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: July 8, 2026

SUBJECT: Weekly Environmental Conditions for Systems Operations

Summary

Weather Conditions and Forecast

A low- to mid-level subtropical ridge of high pressure has reformed over the southwestern Atlantic. This change will weaken the persistent southerly to southwesterly steering wind flow that has supported a prolonged stretch of days with rainfall at or above the daily climatological average. Total daily SFWMD rainfall is expected to decrease and rainfall along the immediate east coast will be limited after the morning hours. The primary focus will shift to the interior, particularly the south-central and western interior along an axis extending from Water Conservation Area 3 through Big Cypress and into the Caloosahatchee River Valley with the greatest rainfall expected across the southwestern and western interior of the SFWMD.

By Wednesday, the subtropical high will strengthen further and a well-defined Saharan Air Layer (SAL) will move westward across the SFWMD. The reduced atmospheric moisture from the SAL, and a faster southeasterly steering wind flow pushing the east-coast sea breeze well inland should greatly suppress rainfall across the southeastern portion of the SFWMD. Instead, widely scattered to scattered afternoon rainfall is expected across the northwestern half or two-thirds of the SFWMD, with some of the greatest rainfall possibly over the southwestern and west-central interior into the farming areas south of Lake Okeechobee. On Thursday, rainfall will be limited across much of the SFWMD, especially over the eastern half of the region. For Friday and Saturday, an increase in moisture and atmospheric instability should support an increase in rainfall across much of the SFWMD. By Sunday and Monday, another SAL could overspread much of the SFWMD, particularly from Lake Okeechobee southward, decreasing rainfall substantially.

For the upcoming week, total SFWMD weekly rainfall is expected to finish below-average.

Kissimmee

Water levels in East Lake Toho and Lake Toho are being allowed to rise as rainfall permits. Releases from Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha followed the Headwaters Revitalization Schedule Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan. Weekly average discharge on July 5, 2026, was 180 cfs at S-65 and 160 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain increased to 0.33 feet. The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River decreased from 7.6 mg/L the previous week to 6.7 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 9.63 feet NAVD88 (10.93 ft NGVD29) on July 5, 2026, which was 0.03 feet lower than the previous week and 0.32 feet lower than a month ago. The lake is still in the water shortage management band. Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) increased slightly from 160 cfs the previous week to 200 cfs. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) decreased slightly from 350 cfs the previous week to 330 cfs. The most recent non-obscured satellite image from July 3, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate to high cyanobacteria activity across large portions of the lake. Provisional results from the June 22-24 water quality sampling showed 10 of the 26 phytoplankton samples collected had detectable levels of cyanotoxin, with the highest value of 9 µg/L microcystins at S308.

Estuaries

Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 706 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Mean surface salinities increased at all sites in the estuary. Salinity in the middle estuary was in the optimal range (10–25) for adult eastern oysters.

Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary averaged 923 cfs over the past week with 61 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee. Over the past week, salinities increased at S-79 and Val I-75, remained the same at Ft. Myers, and decreased 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 optimal range (10-25) for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral, and in the upper stressed range (>25) at Shell Point and Sanibel.

Stormwater Treatment Areas

For the week ending Sunday, July 5th, 2026, 200 ac ft 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 8,300 ac-feet. The total amount of inflows to the STAs in WY2027 is approximately 36,000 ac-feet. Most online STA treatment cells are at or near target stage. STA-1E Central Flow-way is offline for post-construction vegetation grow-in. 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 STA-3/4 Eastern Flow-way for vegetation management activities. STA-1W Eastern Flow-way contain 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-2, STA-3/4 & STA-5/6.

Everglades

Above average rainfall (1.93 inches) occurred across the Everglades Protection Area (EPA) last week and was distributed relatively uniformly throughout the system. The increased rainfall resulted in ascension in water depths across most of the Everglades, with the exception of WCA-2A and WCA-2B, which experienced a slight decline in water levels. Overall, the EPA exhibited an average ascension rate of +0.02 ft/week. Recent rainfall has improved water depths across portions of the Everglades; however, dry conditions persist across much of the system. Water levels remain particularly low in WCA-3 and Big Cypress. These dry conditions can have ecological consequences both system wide and within the central Everglades, including delaying the new production of now very limited prey populations, increasing the risk of damaging wildfires, enhanced peat oxidation, and potential ridge and slough degradation. Another wildfire occurred last week in WCA-2B which began on June 28, 2026 and affected 5,780 acres; this fire is now fully contained. Taylor Slough stages increased last week and remain below the recent average for this time of year by 3.1 inches. Average Florida Bay salinity increased slightly last week; eastern and central Florida Bay are reaching the 75th percentile while the western region is just above it.

Supporting Information

Kissimmee Basin

Upper Kissimmee

On July 5, 2026, mean daily lake stages were 54.1 feet NAVD88 (1.4 feet below schedule) in East Lake Toho, 51.5 feet NAVD88 (1.0 feet below schedule) in Lake Toho, and 47.8 feet NAVD88 (2.5 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 July 5, 2026, mean weekly discharge was 180 cfs at S-65 and 160 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly discharge from the Kissimmee River was 190 cfs at S-65D and 110 cfs at S-65E (**Table KB-2**). Mean weekly headwater stages were 45.4 feet NAVD88 at S-65A and 27.5 feet NAVD88 at S-65D. Mean weekly river channel stage increased by 0.4 feet to 29.9 feet NAVD88 (**Figure KB-4**). Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain increased by 0.01 feet to 0.33 feet (**Table KB-2**, **Figure KB-5**). The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River decreased from 7.6 mg/L the previous week to 6.7 mg/L (**Table KB-2**, **Figure KB-6**).

Water Management Recommendations

Allow stage in East Lake Toho and Lake Toho to rise with rainfall and, to the extent possible, limit the ascension rate to no more than 0.5 ft/14 days. 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 at the lower boundary of Zone B4, target flows of 300 cfs if stage increases into Zone B4 and 150 cfs if stage declines into Zone B5.

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)	
							7/5/26	*6/28/26*
Lakes Hart and Mary Jane	S-62	LKMJ	0	58.9	R	58.9	0.0	-0.2
Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel	S-57	S-57	0	59.1	R	59.9	-0.8	-1.1
Alligator Chain	S-60	ALLI	0	60.8	R	62.1	-1.3	-1.4
Lake Gentry	S-63	LKGT	0	58.5	R	59.9	-1.4	-1.4
East Lake Toho	S-59	TOHOE	0	54.1	R	55.5	-1.4	-1.6
Lake Toho	S-61	TOHOW S-61	0	51.5	R	52.5	-1.0	-1.2
Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha	S-65	KUB011 LKIS5B	180	47.8	T	50.3	-2.5	-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.

