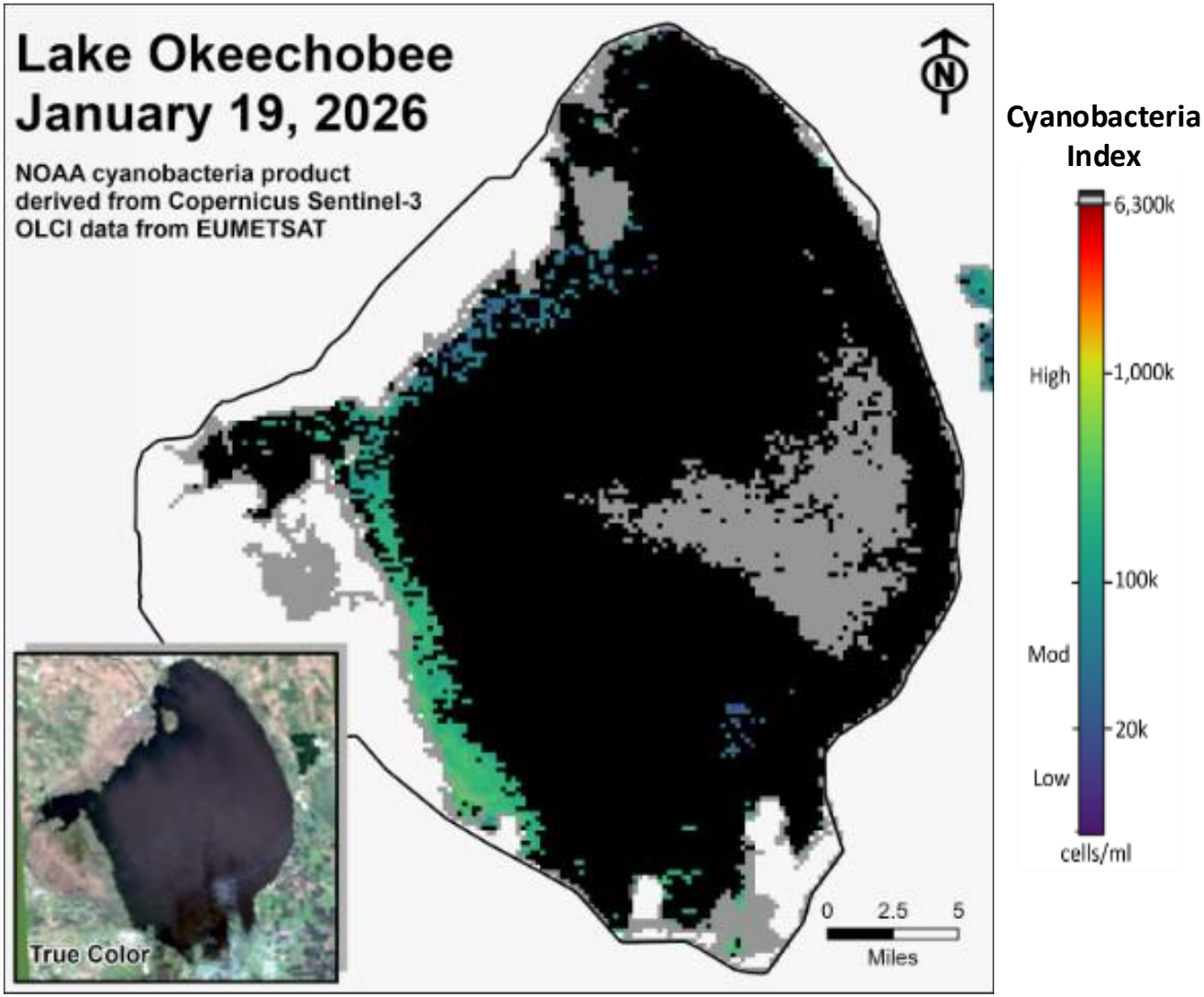

Figure LO-6. Cyanobacteria bloom index level on Lake Okeechobee, based on NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover. *Provisional NOAA image, subject to change*.

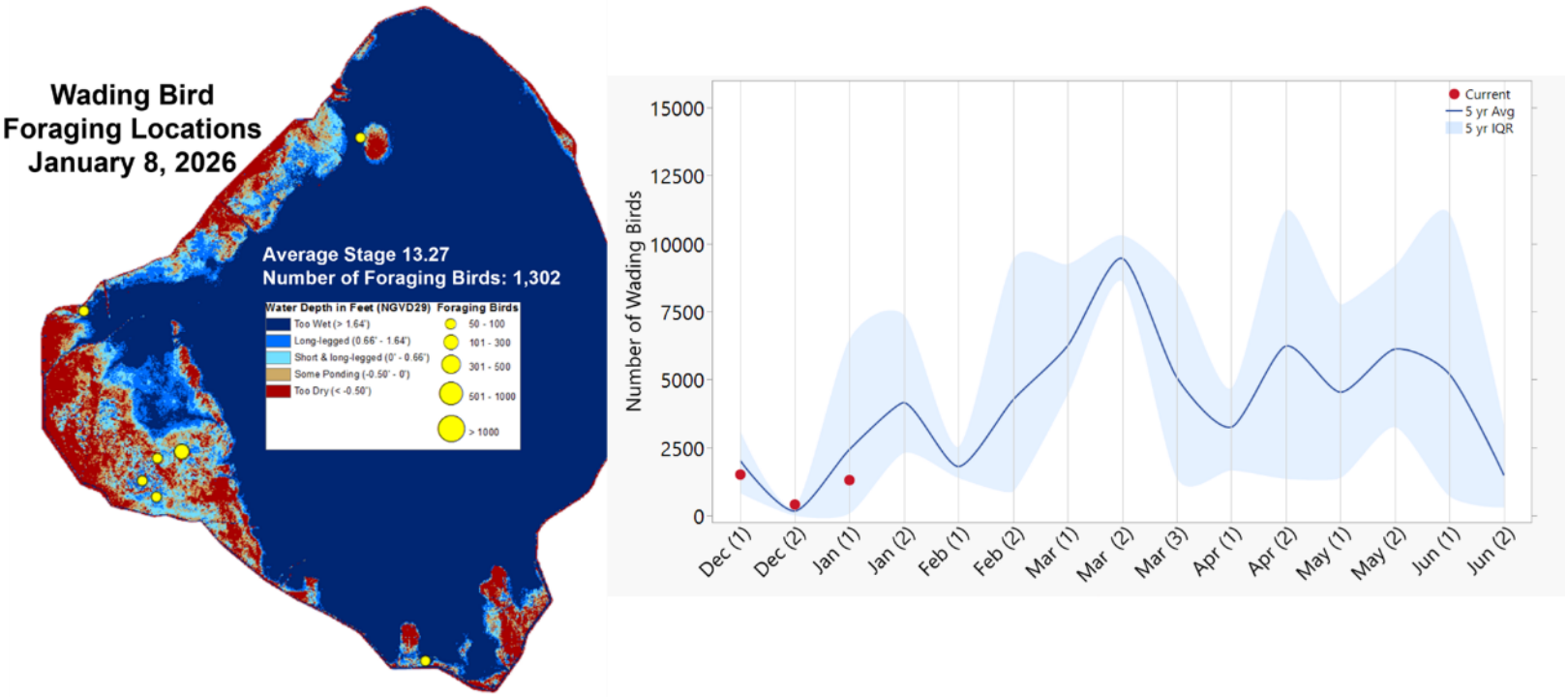

Figure LO-7. Results from the wading bird survey flight conducted on January 8, 2026. Map graphic indicates location of flocks and approximate abundance of actively foraging wading birds on Lake Okeechobee. Graph compares the current seasons wading bird counts (red dots) to the mean and interquartile ranges from the preceding 5 years of surveys.

Estuaries

St. Lucie Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was 261 cfs (**Figures ES-1** and **ES-2**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 164 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-2**.

Over the past week, salinities remained similar to the previous week at the HR1 and US1 Bridge and increased slightly at the A1A Bridge site (**Table ES-1** and **Figure ES-3**). The seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge was 26.1. Salinity conditions in the middle estuary were estimated to be within the upper stressed range for adult eastern oysters (**Figure ES-4**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rate reported by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) for December was 0.3 spat/shell at Rio, which is a slight increase from the previous month (**Figure ES-5**).

Caloosahatchee River Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary was 204 cfs (**Figures ES-6** and **ES-7**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 492 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from the contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-7**.

Over the past week, surface salinities increased at Val I-75 and Cape Coral and decreased at the remaining sites in the estuary (**Table ES-2** and **Figures ES-8** and **ES-9**). The seven-day mean salinities (**Table ES-2**) were in the optimal range (0-10) for tape grass at S-79 and Val I-75 and in the damaging range (>15) at Fort Myers. The seven-day mean salinity values were within the optimal range for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral and in the upper stressed range at Shell Point and Sanibel (**Figure ES-10**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rates reported by the FWRI in December were 0.3 spat/shell at Iona Cove and 0.4 spat/shell at Bird Island, which is a decrease from the previous month (**Figures ES-11 and ES-12**).

Surface salinity at Val I-75 was forecast for the next two weeks using an autoregression model (Qiu and Wan, 2013[1]) coupled with a linear reservoir model for the tidal basin. Model scenarios included pulse releases at S-79 ranging from 450 cfs to 2,000 cfs, with estimated tidal basin inflows of 64 cfs. Model results from all scenarios predict daily salinity to be 7.0 or lower and the 30-day moving average surface salinity to be 8.1 or lower at Val I-75 at the end of the two-week period (**Table ES-3** and **Figure ES-13**). This keeps predicted salinities in the upper estuary within the optimal salinity range (0-10) for tape grass.

[1] Qui, C., and Y. Wan. 2013. Time series modeling and prediction of salinity in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary. *Water Resources Research* 49:5804-5816.

Red Tide

The FWRI reported on January 16, 2026, that *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide dinoflagellate, was observed at background concentrations in samples collected from Collier County and background to low concentrations in Monroe County over the past week. On the east coast, red tide was not observed in samples from St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward or Miami-Dade counties.

Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels

The minimum flows and levels (MFL) for the Caloosahatchee River Estuary is a 30-day moving average flow of 457 cfs at S-79. The current 30-day average flow at S-79 is 417 cfs (**Figure ES-14)** which is an exceedance.

The MFL for the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River has two components, both of which must be met to have an exceedance. The first is that flows at Lainhart Dam are maintained at 35 cfs or greater, and the second is that the 20-day moving average salinity is 2 or less at River Mile (RM) 9.2. The current daily average flow at Lainhart Dam is 39 cfs **(Figure ES-15),** and the 20-day average salinity at RM 9.2 is 2.72 **(Figure ES-16)**.

Water Management Recommendations

Lake stage is in Zone D. Current climatological and hydrological conditions are normal. The LOSOM release guidance suggests up to 2,000 cfs release at S-79 to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary and no releases at S-80 to the St. Lucie Estuary.

