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: May 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Weekly Environmental Conditions for Systems Operations

Summary

Weather Conditions and Forecast

Rainfall should gradually decrease beginning Wednesday, with continued afternoon shower and thunderstorm activity near and along the Gulf coast sea breeze boundary. By late in the week and into early next week, moisture levels will return closer to seasonal levels. This pattern may support a gradual increase in rainfall late in the forecast period, with the greatest shower and thunderstorm activity generally focused along portions of the southwest coast. For the 7-day period ending next Tuesday morning, near to slightly below average total SFWMD rainfall remains possible.

Kissimmee

In the week ending May 17, 2026, 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 Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan. Weekly average discharge on May 17, 2026, was 370 cfs at S-65 and 320 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain remained unchanged at 0.33 feet. The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River decreased from 8.4 mg/L the previous week to 7.8 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 10.07 feet NAVD88 (11.38 ft NGVD29) on May 17, 2026, which was the same as the previous week and 0.62 feet lower than a month ago. Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) were the same as the previous week at 250 cfs. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) decreased from 2,820 cfs the previous week to 940 cfs. The most recent non-obscured satellite image from May 17, 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.

Estuaries

Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 474 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Mean surface salinities increased at the A1A and US1 Bridge sites and remained similar at HR1 over the past week. Salinity in the middle estuary was in the optimal range (10-25) for adult eastern oysters.

Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary averaged 311 cfs over the past week with 102 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee. Over the past week, surface salinities decreased slightly at S-79 and increased at the remaining sites in the estuary. 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 Ft. Myers. Salinities were in the upper stressed range (>25) for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel.

Stormwater Treatment Areas

For the week ending Sunday, May 17th, 2026, 1,600 ac feet of Lake Okeechobee water was delivered to the FEBs/STAs. The total amount of Lake releases sent to the FEBs/STAs in WY2027 is approximately 4,900 ac feet. The total amount of inflows to the STAs in WY2027 is approximately 17,000 ac feet. Most online STA treatment cells are at or near 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-way 2 and 4, and STA-3/4 Eastern Flow-way for vegetation management activities. STA-1E Central Flow-way contains nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. In the eastern flow path, STA-1W Northern Flow-way, Eastern Flow-way, and Expansion 1 Cells 6 and 7 contain nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. In the central flow path, STA-2 Flow-ways 1 and 4 contain nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. And in the western flow path, STA-5/6 Flow-way 3 contains nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. This week, if LOSOM recommends Lake releases to the WCAs and conditions allow, releases will be sent to STA 3/4 and STA-5/6.

Everglades

Well above-average rainfall occurred in the northern Everglades Protection Area, but average to below average rainfall occurred in the south. On average, recession rates were slower across the system, but rates remain elevated in central WCA-3A. In the northern portion of the system (WCA-1/WCA-2), water depths are near or above average relative to the past 20 years, while WCA-3A and WCA-3B continue to have below-average water depths as they have for most of the dry season. These dry conditions can have ecological consequences both system wide and within the central Everglades, including reducing already-limited prey populations, increasing the risk of damaging wildfires, enhanced peat oxidation, and potential ridge and slough degradation. Wildfire activity remains elevated within the central Everglades. Wading bird nesting season is coming to a close, with 2026 being the 5th year in a row of below average nesting and the lowest nesting effort in 30 years. Taylor Slough stages decreased last week and remain above the recent averages for this time of year but is falling quickly. Average Florida Bay salinity increased last week and is now above its recent average. In the central region of the Bay, conditions are approaching the hypersalinity threshold.

Supporting Information

Kissimmee Basin

Upper Kissimmee

On May 17, 2026, mean daily lake stages were 54.3 feet NAVD88 (0.3 feet below schedule) in East Lake Toho, 51.3 feet NAVD88 (0.3 feet below schedule) in Lake Toho, and 48.2 feet NAVD88 (2.2 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 May 17, 2026, mean weekly discharge was 370 cfs at S-65 and 320 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly discharge from the Kissimmee River was 350 cfs at S-65D and 240 cfs at S65E (**Table KB-2**). Mean weekly head water stages were 45.3 feet NAVD88 at S-65A and 28.3 feet NAVD88 at S-65D. Mean weekly river channel stage increased from 30.7 feet NAVD88 to 30.8 feet NAVD88 (**Figure KB-4**). Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain remained unchanged at 0.33 feet (**Table KB-2**, **FigureKB-5**). The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River decreased from 8.4 mg/L the previous week to 7.8 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 B4, target flows of 300 cfs; if stage increases into Zone B3, target flows between 300 and 1,400 cfs at S-65A using the Increment 1 Interpolation Tool to determine discharge relative to stage in KCH. If stage declines into Zone B5, target flows of 150 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)	
							5/17/26	*5/10/26*
Lakes Hart and Mary Jane	S-62	LKMJ	44	58.7	R	58.7	0.0	-0.1
Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel	S-57	S-57	10	59.1	R	59.1	0.0	-0.1
Alligator Chain	S-60	ALLI	120	61.3	R	61.3	0.0	0.0
Lake Gentry	S-63	LKGT	180	61.4	R	58.8	2.6	0.1
East Lake Toho	S-59	TOHOE	320	54.3	R	54.6	-0.3	-0.4
Lake Toho	S-61	TOHOW S-61	670	51.3	R	51.6	-0.3	-0.4
Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha	S-65	KUB011 LKIS5B	370	48.2	T	50.4	-2.2	-2.5

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.

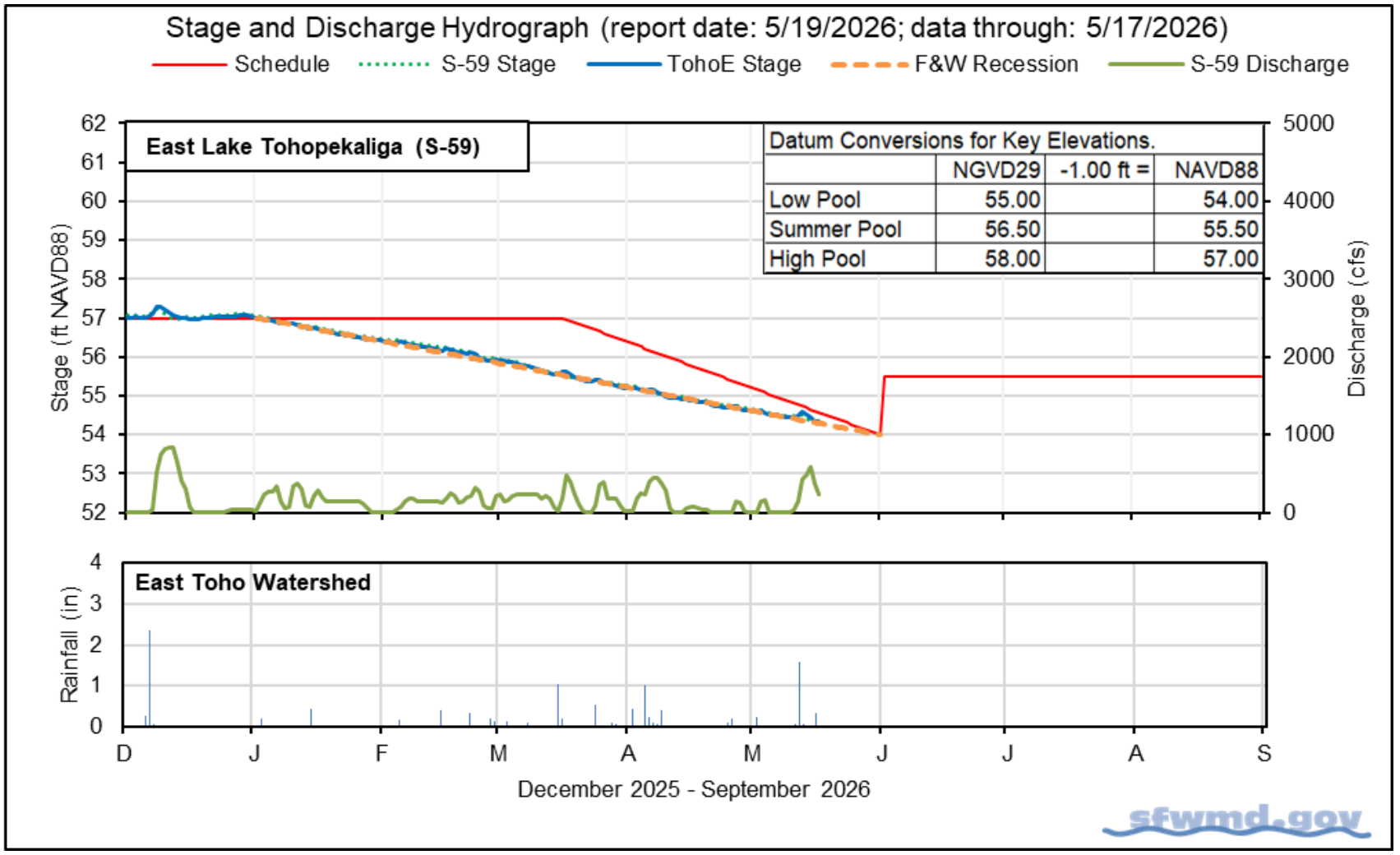


Figure KB-1. East Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

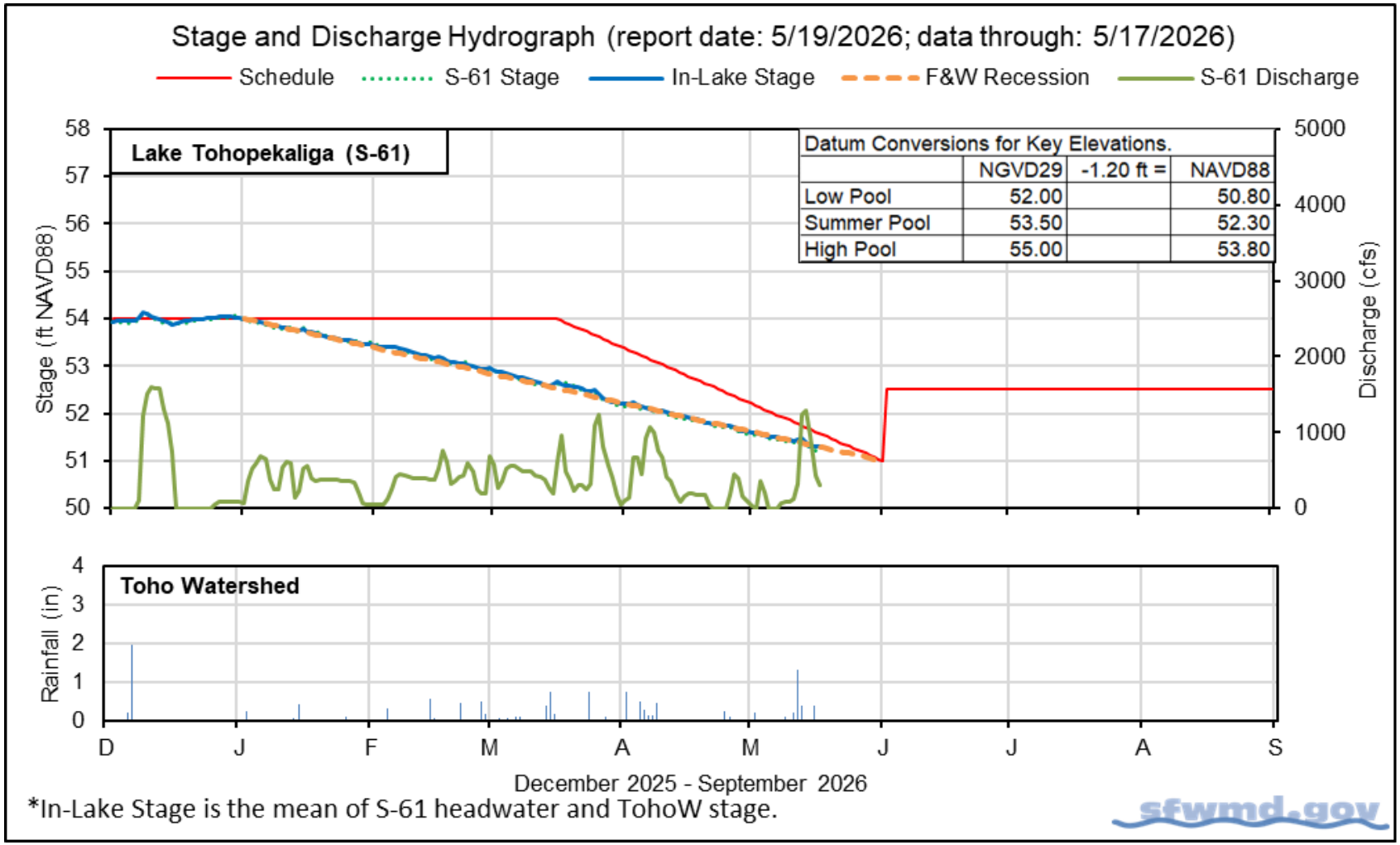


Figure KB-2. Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

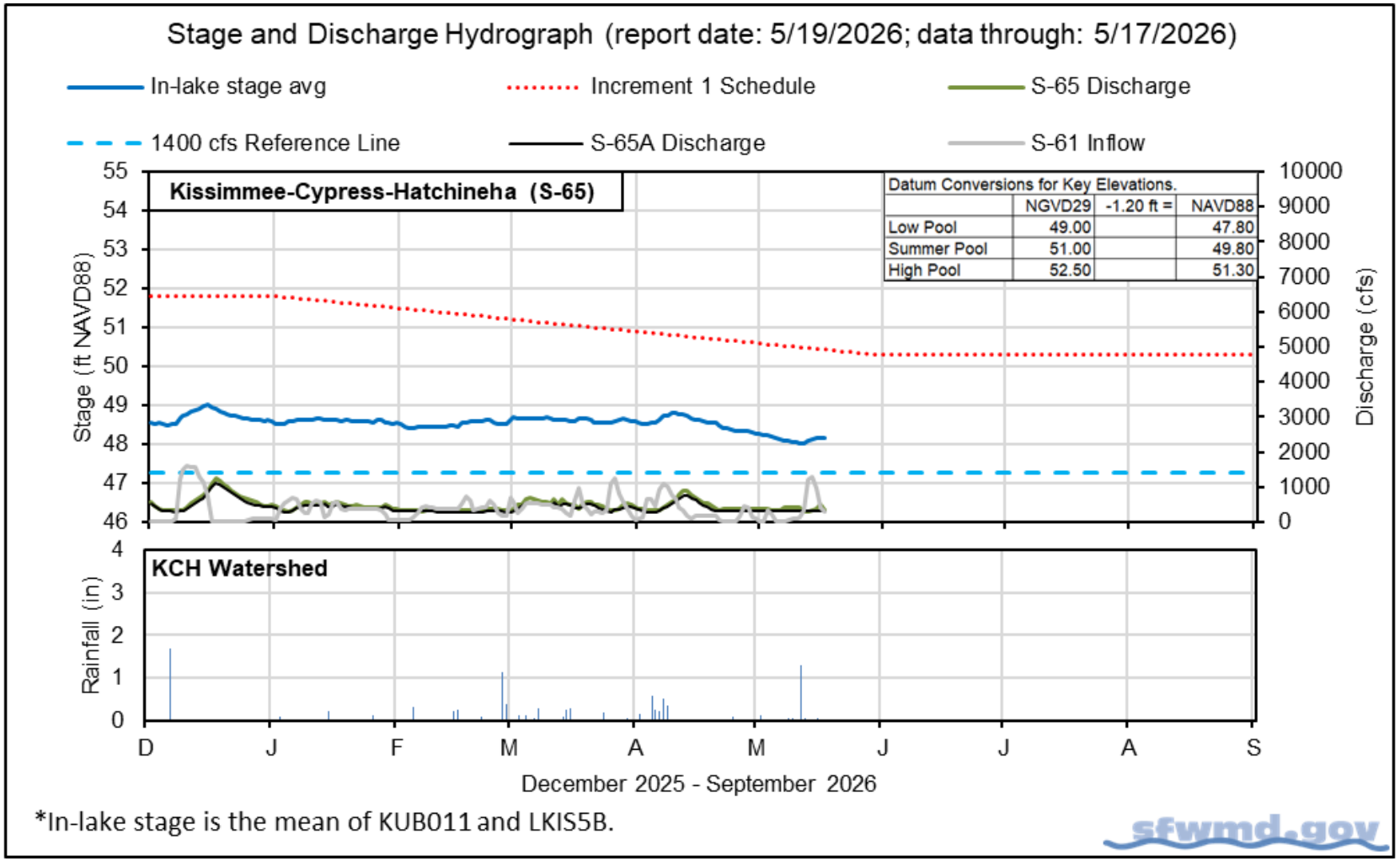


Figure KB-3. Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

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			
		5/17/26	5/17/26	5/10/26	5/3/26	4/26/26
Discharge	S-65	340	370	390	360	360
Discharge	S-65A[a]	320	320	310	300	310
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65A	45.4	45.3	45.2	45.2	45.2
Discharge	S-65D[b]	310	350	330	320	360
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65D[c]	24.7	28.3	28.2	28.2	28.5
Discharge (cfs)	S-65E[d]	200	240	250	230	270
Discharge (cfs)	S-67	0	0	0	0	0
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)[e]	Phase I, II/III river channel	7.5	7.8	8.4	8.0	8.3
River channel mean stage (feet NAVD88)[f]	Phase I river channel	30.7	30.8	30.7	30.7	31.0
Mean depth (feet)[g]	Phase I & II/III floodplain	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33

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).

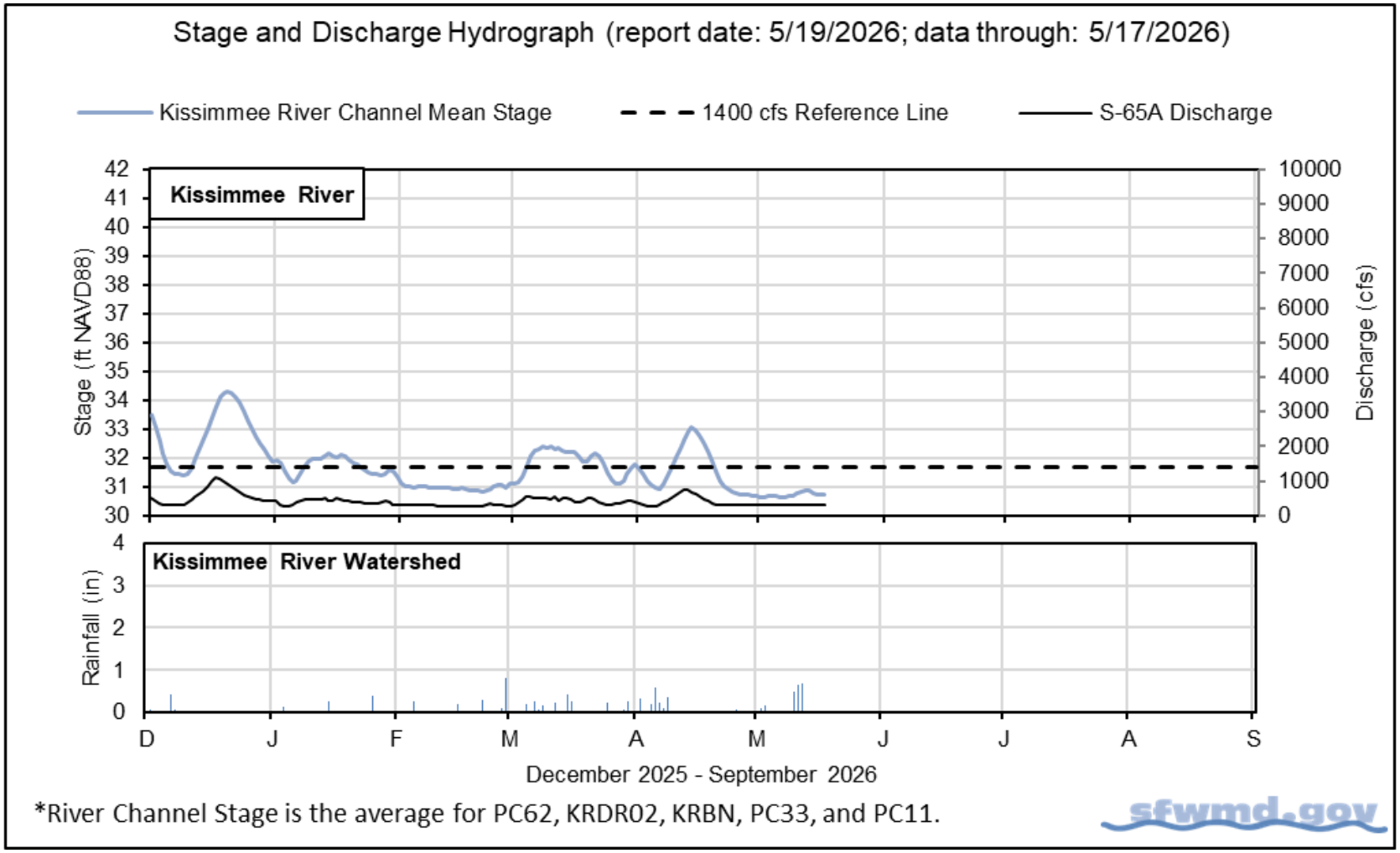


Figure KB-4. Kissimmee River stage, discharge, and rainfall.