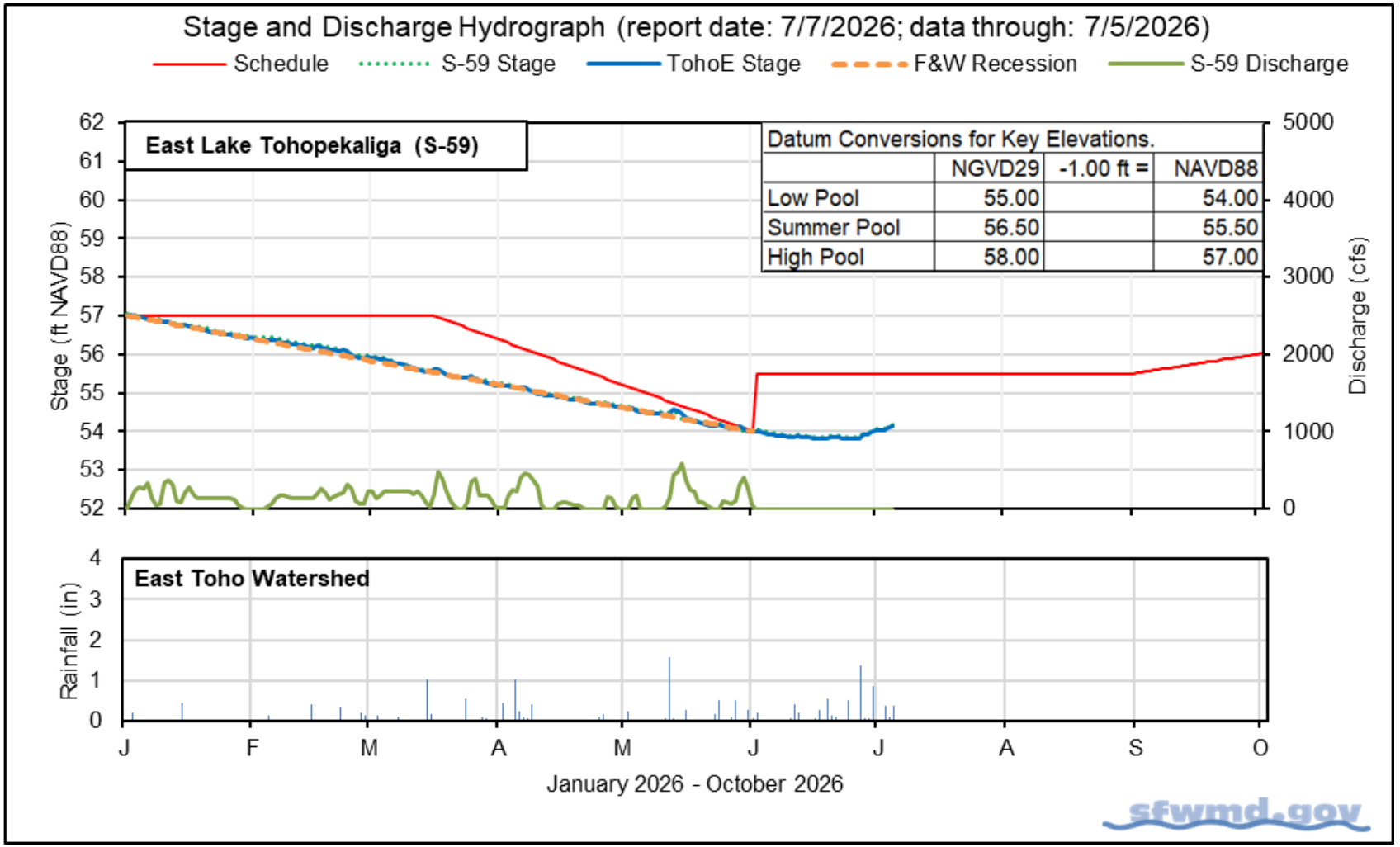


Figure KB-1. East Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

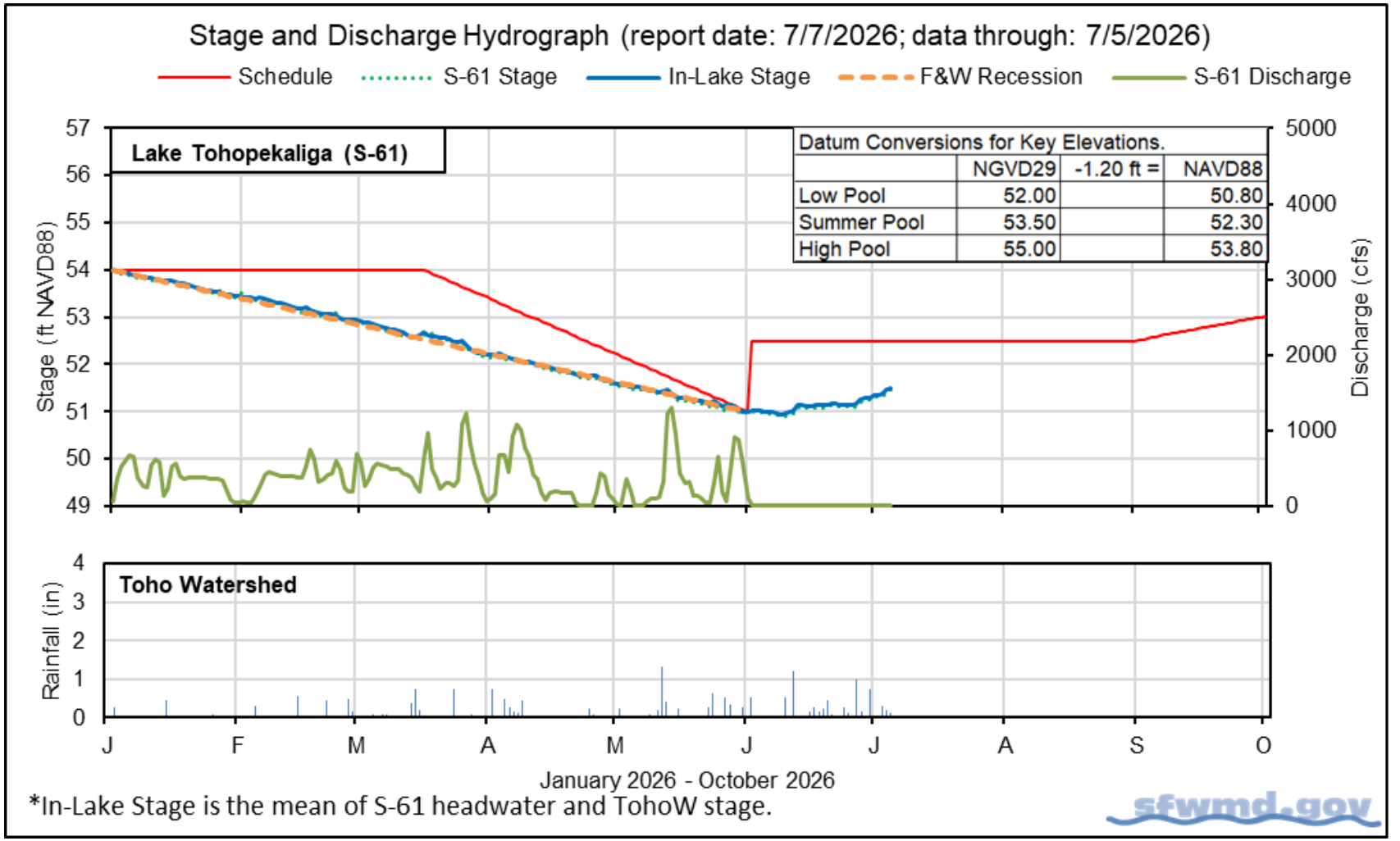


Figure KB-2. Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

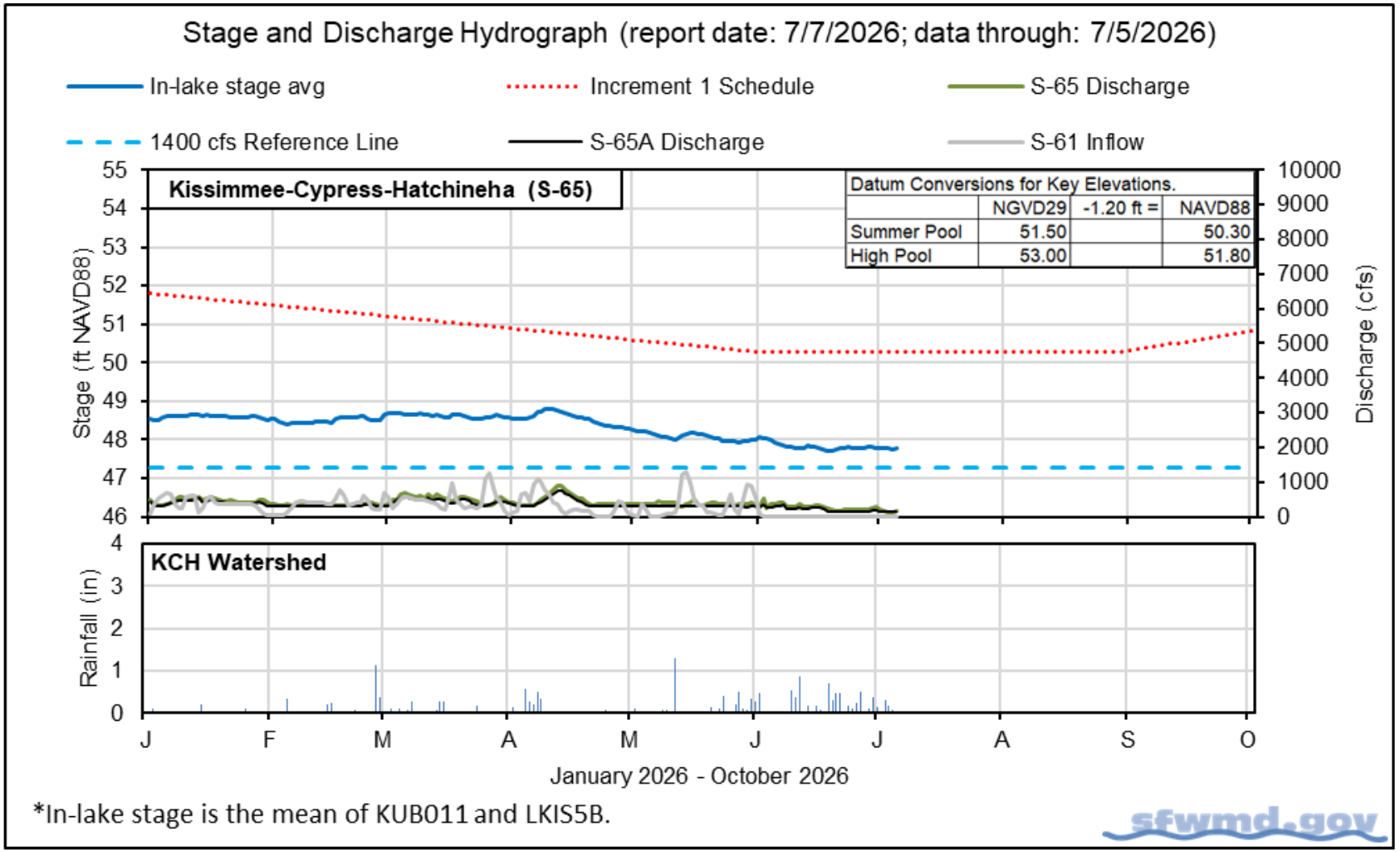


Figure KB-3. Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

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			
		7/5/26	7/5/26	6/28/26	6/21/26	6/14/26
Discharge	S-65	150	180	220	250	300
Discharge	S-65A[a]	150	160	160	190	240
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65A	45.4	45.4	45.3	45.2	45.3
Discharge	S-65D[b]	250	190	150	230	280
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65D[c]	24.7	27.5	27.5	27.7	27.8
Discharge (cfs)	S-65E[d]	140	110	84	160	220
Discharge (cfs)	S-67	0	0	0	0	0
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)[e]	Phase I, II/III river channel	6.0	6.7	7.6	7.1	7.5
River channel mean stage (feet NAVD88)[f]	Phase I river channel	30.0	29.9	29.5	30.1	30.3
Mean depth (feet)[g]	Phase I & II/III floodplain	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	0.32

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).

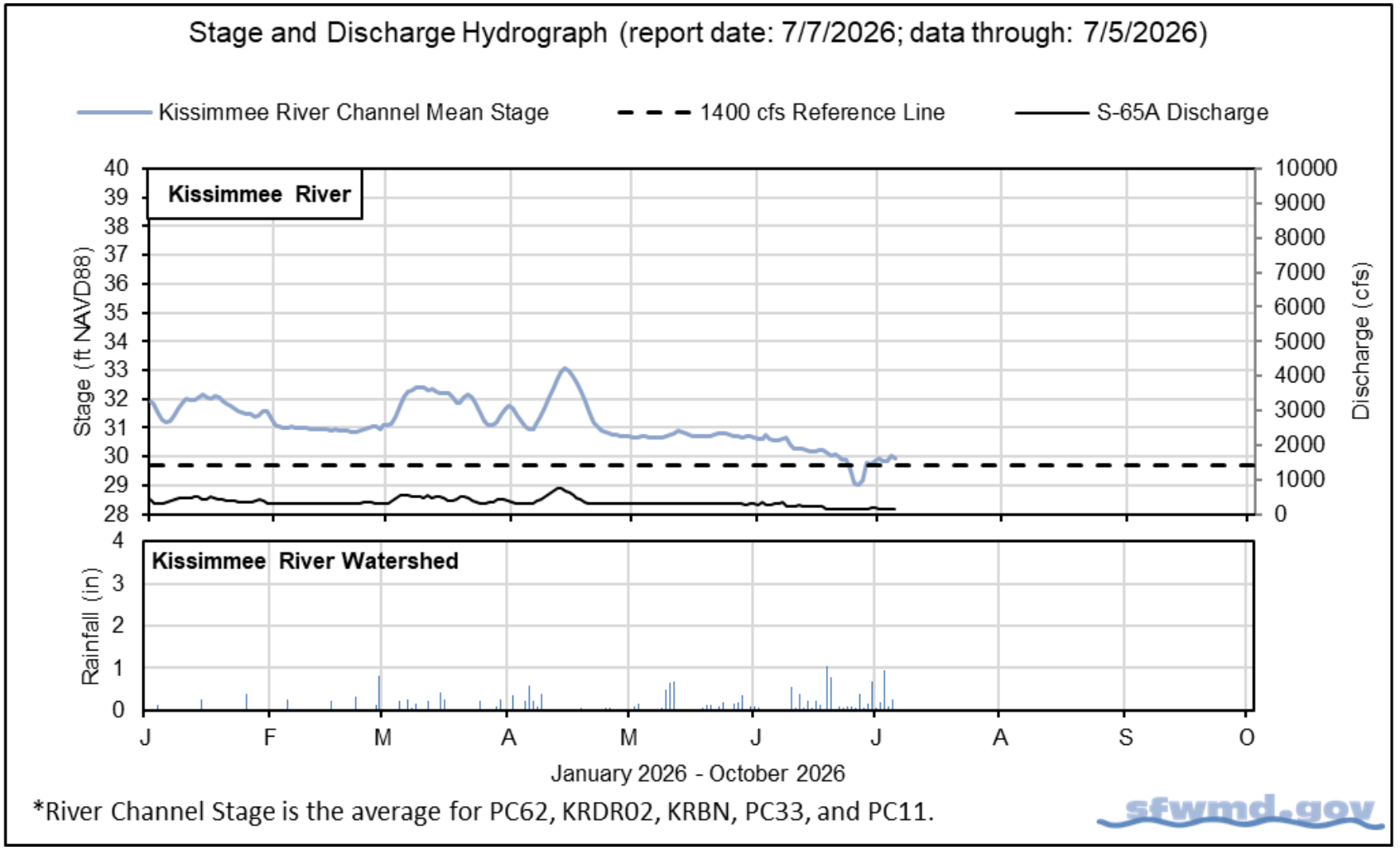


Figure KB-4. Kissimmee River stage, discharge, and rainfall.

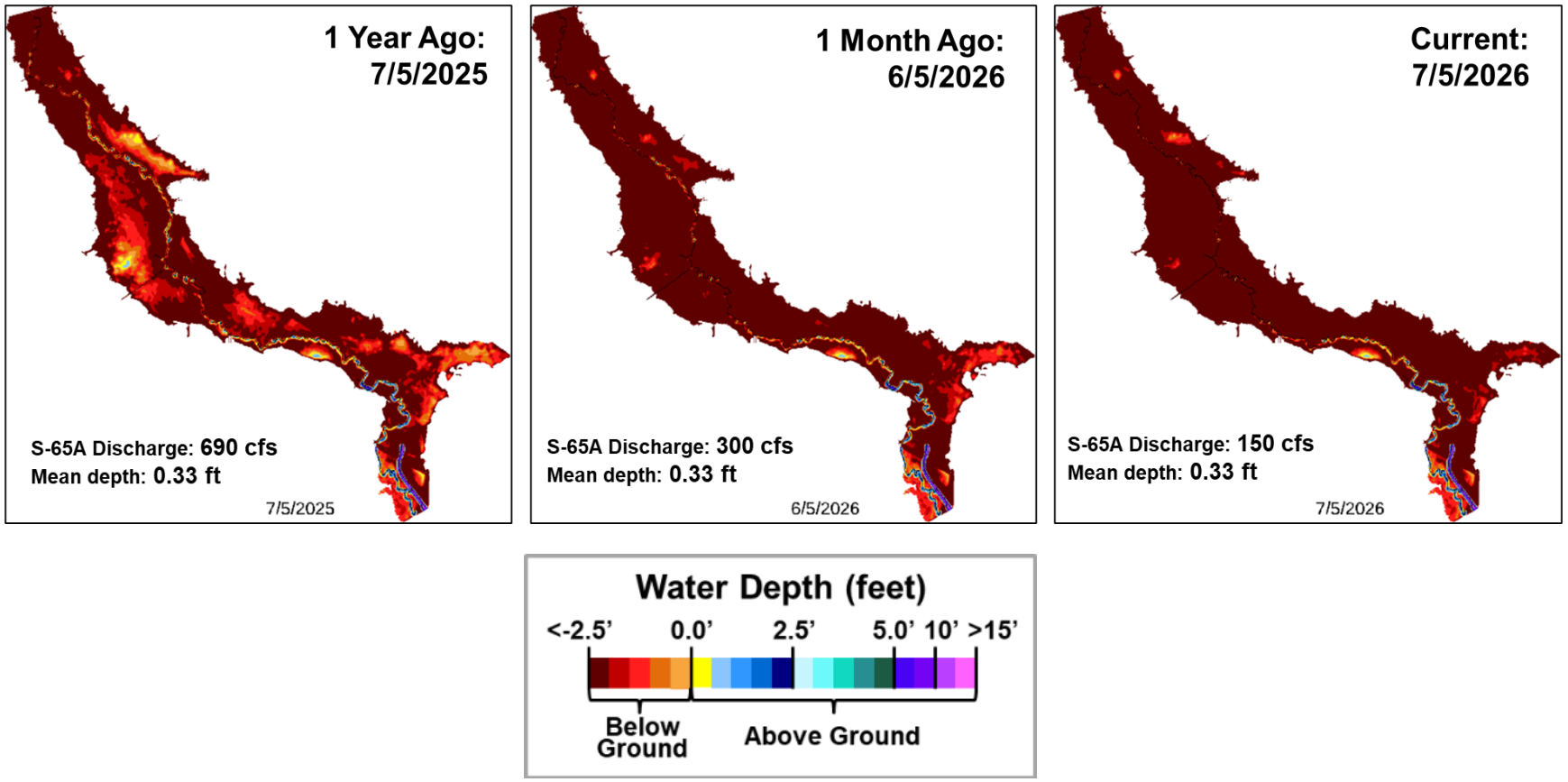


Figure KB-5. Phase I-II-III area Kissimmee River floodplain water depths (from left to right) one year ago, one month ago, and current.

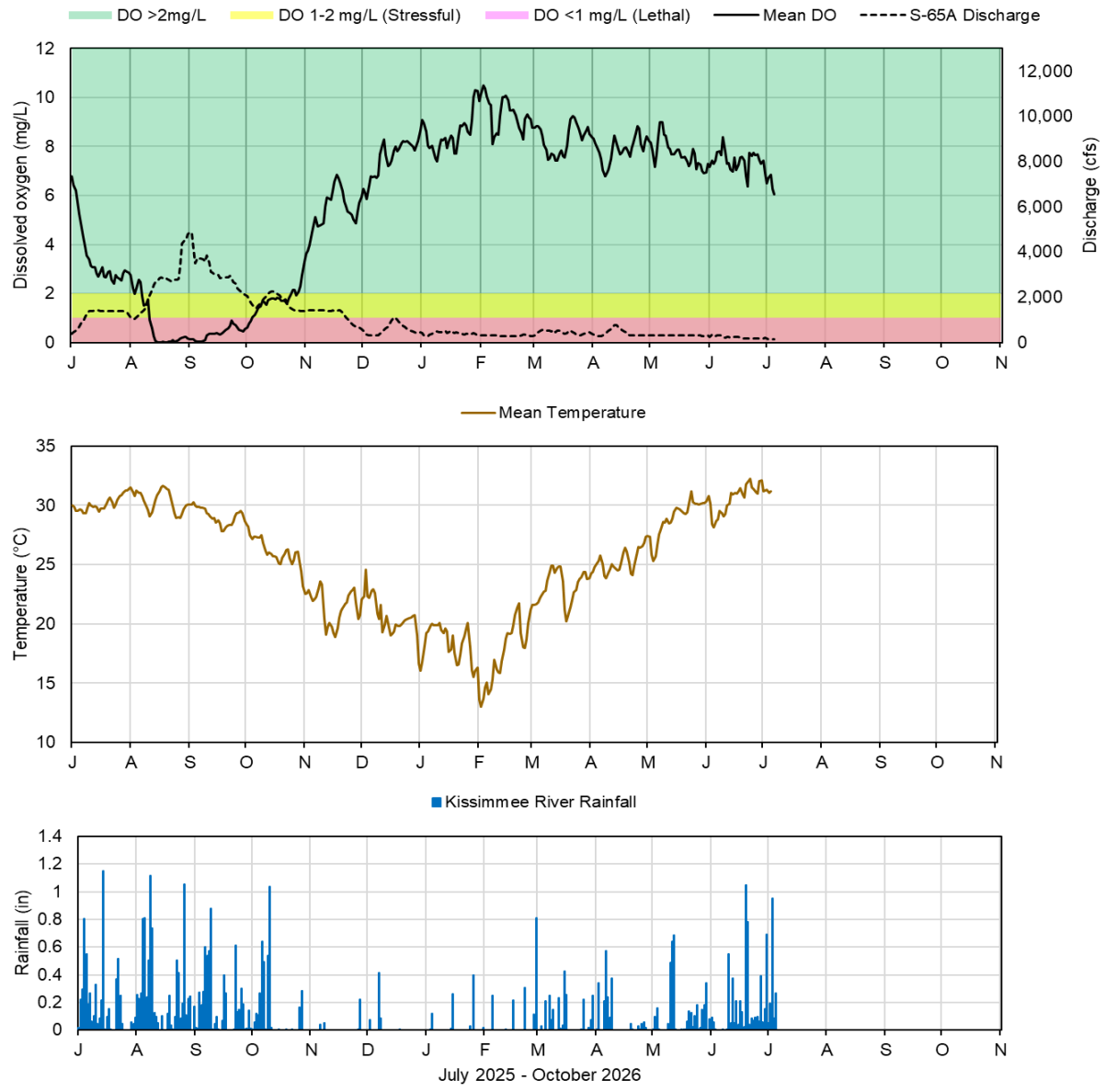


Figure KB-6. Kissimmee River channel mean daily dissolved oxygen concentration (mg/L), S-65A discharge (cfs), temperature (°C) and rainfall (inches). Dissolved oxygen (DO) and temperature are mean daily values averaged for PC62, KRDR02, KRBN, PC33, PC11, PD62R, and PD42R with an average of five stations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