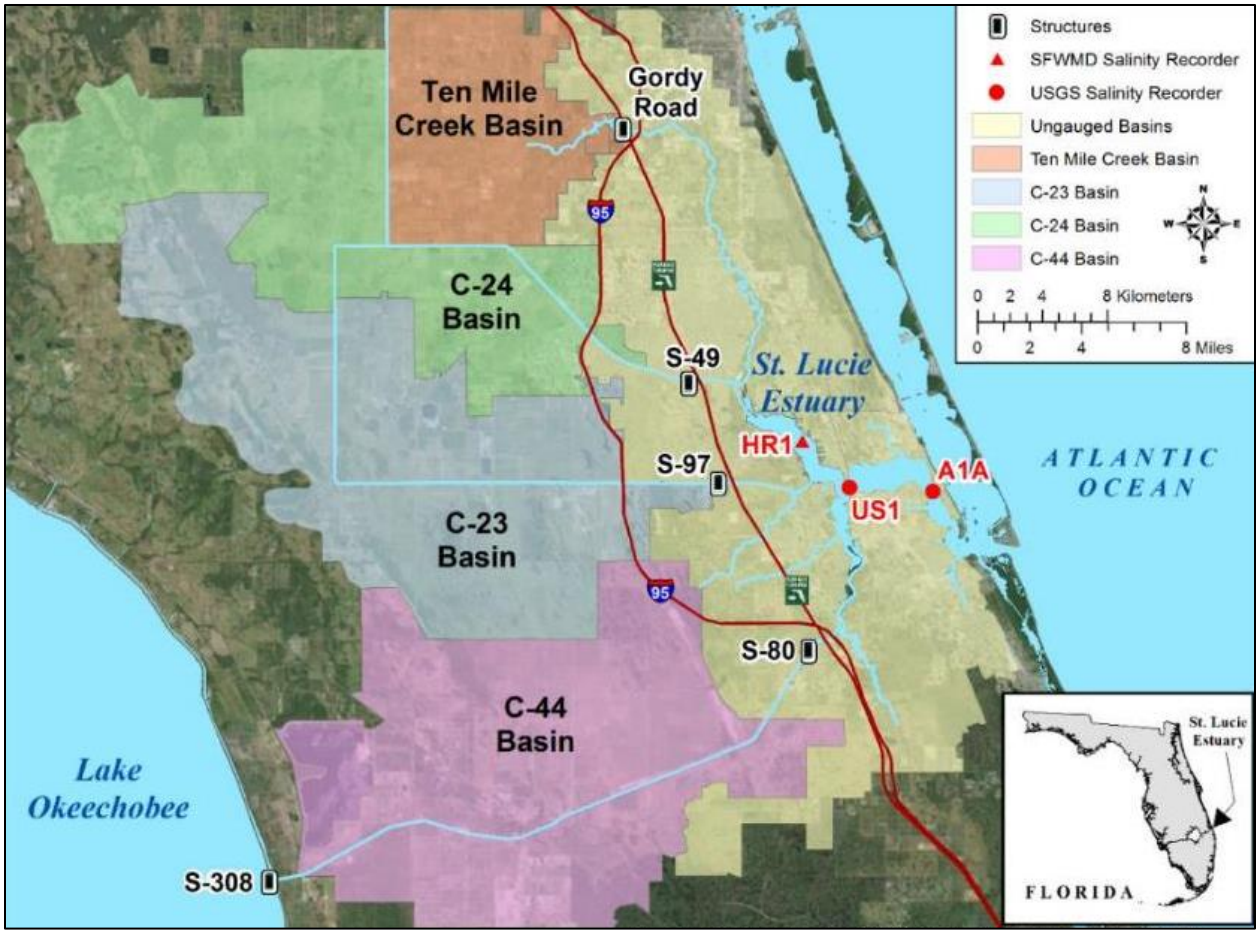

Figure ES-1. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

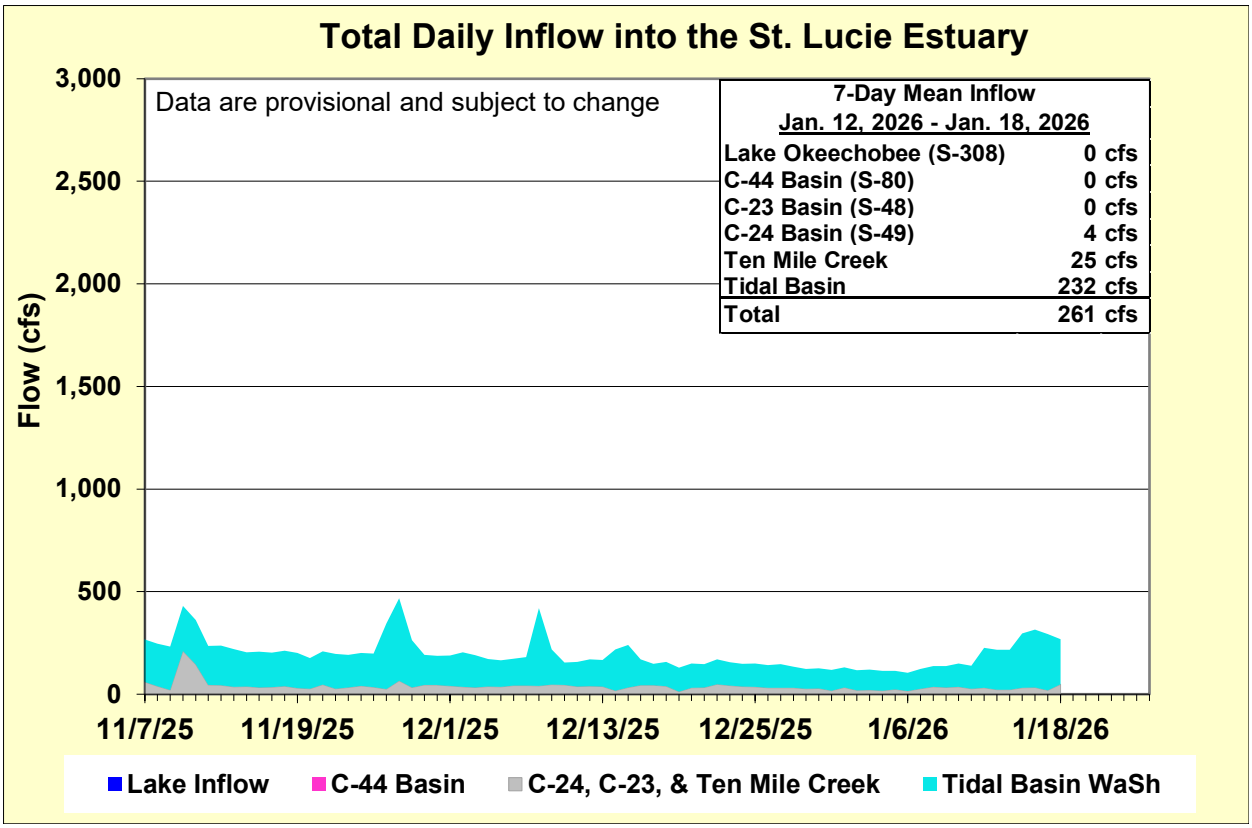

Figure ES-2. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-44, C-23, C-24, Ten Mile Creek, and Tidal Basins into the St. Lucie Estuary.

Table ES-1. Seven-day mean salinity at oyster monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary. Current means are in bold font; previous week's means are in parentheses. The envelope reflects the optimum salinity range for adult eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) in the estuary. Data are provisional.

Sampling Site	Surface	Bottom	Optimum Envelope
HR1 (North Fork)	**22.6** (22.5)	**24.9** (25.2)	10.0 – 25.0
US1 Bridge	**26.0** (25.9)	**26.1** (26.1)	10.0 – 25.0
A1A Bridge	**31.0** (30.3)	**31.7** (31.3)	10.0 – 25.0

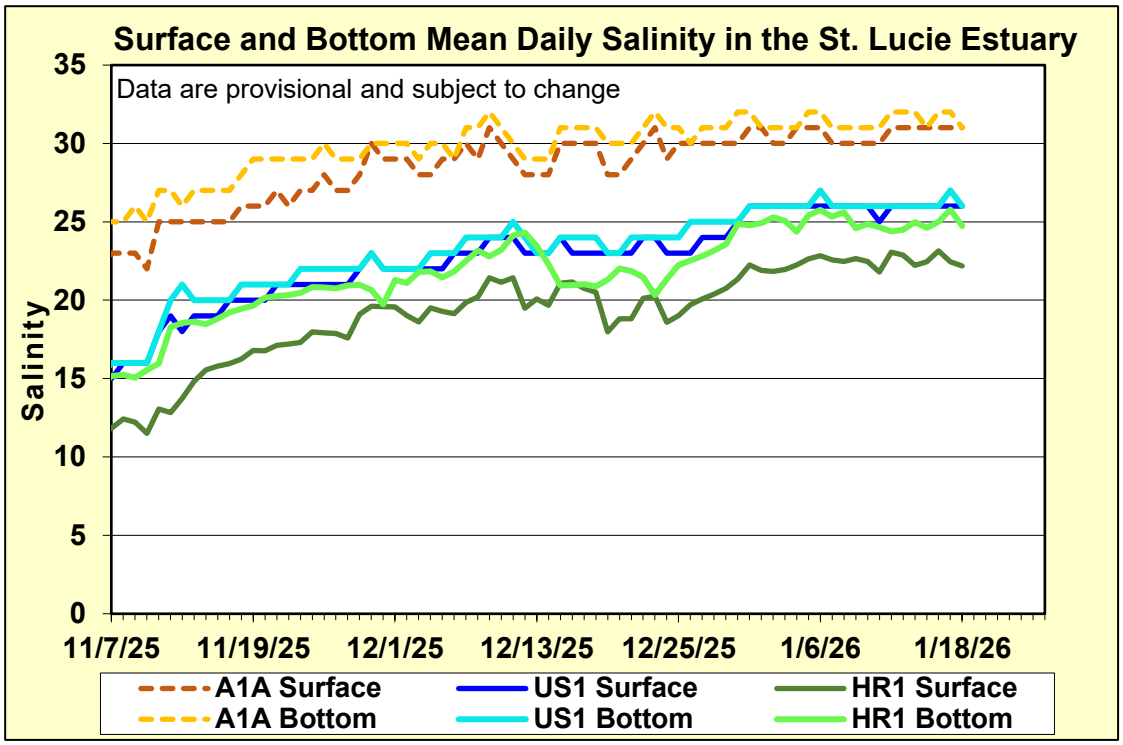

Figure ES-3. Mean daily salinity at the A1A, US1, and HR1 sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

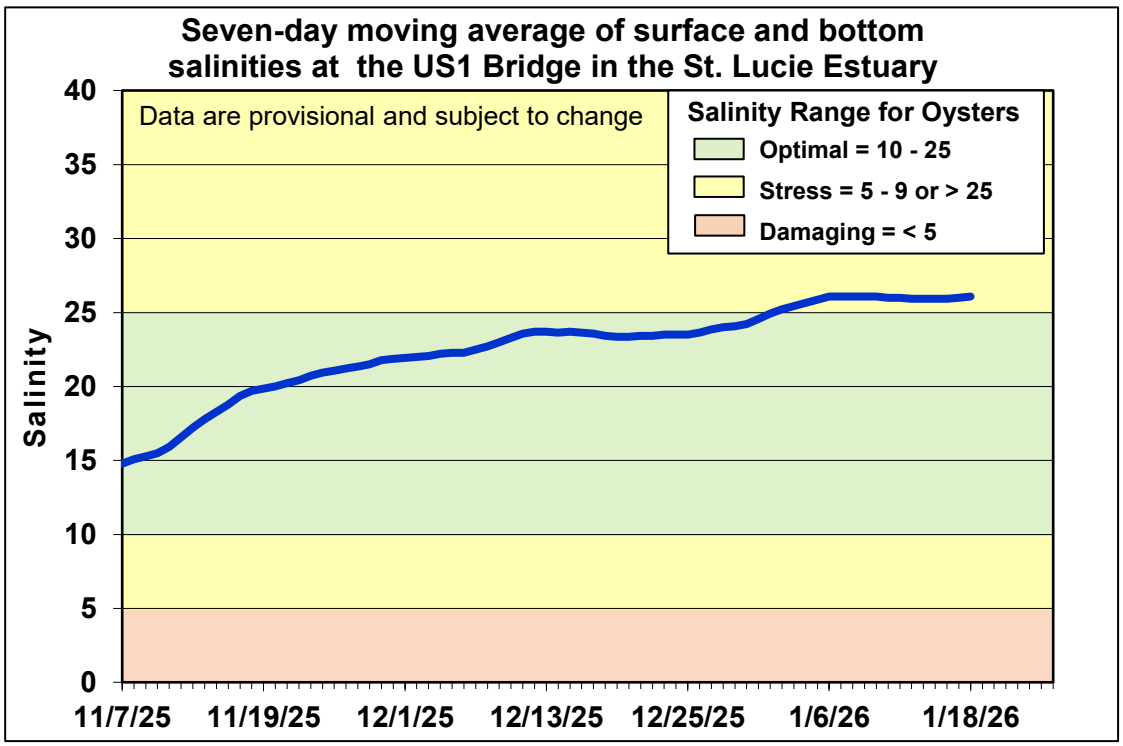

Figure ES-4. Seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge in the St. Lucie Estuary.

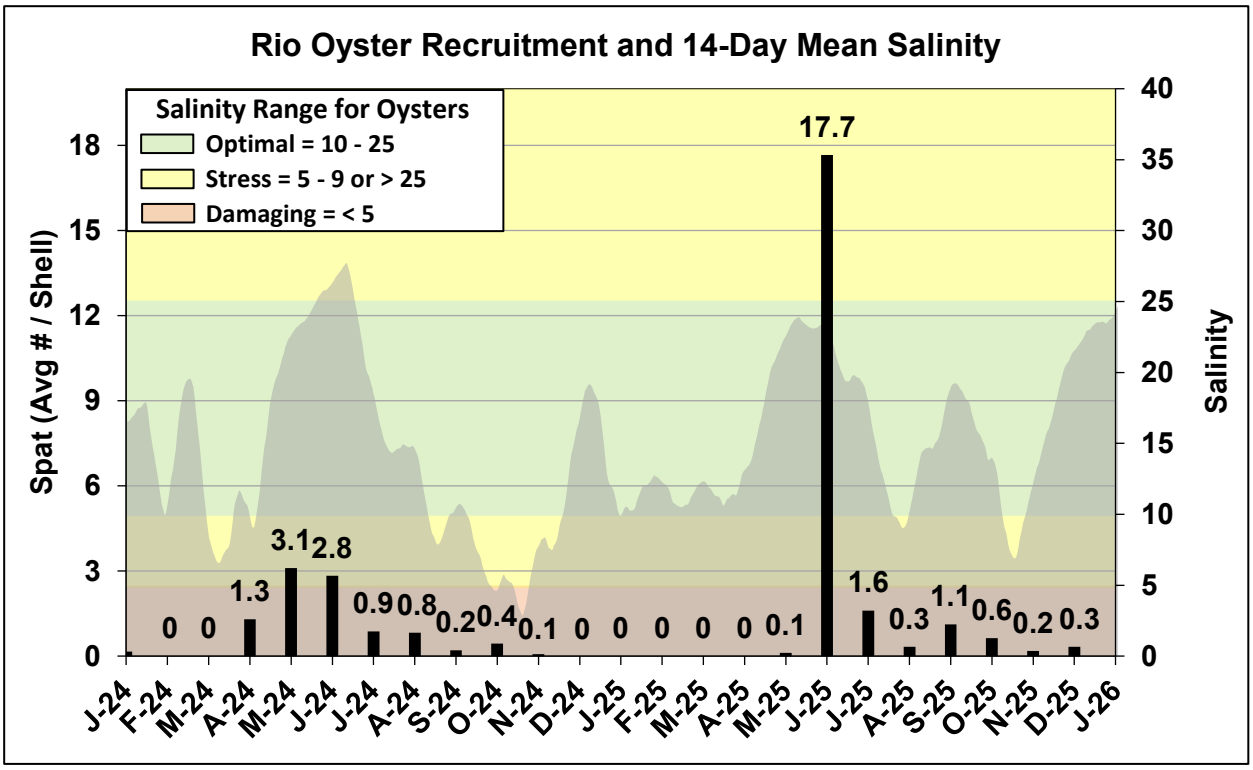

Figure ES-5. Mean oyster recruitment at the Rio oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at US1 Bridge.

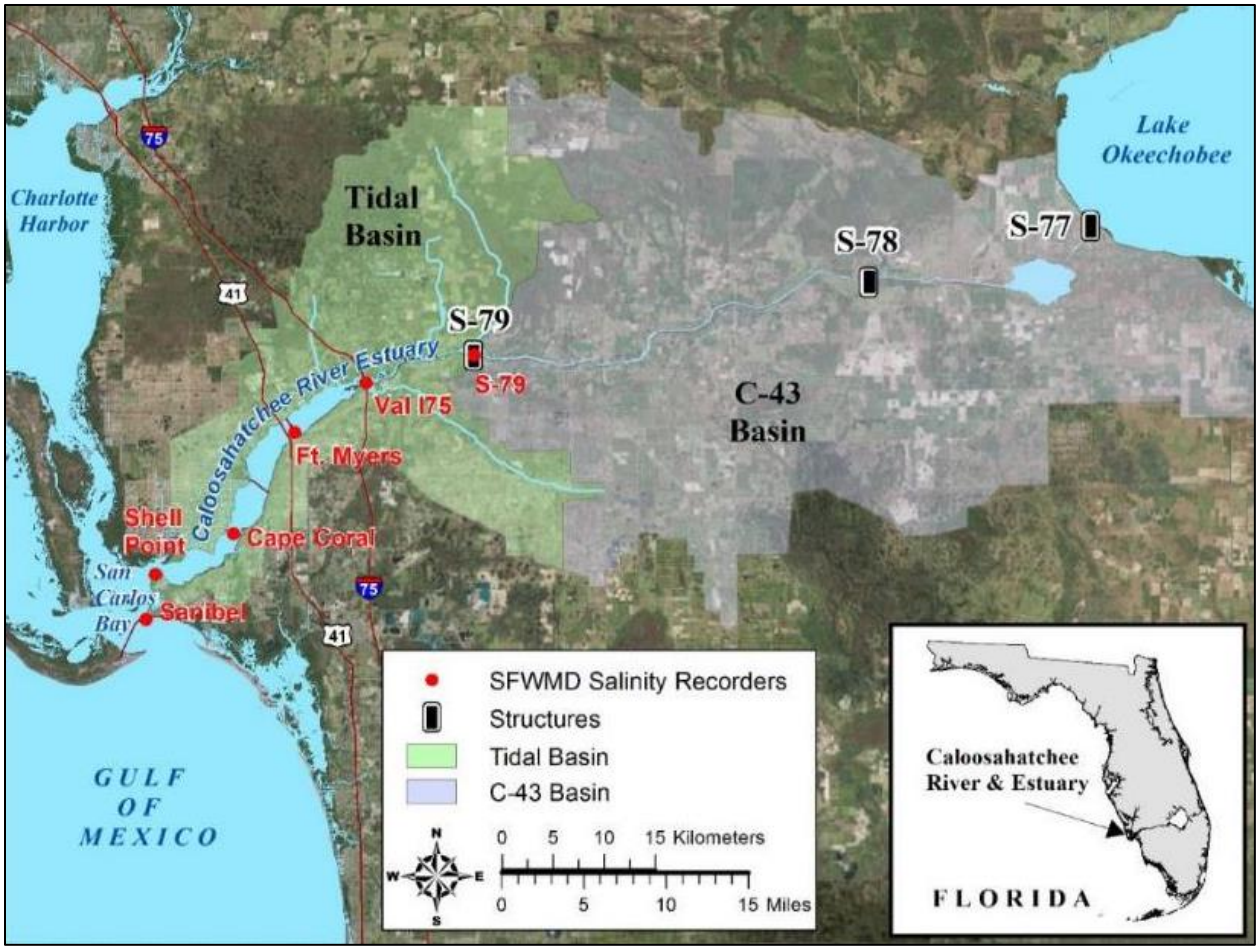

Figure ES-6. Basins, water control structures, and salinity monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