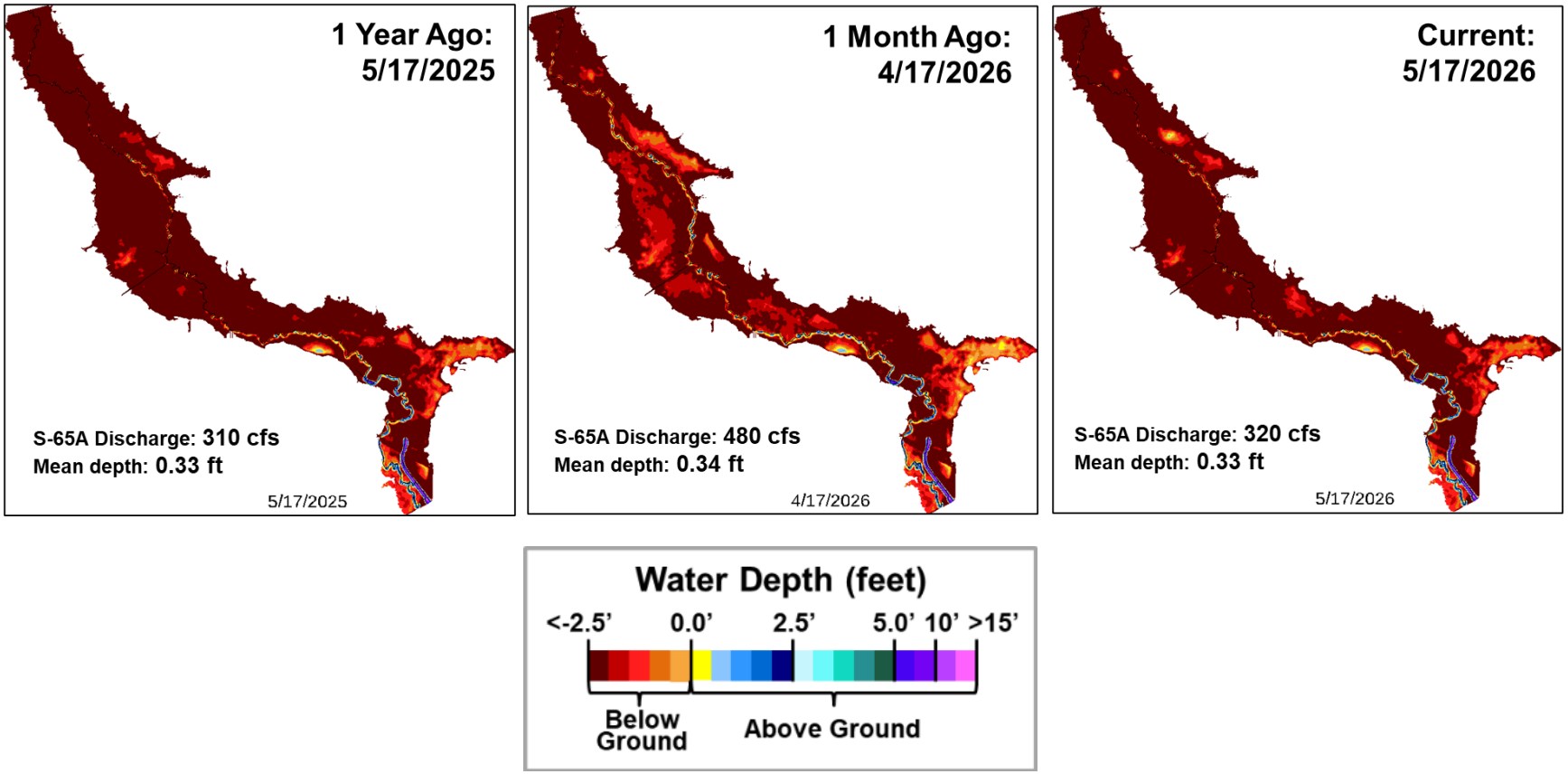
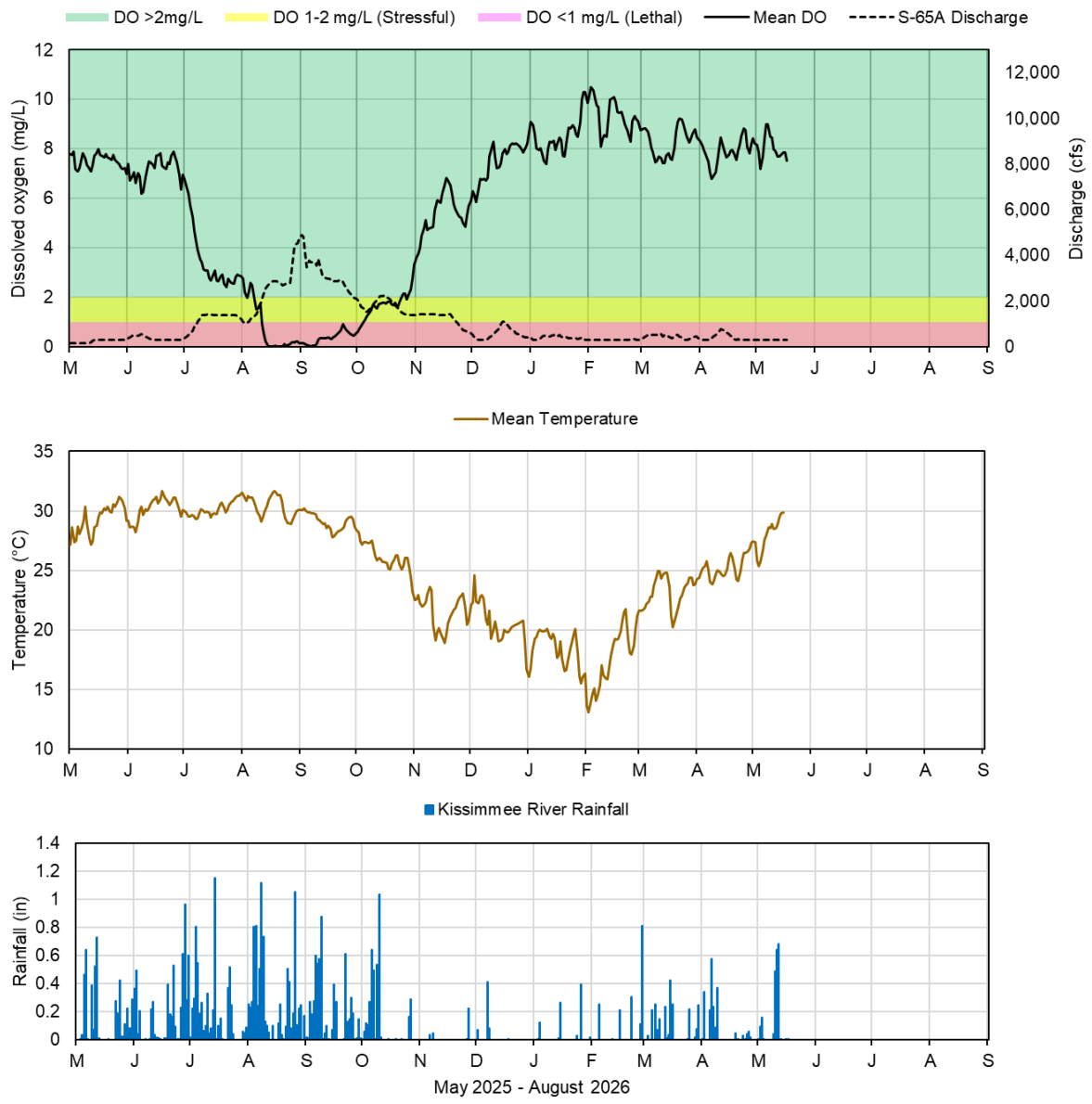


Figure KB-5. Phase I-II-III area Kissimmee River floodplain water depths (from left to right) one year ago, one month ago, and current.



Report Date: 5/19/2026; data are through: 5/17/2026

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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

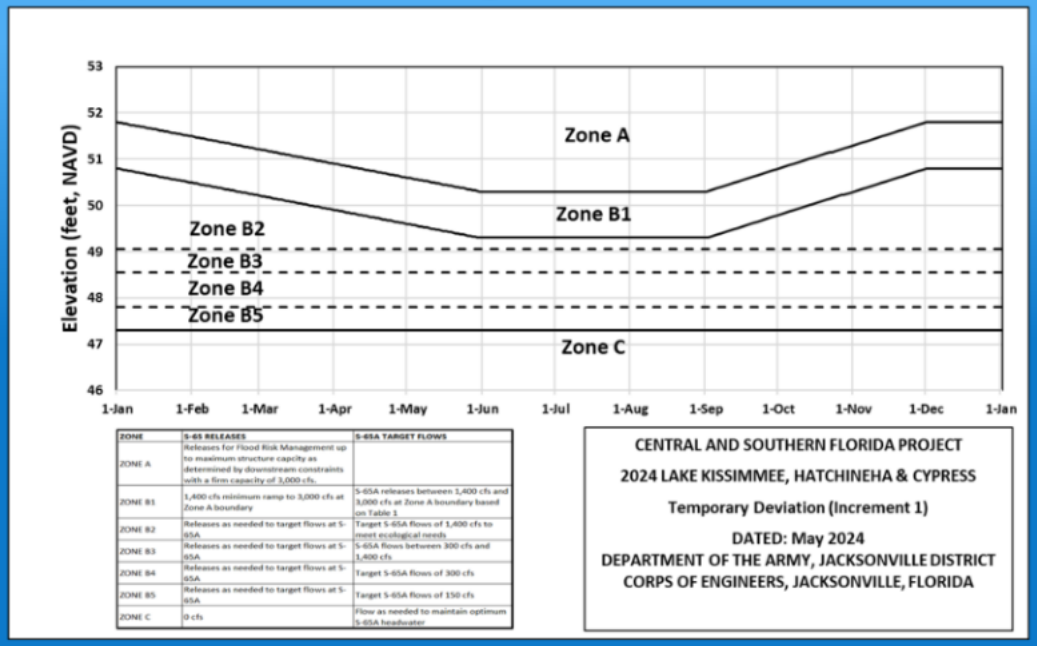
HRS Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A

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



CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA PROJECT
2024 LAKE KISSIMMEE, HATCHINEHA & CYPRESS
Temporary Deviation (Increment 1)
DATED: May 2024
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

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 10.07 feet NAVD88 (11.38 feet NGVD29) on May 17, 2026, which is the same as the previous week and 0.62 feet lower than a month ago (**Figure LO-1**). Lake stage is in Zone D of the regulation schedule, is 0.68 feet above the water shortage management band (**Figure LO-2**) and 0.36 feet below the ecological envelope (**Figure LO-3**). According to NEXRAD, 1.61 inches (approximately 59,900 ac feet) of rain fell directly over the lake during the previous week, and 1.28 inches (approximately 37,050 ac feet) were lost to evapotranspiration.

Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) were the same as the previous week at 250 cfs. The only notable inflow came from the Kissimmee River (240 cfs via S-65E(X1)). Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) decreased from 2,820 cfs the previous week to 940 cfs. The largest release was to the west through the S-77 structure (760 cfs). **Figures LO-4 and LO-5** show the combined average daily inflows and outflows for the lake over the past eight weeks, and the average inflows and outflows last week, respectively.

In the most recent non-obscured satellite image from May 17, 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 (**Figure LO-6**).

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

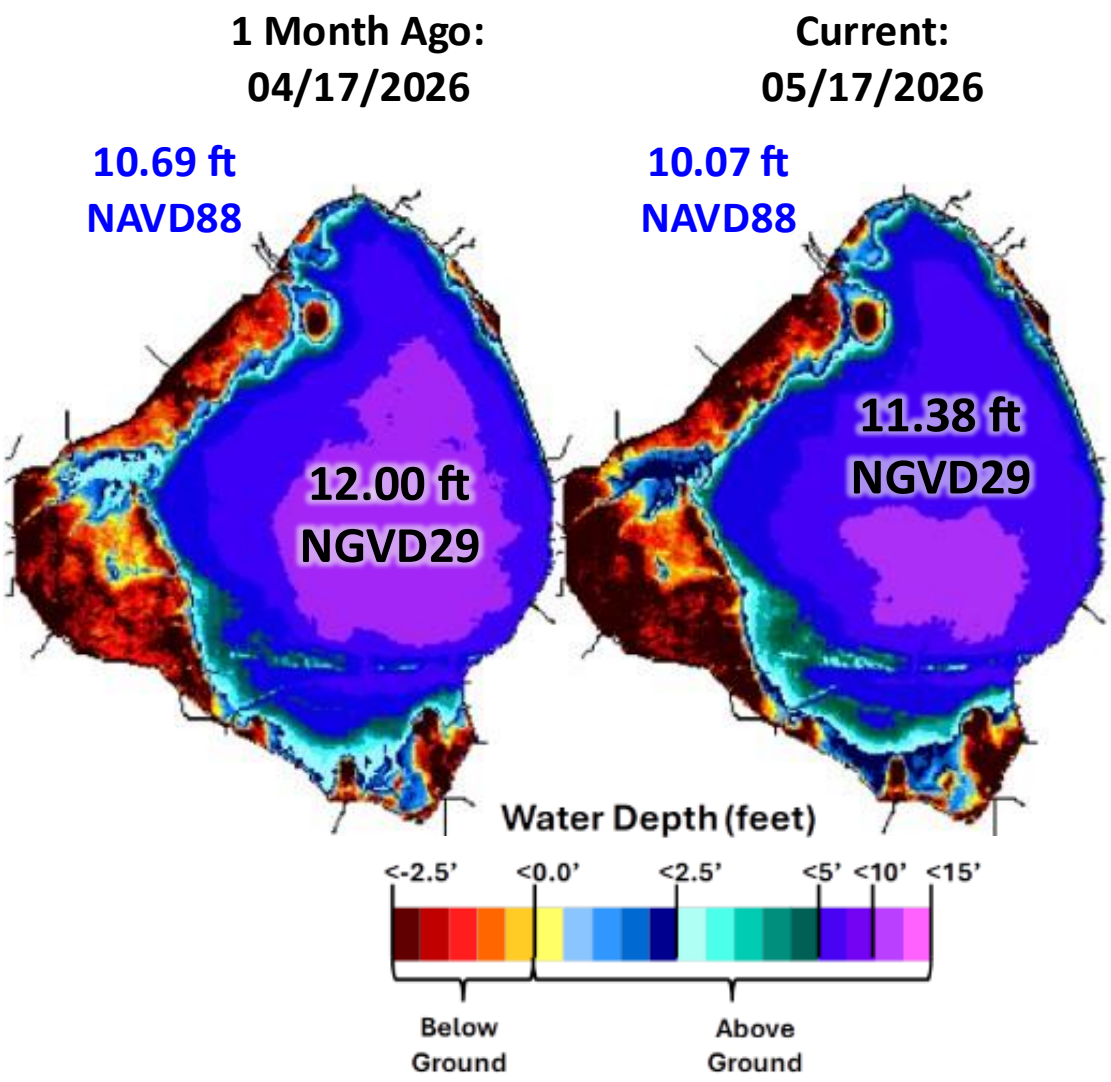

Figure LO-1. Lake Okeechobee water depth estimates based on South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

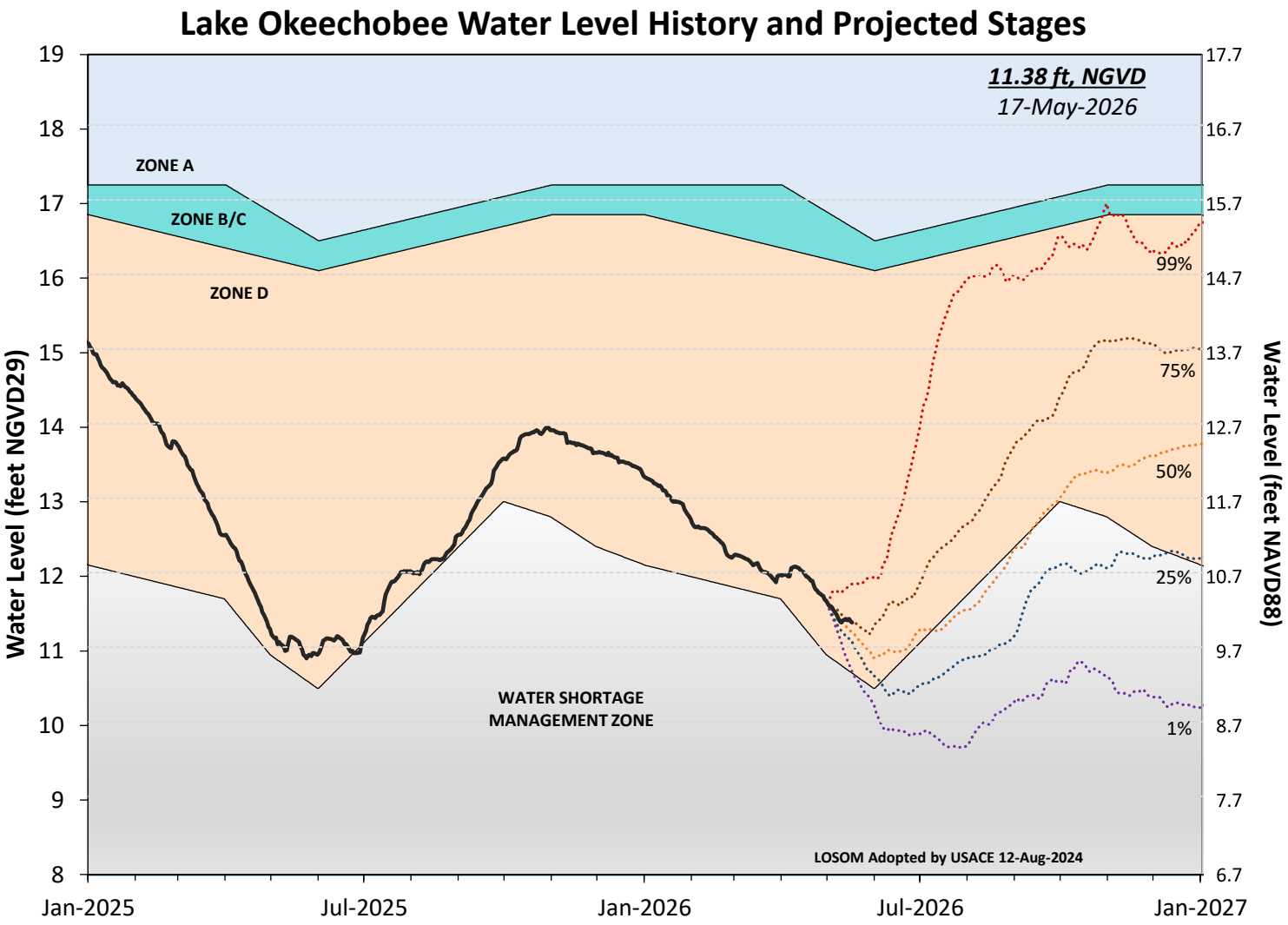

Figure LO-2. Recent Lake Okeechobee stages with projected stages based on a conditional position analysis. Note: stages are in NGVD29, approximate NAVD88 values are shown for reference.