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

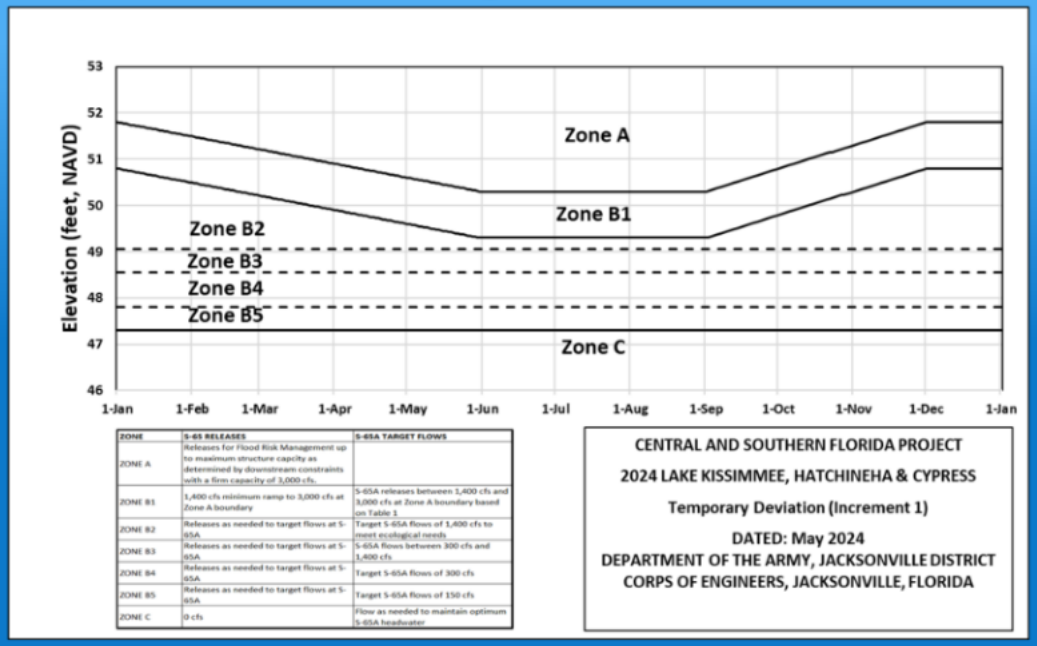
HRS Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A

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



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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10

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

Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 9.63 feet NAVD88 (10.93 ft NGVD29) on July 5, 2026, which was 0.03 feet lower than the previous week and 0.32 feet lower than a month ago (**Figure LO-1**). Lake stage is now in the water shortage management band (0.28 feet below, **Figure LO-2**) and is 0.62 feet below the ecological envelope (**Figure LO-3**). According to NEXRAD, 0.33 inches (approximately 12,100 acre-feet) of rain fell directly over the lake during the previous week, and 1.22 inches (approximately 34,400 acre-feet) were lost to evapotranspiration.

Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) increased slightly from 160 cfs the previous week to 200 cfs. The largest inflow came from the Kissimmee River (110 cfs via S-65E(X1)). Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) decreased slightly from 350 cfs the previous week to 330 cfs. The largest release was to the west through the S-77 structure (260 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 July 3, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate to high cyanobacteria activity in most shallow nearshore regions and in large portions of the central and northern areas of the lake. (**Figure LO-6**).

The routine water quality and phytoplankton monitoring sampling trips are currently on the bloom season (May-Oct) twice per month sampling schedule. Provisional phytoplankton results from the June 22-24 sampling event showed 10 of the 26 phytoplankton samples collected had detectable levels of cyanotoxins; 2 had < 0.2 µg/L cylindrospermopsin, and 7 had 0.2 to 4.3 µg/L microcystins (**Figure LO-7**). The sample from S308 had 9 µg/L microcystins. Thirteen of the samples were dominated by *Microcystis*.

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

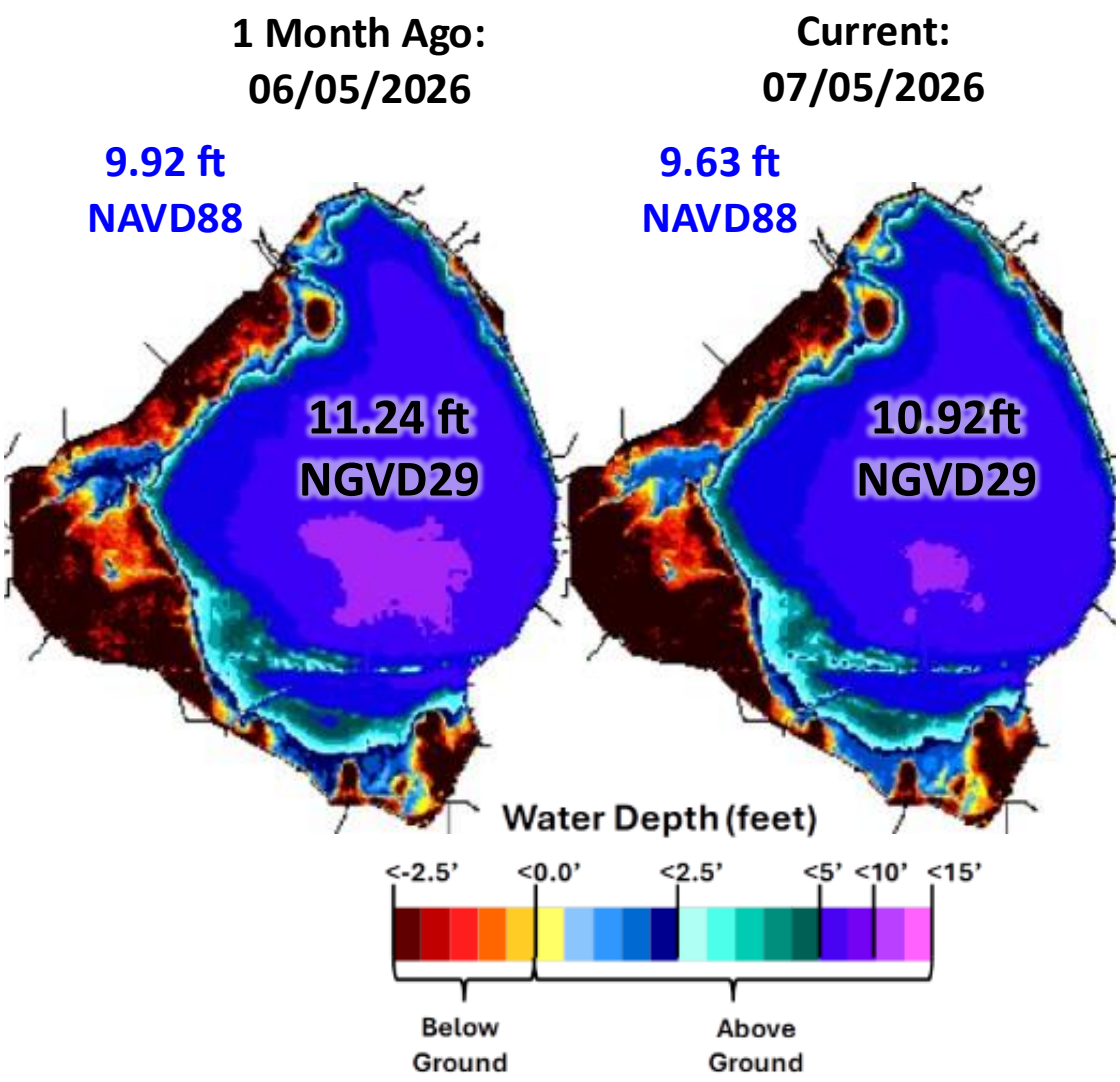

Figure LO-1. Lake Okeechobee water depth estimates based on South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

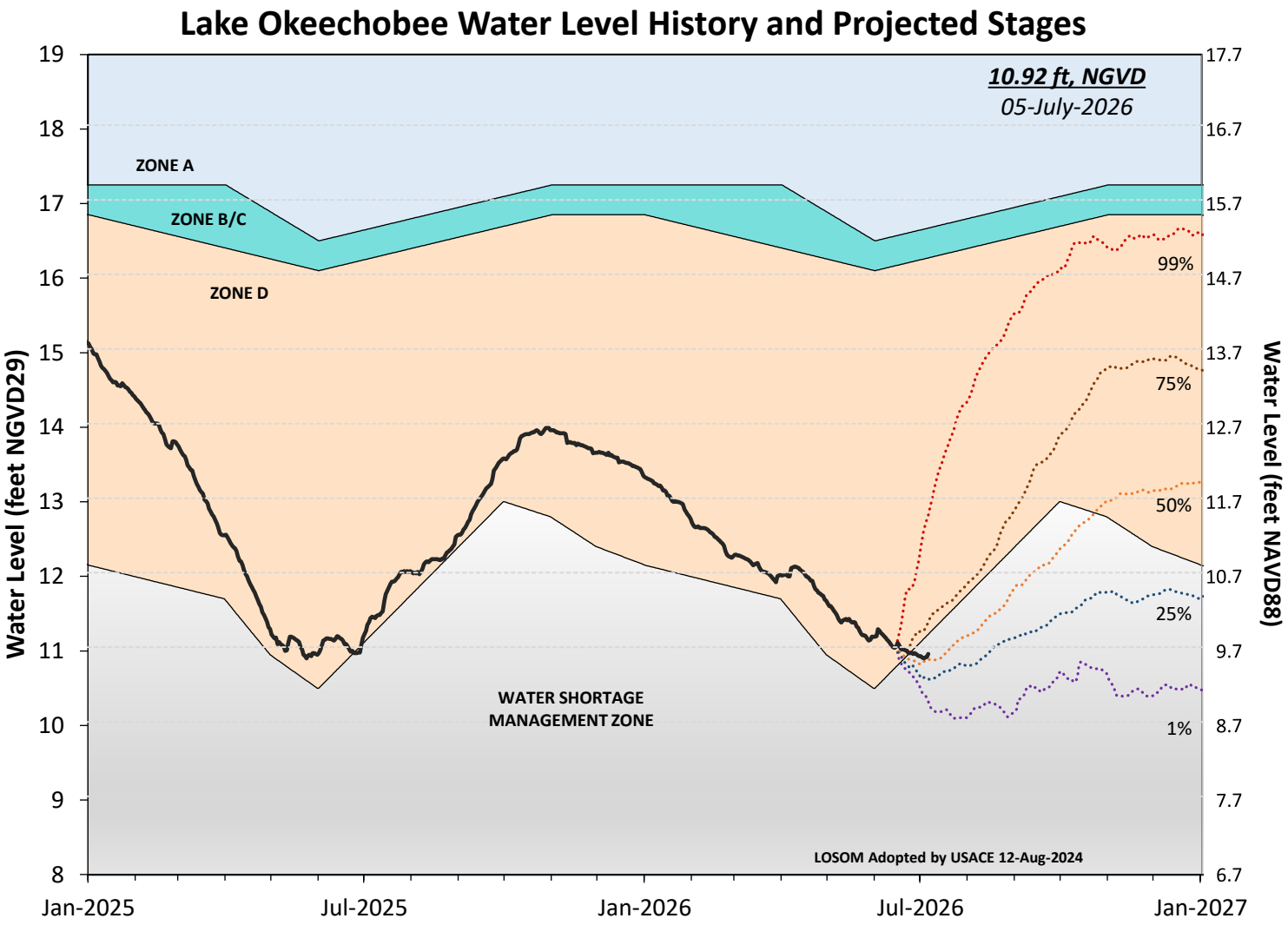

Figure LO-2. Recent Lake Okeechobee stages with projected stages based on a conditional position analysis. Note: stages are in NGVD29, approximate NAVD88 values are shown for reference.

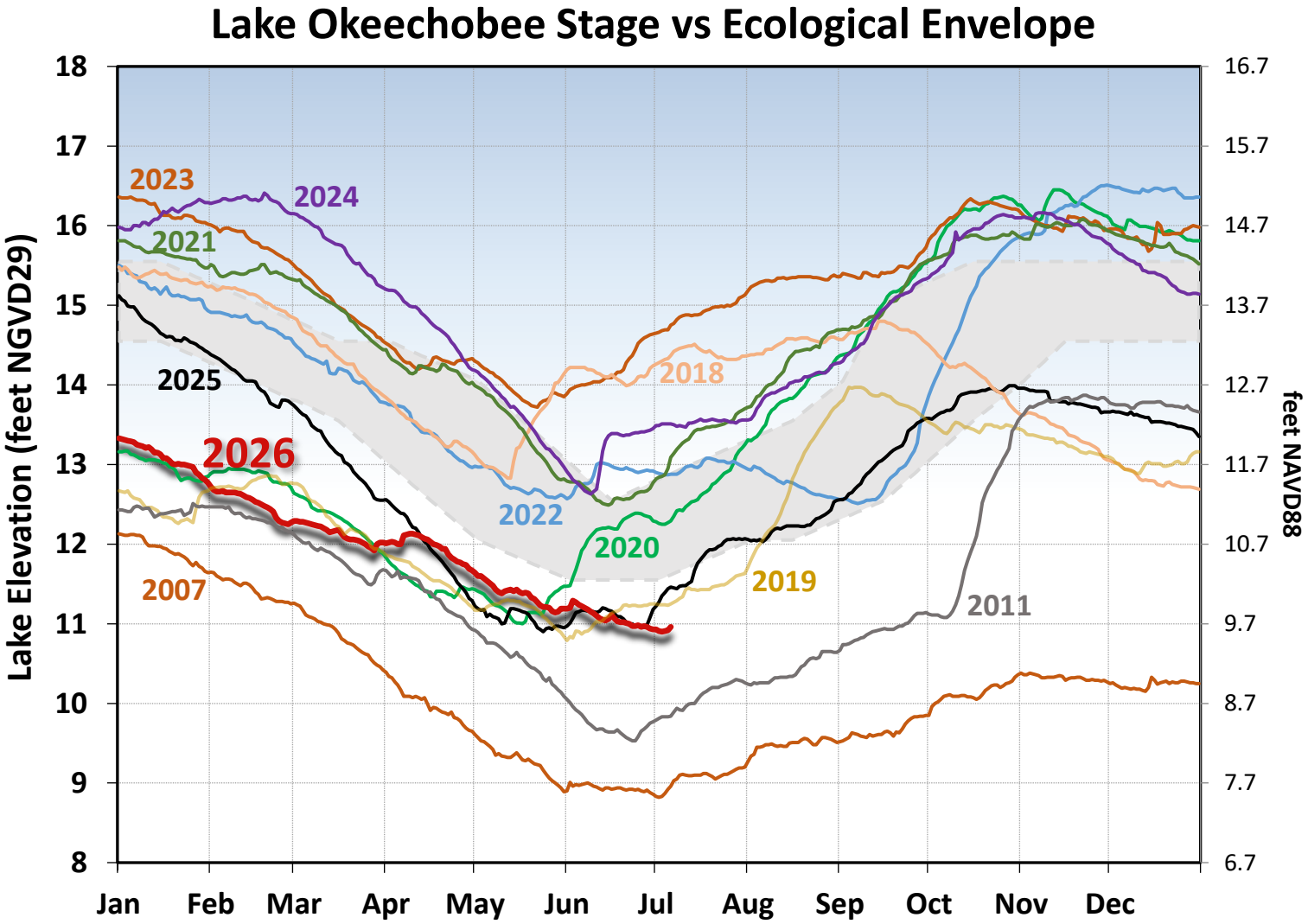

Figure LO-3. The current and select prior year's annual lake stage hydrographs in comparison to the Lake Okeechobee ecological envelope (light grey).