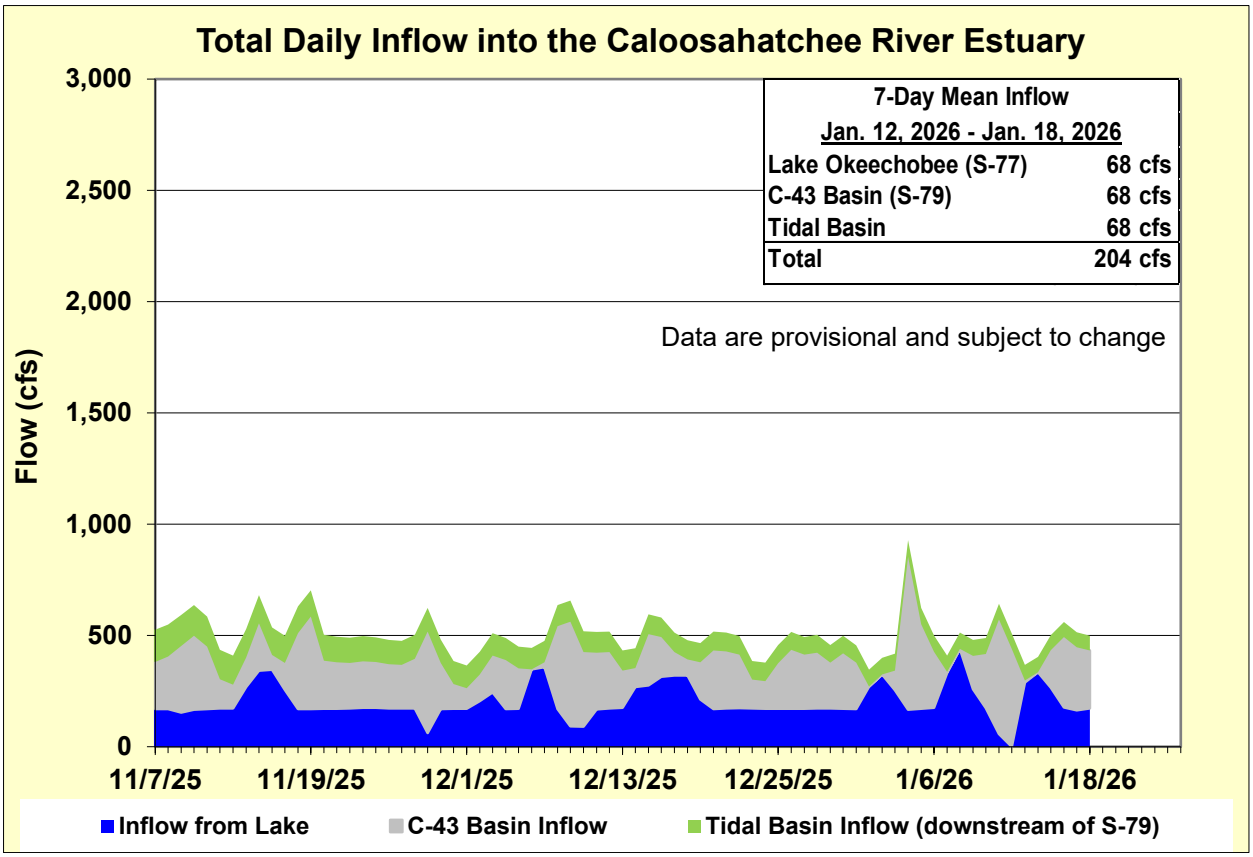

Figure ES-7. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee, and runoff from the C-43 and Tidal basins into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

Table ES-2. Seven-day mean salinity at six monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary. Current means are in bold font; previous week's means are in parentheses. The envelope in the upper estuary sites is for the protection of tape grass and the envelope in the lower estuary is the optimum salinity range for adult eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*). Data are provisional.

Sampling Site	Surface	Bottom	Optimum Envelope
S-79 (Franklin Lock)	**7.0** (7.6)	**7.6** (8.0)	0.0 – 10.0
Val I-75	**8.9** (7.9)	**9.8** (11.4)	0.0 – 10.0
Fort Myers Yacht Basin	**15.1** (16.2)	**16.1** (18.5)	0.0 – 10.0
Cape Coral	**22.3** (22.1)	**23.0** (23.4)	10.0 – 25.0
Shell Point	**30.6** (31.5)	**30.9** (31.8)	10.0 – 25.0
Sanibel	**32.4** (33.8)	**32.5** (33.9)	10.0 – 25.0

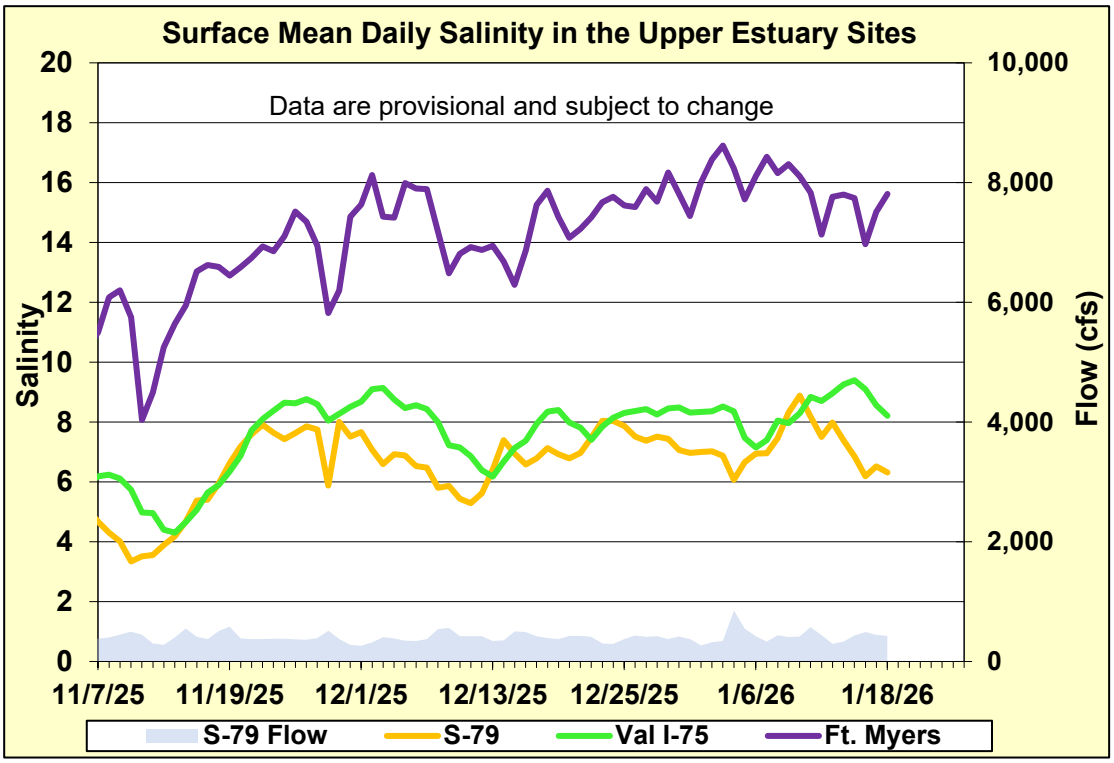

Figure ES-8. Mean daily salinity at upper Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

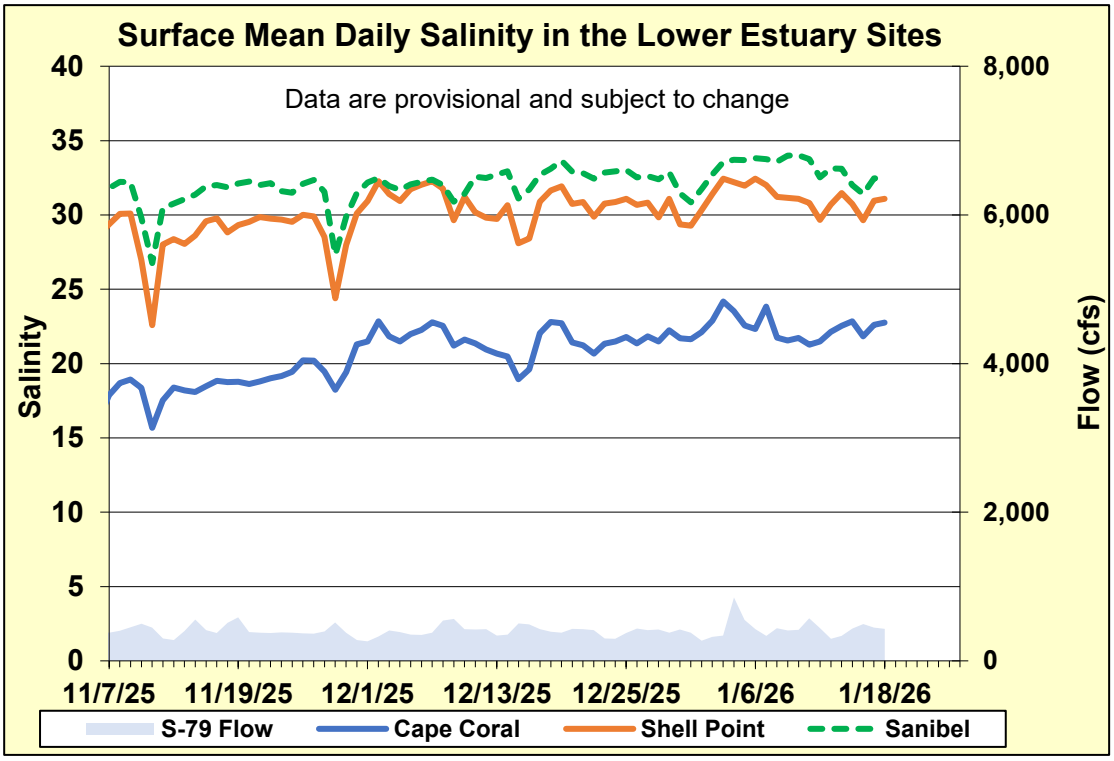

Figure ES-9. Mean daily surface salinity at lower Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

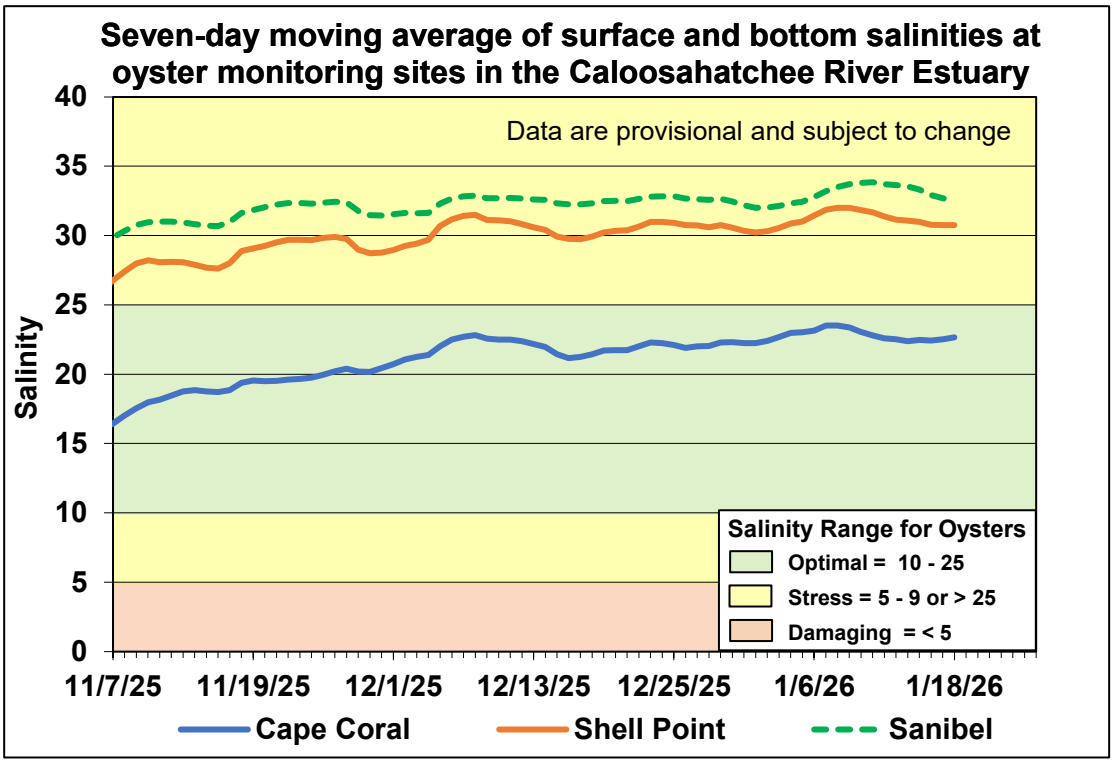

Figure ES-10. Seven-day moving average of surface and bottom salinities at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

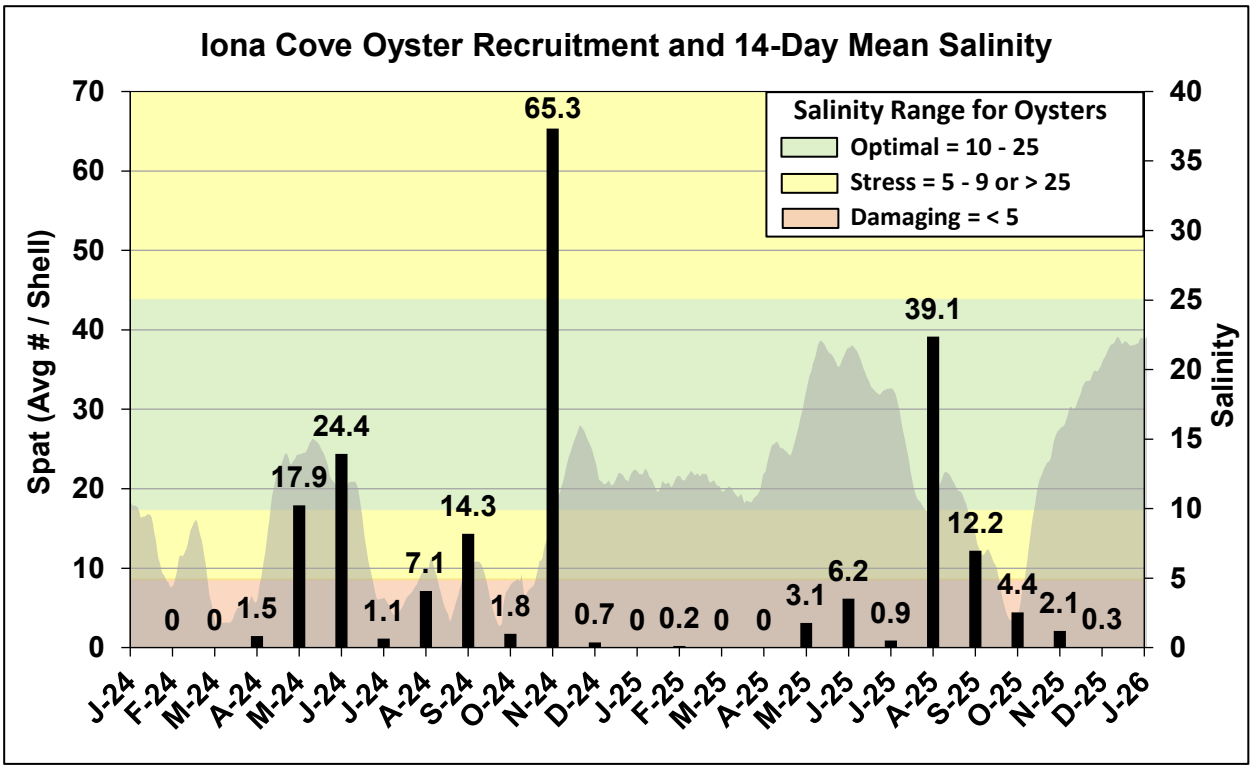

Figure ES-11. Mean oyster recruitment at the Iona Cove oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Cape Coral.