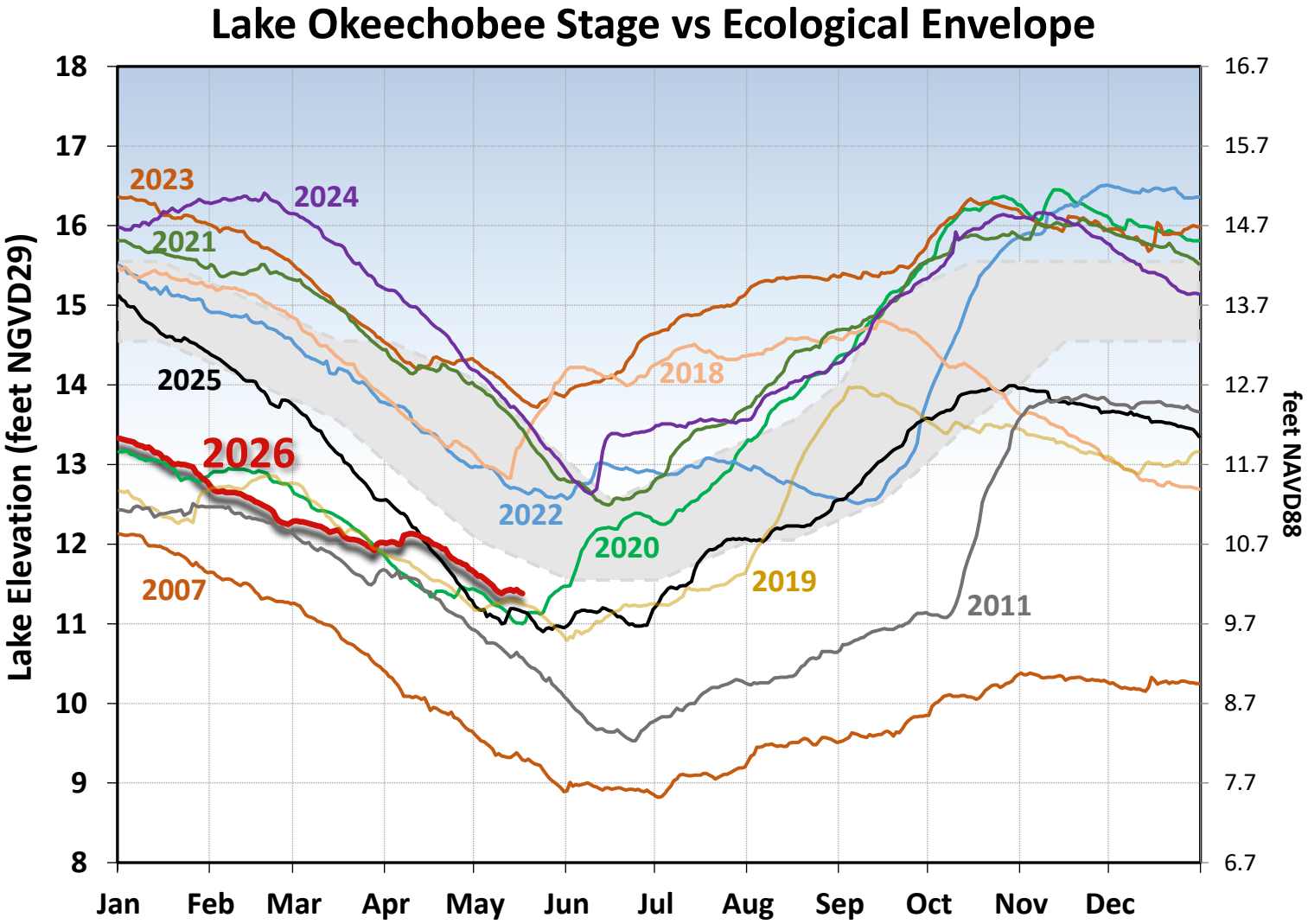

Figure LO-3. The current and select prior year's annual lake stage hydrographs in comparison to the Lake Okeechobee ecological envelope (light grey).

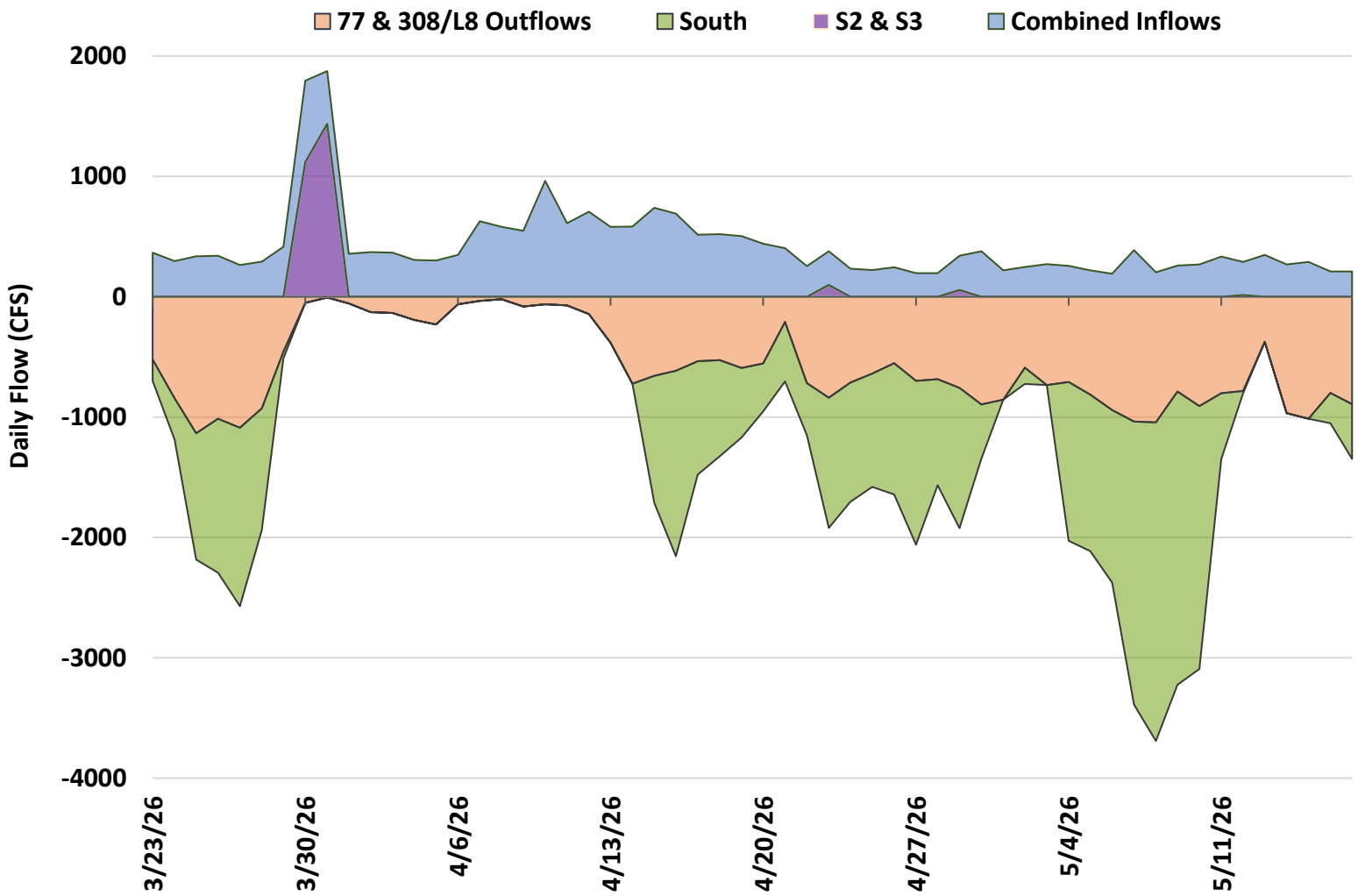

Figure LO-4. Major inflows (orange) to and outflows east and west (blue) from Lake Okeechobee. Outflows south are shown in green. Flows into Lake Okeechobee from the L-8 canal through S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) or from the C-44 canal through the S-308 are included as inflows. Conversely, flows from 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.

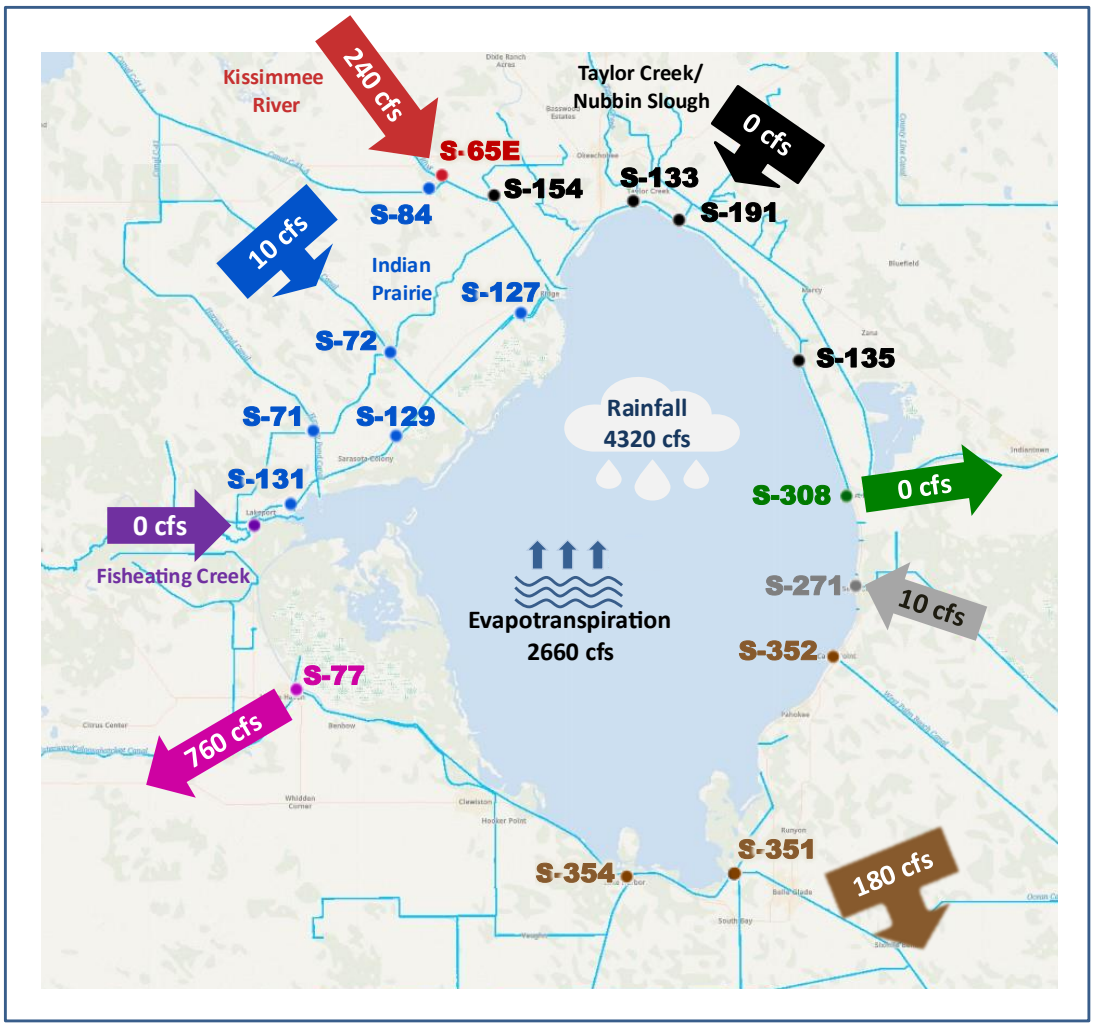

Figure LO-5. Inflows into Lake Okeechobee from Indian Prairie basins, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek (currently no flow data available for FECR), and outflows to the west via S-77, to the east via S-308, to the south via S-351, S-352, S-354, and to southeast via S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) for the week of May 11 - 17, 2026.

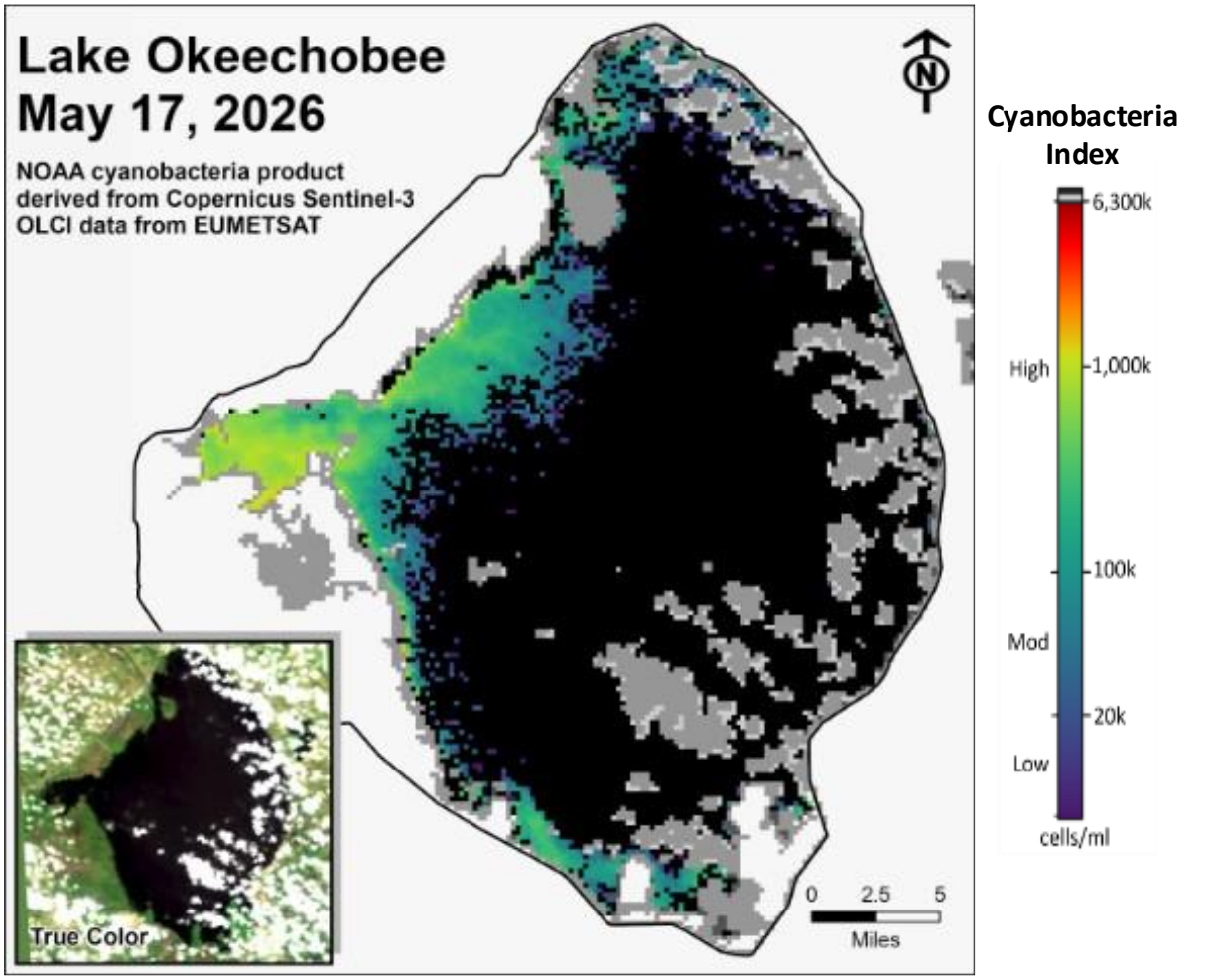

Figure LO-6. Cyanobacteria bloom index level on Lake Okeechobee, based on NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover. *Provisional NOAA image, subject to change*.

Estuaries

St. Lucie Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was 474 cfs (**Figures ES-1** and **ES-2**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 311 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-2**.

Over the past week, surface salinities increased at the A1A and US1 Bridge sites and was stable at HR1 (**Table ES-1** and **Figure ES-3**). The seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge was 19.6. Salinity conditions in the middle estuary were estimated to be within the optimal range for adult eastern oysters (**Figure ES-4**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rate reported by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) for April was 1.2 spat/shell at Rio, which is an increase from the previous month (**Figure ES-5**).

Caloosahatchee River Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary was 311 cfs (**Figures ES-6** and **ES-7**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 412 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from the contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-7**.

Over the past week, surface salinities decreased slightly at S-79 and increased 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 in the upper estuary at S-79 and Val I-75 and in the damaging range (>15) at Ft. Myers. The seven-day mean salinity values were within the upper stressed range for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel (**Figure ES-10**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rates reported by the FWRI in April were 1.5 spat/shell at Iona Cove and 11.3 spat/shell at Bird Island, which is an increase from the previous month (**Figures ES-11 and ES-12**).

Surface salinity at Val I-75 was forecasted 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 to 2,000 cfs, with estimated tidal basin inflows of 50 cfs. Model results from all scenarios predict daily salinity to be 9.6 or lower and the 30-day moving average surface salinity to be 8.5 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 unless flow at S-79 decreases to 450 cfs.

[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 May 15, 2026, that *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide dinoflagellate, was not observed at bloom concentrations within the District region.

Water Management Recommendations

Lake stage is in Zone D. Current climatological conditions are normal and hydrological conditions are dry. 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.

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 or greater at S-79. The current 30-day average flow at S-79 is 320 cfs (**Figure ES-14)**, which is an exceedance.

The MFL for the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River is a) flows at Lainhart Dam maintained at 35 cfs or greater and b) the 20-day moving average salinity of 2 or less at River Mile (RM) 9.2. An exceedance occurs when flows decline below 35 cfs for more than 20 consecutive days or when the 20-day moving average salinity at River Mile 9.2 exceeds 2. The current daily average flow at Lainhart Dam is 19 cfs and has been below the MFL for 7 consecutive days **(Figure ES-15)**. The 20-day average salinity at RM 9.2 is 0.9 **(Figure ES-16)**.