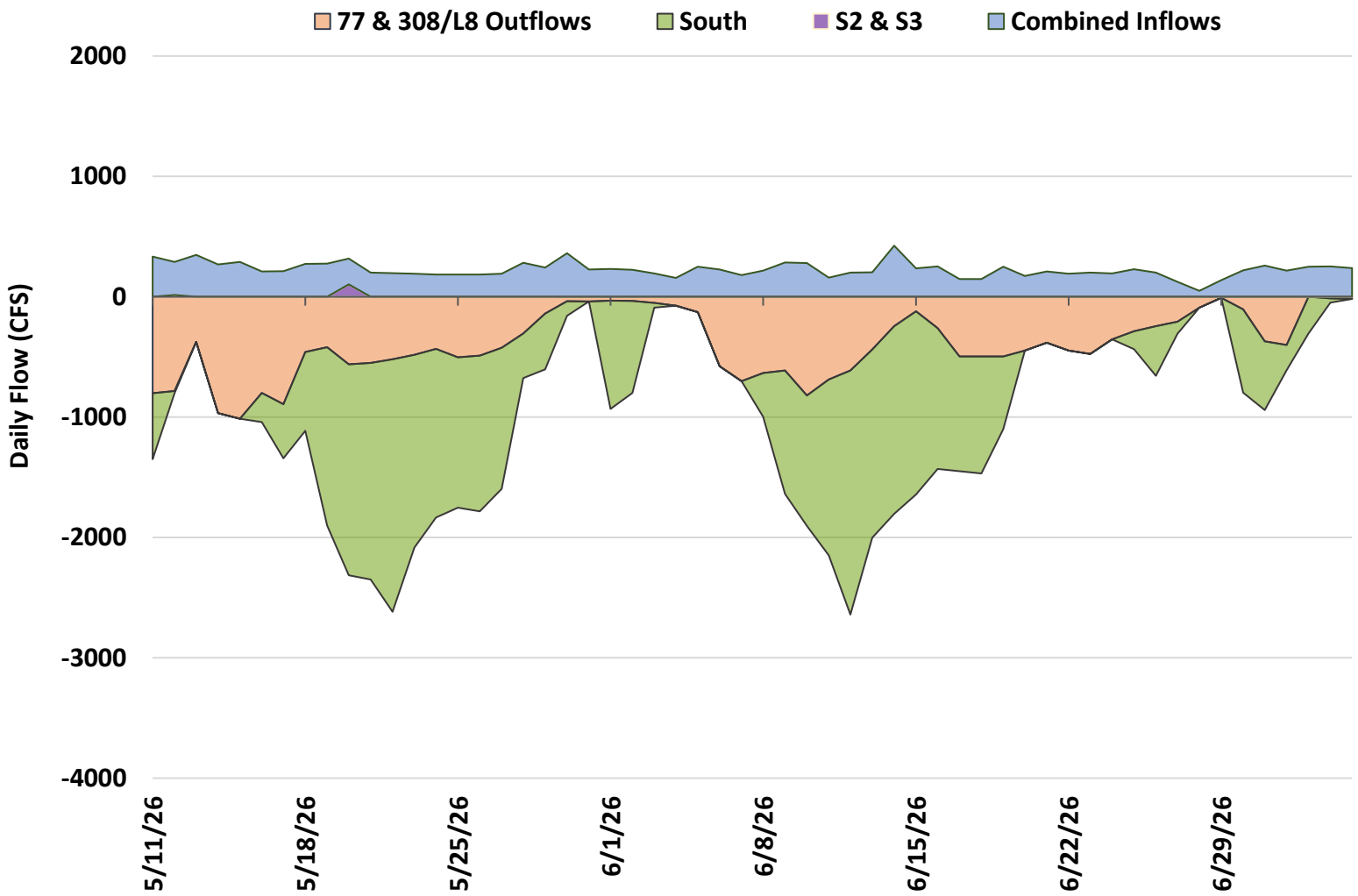

Figure LO-4. Major inflows (orange) to and outflows east and west (blue) from Lake Okeechobee. Outflows south are shown in green. Flows into Lake Okeechobee from the L-8 canal through S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) or from the C-44 canal through the S-308 are included as inflows. Conversely, flows from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

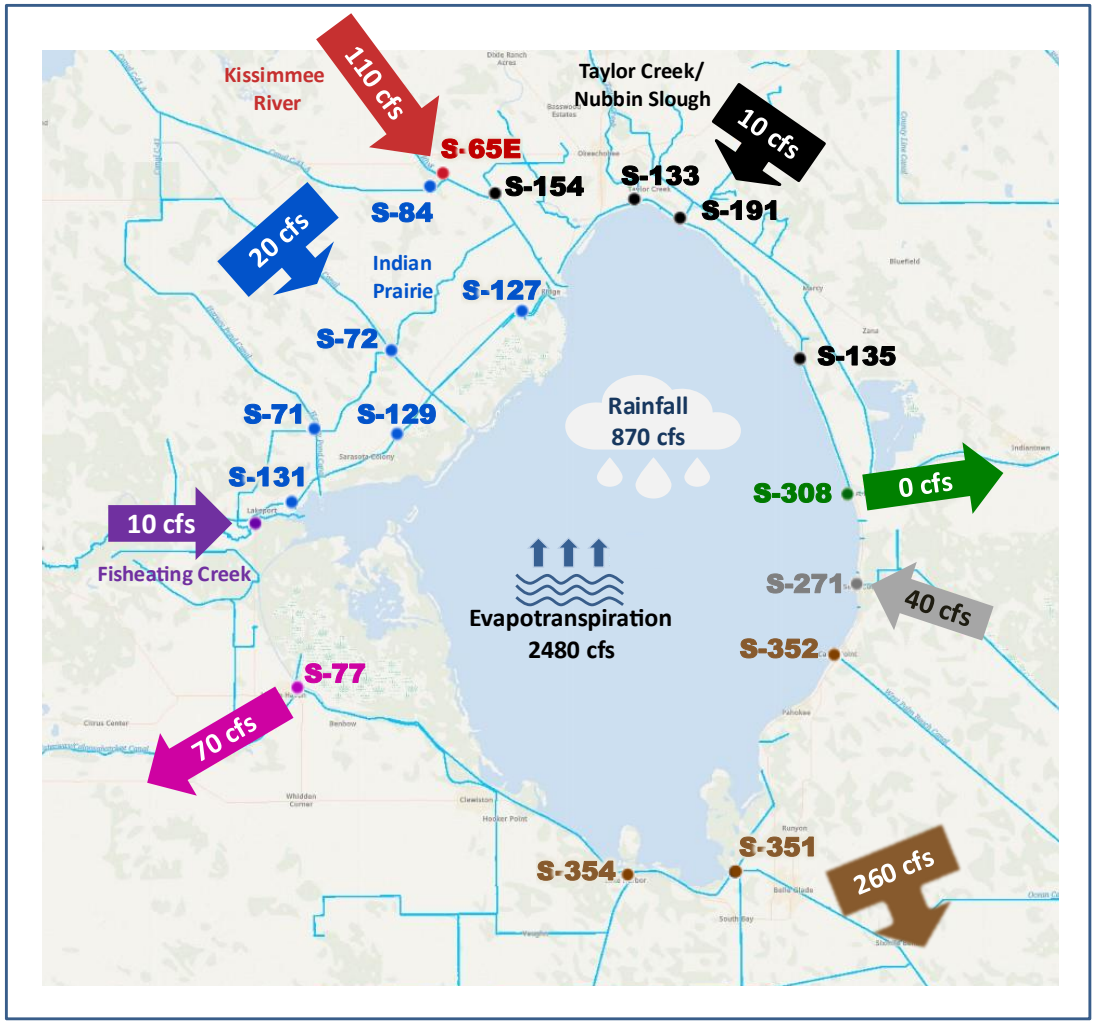

Figure LO-5. Inflows into Lake Okeechobee from Indian Prairie basins, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek (currently no flow data available for FECR), and outflows to the west via S-77, to the east via S-308, to the south via S-351, S-352, S-354, and to southeast via S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) for the week of June 29 – July 5, 2026.

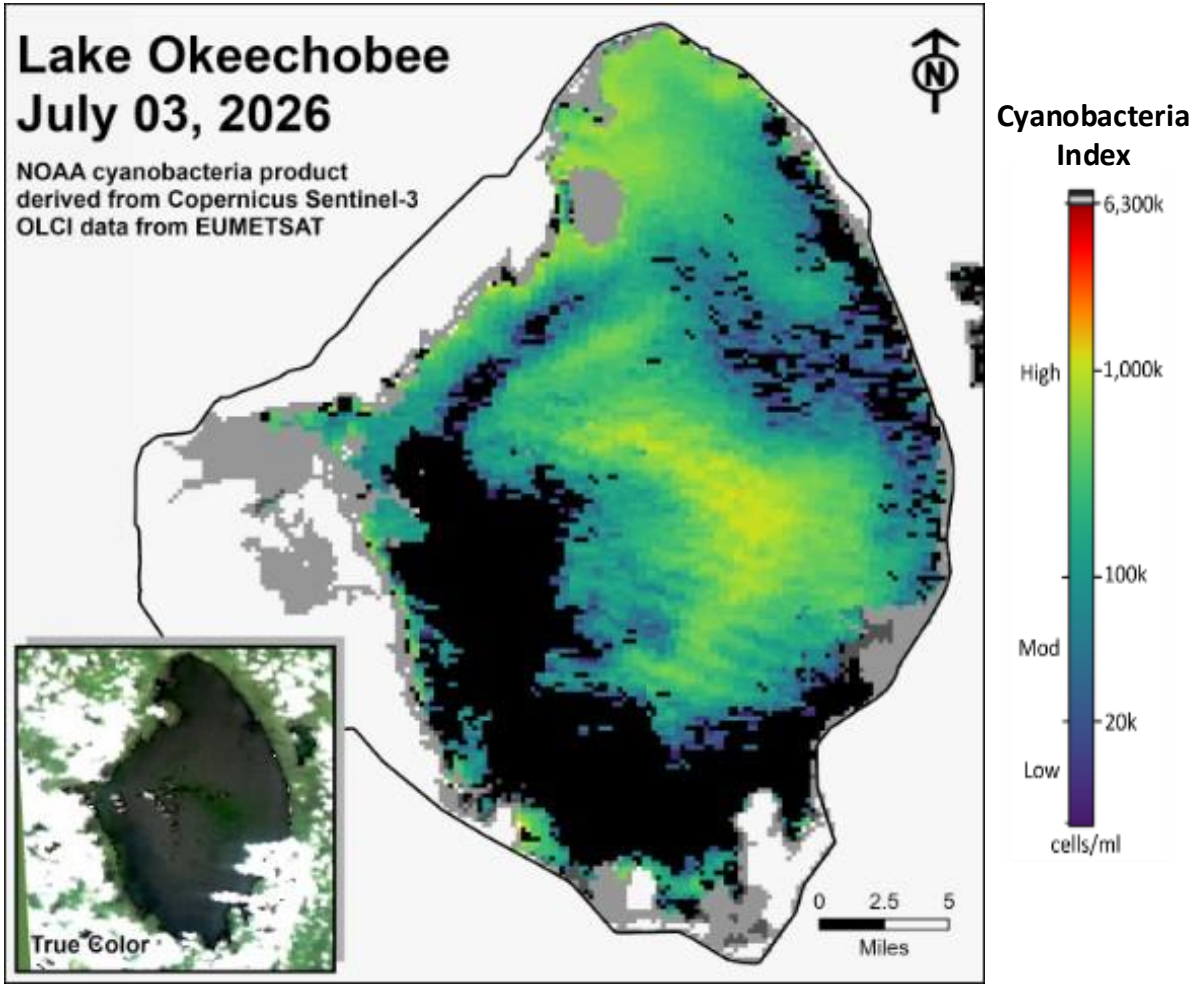

Figure LO-6. Cyanobacteria bloom index level on Lake Okeechobee, based on NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover. *Provisional NOAA image, subject to change*.

Collection Date: June 22-24, 2026

Station	CHL*a* (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA
FEBIN			
FEBOUT			
KISSR0.0		BDL	*Raphi/Plank*
L005		BDL	*mixed*
LZ2		BDL	*Planktol*
KBARSE		0.2	*Plank/Raphi*
RITTAE2			
PELBAY3			
POLE3S			
LZ25A			
PALMOUT	2.5	BDL	*mixed*
PALMOUT1	2.6	BDL	*mixed*
PALMOUT2	10.5	BDL	*mixed*
PALMOUT3	73.1	0.1	*Microcys*
POLESOUT		BDL	*Planktol*
POLESOUT1		BDL	*mixed*
POLESOUT2		0.1	*mixed*
POLESOUT3		BDL	*Microcys*
EASTSHORE		4.3	*Microcys*
NES135		2.9	*Microcys*
NES191		BDL	*Microcys*

Station	CHL*a* (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA
L001		0.2	*Raphi/Plank*
L004		2.6	*Microcys*
L006	17.2	0.4	*Microcys*
L007	5.8	BDL	*Microcys*
L008		BDL	*Microcys*
LZ30	12.9	BDL	*Microcys*
LZ40	29.9	BDL	*Microcys*
CLV10A	38.8	1.3	*Microcys*
NCENTER		BDL	*Raphi/Plank*
S308C		9.0	*Microcys*
S77	23.0	BDL	*mixed*

- SFWMD considers >40µg/L Chlorophyll*a* an algal bloom
- BDL – Below Detectable Limit of**0.2** µg/L (Cyl = 0.1 µg/L)
- ND – No Dominant taxa
- F – Flagged Sample
- Blank – Not sampled
- Station bold font – crew observed possible BGA
- Chlorophyll *a* (CHL*a*) analyzed by SFWMD
- Toxin & Taxa analyzed by FDEP:
  Microcys = Microcystis; Raphi = Raphidiopsis; Planktol = Planktolyngbya; Dolicho = Dolichospermum; Pseud = Pseudanabaena; Dinop = Dinophyceae

Toxins include cylindrospermopsin and/ormicrocsytins

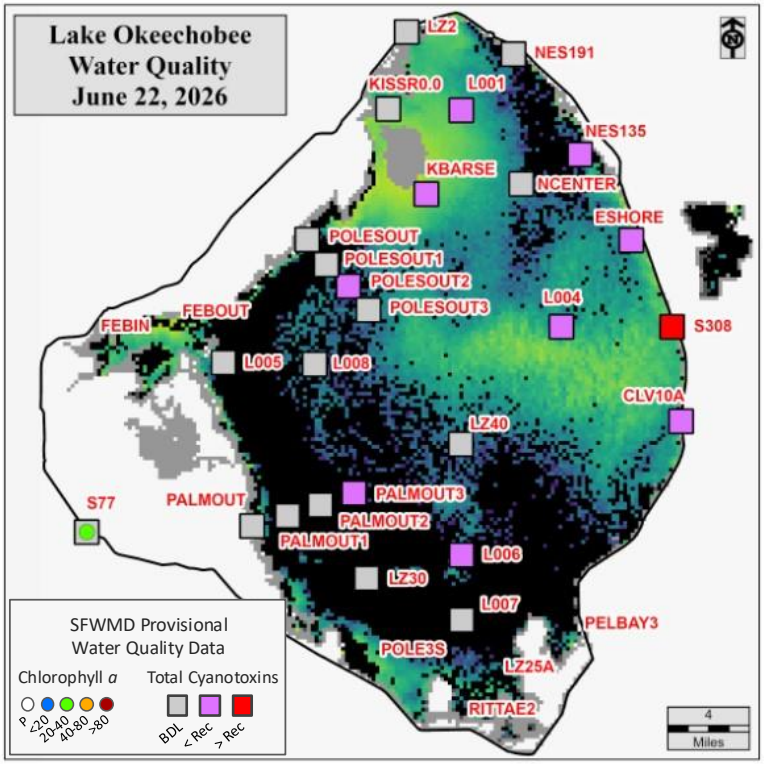

Figure LO-7. Dominant taxa, cyanotoxins (µg/L) and chlorophyll *a* (µg/L) concentration data from June 22-24, 2026. Sampling locations, chlorophyll *a*, and total toxin concentrations are overlaid on the June 22, 2026 image from NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover.