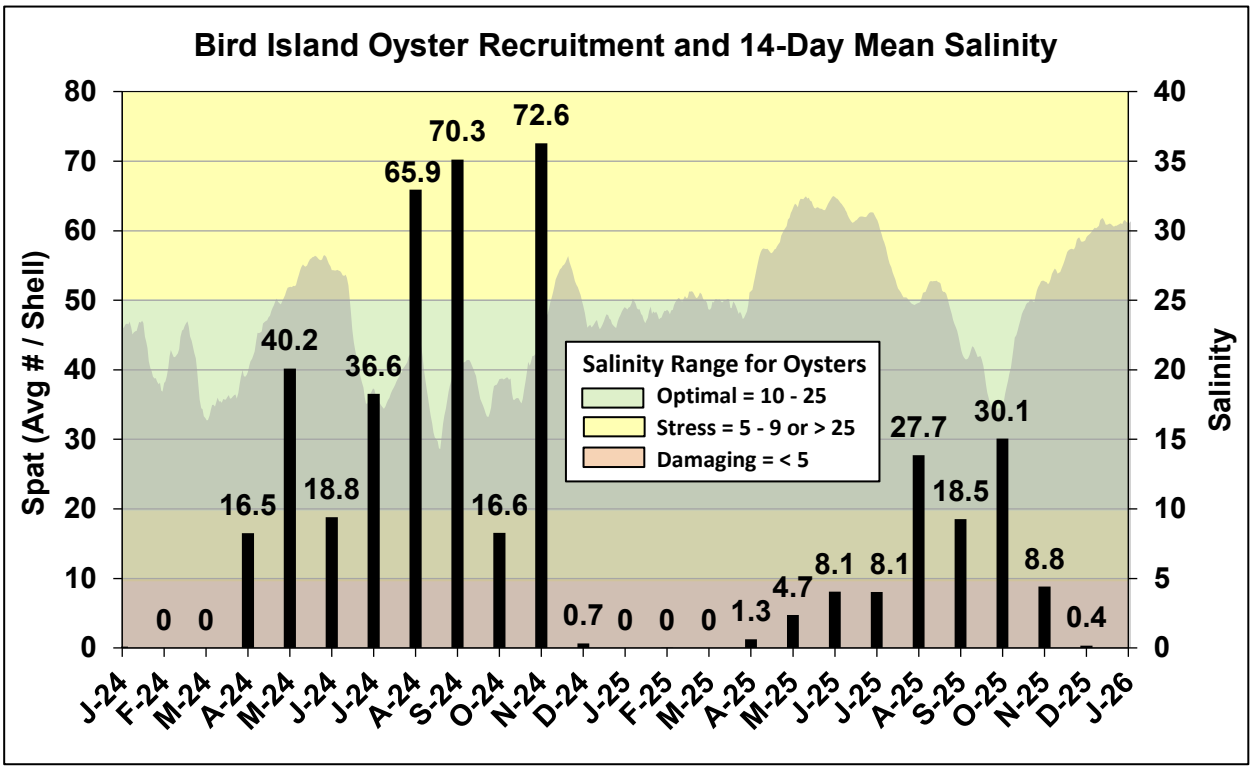

Figure ES-12. Mean oyster recruitment at the Bird Island oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Shell Point.

Table ES-3. Predicted salinity at Val I-75 in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary at the end of the forecast period for various S-79 flow release scenarios.

Scenario	Simulated S-79 Flow (cfs)	Tidal Basin Runoff (cfs)	Daily Salinity	30-Day Mean Salinity
A	450	64	7.0	8.1
B	750	64	5.4	7.4
C	1,000	64	4.0	7.0
D	1,500	64	2.1	6.4
E	2,000	64	1.1	5.9

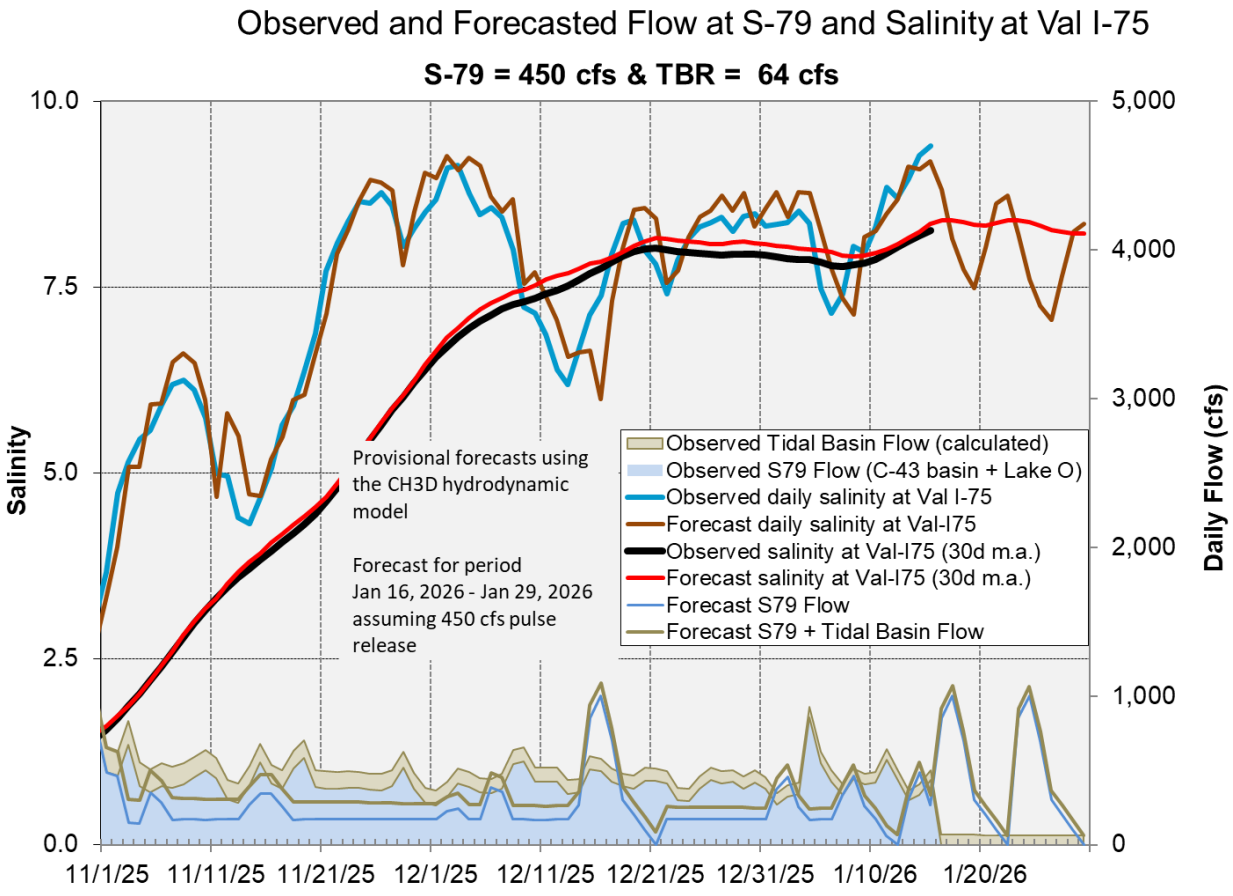

Figure ES-13. Surface salinity forecast at the Val I-75 site assuming a 450 cfs pulse release at S-79.

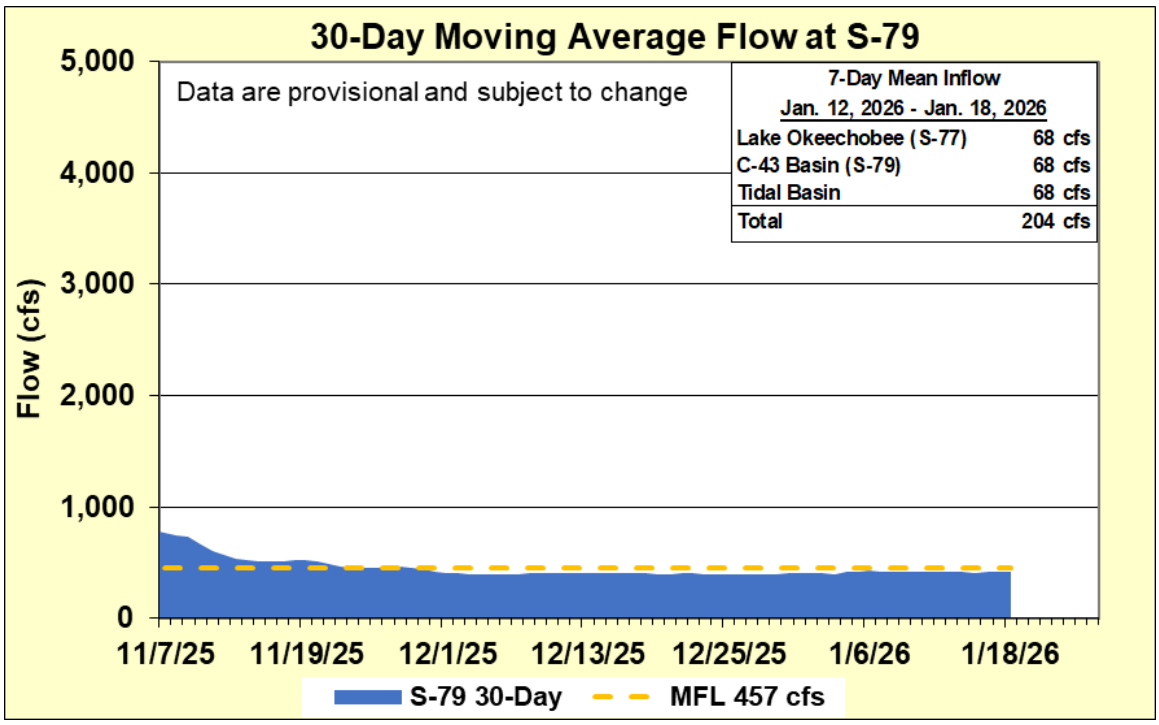

Figure ES-14. 30-day moving average flow at S-79 for the Caloosahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

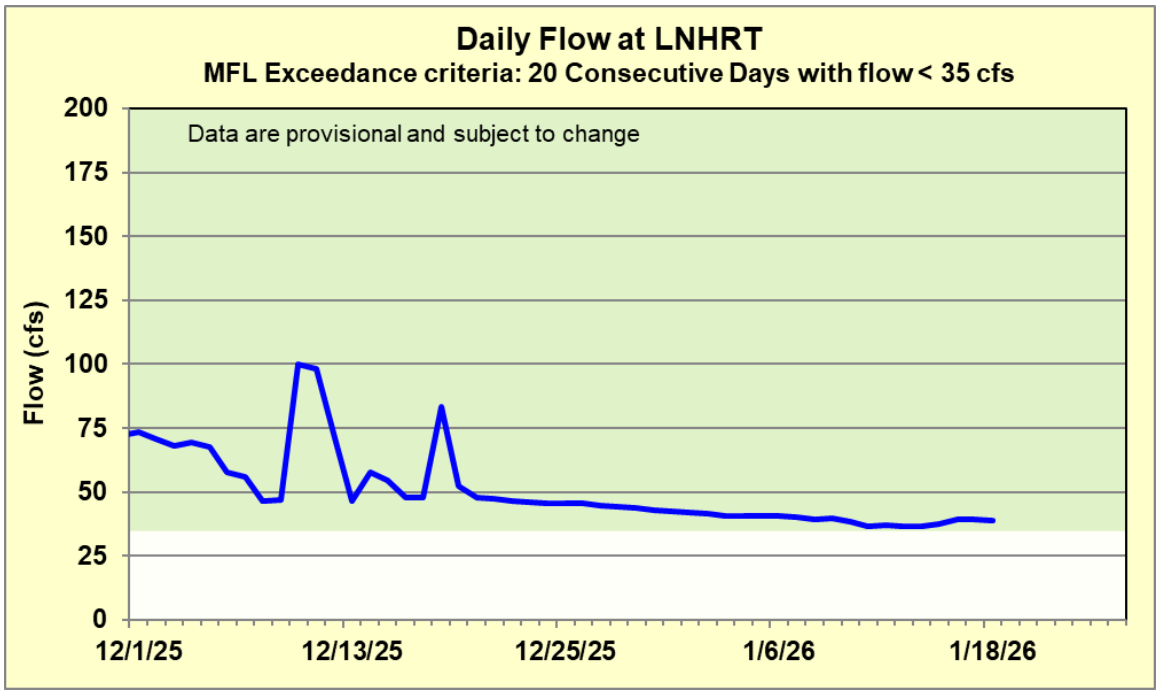

Figure ES-15. Average daily flow (cfs) at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

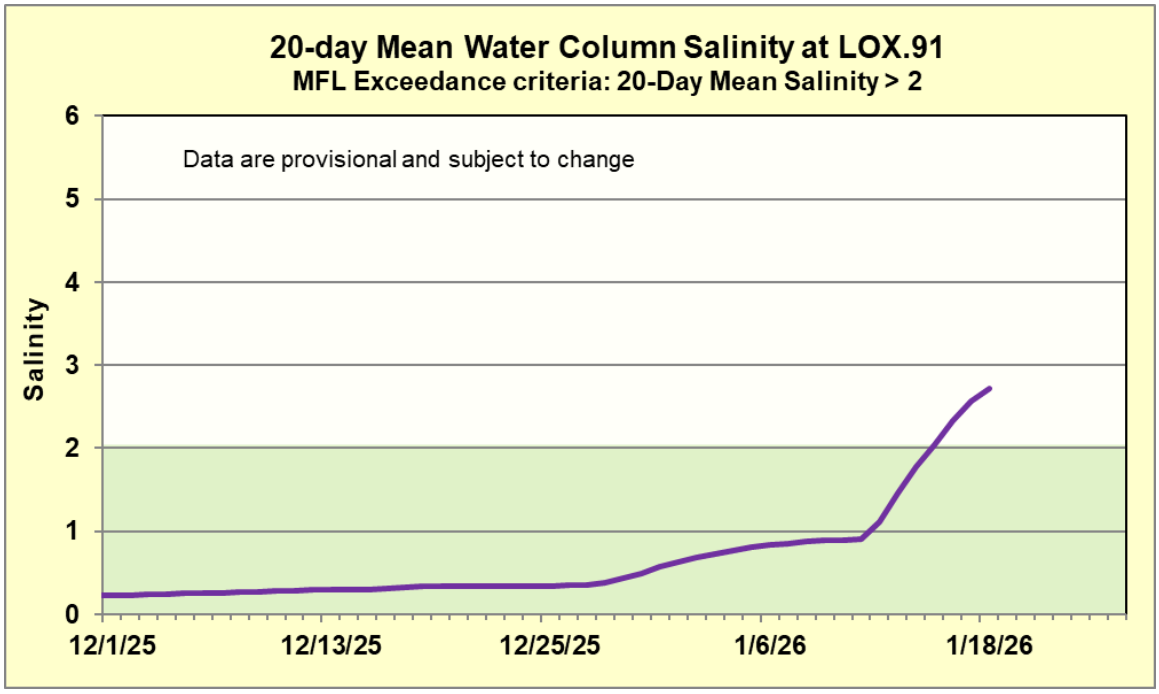

Figure ES-16. 20-day moving average salinity at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

Stormwater Treatment Areas

STA-1E: 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 slightly above target stage. The 365-day PLR for the Western and Eastern Flow-way is below 1.0 g/m^2/year (**Figure S-2**).