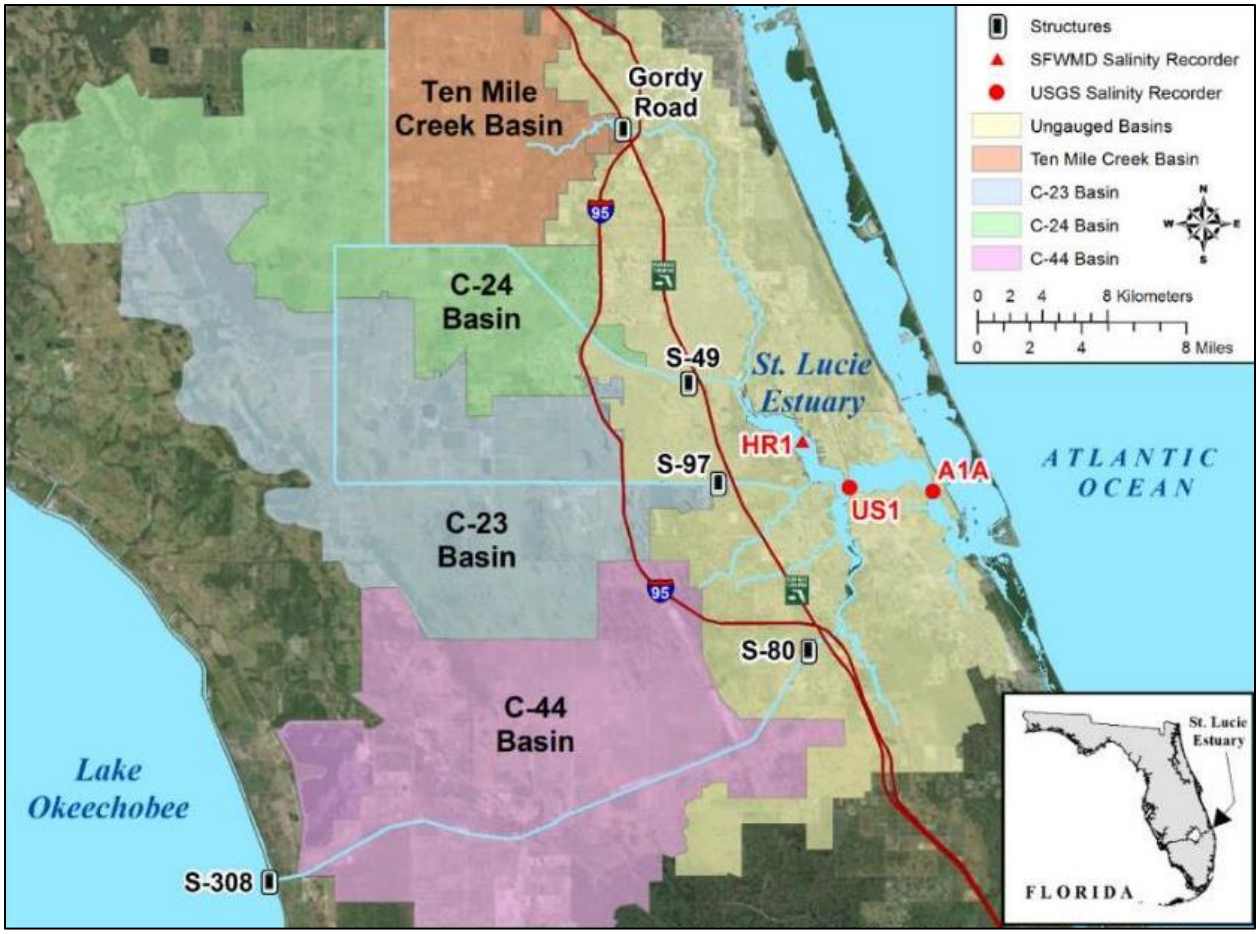

Figure ES-1. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

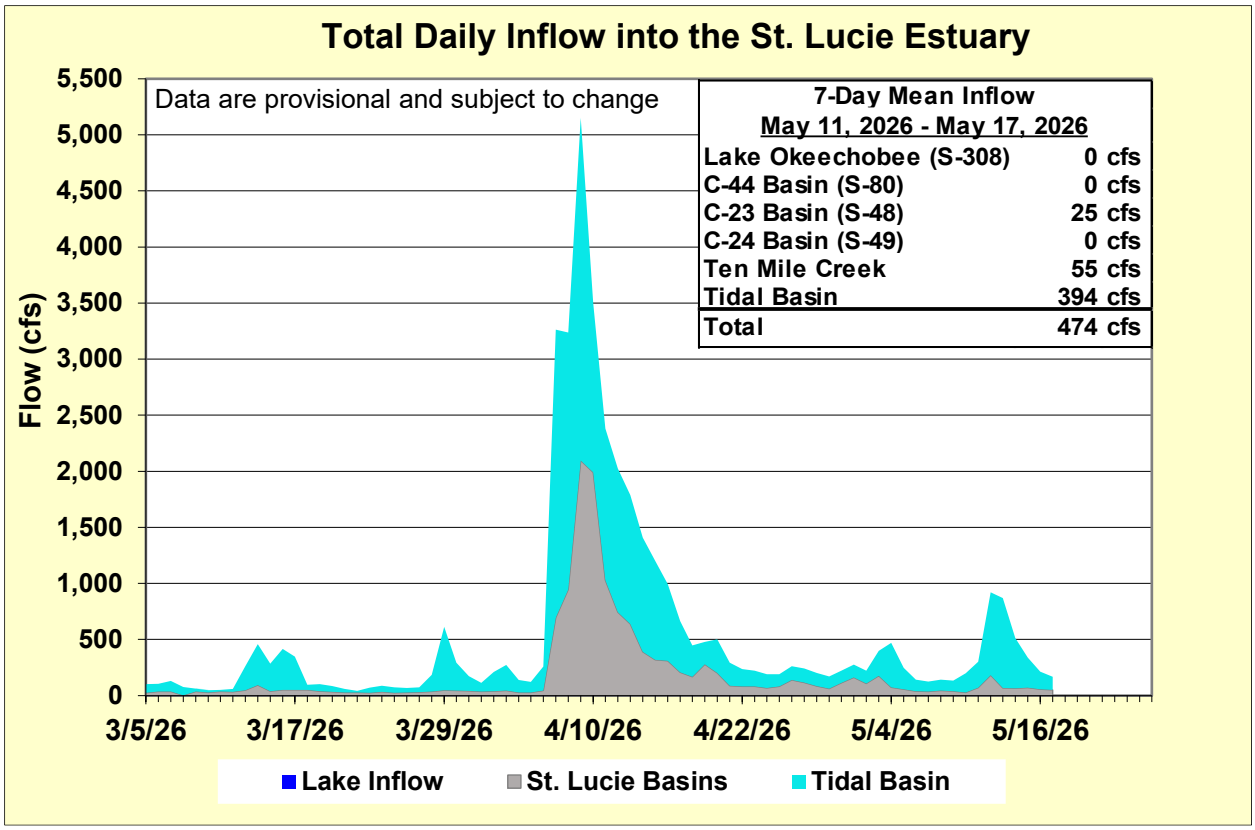

Figure ES-2. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-44, C-23, C-24, Ten Mile Creek, and Tidal Basins into the St. Lucie Estuary.

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)	**14.0** (14.0)	**17.4** (17.0)	10.0 – 25.0
US1 Bridge	**18.9** (18.0)	**20.3** (19.9)	10.0 – 25.0
A1A Bridge	**27.1** (25.9)	**28.7** (29.0)	10.0 – 25.0

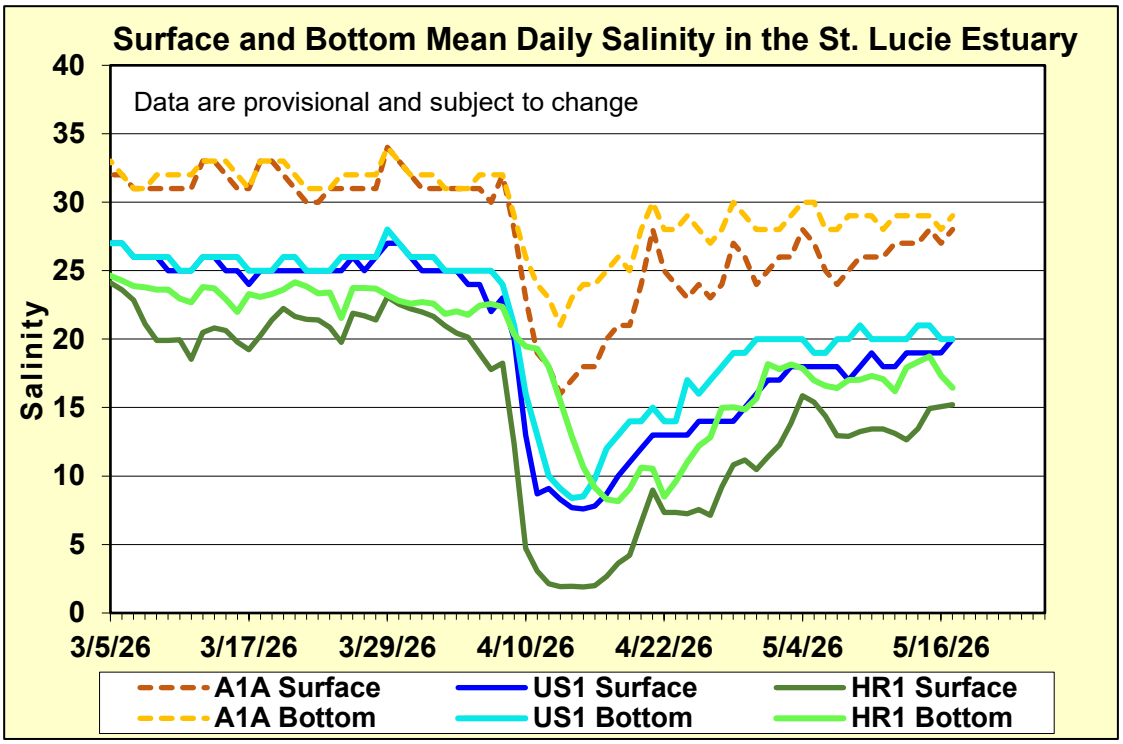

Figure ES-3. Mean daily salinity at the A1A, US1, and HR1 sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

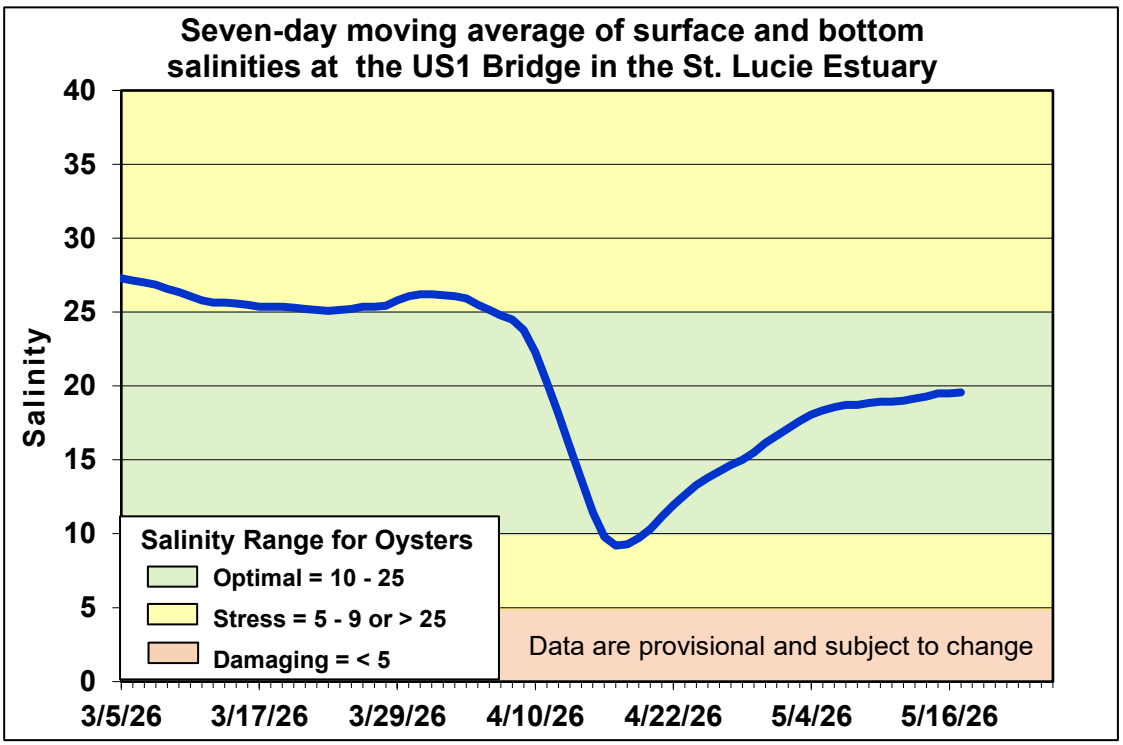

Figure ES-4. Seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge in the St. Lucie Estuary.

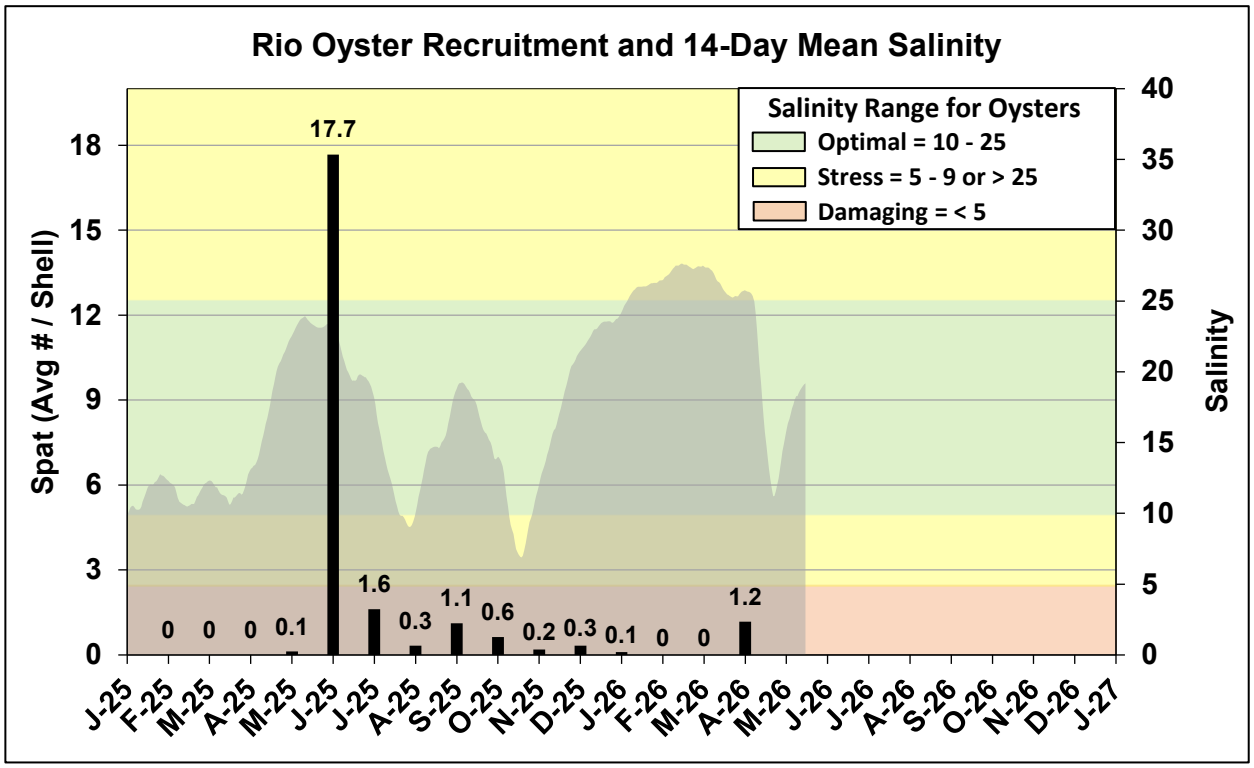

Figure ES-5. Mean oyster recruitment at the Rio oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at US1 Bridge.

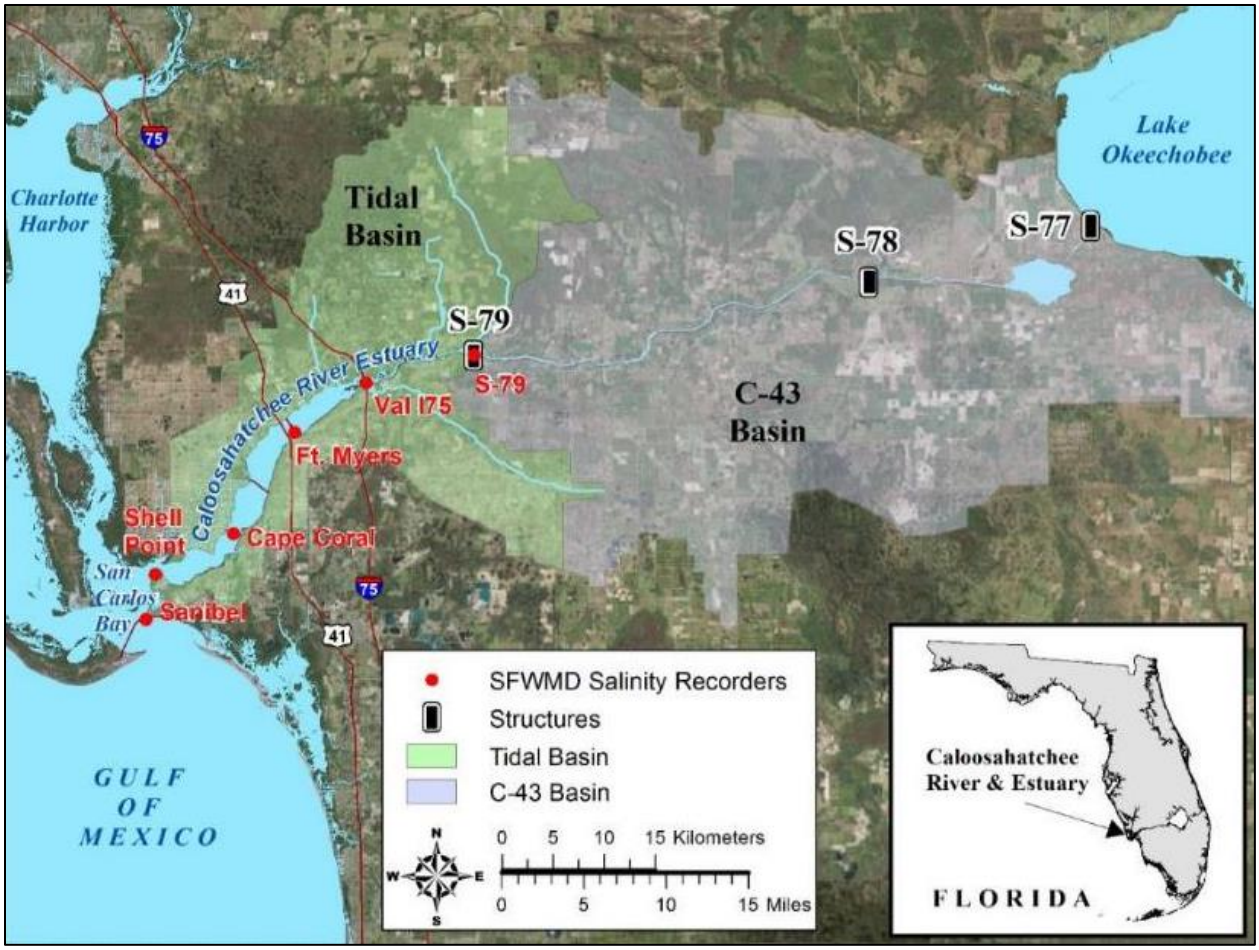

Figure ES-6. Basins, water control structures, and salinity monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

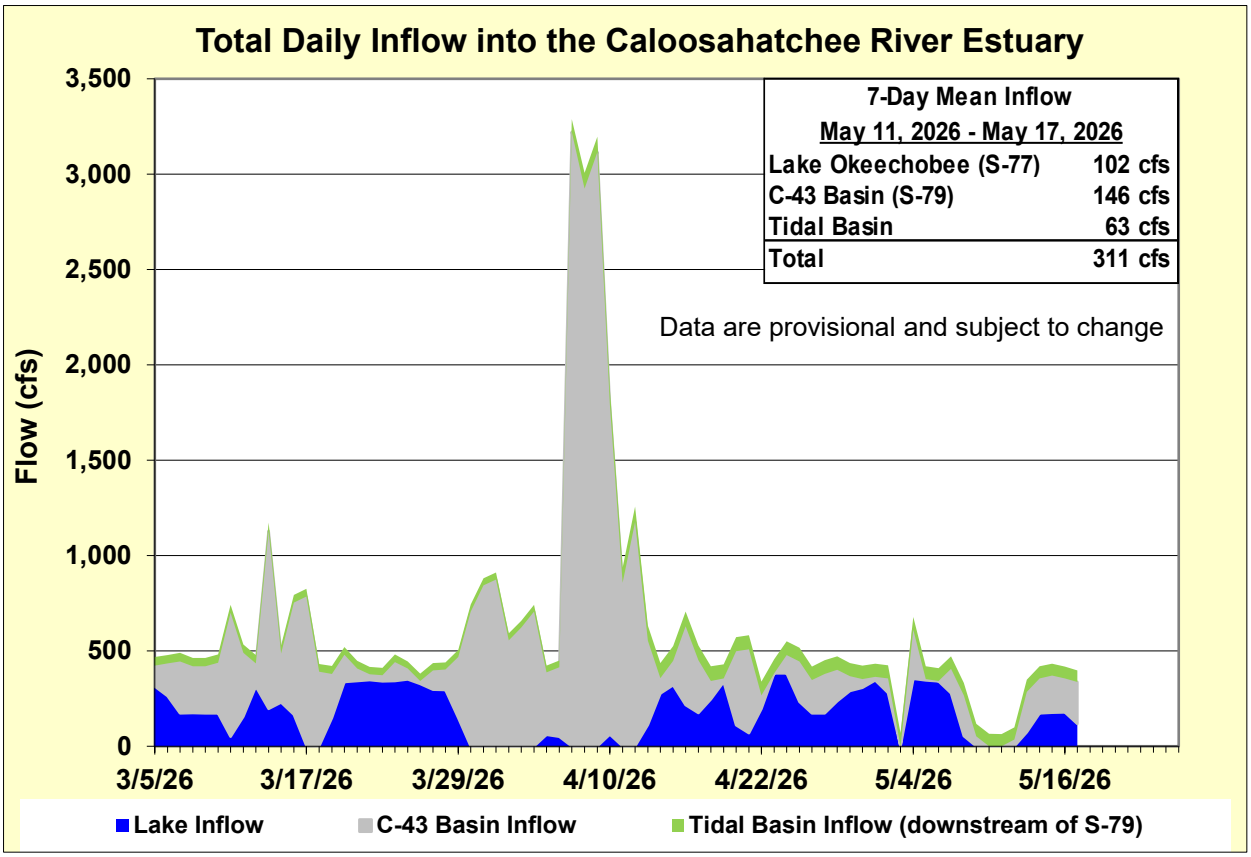

Figure ES-7. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee, and runoff from the C-43 and Tidal basins into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