Estuaries

St. Lucie Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was 706 cfs (**Figures ES-1** and **ES-2**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 481 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 all sites in the estuary (**Table ES-1** and **Figure ES-3**). The seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge was 22.4. Salinity conditions in the middle estuary were estimated to be within the optimal range (10-25) for adult eastern oysters (**Figure ES-4**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rate reported by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) for June was 6.8 spat/shell at Rio, which is an increase from the previous month (**Figure ES-5**). Oyster density at Rio was 503 oysters/m^2 in June, which is slightly higher than the previous survey in March.

Caloosahatchee River Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary was 923 cfs (**Figures ES-6** and **ES-7**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 618 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from the contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-7**.

Over the past week, salinities increased at S-79 and Val I-75, remained the same at Ft. Myers, 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 Ft. Myers. The seven-day mean salinity values were within the optimal range (10-25) for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral and in the upper stressed range (>25) at Shell Point and Sanibel (**Figure ES-10**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rates reported by the FWRI in June were 4.5 spat/shell at Iona Cove and 4.9 spat/shell at Bird Island, which is an increase and decrease from the previous month, respectively (**Figures ES-11 and ES-12**). Oyster density in June was 1,068 oysters/m^2 at Iona Cove and 1,749 oysters/m^2 at Bird Island, which are both higher than the previous surveys in March.

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 to 2,000 cfs, with estimated tidal basin inflows of 116 cfs. Model results from all scenarios predict daily salinity to be 8.0 or lower and the 30-day moving average surface salinity to be 7.8 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 July 1, 2026, that *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide dinoflagellate, was not observed at bloom concentrations in any samples collected within the District region.

Water Management Recommendations

Lake stage is in the Water Shortage Management Zone. Current climatological and hydrological conditions are normal. The LOSOM release guidance suggests no releases 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 451 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 53 cfs which is not an exceedance **(Figure ES-15).** The 20-day average salinity at RM 9.2 is 0.6 **(Figure ES-16).**

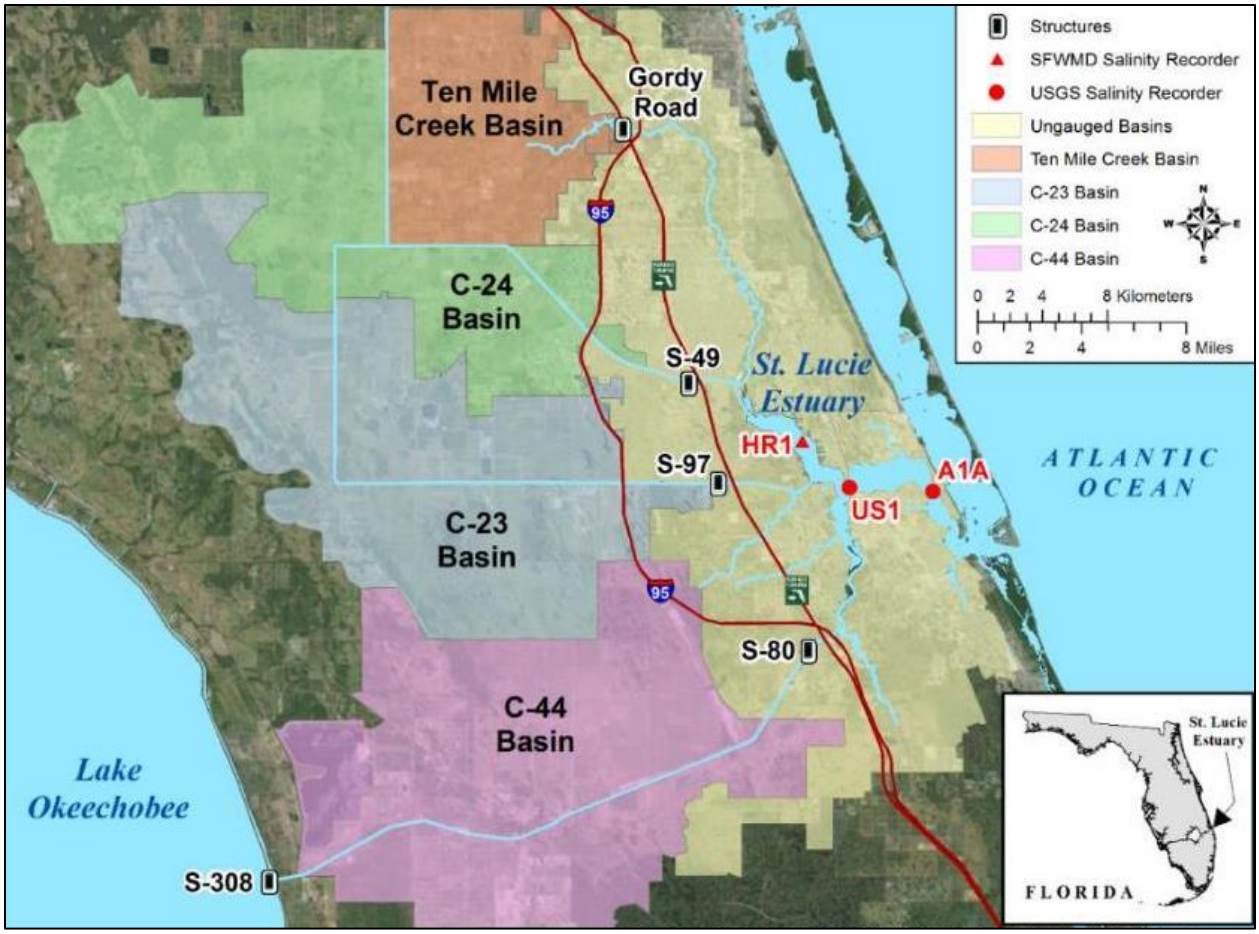

Figure ES-1. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

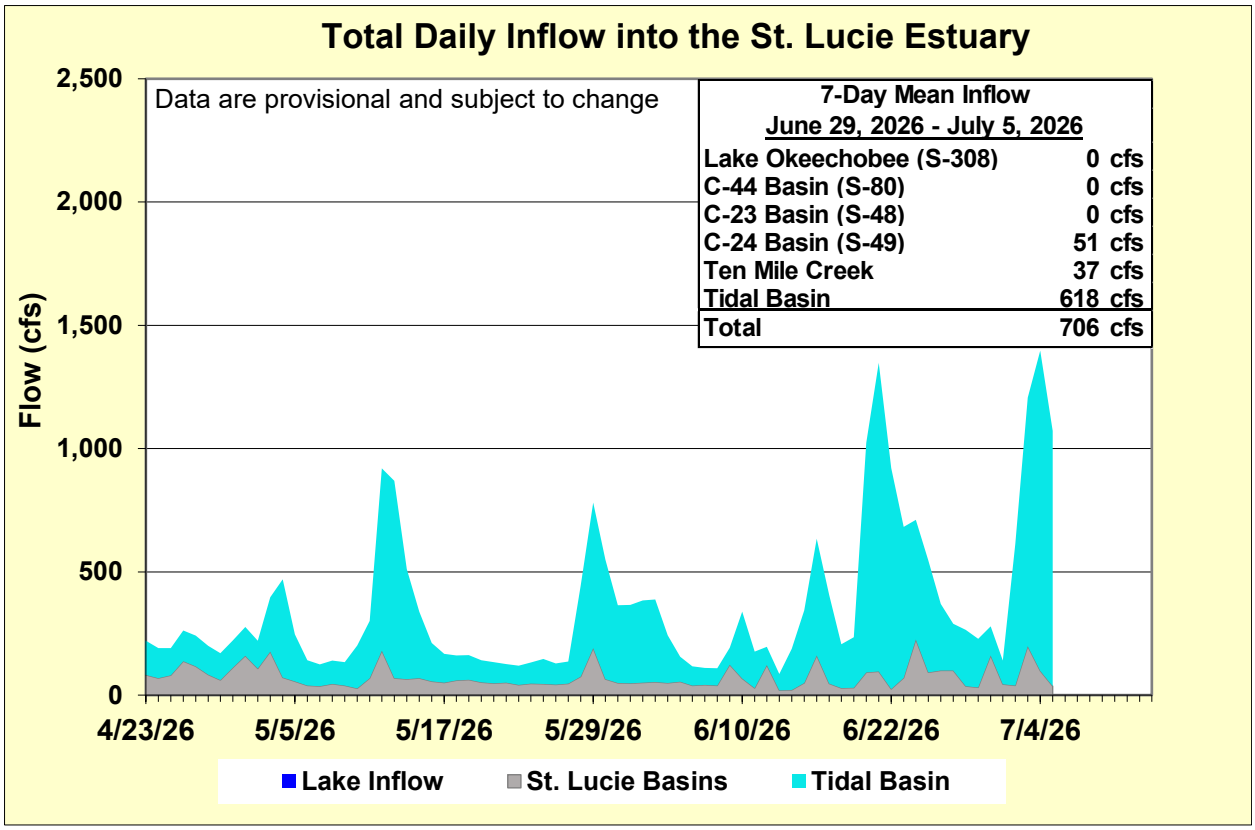

Figure ES-2. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-44, C-23, C-24, Ten Mile Creek, and Tidal Basins into the St. Lucie Estuary.

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)	**15.7** (14.9)	**19.6** (19.8)	10.0 – 25.0
US1 Bridge	**21.7** (21.0)	**23.1** (22.6)	10.0 – 25.0
A1A Bridge	**29.0** (27.6)	**30.6** (29.7)	10.0 – 25.0

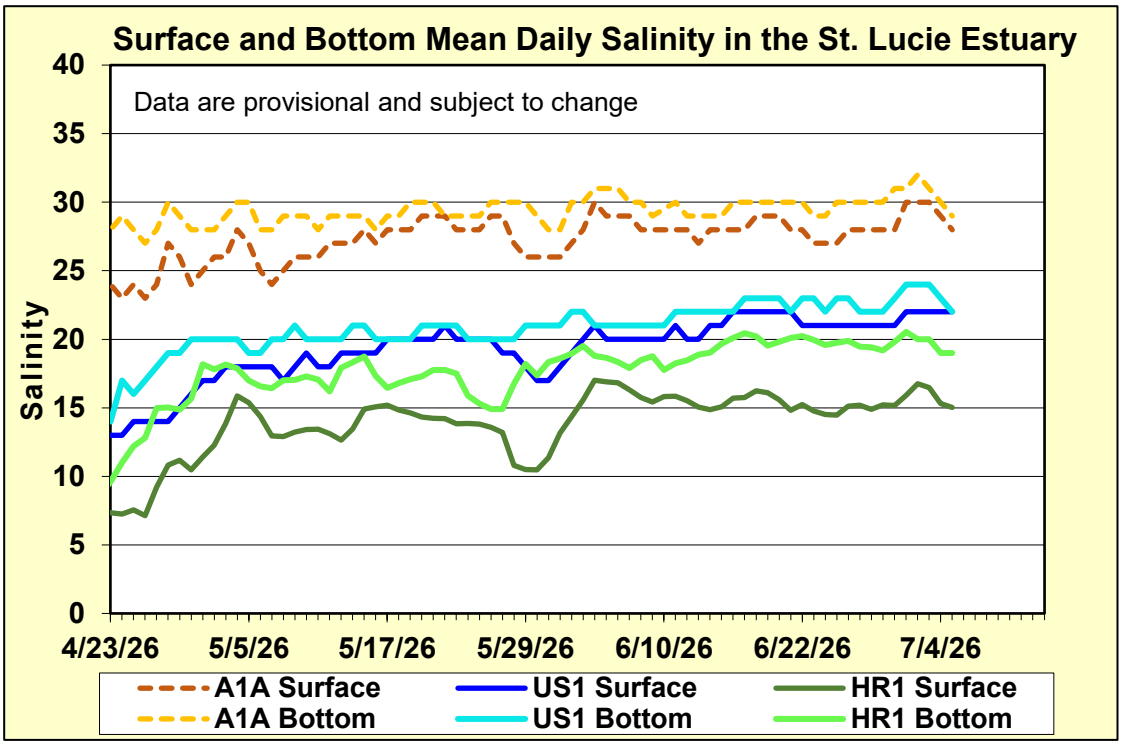

Figure ES-3. Mean daily salinity at the A1A, US1, and HR1 sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

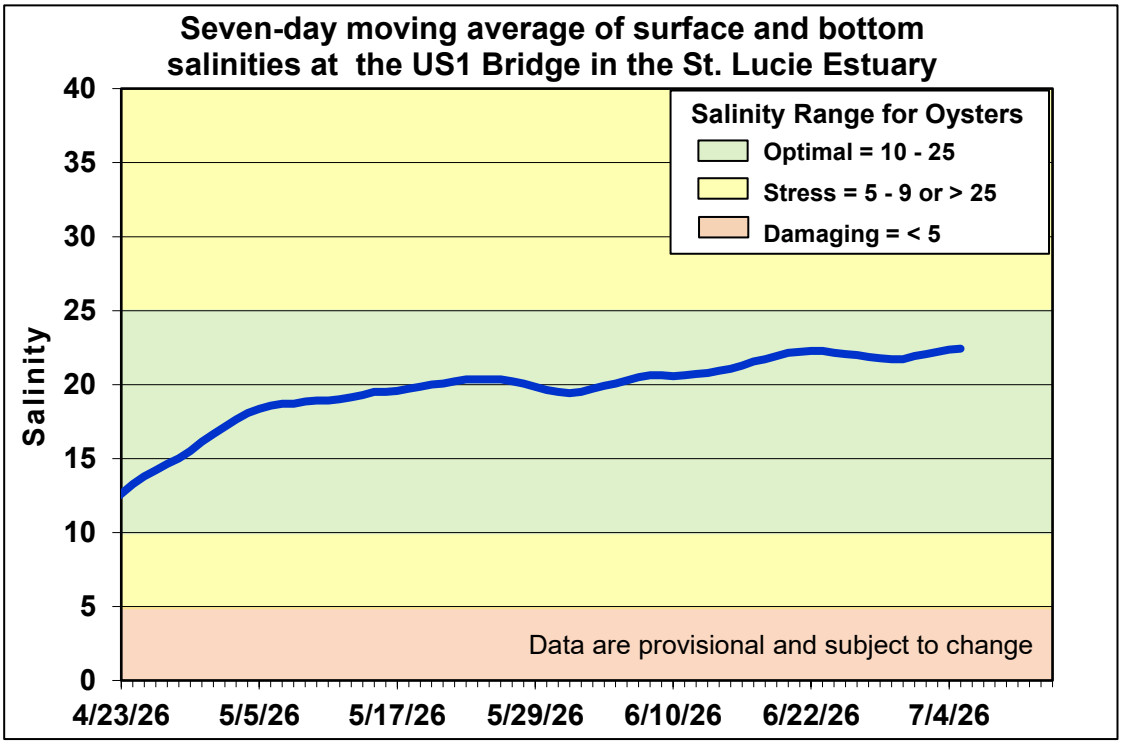

Figure ES-4. Seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge in the St. Lucie Estuary.