STA-1W: STA-1W Eastern Flow-way is offline for vegetation management activities. Most treatment cells are at 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/year (**Figure S-2**).

STA-2: Operational restrictions are in place in Flow-ways 2, 3 and 4 for vegetation management activities. Treatment cells are at target stage or slightly below target stage. The 365-day PLRs for all Flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m^2/year (**Figure S-3).**

STA-3/4: An operational restriction is in place in the Eastern Flow-way for vegetation management activities. Most treatment cells are 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/year (**Figure S-3**).

STA-5/6: Treatment cells are at or above target stage. All treatment cells have highly stressed vegetation conditions. The 365-day PLRs for all Flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m^2/year. (**Figure S-4**).

For definitions on STA operational language see glossary following figures

Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas - STAs

- Total WY2026 inflows to STAs (5/1/2025 to 1/18/2026): ~546,000 ac-ft
- Lake Okeechobee releases to FEBs/STAs
  - 1/12/2025 to 1/18/2026: 6,200 ac-ft
  - WY2026: ~ 41,800 ac-ft
- Extensive vegetation management activities underway to address stressed and highly stressed vegetation in EAV cells
- All treatment cells are at or near target water depth

Estimated Inflow and Outflow Volumes
Jan. 12th, 2026 - Jan 18th, 2026 *Includes preliminary data*

	Total Inflow (acre-feet)	Total Outflow (acre-feet)
STA-1E	430	60
STA-1W	1,300	50
STA-2	1,000	100
STA-3/4	1,200	750
STA-5/6	460	0