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)	**5.9** (6.3)	**6.4** (6.5)	0.0 – 10.0
Val I-75	**9.2** (7.3)	**10.3** (9.6)	0.0 – 10.0
Fort Myers Yacht Basin	**17.3** (16.5)	**18.1** (18.5)	0.0 – 10.0
Cape Coral	**25.9** (25.0)	**26.1** (25.6)	10.0 – 25.0
Shell Point	**34.9** (33.4)	**34.4** (33.9)	10.0 – 25.0
Sanibel	**35.9** (35.6)	**37.9** (35.6)	10.0 – 25.0

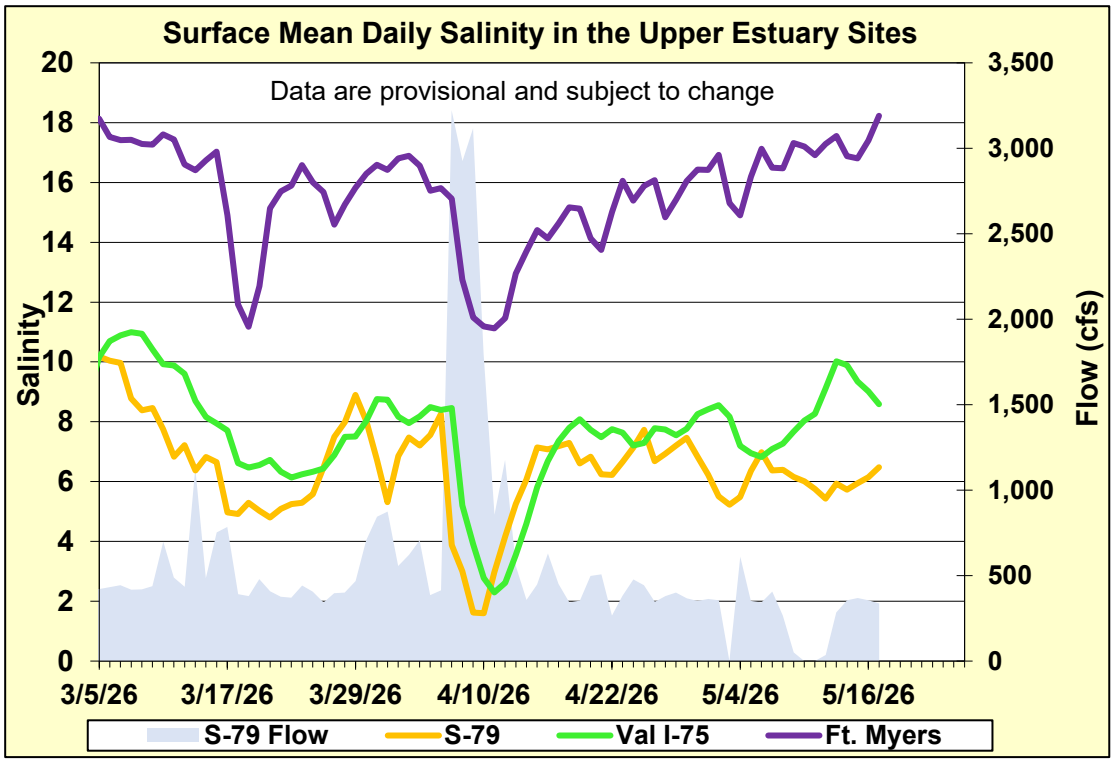

Figure ES-8. Mean daily salinity at upper Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

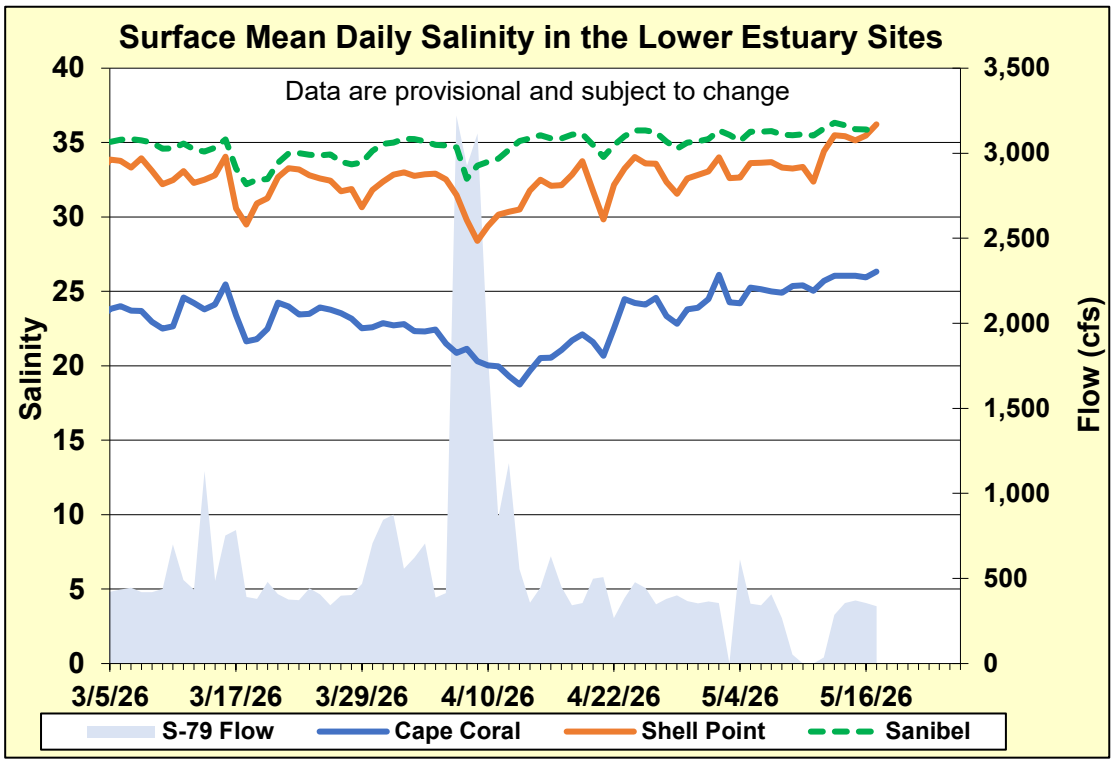

Figure ES-9. Mean daily surface salinity at lower Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

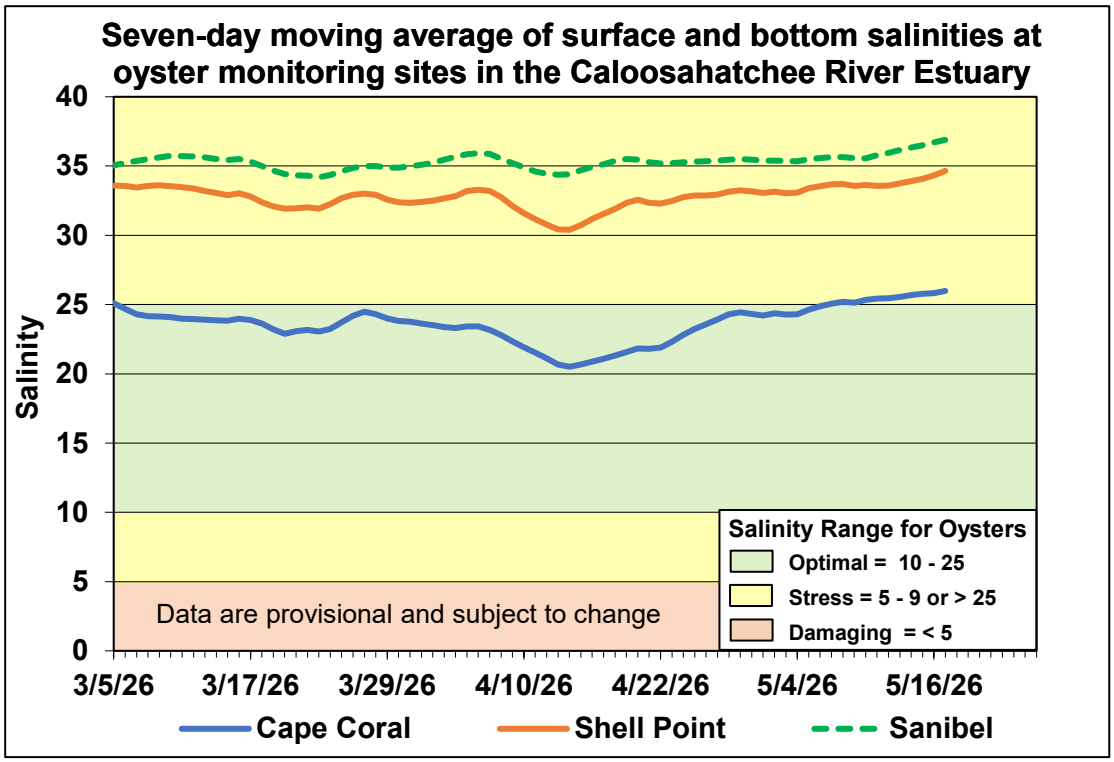

Figure ES-10. Seven-day moving average of surface and bottom salinities at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

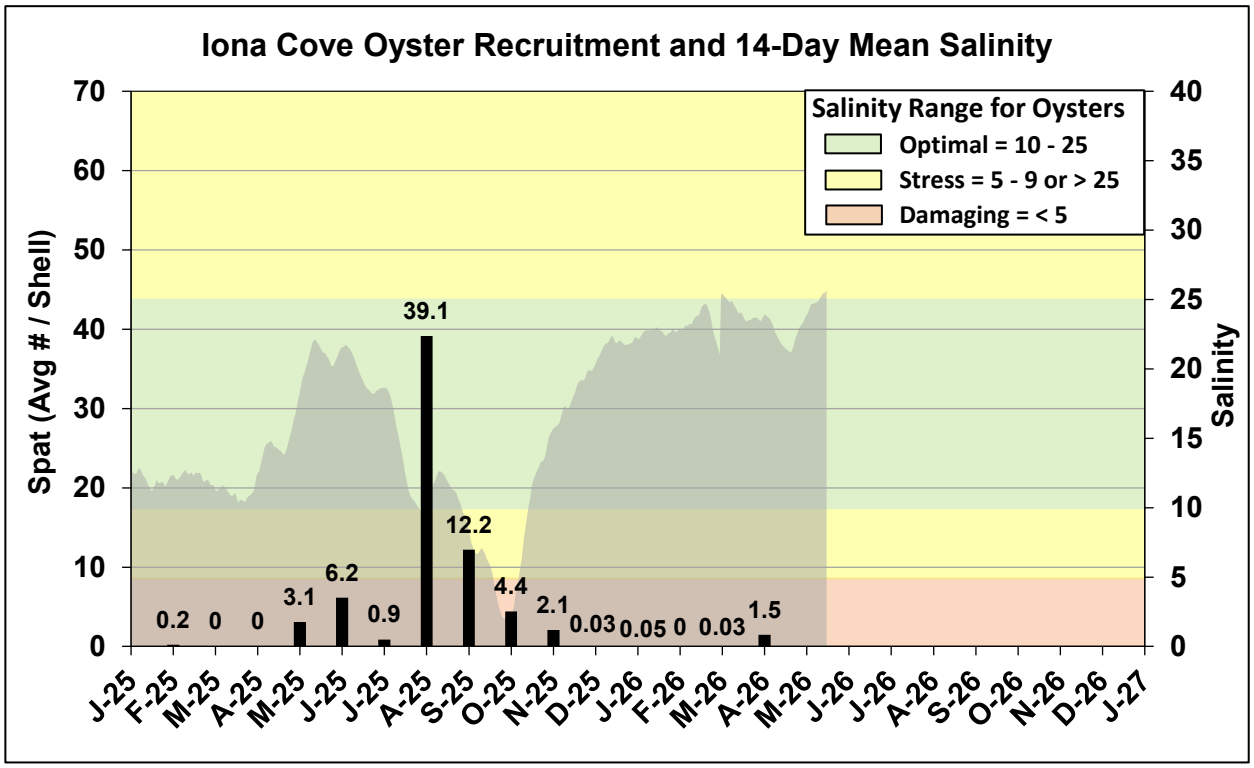

Figure ES-11. Mean oyster recruitment at the Iona Cove oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Cape Coral.

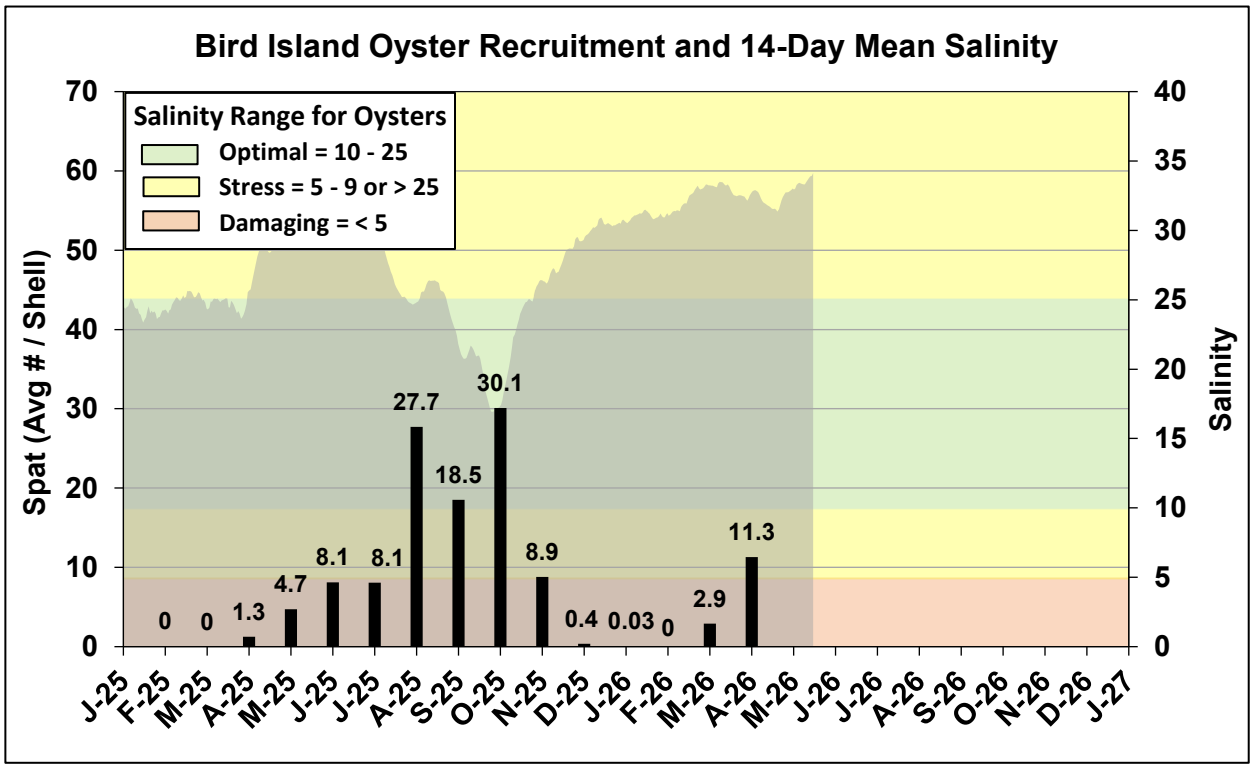

Figure ES-12. Mean oyster recruitment at the Bird Island oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Shell Point.

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	50	9.6	8.5
B	750	50	6.4	7.6
C	1,000	50	5.2	7.1
D	1,500	50	3.0	6.2
E	2,000	50	1.5	5.7

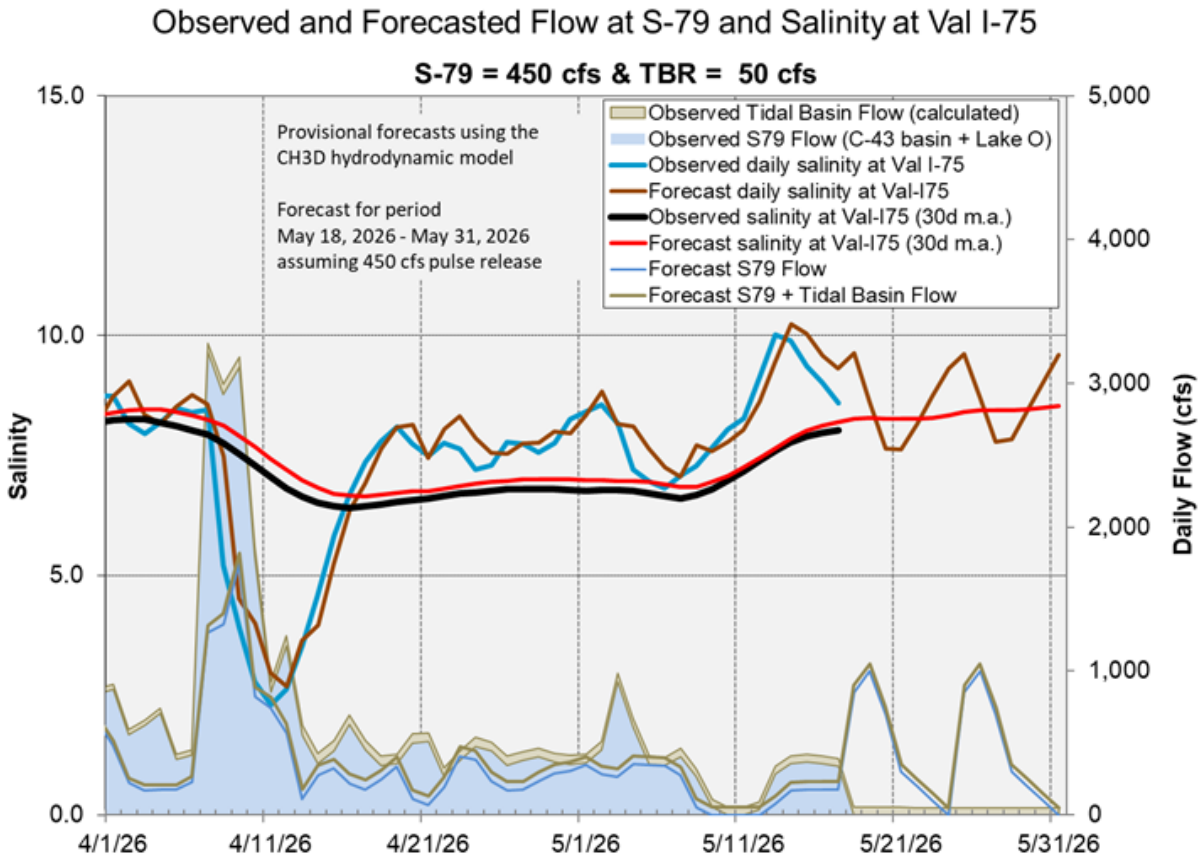

Figure ES-13. Surface salinity forecast at the Val I-75 site assuming a 450 cfs pulse release at S-79.