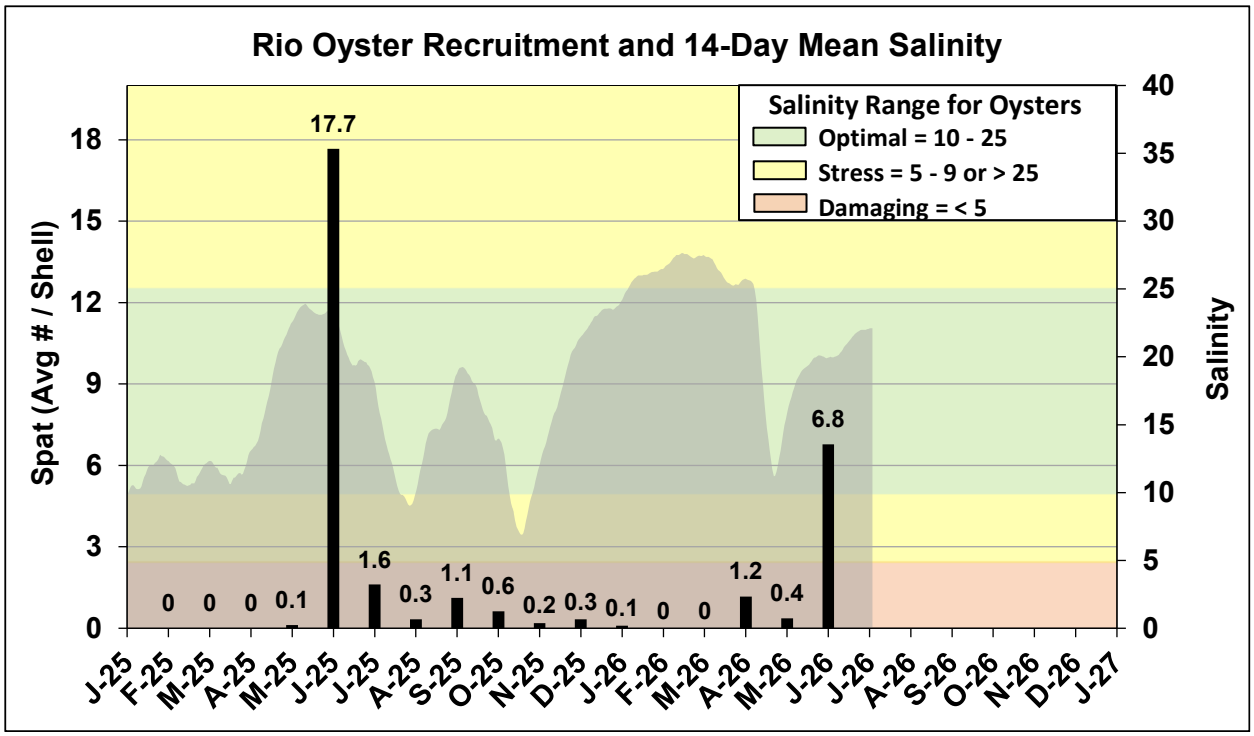

Figure ES-5. Mean oyster recruitment at the Rio oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at US1 Bridge.

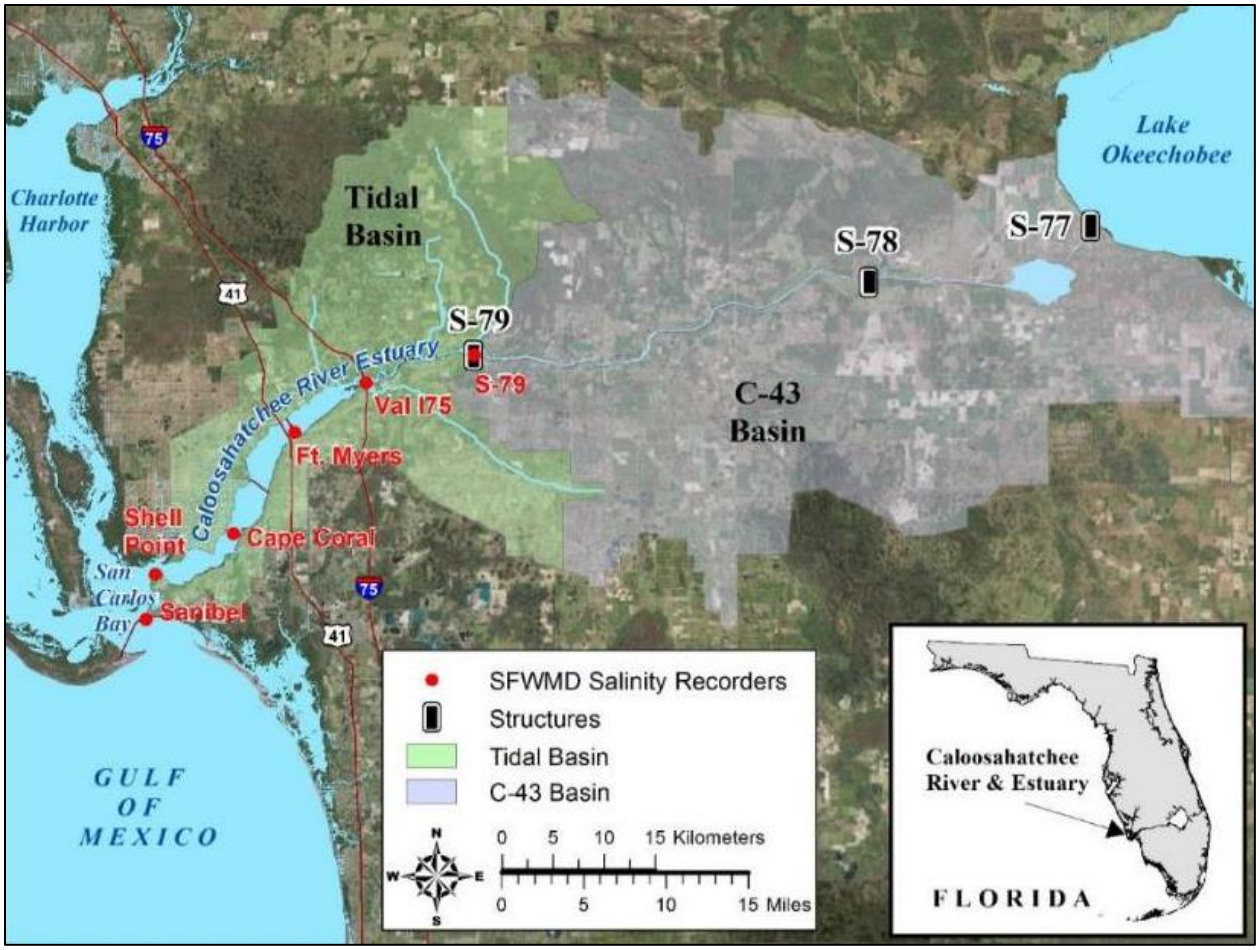

Figure ES-6. Basins, water control structures, and salinity monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

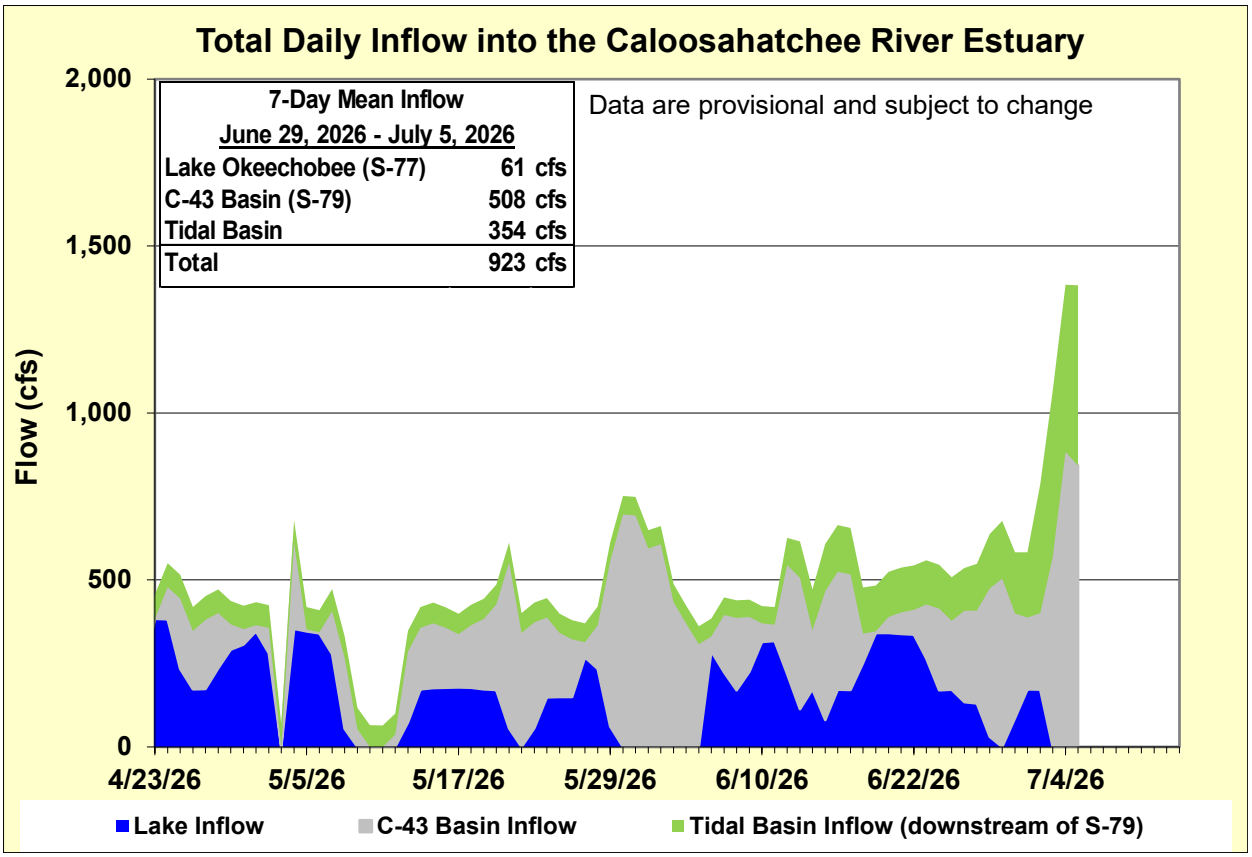

Figure ES-7. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee, and runoff from the C-43 and Tidal basins into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

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)	**8.6** (7.0)	**8.6** (6.9)	0.0 – 10.0
Val I-75	**8.0** (7.0)	**11.3** (9.3)	0.0 – 10.0
Fort Myers Yacht Basin	**16.0** (16.0)	**18.5** (18.5)	0.0 – 10.0
Cape Coral	**22.9** (23.6)	**24.4** (25.0)	10.0 – 25.0
Shell Point	**33.2** (33.5)	**32.6** (33.9)	10.0 – 25.0
Sanibel	**35.7** (36.0)	**36.9** (37.0)	10.0 – 25.0

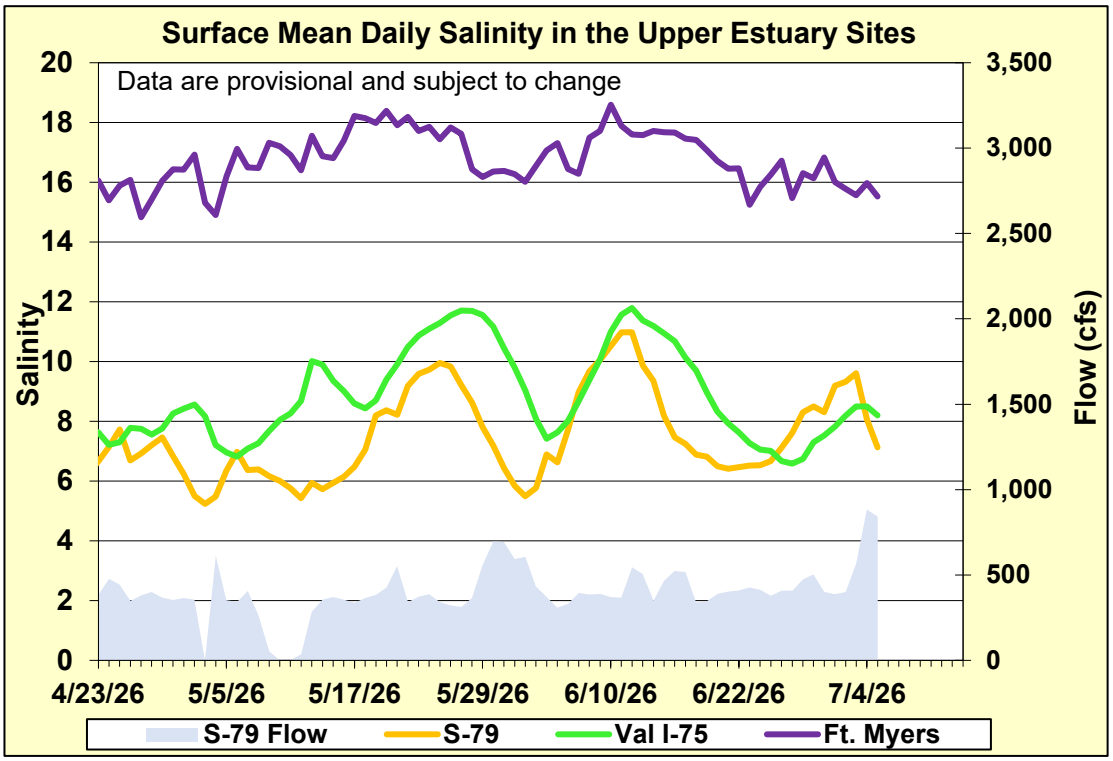

Figure ES-8. Mean daily salinity at upper Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