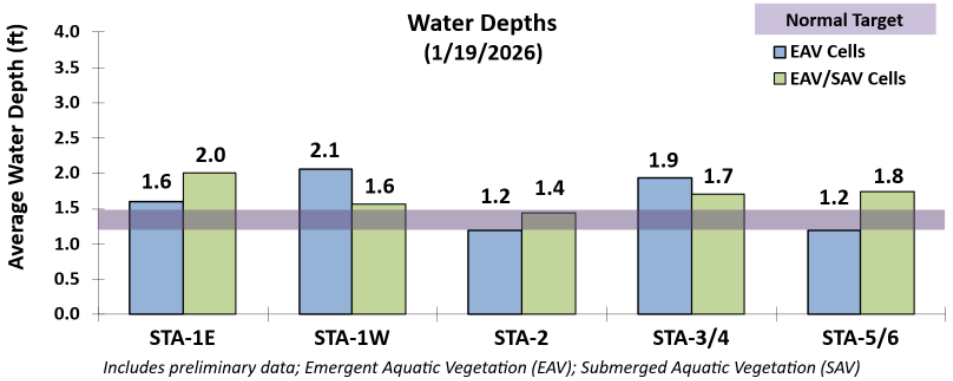

Figure S-1. STA depths and flow volumes

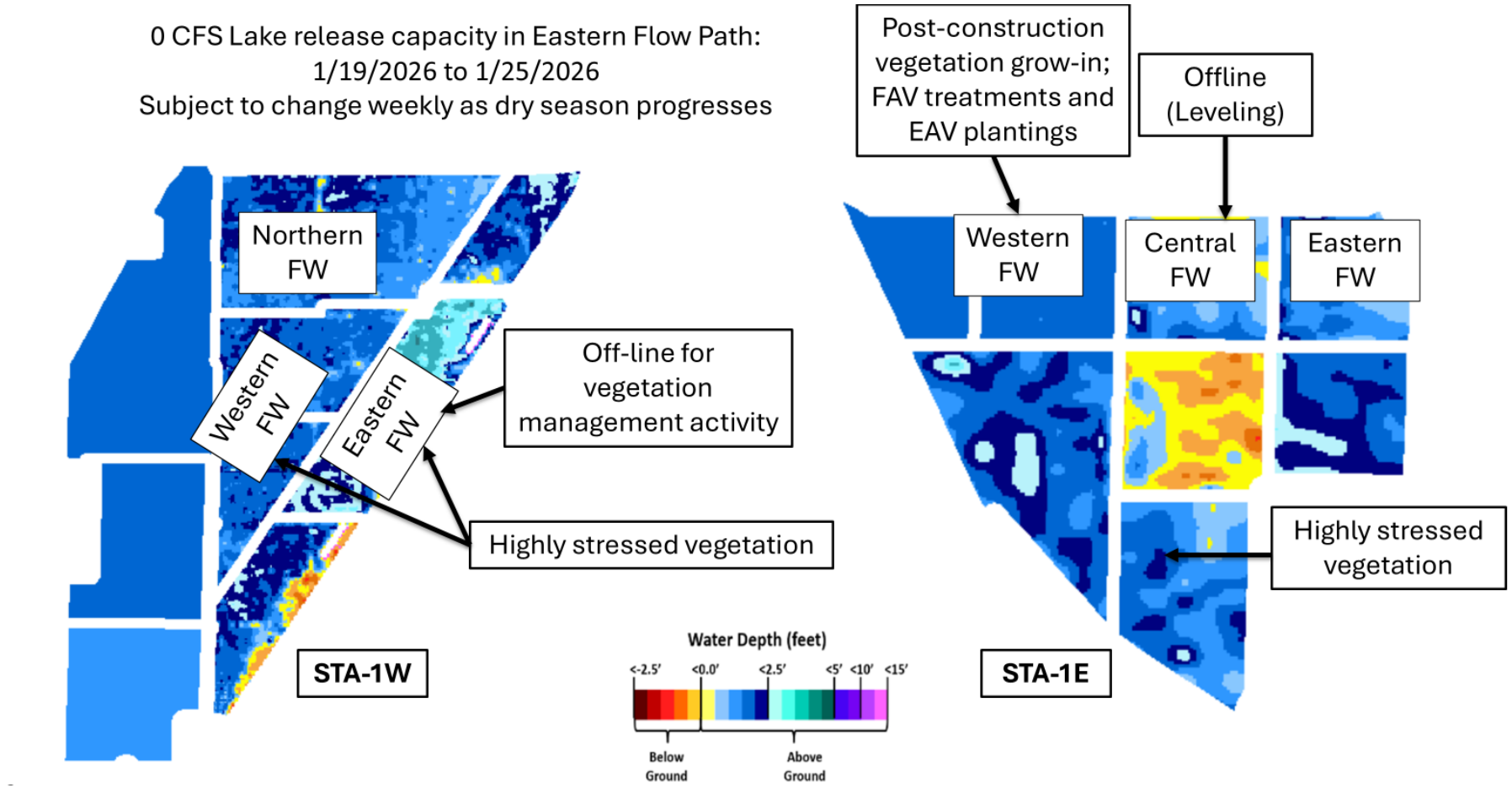

Figure S-2. Eastern Flow Path Weekly Status Report

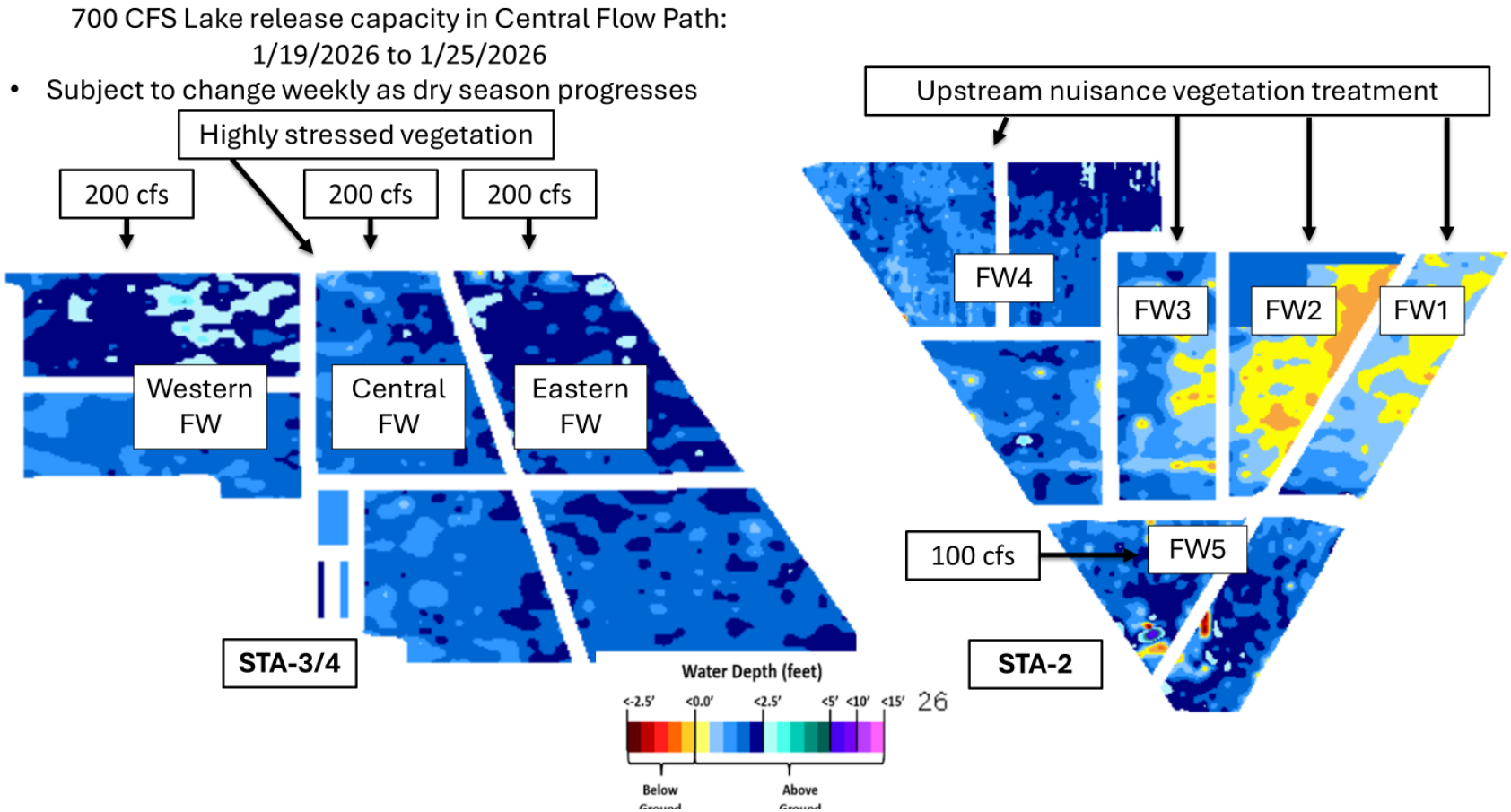

Figure S-3. Central Flow Path Weekly Status Report

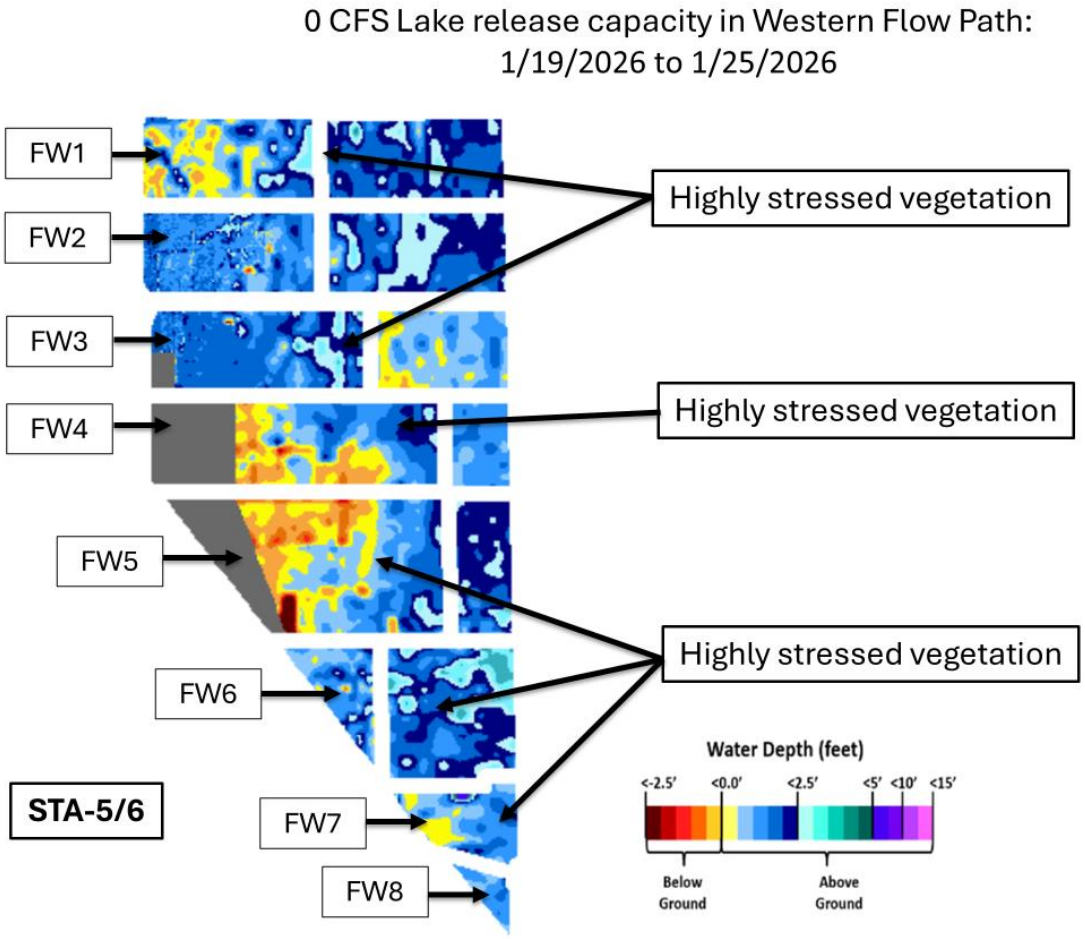

Figure S-4. Western Flow Path Weekly Status Report

Basic Concepts and Definitions for STA Weekly Status Report

- **Inflow**: Sum of flow volume at all inflow structures to an STA.
- **Lake Inflow**: Portion of the STA total inflow volume that originates from Lake Okeechobee.
- **Outflow**: Sum of flow volume at outflow structures from an STA.
- **Total Phosphorus** (TP): Total mass of phosphorus in all its forms; including particulate, dissolved, etc.
- **Inflow Concentration**: TP concentration is the mass of TP in micrograms per liter of water, µg/L or ppb. Inflow concentration refers to the flow-weighted mean TP from all inflow structures over a period of time.
- **Outflow Concentration**: The flow-weighted mean TP from all outflow structures over a period of time. The outflow concentration represents the reduction of inflow TP achieved by STA treatment of the inflow water.
- **WQBEL**: The STA outflow concentration that is required upon completion of the Restoration Strategies projects by December 2025. The outflow concentration shall not exceed 13 ppb as an annual flow weighted mean in more than 3 out of 5 water years on a rolling basis and shall not exceed 19 ppb as an annual flow weighted in any water year.
- **Flow-Way** (FW): One or more treatment cells connected in series. Cells typically have emergent aquatic vegetation (EAV) in the front portion of the flow-way followed by a mix of EAV and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)
- **Vegetation Status**: Healthy means the vegetation condition is good and will allow the STA to perform as designed. Stressed means the vegetation is showing signs of poor health, such as browning or areas of vegetation die-off, or the cell contains undesirable vegetation such as floating exotic vegetation requiring treatment. The TP reduction capability of the STA is affected when the vegetation condition is poor.
- **Phosphorus Loading Rate** (PLR): Mass of inflow TP in grams, divided by total treatment area of STA in square meters, per year. In general, a 365-day value of less than 1.0 is needed for an STA to perform optimally. A PLR of 2.0 is considered very high and a PLR of 3.0 is considered extremely high. The TP reduction capability of the STA is affected when the PLR is high, very high and extremely high.
- **Online**: Online status means the FW can receive and treat inflow.
- **Online with Restriction**: The FW can receive and treat inflow, but the amount of flow or water level may be limited temporarily. For example, a vegetation rehabilitation effort may require reduced flows through an area while the new plants are establishing, or nesting by protected species may require a certain water level not to be exceeded.
- **Offline**: The FW is unable to receive and treat inflow due to repairs, construction, or other prohibitive reasons.
- **Depth**: Difference between the average surface water level in a cell and the average ground elevation in that cell. Target depths, or depths between flow events, are between 1.25 ft to 1.5 ft. As depth approaches or drops below zero, an increasing percentage of the cell is considered dry and STA conditions deteriorate. An increase in depth above target depth is expected with increasing flow. However, as depth increases much above the target depth and is sustained over a period of time, it can be detrimental to vegetation health and overall STA treatment performance.
- **Note**: The data provided in this summary report were developed using a combination of provisional and quality-assured flow and water quality data. In some cases, best professional judgment was used to estimate missing data and revise questionable data. Values provided are not considered final but are appropriate for use in STA operational decision-making.

Everglades

Water Conservation Area

Regulation Schedules

WCA-1: Stage change at the 1-8C gauge last week remained at a steady recession, and stages were 0.54 feet below the falling A1 Zone regulation line on Sunday, January 18th, 2026 **(Figure EV-1)**.

WCA-2A: Last week, stage recession at the 2-17 gauge remained at a steady downward trend and is well above the falling Zone A regulation line, at around 1.78 feet above the line on Sunday **(Figure EV-2)**.

WCA-3A: The 3-gauge stage average remains well into Zone B and is on a downward trend. On Sunday, stages were 0.9 feet below the Zone A regulation line. Stage at Gauge 62 (NW corner) continued a steady decline last week, below the Upper Schedule regulation line by 0.86 feet on Sunday (Figures **EV-3** and **EV-4)**.

Water Depths

The SFWDAT model output for January 19, 2026, indicates a slow recession in WCA-1, drying down to near soil surface in the north. The southern half of WCA-2A remains very deep for this time of year. WCA-2B is increasing in depth more so as increased pumping into this region from WCA-2A for water storage has begun. Drier than normal conditions expand across Northern WCA-3A. Depths are decreasing in WCA-3A and -3B and remain very low for this time of year with potential impacts to system-wide ecology. Hydrologic connectivity within the major sloughs of Everglades National Park (ENP) has been declining with some potential remaining in Shark River and Taylor Sloughs (**Figure EV-5**). Comparing current conditions to depths over the last twenty years; a majority of WCA-3A and WCA-3B are below the 10th percentiles (as they have for most of the last six months), while in southern WCA-2A and 2B depths remain above the 90th percentile. Depths throughout most of ENP have fallen to the 10th or 20th percentiles, and in WCA-1, depths have fallen into the 30th percentile or below (**Figure EV-6**).

Taylor Slough and Florida Bay

Most stages across Taylor Slough decreased over the past week, with an average decrease of 0.03 feet for the week. Changes ranged from −0.10 feet at Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB) in the northern slough to ±0.00 feet at CT50R and EPSW in the C-111 area (**Figure EV-7 and Figure EV-8**). Taylor Slough water levels remain below the recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 6.6 inches compared to before the Florida Bay Initiative (starting in 2017), with no change from January 11th. Stage at TSB remains below ground, indicating a lack of water at the head of the slough (**Figure EV-8)**. The Craighead Pond (CP) and TSB stages remain below the estimated historical average (circa 1900) by 0.76 and 2.47 feet, respectively.

Average Florida Bay salinity was 28.8, an increase of 0.1 from January 11th. Salinity changes ranged from −1.5 at Garfield Bight (GB) in the western nearshore region to +3.3 at Joe Bay (JB) in the eastern nearshore region (**Figure EV-7**). Salinity is above the

estimated historical average (circa 1900) and at the WY2001-2016 Interquartile Range (IQR) 75th percentile in the eastern and central regions, and has dropped to near the 25th percentile in the western region (**Figure EV-9**). Average Florida Bay salinity is above its recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 3.3, a decrease of 0.3 from January 11th.

Salinity at the Taylor River (TR) station in the mangrove zone (tracked for the Florida Bay MFL) was 1.2, a decrease of 0.1 from January 11th (**Figure EV-10**). The 365-day moving sum of flow from the five major creeks (McCormick Creek, Taylor River, Mud Creek, Trout Creek, West Highway Creek) was unable to be assessed due to missing data.

Average rainfall across Taylor Slough and Florida Bay was approximately 0.12 inches January 11th to 15th, based on the 18 gauges used for this report. Rainfall ranged from 0.03 inches at Terrapin Bay (TB), Taylor River (TR) and Whipray Basin (WB; in the central nearshore, eastern nearshore and central offshore regions, respectively) to 0.30 inches at GB in the western nearshore region (**Figure EV-11**). Wind directions and speeds in Florida Bay ranged from 1.3 mph NW on January 14th to 28.6 mph NW on January 15th (**Figure EV-11**).

The Taylor River, Mud Creek, and West Highway Creek flow stations are currently offline until at least February, so data from all five major creeks are unable to be assessed. Based on the available data from Trout and McCormick Creeks, average daily flow totaled 343 ac-feet, with net positive flows for the week. Total daily creek flow ranged from −581 ac-feet on January 14th to 1,197 ac-feet on January 12th (**Figure EV-13**). Average daily flow from Alligator Creek was 34 ac-feet, with net positive flows for the week (**Figure EV-13**).

Implications/considerations for water management.

- Stage recessions need to continue to be slowed in order to protect the wetland ecology from damaging dry downs expected by the end of the dry season in most regions.
    - The depths within WCA-3A this wet season were not high enough to recover aquatic prey populations from antecedent dry conditions or protect peat soils throughout the current dry season.
    - This has the potential to further extend the recent run of 4 consecutive poor wading bird nesting years into the 2026 nesting seasons.
    - With the potential for La Nina conditions this dry season, conserving water within the WCAs in the early dry season may prove ecologically beneficial especially in regions prone to dry out (e.g. WCA-3A North).

- Water depths in south-central WCA-2A need to be shallower in order to recover ridge and slough habitat.

- Freshwater input from the L-31N through to the S332 Detention Area, Frog Pond, and C-111 inflow structures into Taylor Slough and the C-111 basin would help moderate salinities and support recovery of estuarine conditions in Florida Bay.

- Conserving water in the WCAs while providing freshwater input to the sloughs of ENP will require careful consideration of a balance between the upstream and downstream ecological needs of the system. Individual regional recommendations can be found in **Table EV-2**.

Table EV-2. Previous week's rainfall and water depth changes in Everglades basins.

Everglades Region	Rainfall (inches)	Stage change (feet)
WCA-1	0.15	−0.01
WCA-2A	0.06	−0.06
WCA-2B	0.04	+0.06
WCA-3A	0.09	−0.03
WCA-3B	0.04	−0.01
ENP	0.13	+0.00