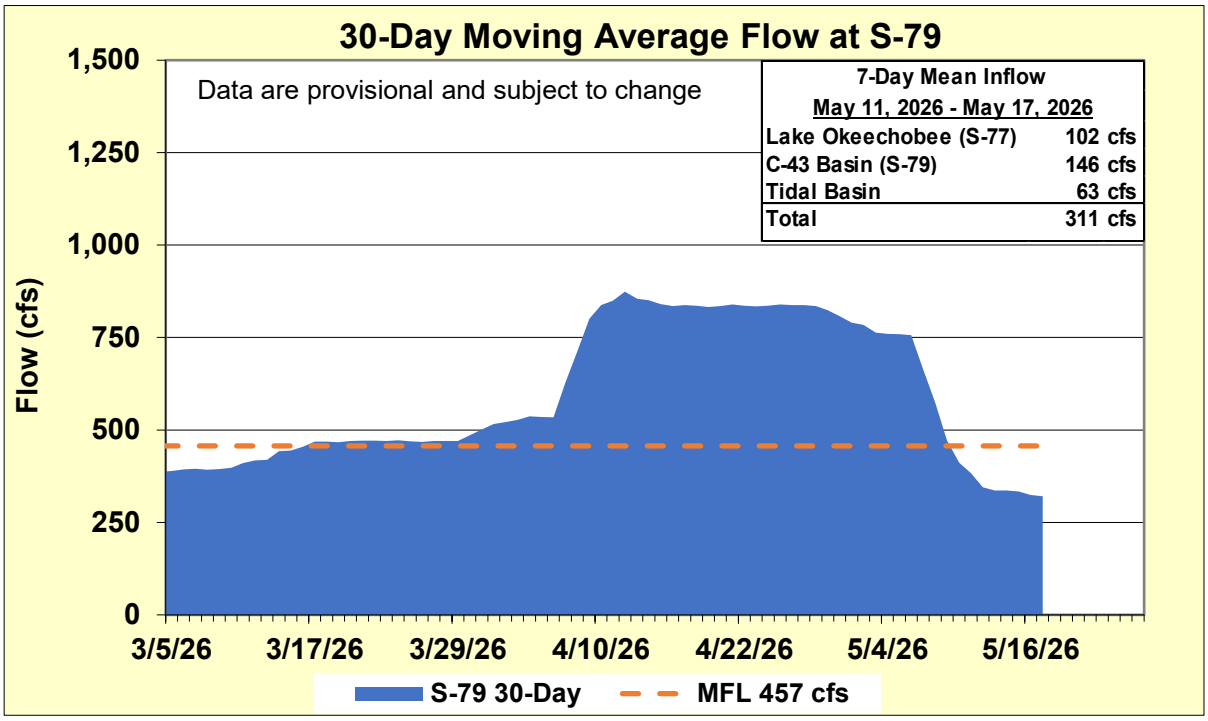

Figure ES-14. 30-day moving average flow at S-79 for the Caloosahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

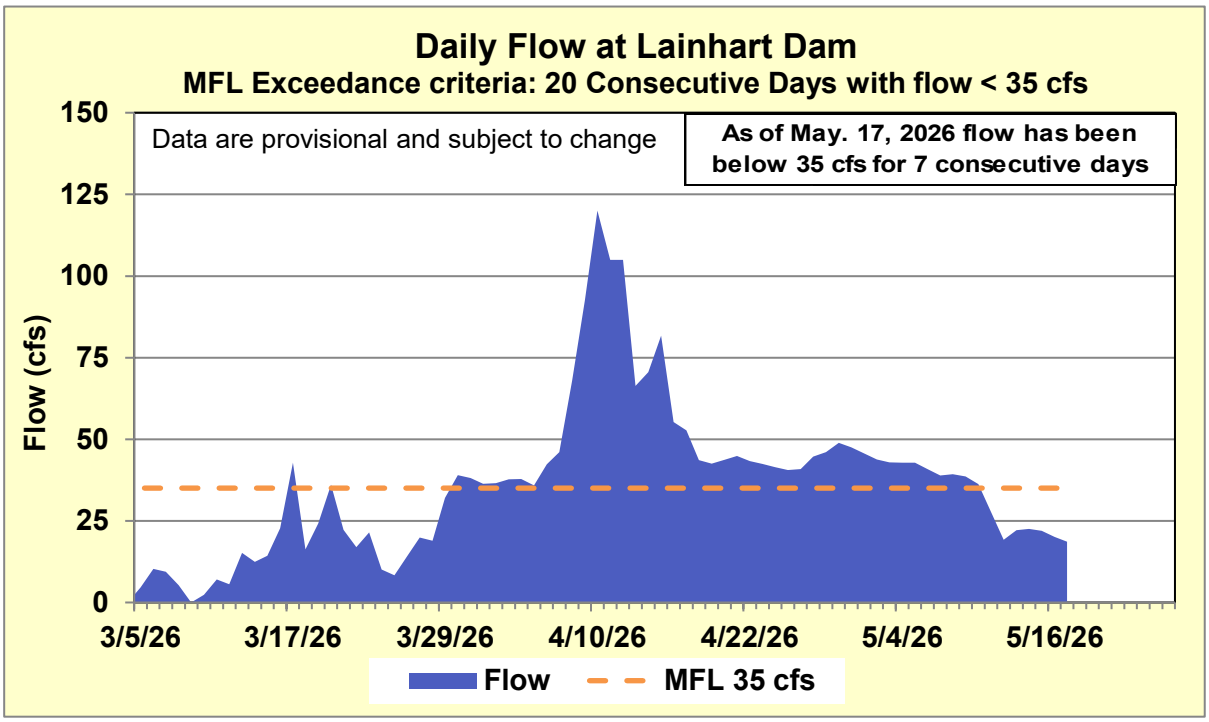

Figure ES-15. Average daily flow (cfs) at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

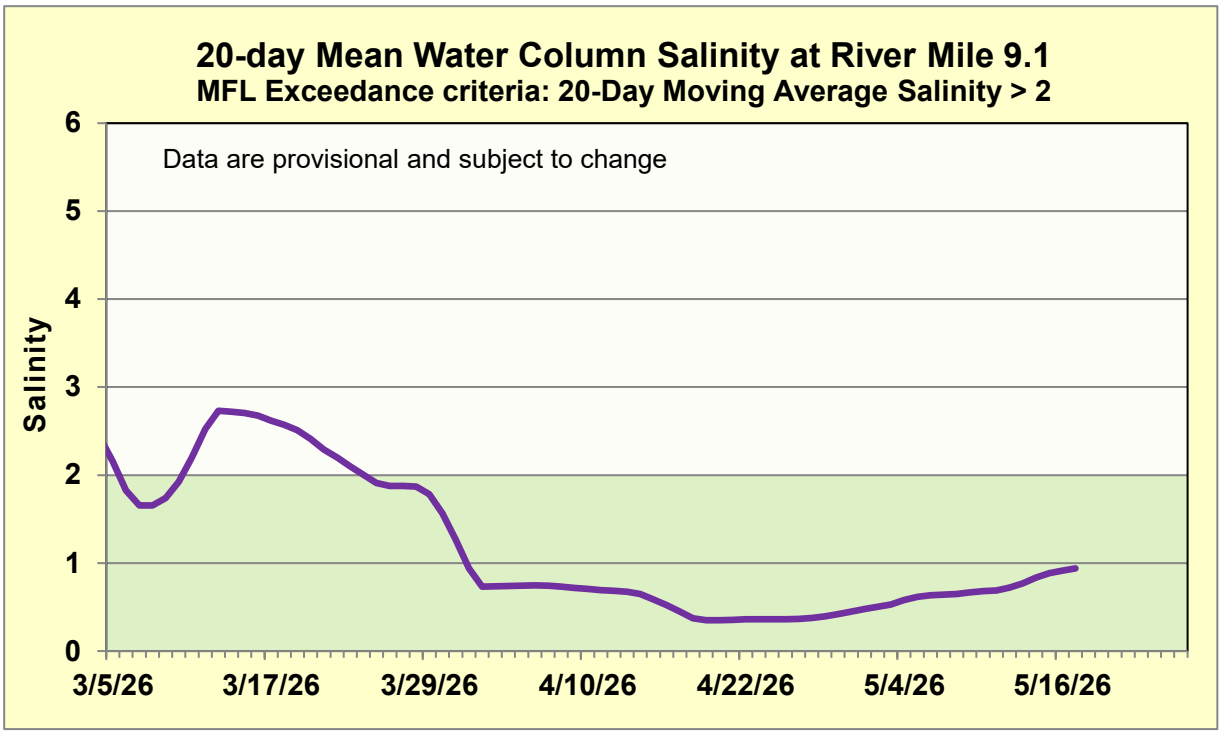

Figure ES-16. 20-day moving average salinity at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

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. STA-1E Central Flow-way contains nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. Online treatment cells are at or near 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. Treatment cells are at or near target stage. The Northern Flow-way, Eastern Flow-way and Expansion 1 Cells 6 and 7 contain nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. 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: Treatment cells are at target stage. An operational restriction is in place in Flow-way 2 and Flow-way 4 for vegetation management activities. Flow-ways 1 and 4 contain nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. 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 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/year (**Figure S-3**).

STA-5/6: Treatment cells are at or below target stage. All treatment cells have highly stressed vegetation conditions. Flow-way 3 contains nests of Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species. 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 WY2027 inflows to STAs (5/1/2026 to 5/17/2026): ~17,000 ac-ft

- Lake Okeechobee releases to FEBs/STAs
  - 5/11/2026 to 5/17/2026: 1,600 ac-ft
  - WY 2027: ~ 4,900 ac-ft

- Extensive vegetation management activities underway to address stressed and highly stressed vegetation in EAV cells
- MBTA protected species nesting in:
  - STA-1E: Cells 4N & 4S
  - STA-1W: Cells 1A, 1B, 3, 5B, 6 & 7
  - STA-2: Cells 5 & 6
  - STA-5/6: Cell 5-3B
- All treatment cells are at or near target water depth

Estimated Inflow and Outflow Volumes
May. 11th, 2026 - May. 17th, 2026 *Includes preliminary data*

	Total Inflow (acre-feet)	Total Outflow (acre-feet)
STA-1E	1,900	500
STA-1W	1,100	250
STA-2	4,200	4,000
STA-3/4	3,600	1,800
STA-5/6	450	0

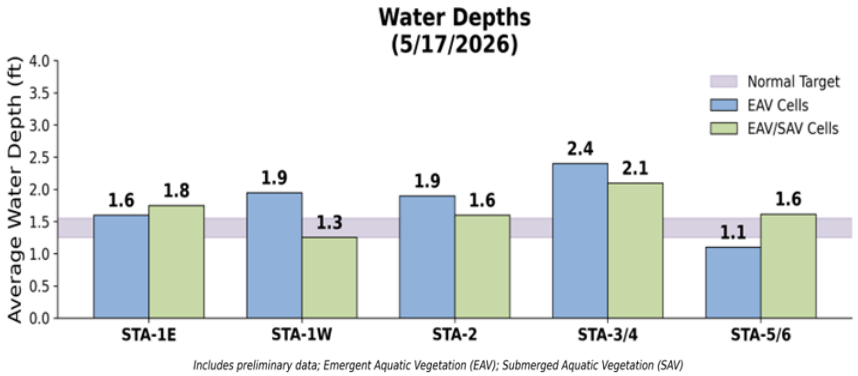

Figure S-1. STA depths and flow volumes

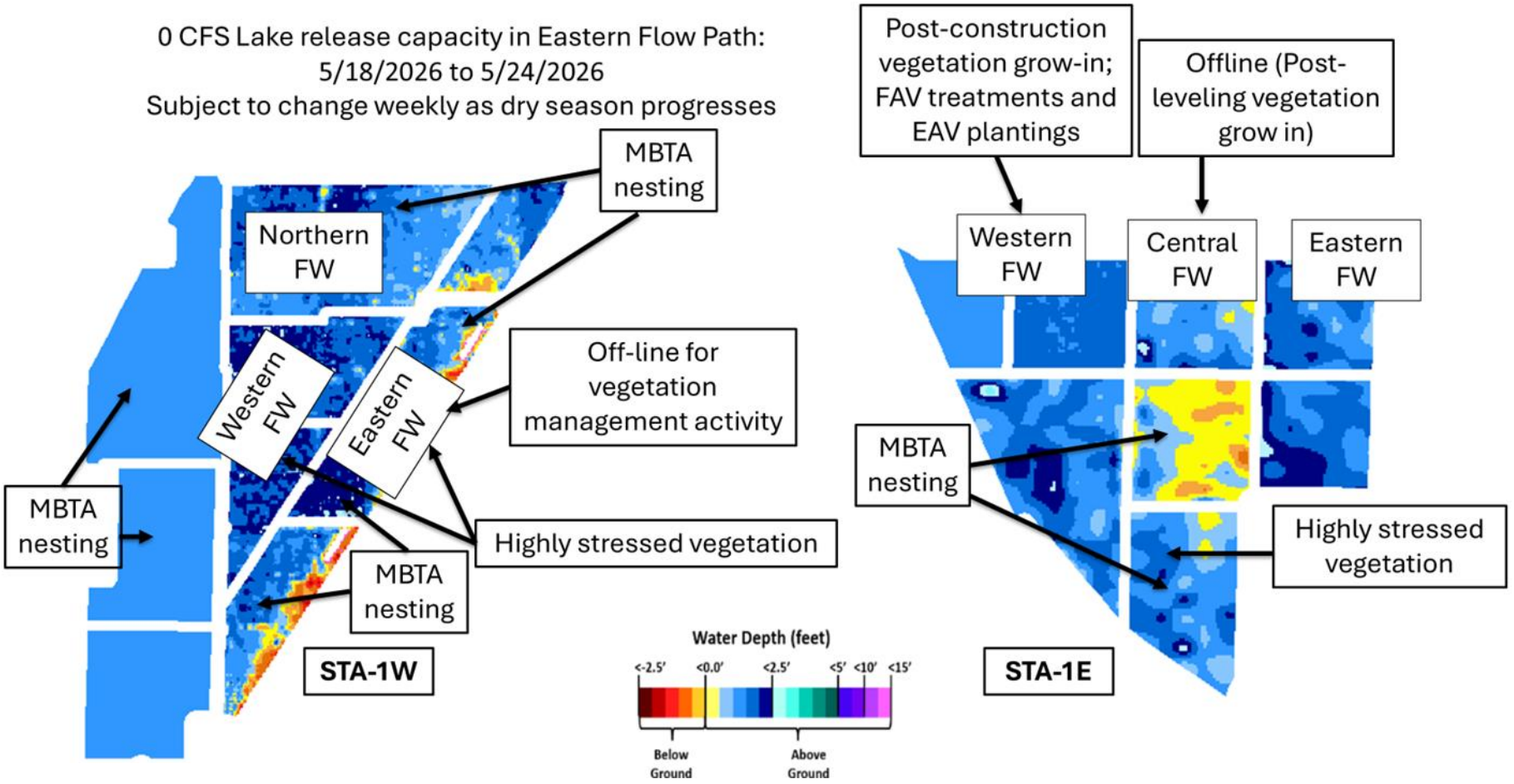

Figure S-2. Eastern Flow Path Weekly Status Report

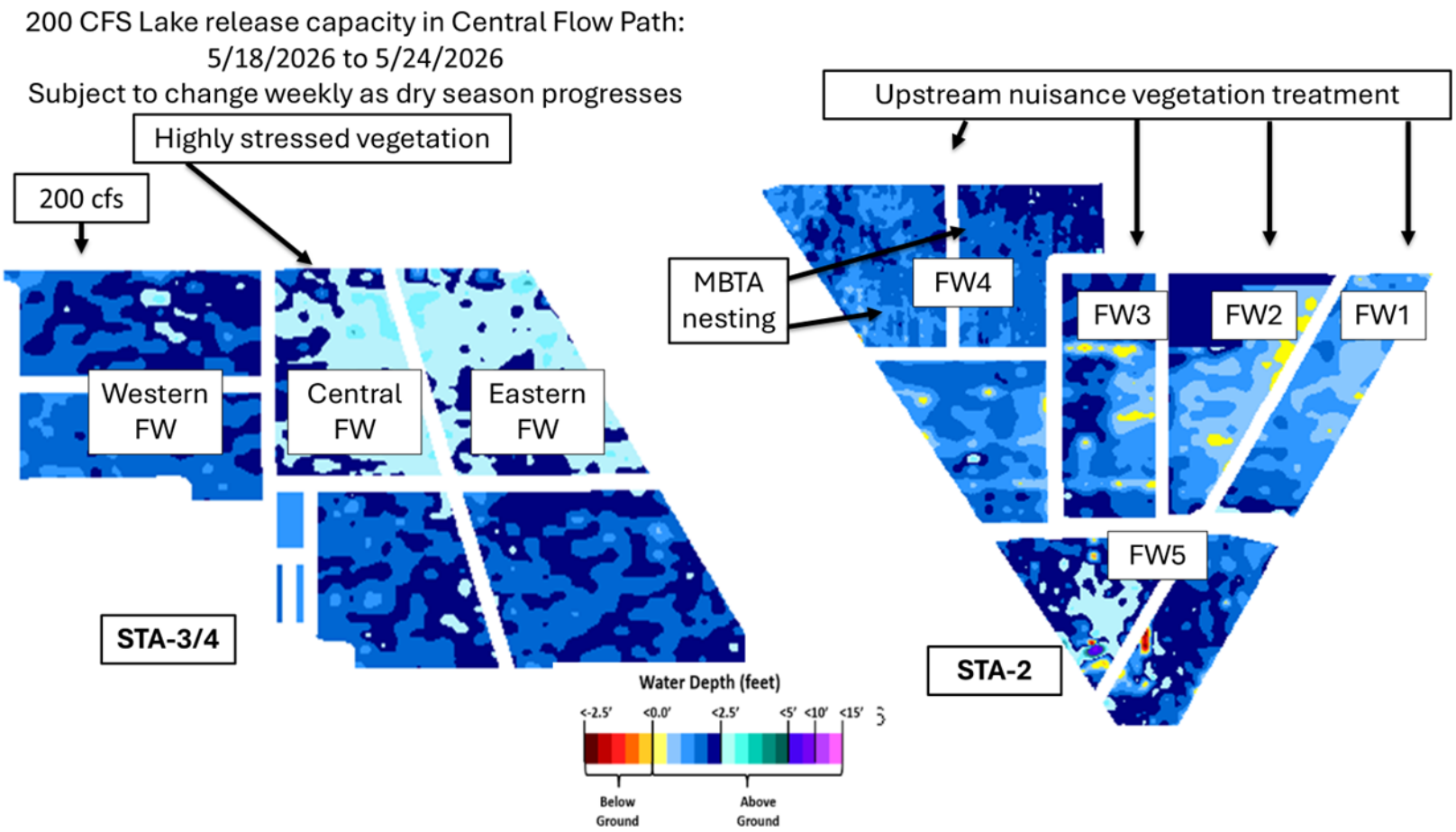

Figure S-3. Central Flow Path Weekly Status Report

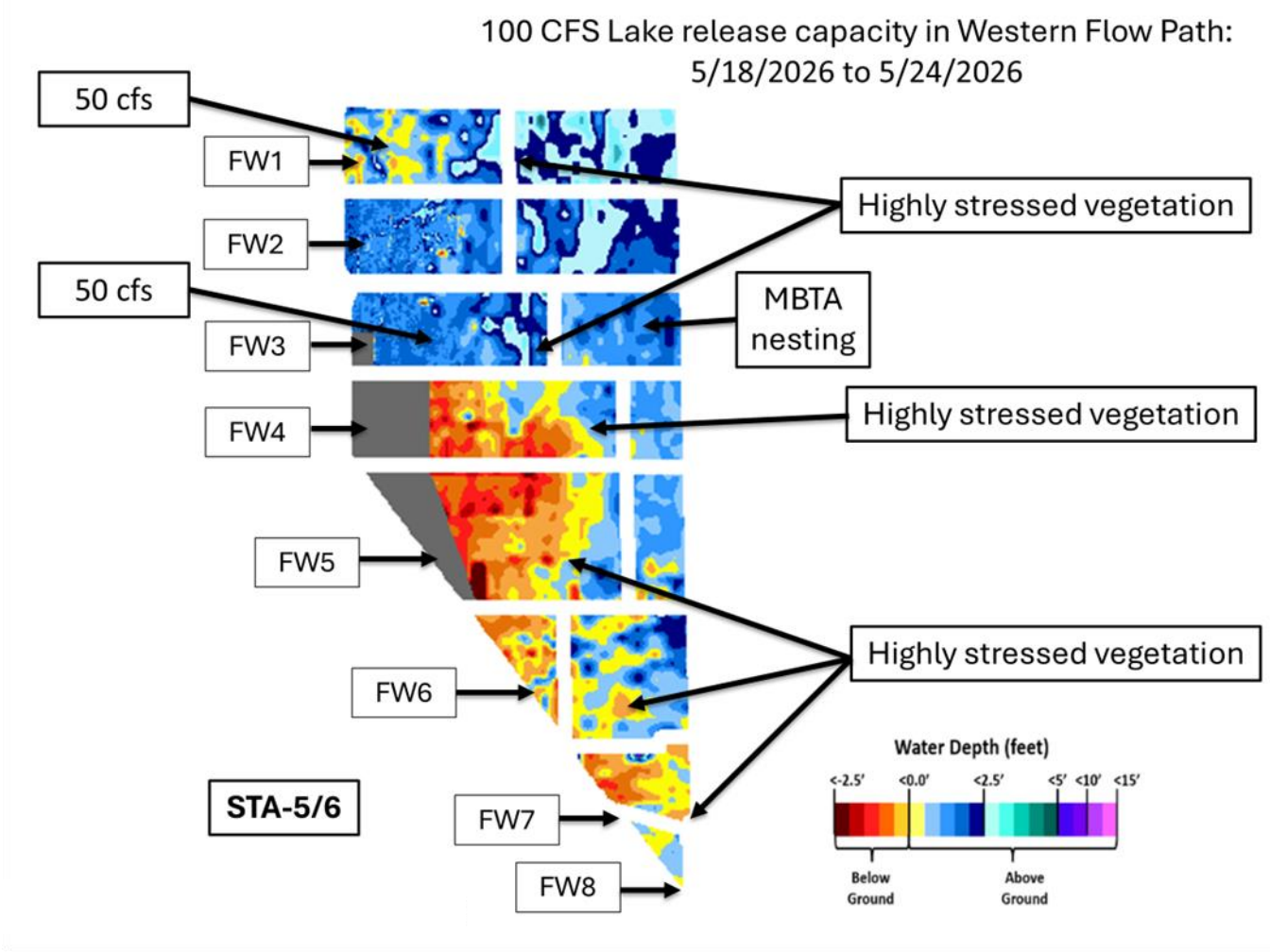

Figure S-4. Western Flow Path Weekly Status Report

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: Over the past week, stage increased at the 1-8C gauge and remained above the regulation line. As of Sunday May 19, 2026, stage was 0.43 feet above the A1 Zone regulation line (**Figure EV-1**).