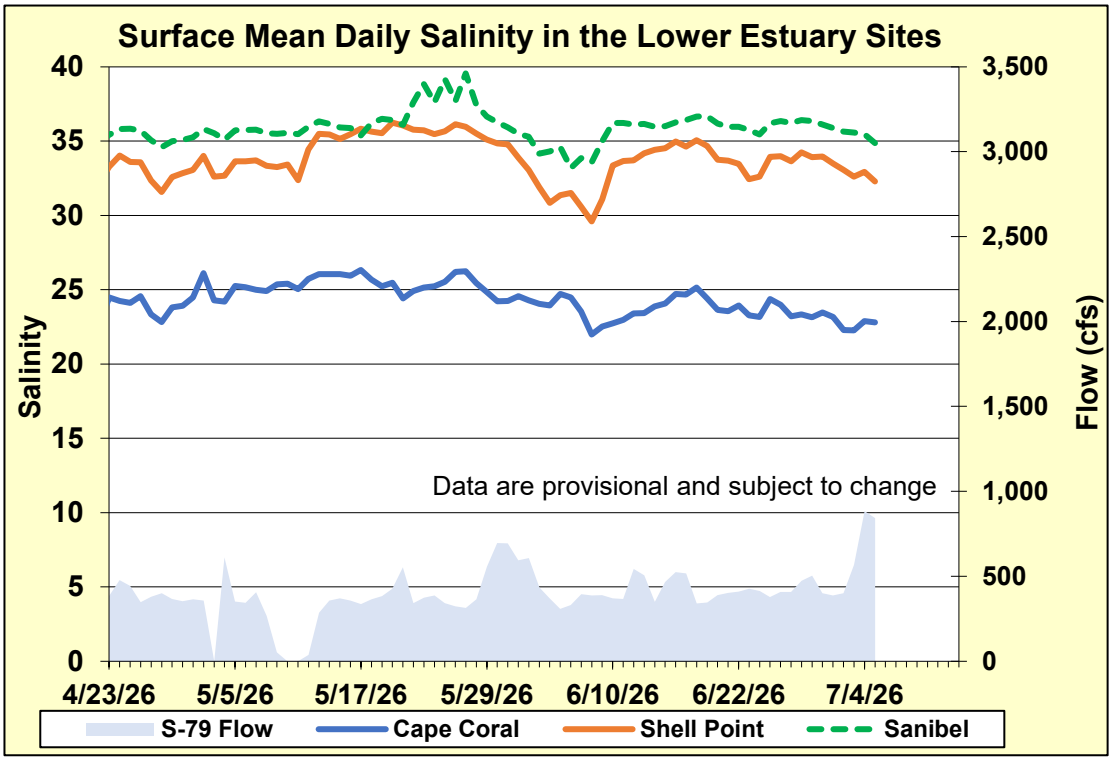

Figure ES-9. Mean daily surface salinity at lower Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

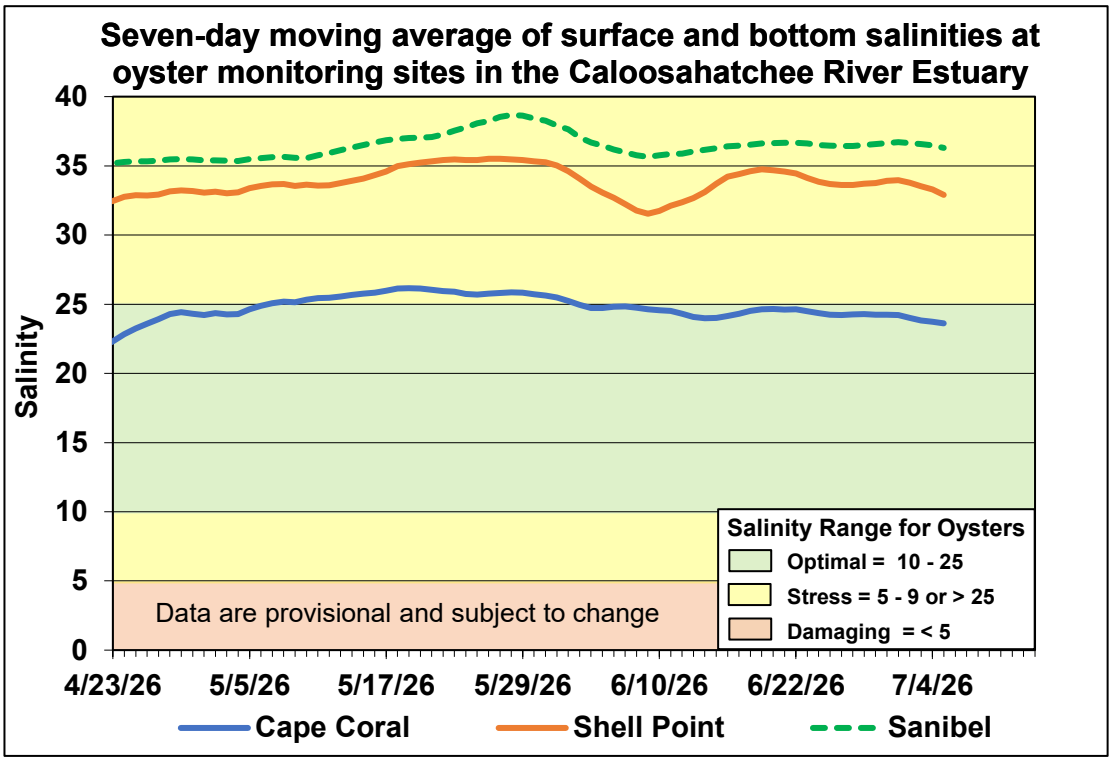

Figure ES-10. Seven-day moving average of surface and bottom salinities at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

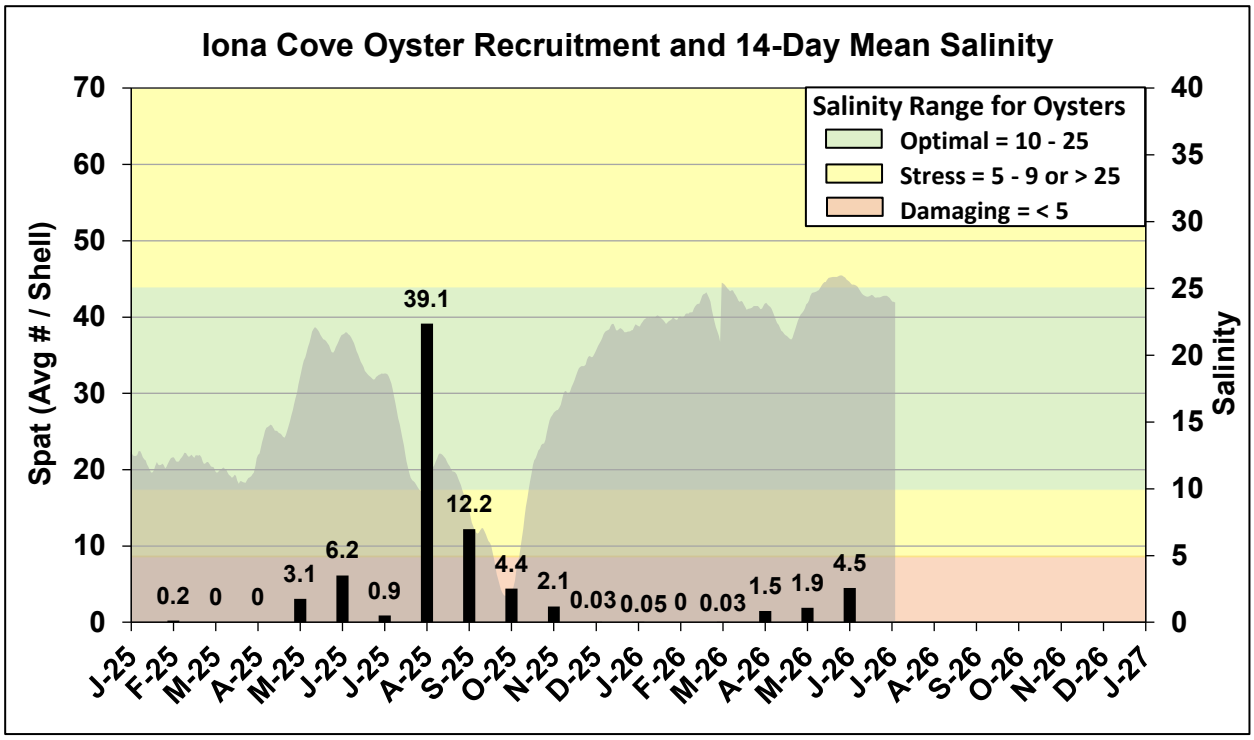

Figure ES-11. Mean oyster recruitment at the Iona Cove oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Cape Coral.

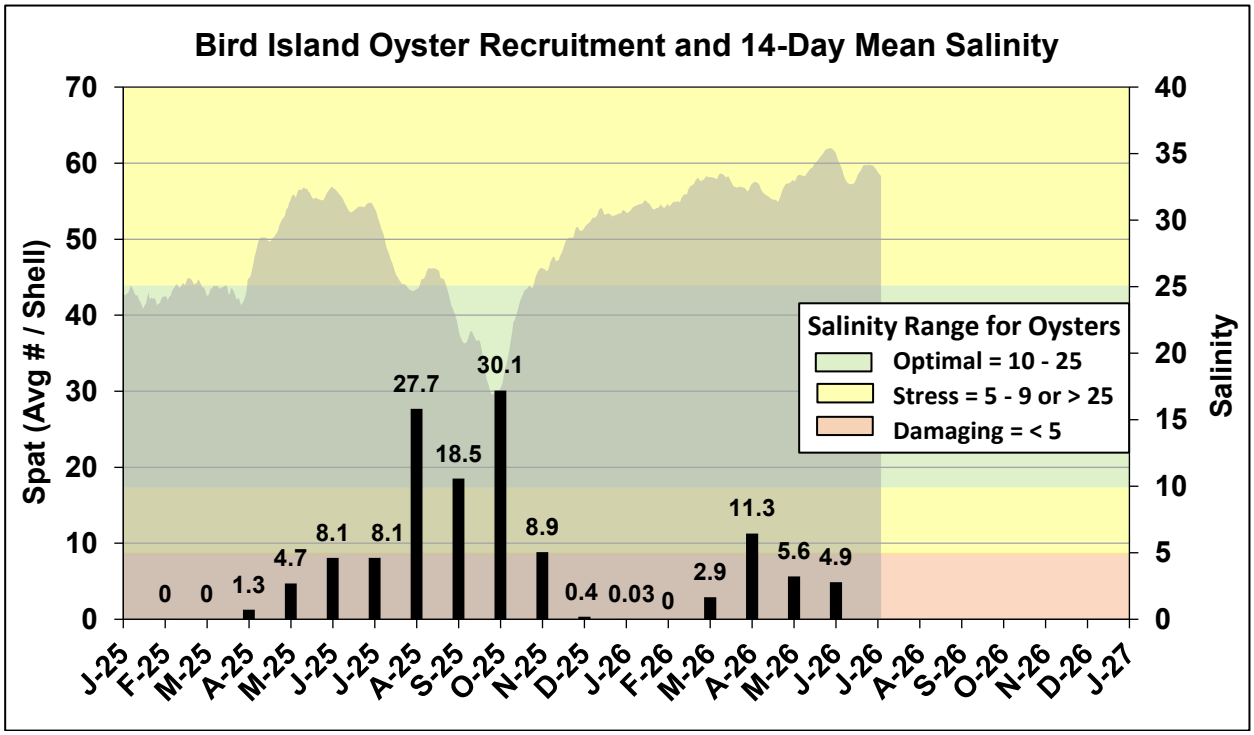

Figure ES-12. Mean oyster recruitment at the Bird Island oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Shell Point.

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	116	8.0	7.8
B	750	116	5.3	7.2
C	1,000	116	4.4	6.9
D	1,500	116	3.5	6.7
E	2,000	116	2.0	6.4

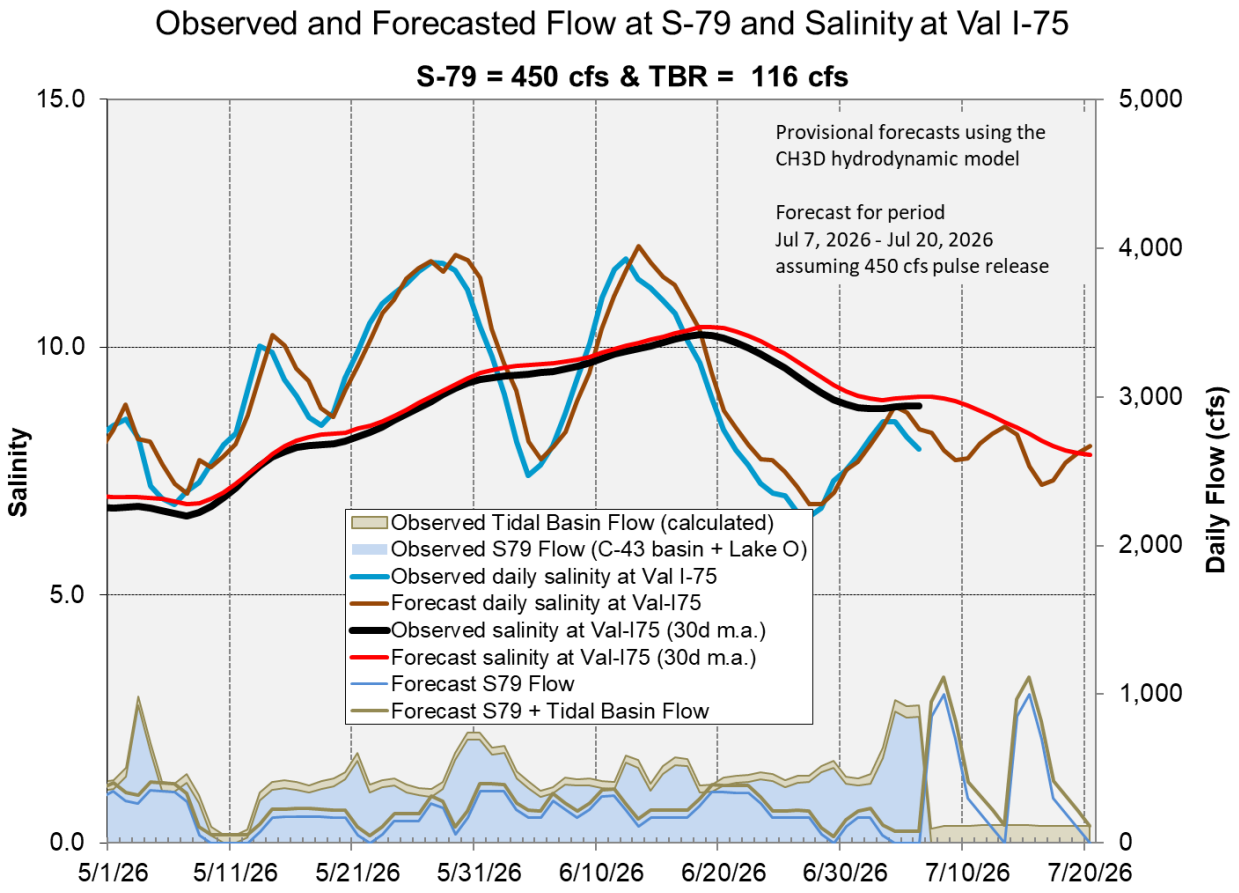

Figure ES-13. Surface salinity forecast at the Val I-75 site assuming a 450 cfs pulse release at S-79.