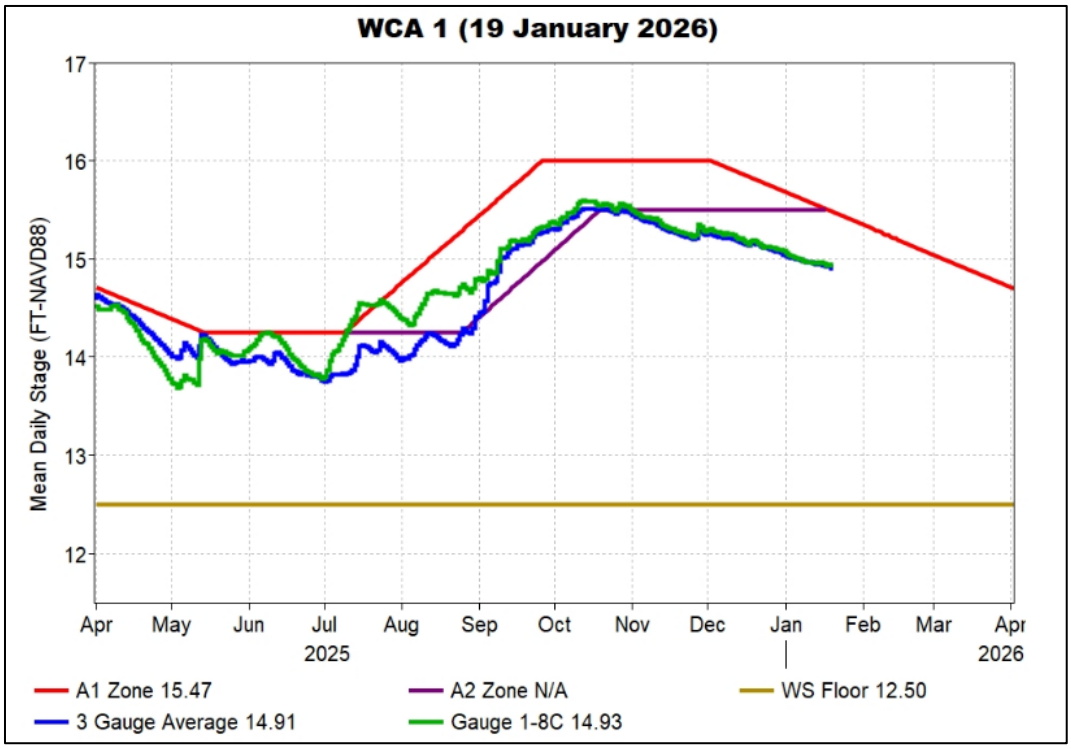

Figure EV-1. WCA-1 stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

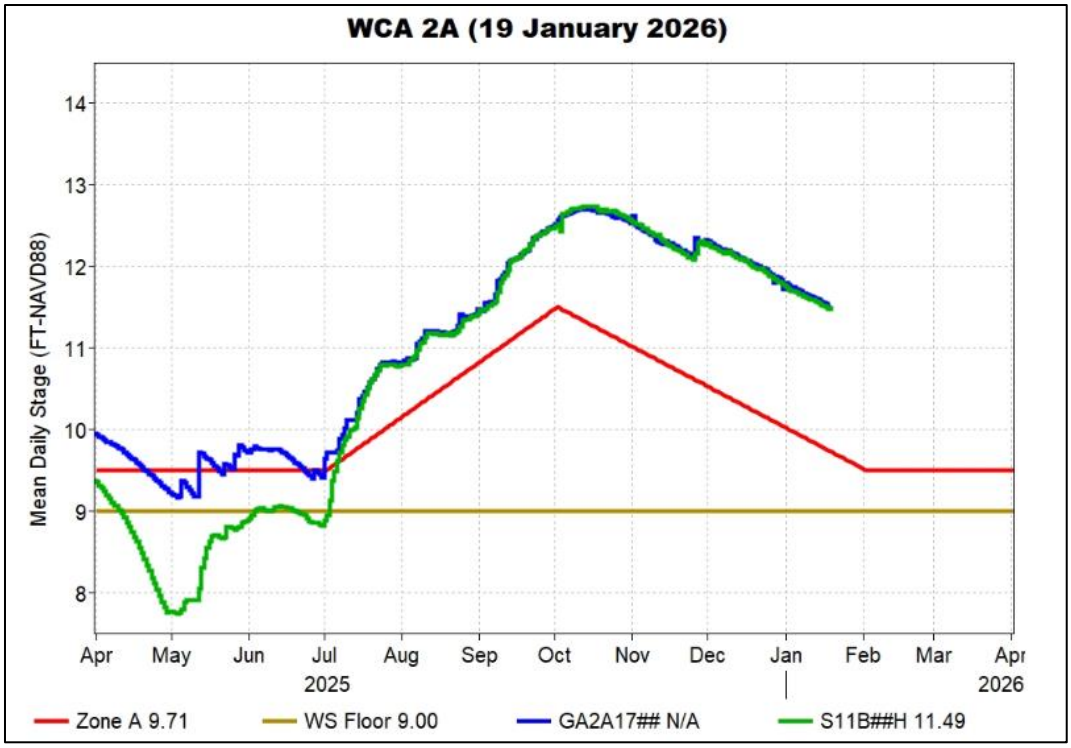

Figure EV-2. WCA-2A stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

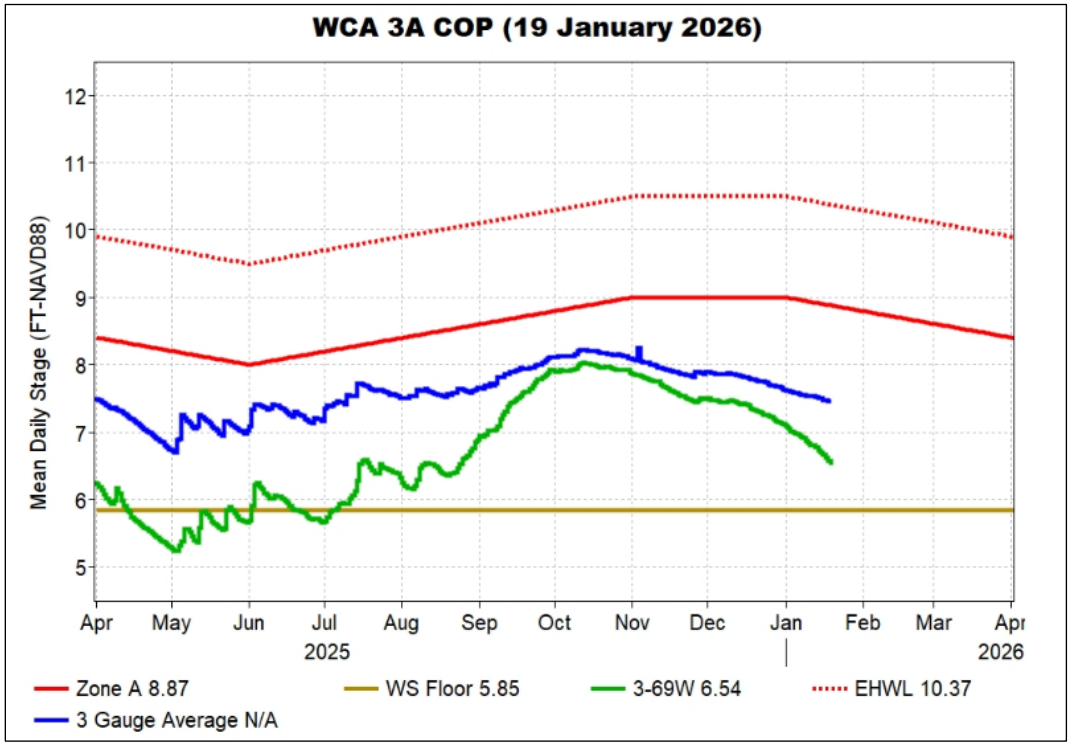

Figure EV-3. WCA-3A stage hydrographs (three-gauge average, 3-69W) and regulation schedule.

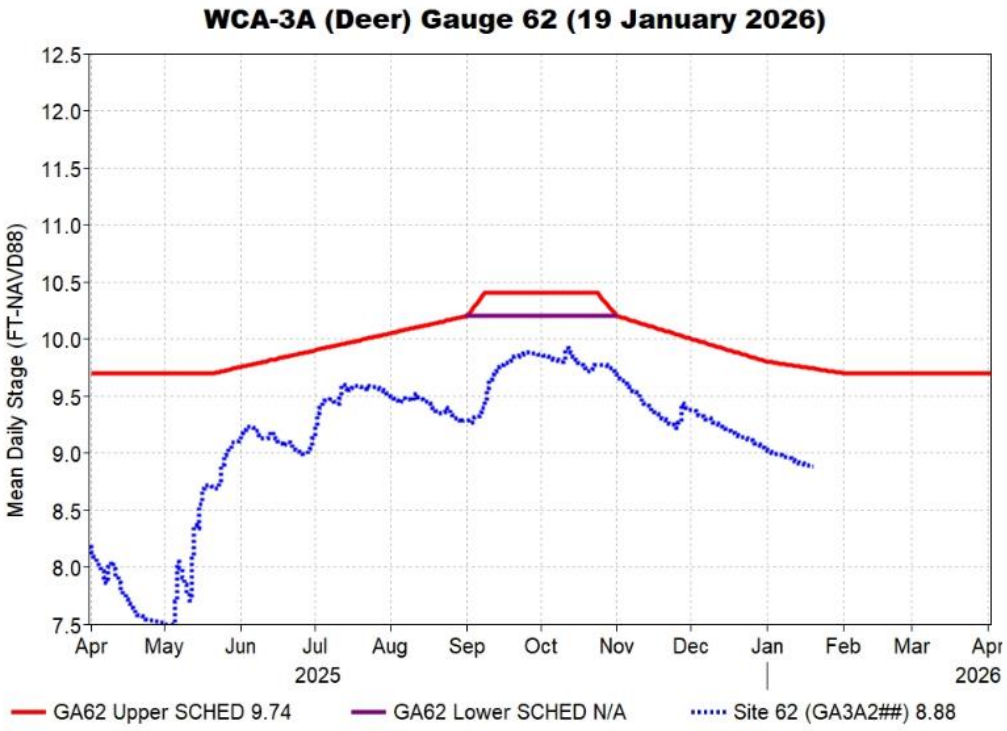

Figure EV-4. WCA-3A stage hydrograph (Deer gauge; Site 62) and regulation schedule.

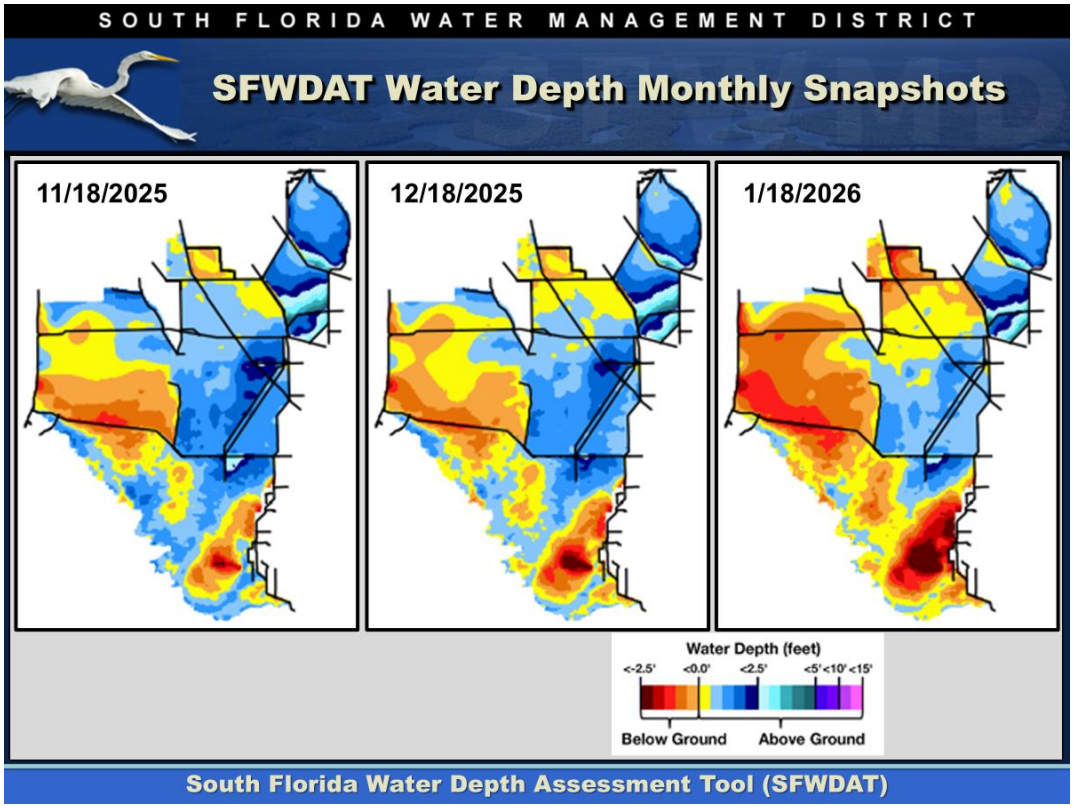

Figure EV-5. Everglades water depths from two months ago (left), one month ago (center) and present (right), based on SFWDAT.

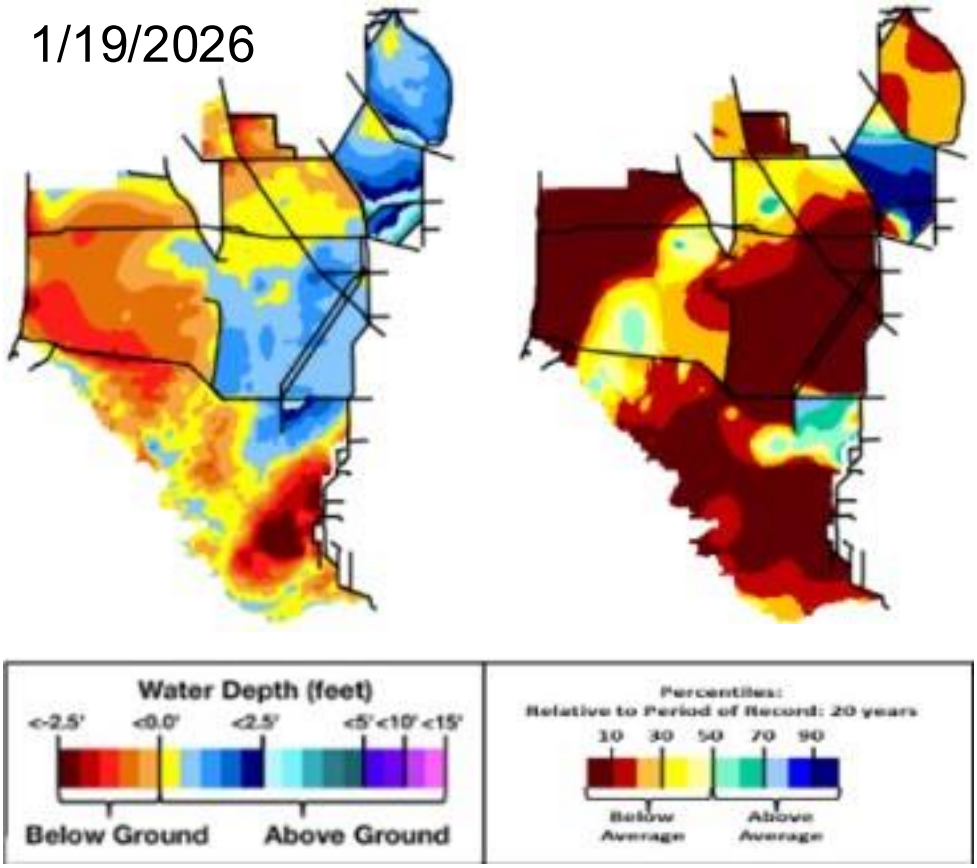

Figure EV-6. Present water depths (January 19, 2026) compared to the day of year relative to average (percentile) over the previous 20 years.

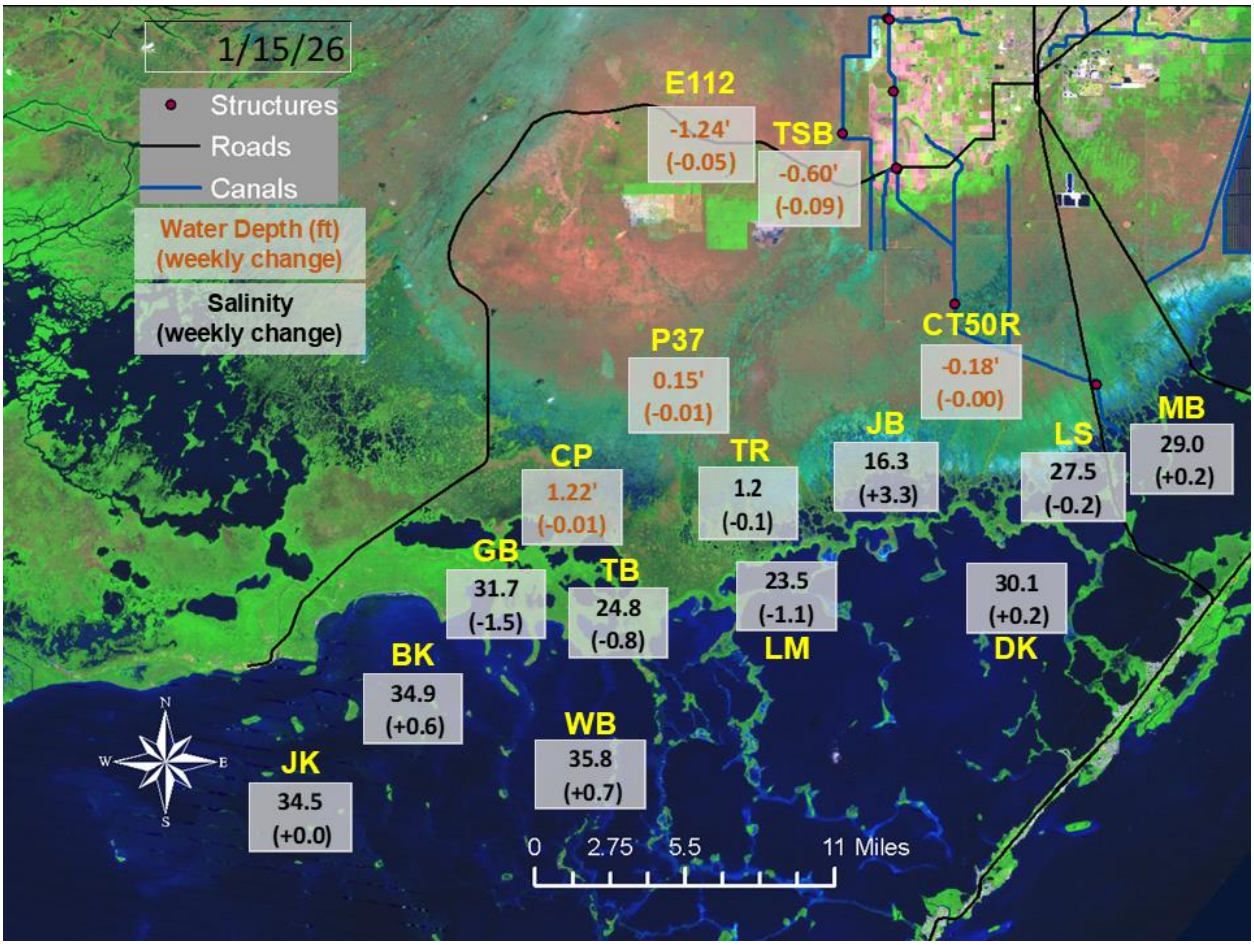

Figure EV-7. Taylor Slough water depths and Florida Bay salinities with changes since January 11th.