WCA-2A: Water depth change at the 2-17 gauge was minimal. Stages were 0.83 feet above the regulation line on Sunday (**Figure EV-2**).

WCA-3A: The 3-gauge average remains well within Zone B. Average stage change over the week was moderate driven primarily by a sharply falling stage at Gauge 64. On Sunday, stages were 1.66 feet below the Zone A regulation line. Stage at Gauge 62 (NW corner) continues to rise towards the regulation line but remains below the Upper Schedule line by 1.04 feet on Sunday (**Figures EV-3** and **EV-4)**.

Water Depths

The SFWDAT model output for May 18, 2026, illustrates that both northern WCA-1 and northern WCA-2A are slightly drier in the north compared to one month ago. Significantly below ground conditions continue to expand across WCA-3A. Water depths remain low across Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP), WCA-3A, and -3B with impacts on soil, flora and fauna. WCA-3A and -3B remain very dry, having received the least amount of rainfall in the system over the dry season, severely limiting wading bird nesting. There is currently a small but active wildfire being reported in northern WCA-3A South and a wildfire was contained last week in WCA-3B. In Everglades National Park (ENP), both Taylor Slough (TS) and Shark River Slough (SRS) had less connectivity from north to south, however TS shows more connection to the coast. Comparing current conditions to water depths over the last 20 years, WCA-1 water depths are now mostly above average with some ponding beginning in the SE portion of that basin due to recent heavy rainfall. WCA 2A water depths are at or near average. BCNP water depths are above the 30th percentile; for this time of year, that means depths significantly below ground. Within WCA-3A and -3B, water depths remain low and below the 10th percentile. Inflows to the northwest are keeping a portion of northern WCA-3A above average. Recurring below average water depths in the central Everglades are illustrating the system-level importance of maintaining water in the sloughs and low-water refugia in the central region. Conditions in most of ENP are below average and falling quickly, while southeastern ENP remains above average. See **Figures EV-5** and **EV-6**.

Taylor Slough and Florida Bay

All stages decreased across Taylor Slough over the past week, with an average decrease of 0.16 feet for the week. Changes ranged from −0.39 feet at E112 in the northern slough to −0.03 feet at EPSW in the C-111 area (**Figure EV-7** and **Figure EV-8**). The stage at Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB) remains negative, indicating a lack of water at the head of the slough. Taylor Slough water levels remain above the recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 1.6 inches compared to before the Florida Bay Initiative (starting

in 2017), a decrease of 2.0 inches relative to last week. The stage at TSB is below the estimated historical average by 1.61 feet, while Craighead Pond (CP) stage is approximately equal to the historical average.

Average salinity in Florida Bay was 36.9, an increase of 1.8 from last week. Salinity changes ranged from +0.1 at Garfield Bight (GB) in the western nearshore region to +4.0 at Joe Bay (JB) in the eastern nearshore region (**Figure EV-7**). Salinity remains above the estimated historical average and near the 50th percentile of the WY2001-2016 Interquartile Range (IQR) for all three regions (**Figure EV-9**). Salinities in the central and western regions are near and above the hypersalinity threshold, respectively. Bay-wide salinity is now just above its recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 0.6, an increase of 0.8 from last week.

Salinity at the Taylor River (TR) station in the mangrove zone (tracked for the Florida Bay MFL) was 28.8, an increase of 0.4 from last week (**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 0.22 inches over the past week, based on the 18 gauges used for this report. Rainfall ranged from 0.00 inches at five stations to 1.04 inches at Trout Cove (TC) in the eastern nearshore region (**Figure EV-11**). Wind directions and speeds in Florida Bay ranged from 0.9 mph NW on May 15th to 19.6 mph W on May 14th (**Figure EV-11**).

The Taylor River, Mud Creek, and West Highway Creek flow stations are currently offline until further notice, 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 −301 ac feet, with net negative flows for the week. Total daily creek flow ranged from −1,864 ac feet on May 14th to 721 ac feet on May 17th (**Figure EV-12**). Average daily flow from Alligator Creek was −71 ac feet, with net negative flows for the week (**Figure EV-12**).

Implications/considerations for water management.

- Due to current drought conditions in WCA-3, slower recessions in that basin would help to protect the wetland ecology from damaging dry downs.

- Dry conditions did further extend the recent run of 4 consecutive poor wading bird nesting years into the 2026 nesting season.

- In southern WCA-2A, shallower conditions on average are needed to recover ridge and slough habitat.

- A consideration of moving the water south into northern WCA-3A is warranted. It would be ecologically beneficial to balance recessions in the north with water moving south that may help to buffer ecological stress. There is currently a high fire risk within the central Everglades, wildfires during these dry conditions can be very damaging.

- Freshwater input into Taylor Slough and the C-111 basin could 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-1. Previous week's rainfall and water depth changes in Everglades basins.

Everglades Region	Rainfall (inches)	Stage change (feet)
WCA-1	3.05	+0.28
WCA-2A	1.73	+0.00
WCA-2B	2.03	+0.02
WCA-3A	1.52	−0.03
WCA-3B	1.37	−0.11
ENP	0.41	−0.33

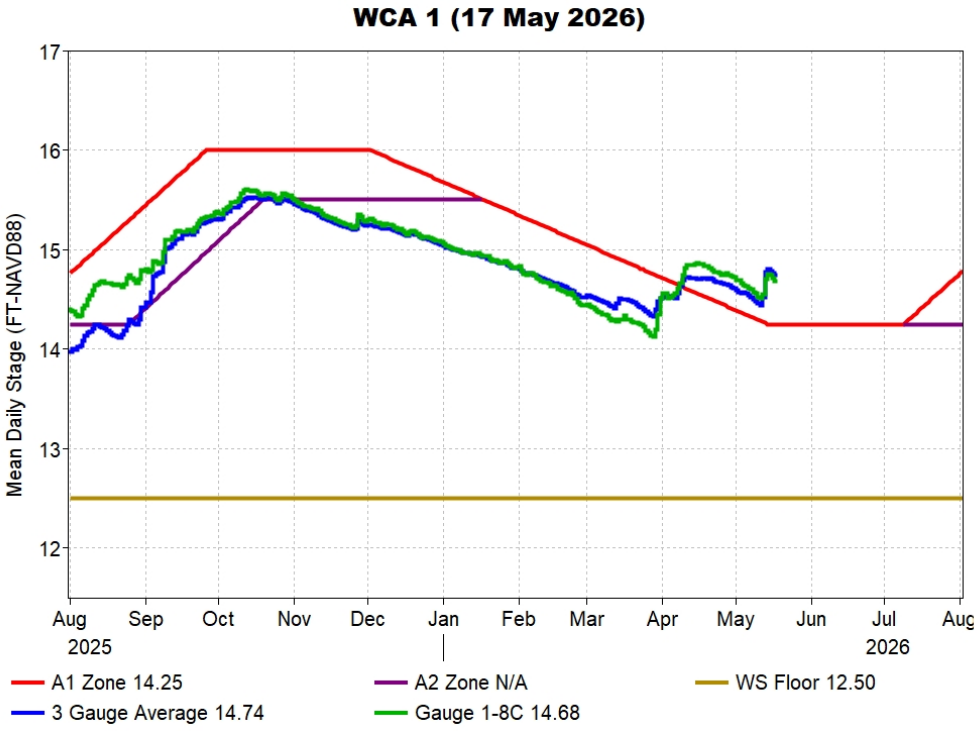

Figure EV-1. WCA-1 stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

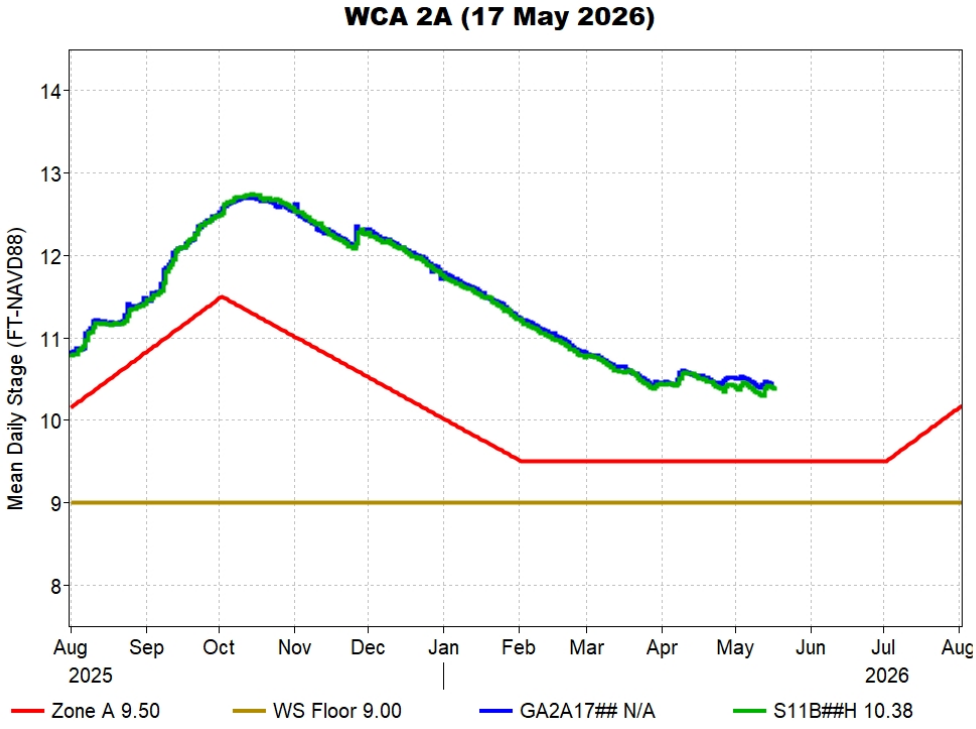

Figure EV-2. WCA-2A stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

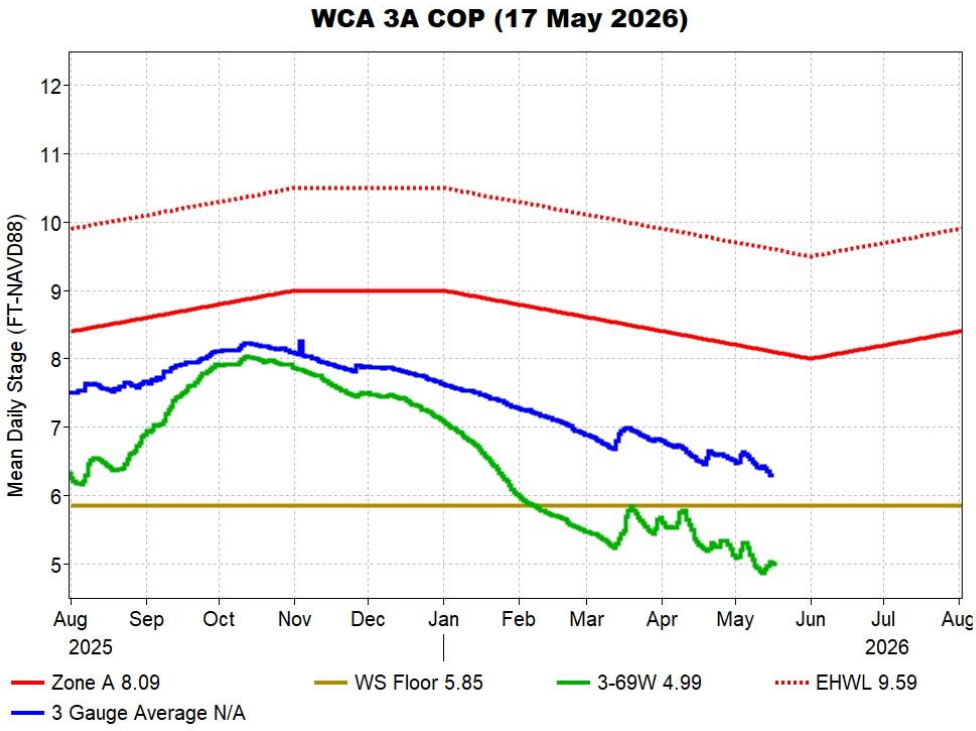

Figure EV-3. WCA-3A stage hydrographs (three-gauge average, 3-69W) and regulation schedule.

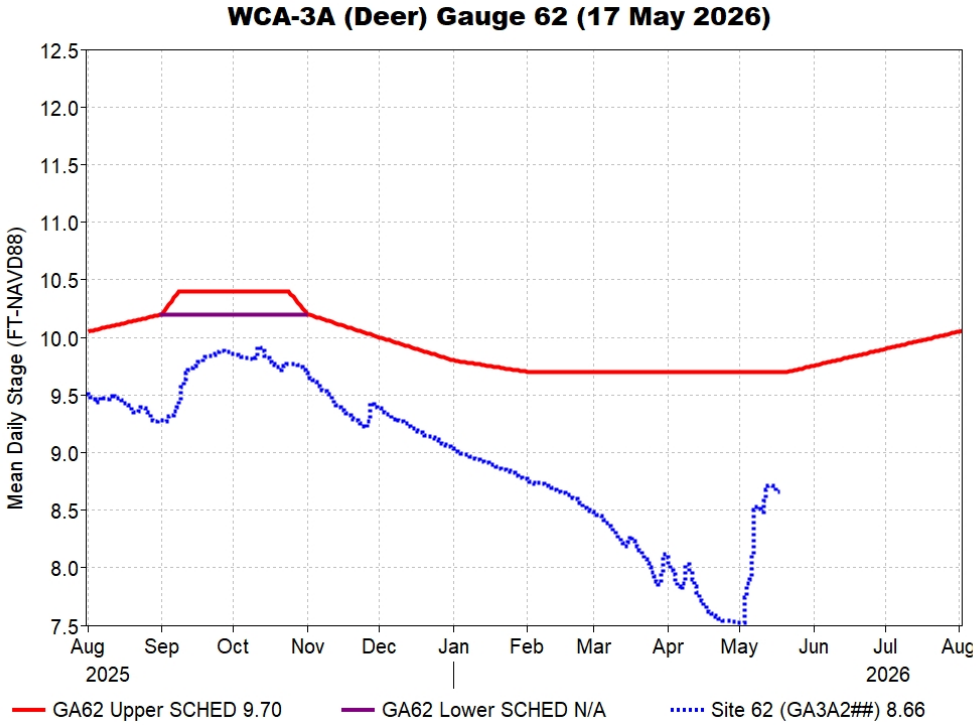

Figure EV-4. WCA-3A stage hydrograph (Deer gauge; Site 62) and regulation schedule.

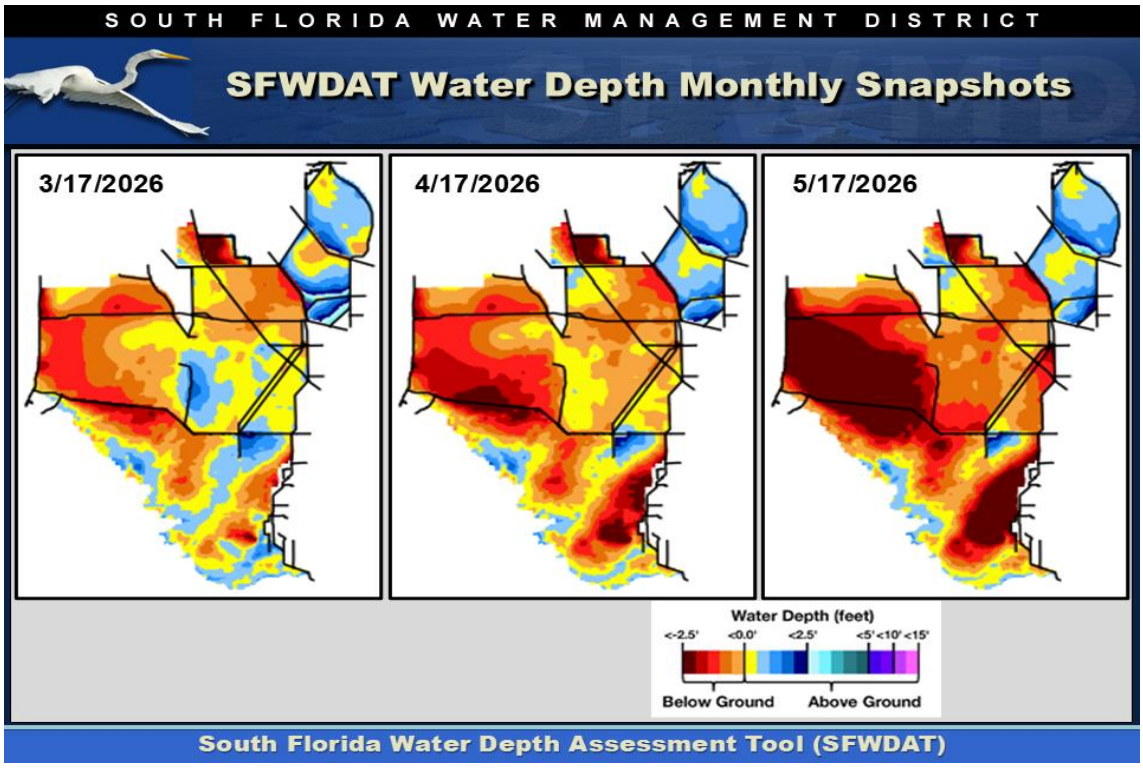

Figure EV-5. Everglades water depths from two months ago (left), one month ago (center) and present (right), based on SFWDAT.

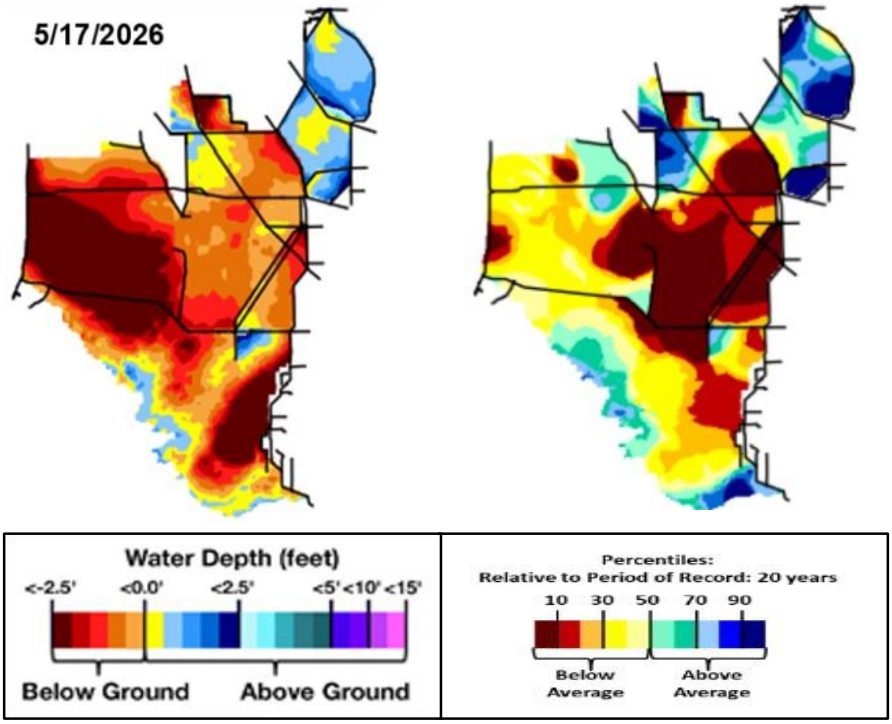

Figure EV-6. Present water depths (May 18, 2026) compared to the day of year relative to average (percentile) over the previous 20 years.

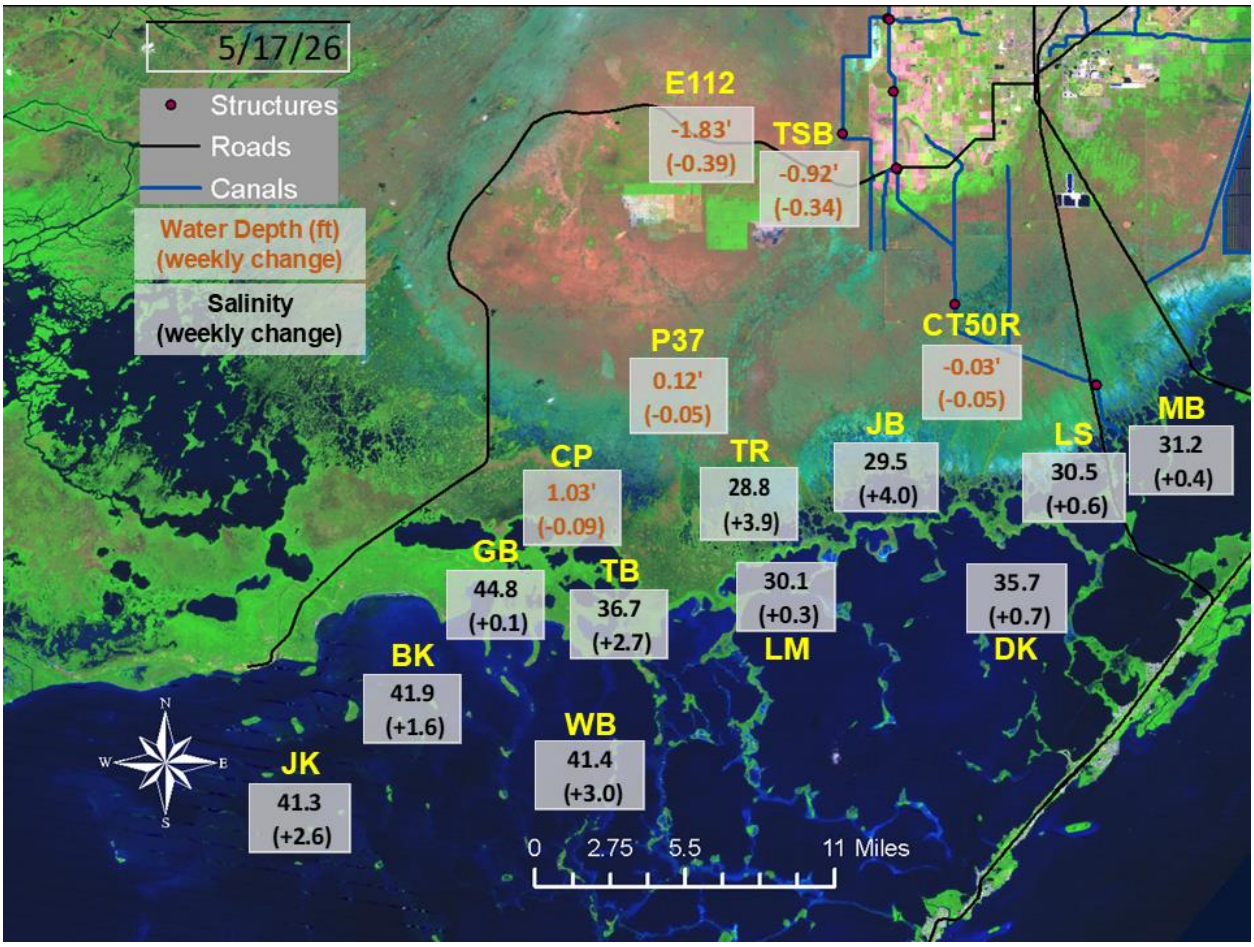

Figure EV-7. Taylor Slough water depths and Florida Bay salinities with changes since a week ago.

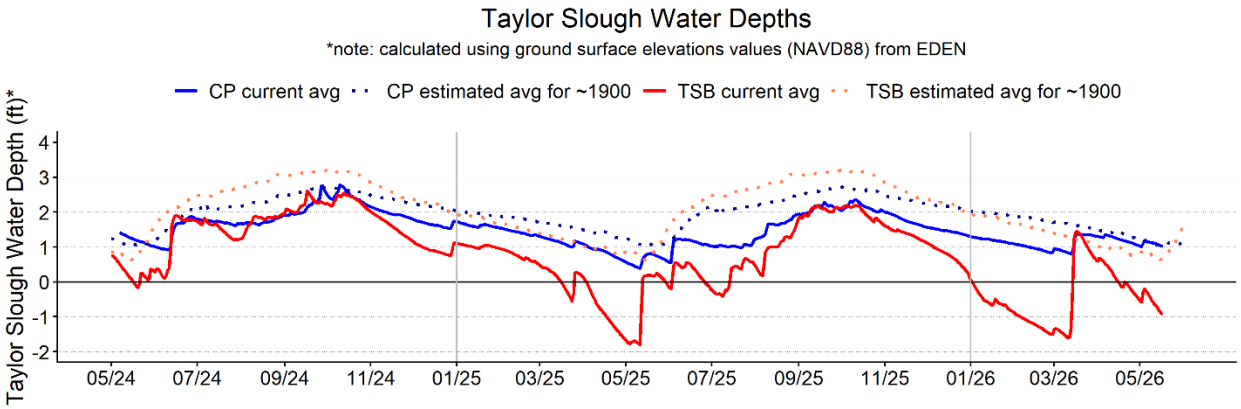

Figure EV-8. Taylor Slough water depth time series for Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB; northern slough) and Craighead Pond (CP; southern slough).

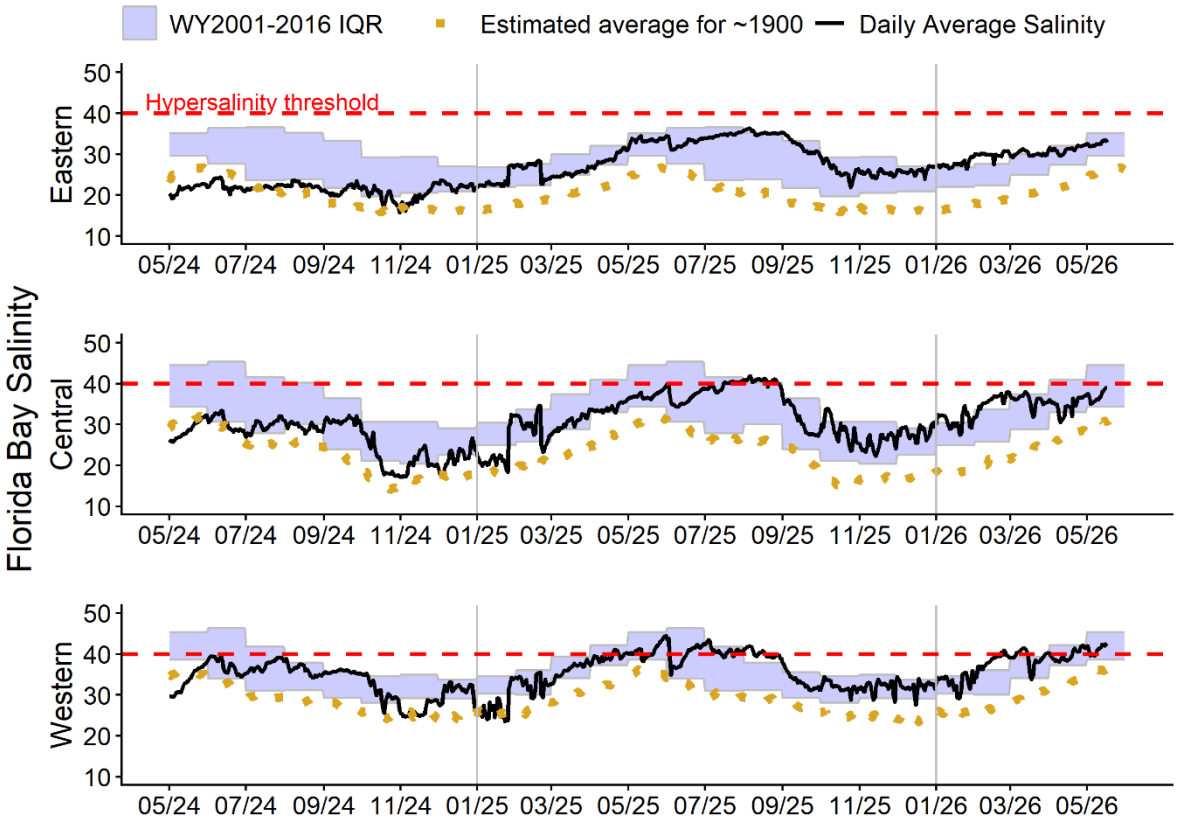

Figure EV-9. Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with WY2001-2016 interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges (IQR) and estimated historical daily average salinities. The hypersalinity threshold indicates the level at which salinities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

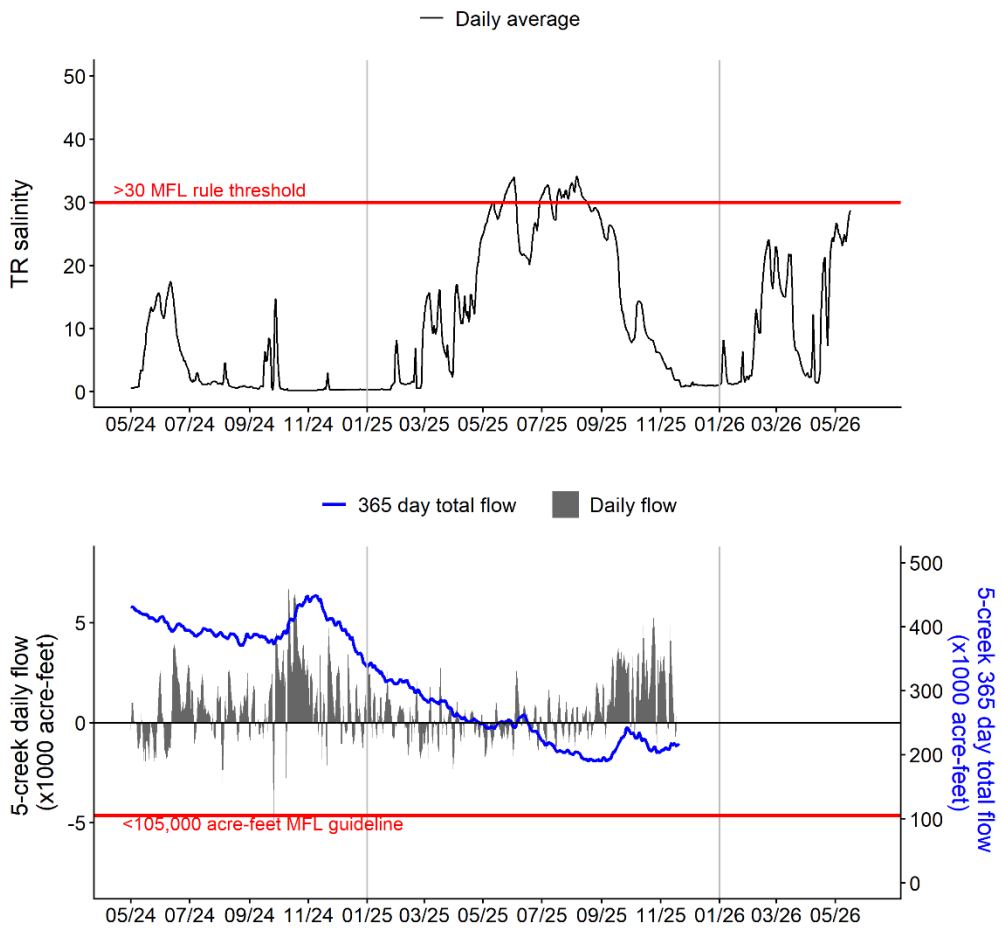

Figure EV-10. Daily average salinity at Taylor River (TR) tracked for the Florida Bay MFL criteria. The 365-day total creek flow MFL metric is not currently available due to missing creek flow data.

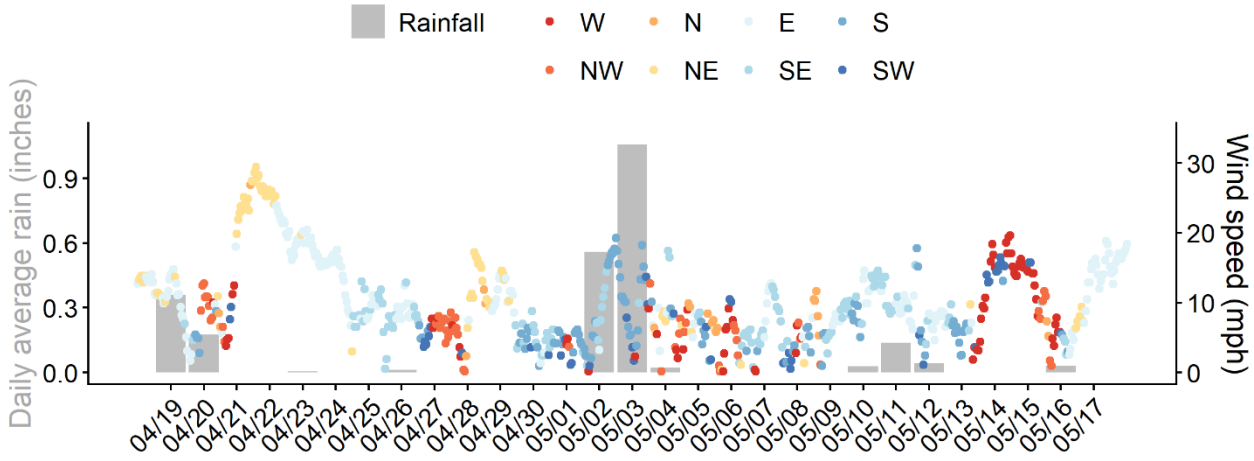

Figure EV-11. Daily average rain across Taylor Slough and Florida Bay, along with hourly average wind speed and direction (measured at Long Key) in Florida Bay over the past four weeks.

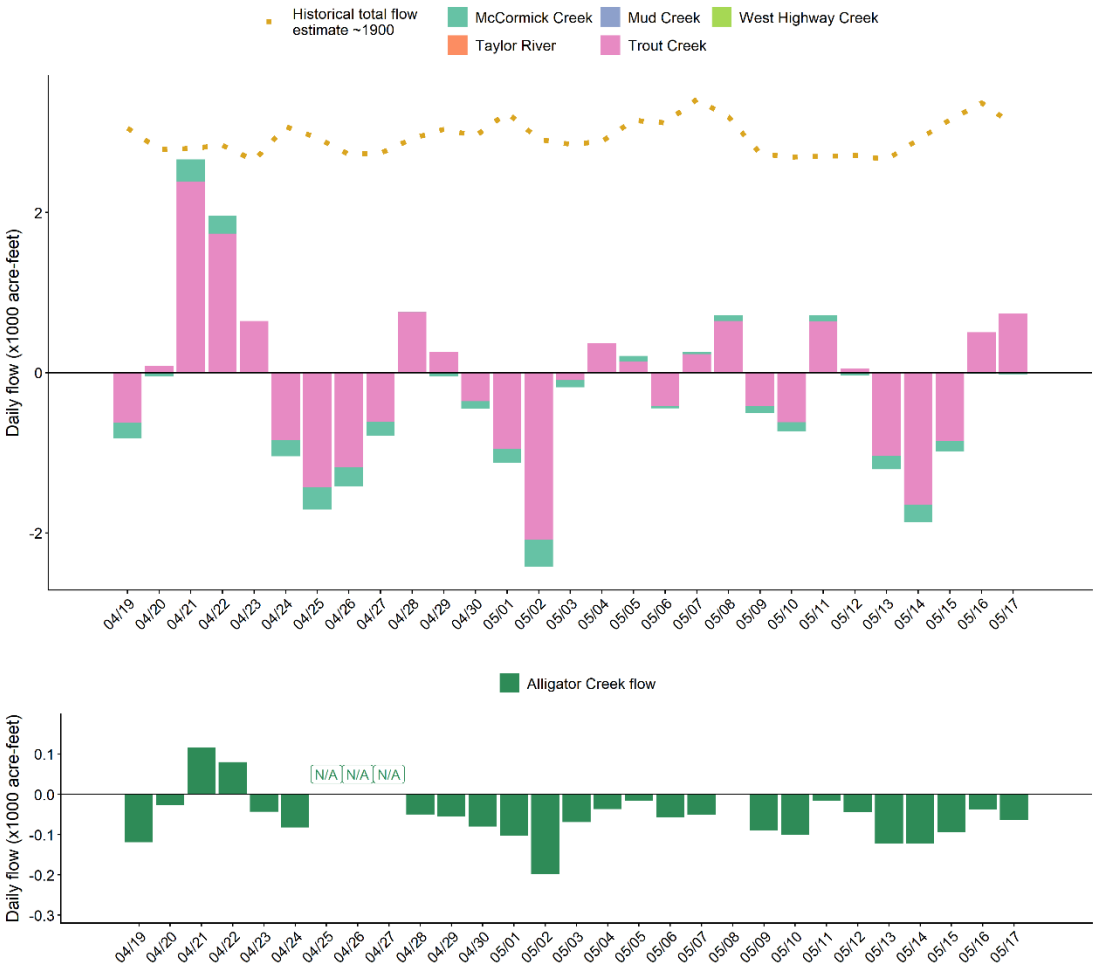

Figure EV-12. Top: daily average creek flow summed between the five major creeks with estimated historical daily flow over the past four weeks (**note**: data from Taylor River, Mud Creek and West Highway Creek are currently unavailable since November 21st, 2025). Bottom: Daily average Alligator Creek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

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

SFWMD Everglades Ecological Recommendations, May 18, 2026 (red is new)			
	Weekly change	Recommendation	Reasons
WCA-1	Stage increased by 0.28 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 changed very little	A recession of no faster than 0.05 feet per week.	Maintain within basin (north versus south) and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-2B	Stage increased by 0.02 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NE	Stage showed no change	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 increased by 0.12 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.05 feet per week.	
Central WCA-3A S	Stage decreased by 0.25 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 increased by 0.03 feet		
WCA-3B	Stage decreased by 0.11 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
ENP-SRS	Stage decreased by 0.33 feet.	Make discharges to ENP according to COP protocol, considering up/down stream ecological conditions.	Protect within basin and upstream habitat and wildlife. Buffer downstream salinity conditions.
Taylor Slough	Stage changes ranged from -0.39 feet to -0.03 feet	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement and buffer salinity conditions.
FB- Salinity	Salinity changes ranged from +0.1 to +4.0	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement and buffer salinity conditions.