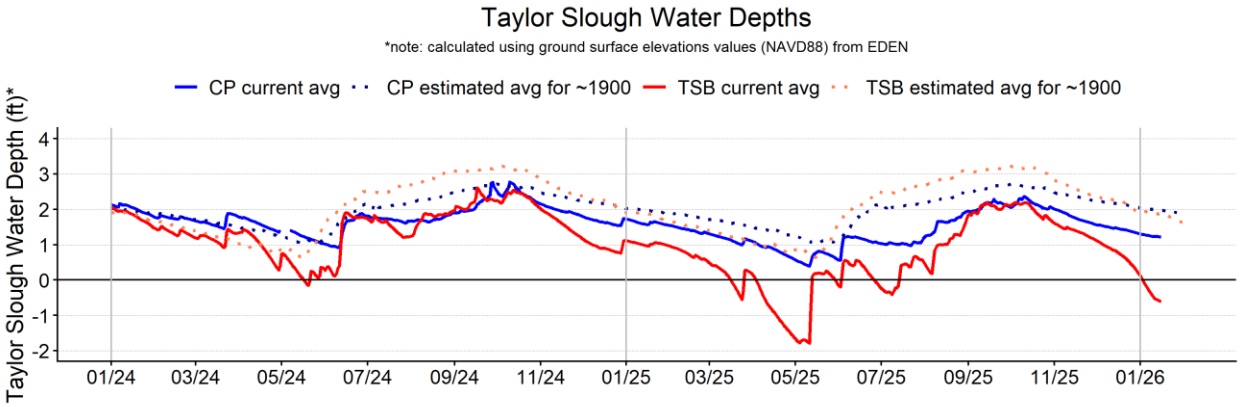

Figure EV-8. Taylor Slough water depth time series for Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB; northern slough) and Craighead Pond (CP; southern slough).

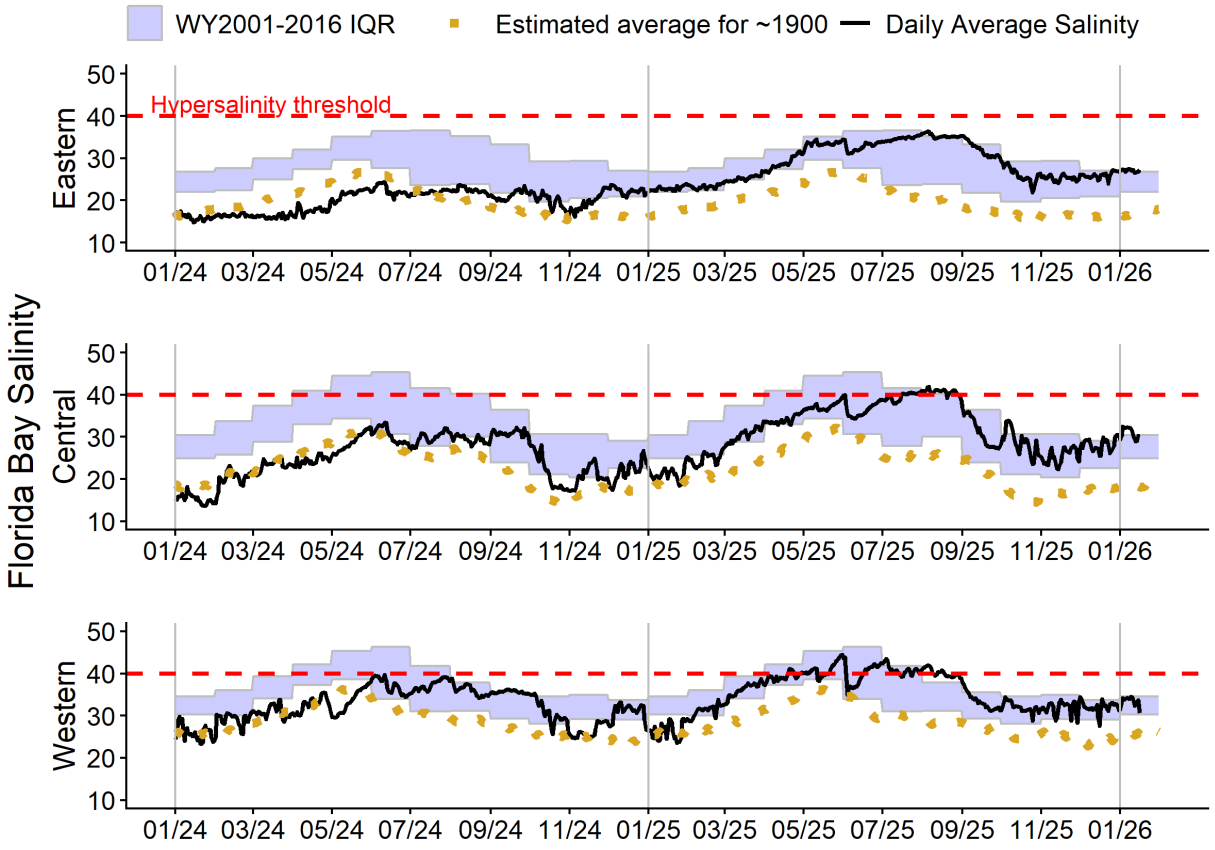

Figure EV-9. Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with WY2001-2016 interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges (IQR) and estimated historical daily average salinities. The hypersalinity threshold indicates the level at which salinities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

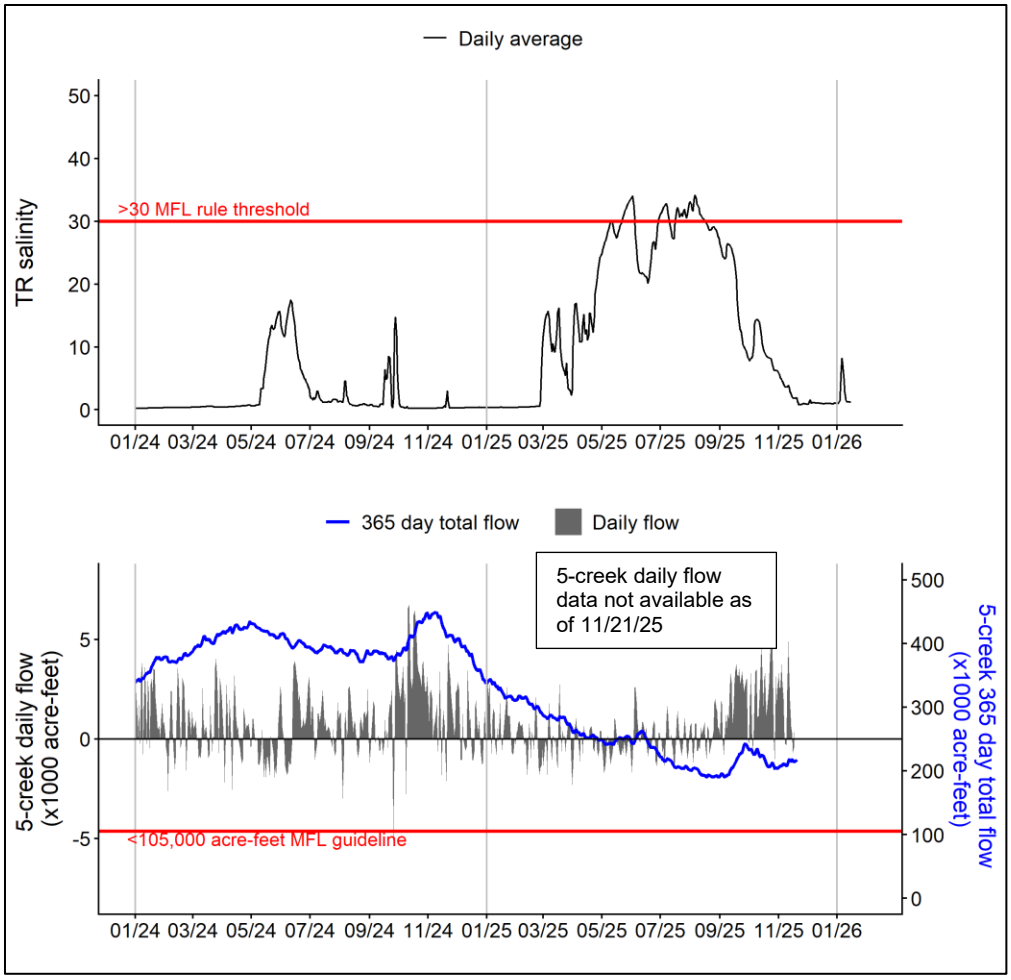

Figure EV-10. Daily average salinity at Taylor River (TR) tracked for the Florida Bay MFL criteria. The 365-day total creek flow MFL metric is not currently available due to missing creek flow data.

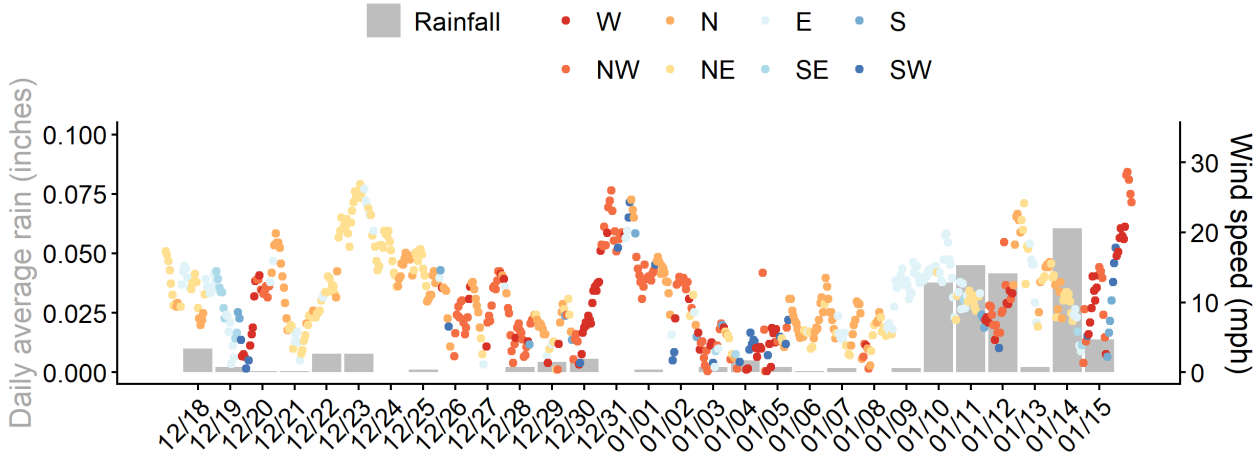

Figure EV-11. Daily average rain across Taylor Slough and Florida Bay, along with hourly average wind speed and direction (measured at Long Key) in Florida Bay over the past four weeks.

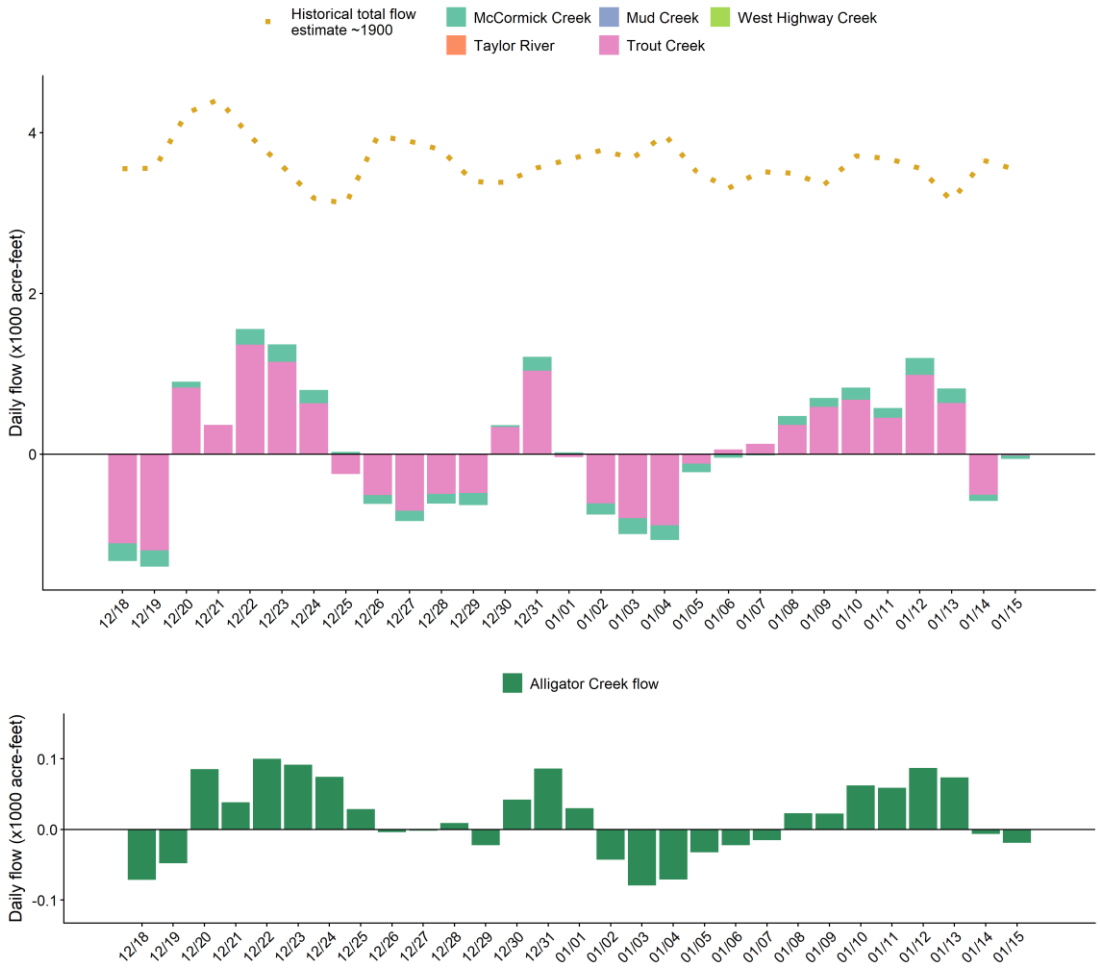

Figure EV-12. Top: daily average creek flow summed between the five major creeks with estimated historical daily flow over the past four weeks (**note**: data from Taylor River, Mud Creek and West Highway Creek are currently unavailable since November 21st, 2025). Bottom: Daily average Alligator Creek flow data. N/A indicates missing data.

Table EV-2. Weekly water depth changes and water management recommendations

SFWMD Everglades Ecological Recommendations, January 19, 2026 (red is new)			
	Weekly change	Recommendation	Reasons
WCA-1	Stage decreased by 0.01 feet.	A recession of no faster than 0.05 feet per week.	Conserve water, maintain within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Maintain maintenance access for vegetation management.
WCA-2A	Stage decreased by 0.06 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Maintain within basin (north versus south) and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-2B	Stage increased by 0.06 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NE	Stage decreased by 0.03 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.05 feet per week.	Conserve water, maintain within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Provide suitable depths for aquatic prey and protect against peat soil loss during the dry season.
WCA-3A NW	Stage decreased by 0.02 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.05 feet per week.	
Central WCA-3A S	Stage decreased by 0.01 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.05 feet per week.	Conserve water, maintain within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Provide suitable depths for aquatic prey and protect against peat soil loss during the dry season.
Southern WCA-3A S	Stage decreased by 0.04 feet		
WCA-3B	Stage decreased by 0.01 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
ENP-SRS	Stage did not change.	Make discharges to ENP according to COP protocol, considering up/down stream ecological conditions.	Protect within basin and upstream habitat and wildlife.
Taylor Slough	Stage changes ranged from -0.10 feet to ±0.00 feet	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.
FB- Salinity	Salinity changes ranged from -1.5 to +3.3	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.