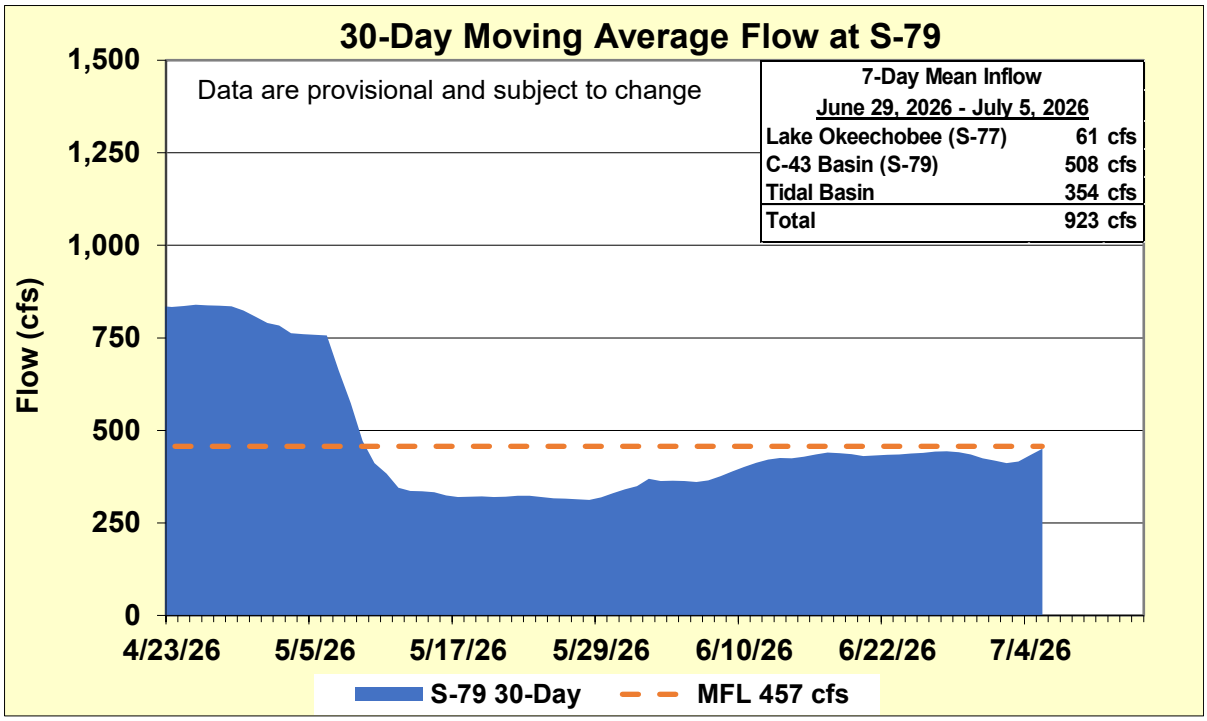

Figure ES-14. 30-day moving average flow at S-79 for the Caloosahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

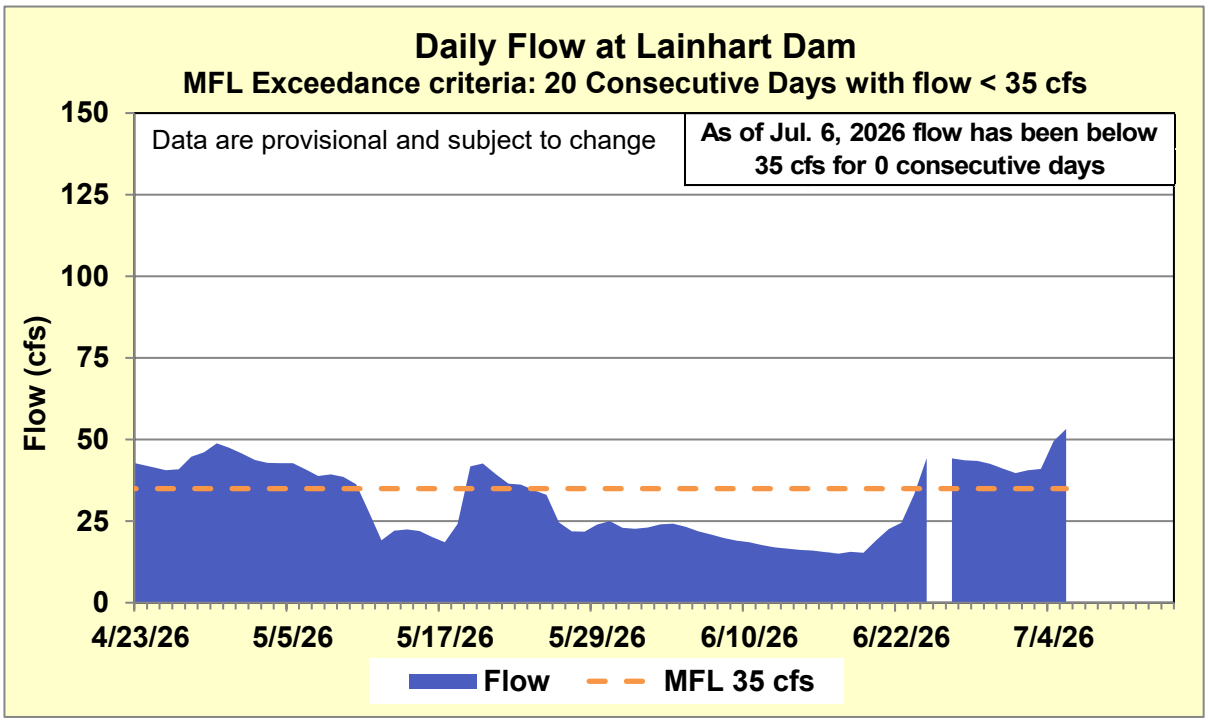

Figure ES-15. Average daily flow (cfs) at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL). Flow missing on 6/25/2026.

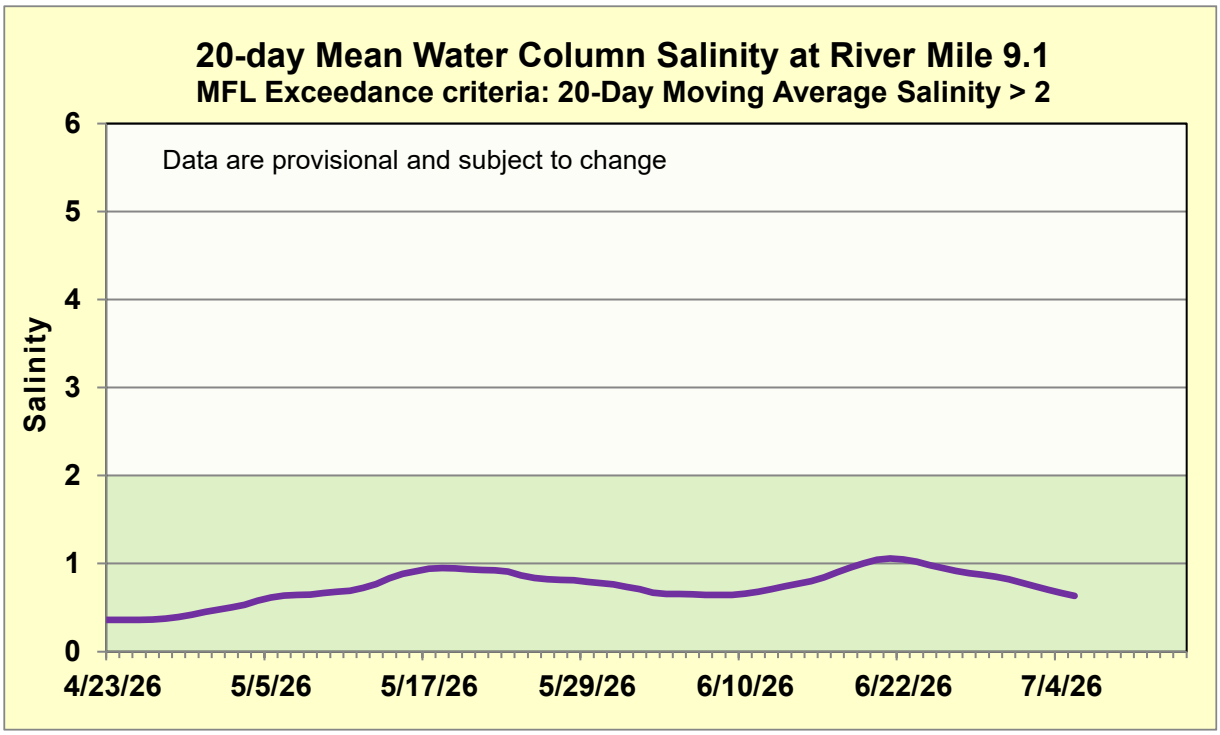

Figure ES-16. 20-day moving average salinity at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

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 near target stage. The 365-day PLRs for the Western and Eastern Flow-way are 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 slightly above target stage. The Eastern Flow-way contains 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 or slightly above target stage. An operational restriction is in place in Flow-way 2 for vegetation management activities. 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 PLRs 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. 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 7/5/2026): ~36,000 ac-ft
- Lake Okeechobee releases to FEBs/STAs
  - 6/29/2026 to 7/5/2026: 200 ac-ft
  - WY 2027: ~ 8,300 ac-ft
- Extensive vegetation management activities underway to address stressed and highly stressed vegetation in EAV cells
- MBTA protected species nesting in:
  STA-1W Cells 1B
- All treatment cells are at or near target water depth

Estimated Inflow and Outflow Volumes
Jun. 29th, 2026 - Jul. 5th, 2026 *Includes preliminary data*

	Total Inflow (acre-feet)	Total Outflow (acre-feet)
STA-1E	0	60
STA-1W	0	100
STA-2	2,600	1,500
STA-3/4	20	0
STA-5/6	400	0

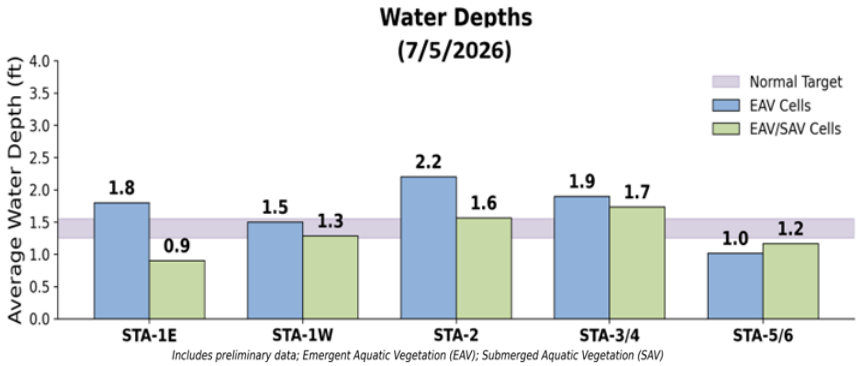

Figure S-1. STA depths and flow volumes

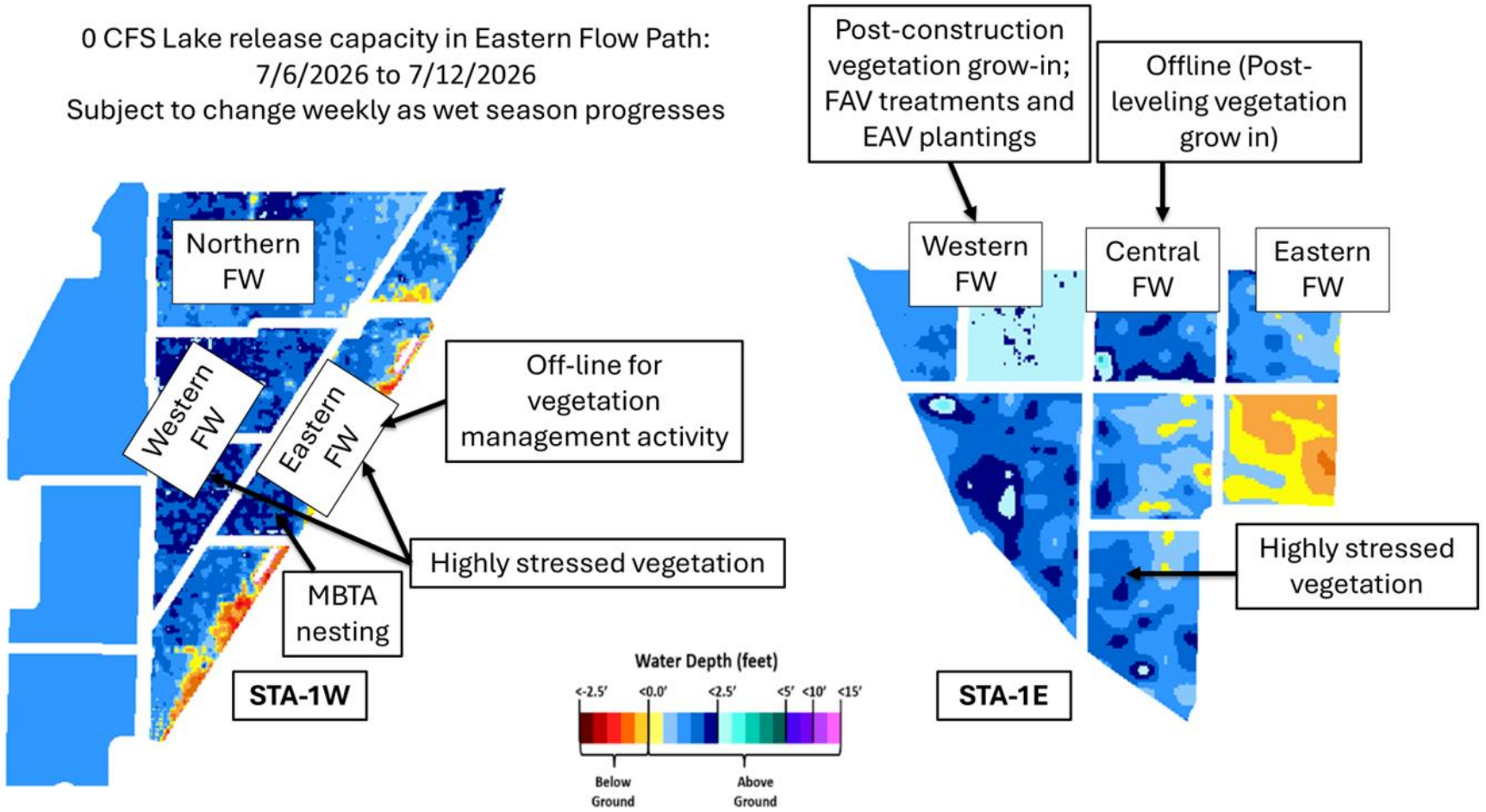

Figure S-2. Eastern Flow Path Weekly Status Report

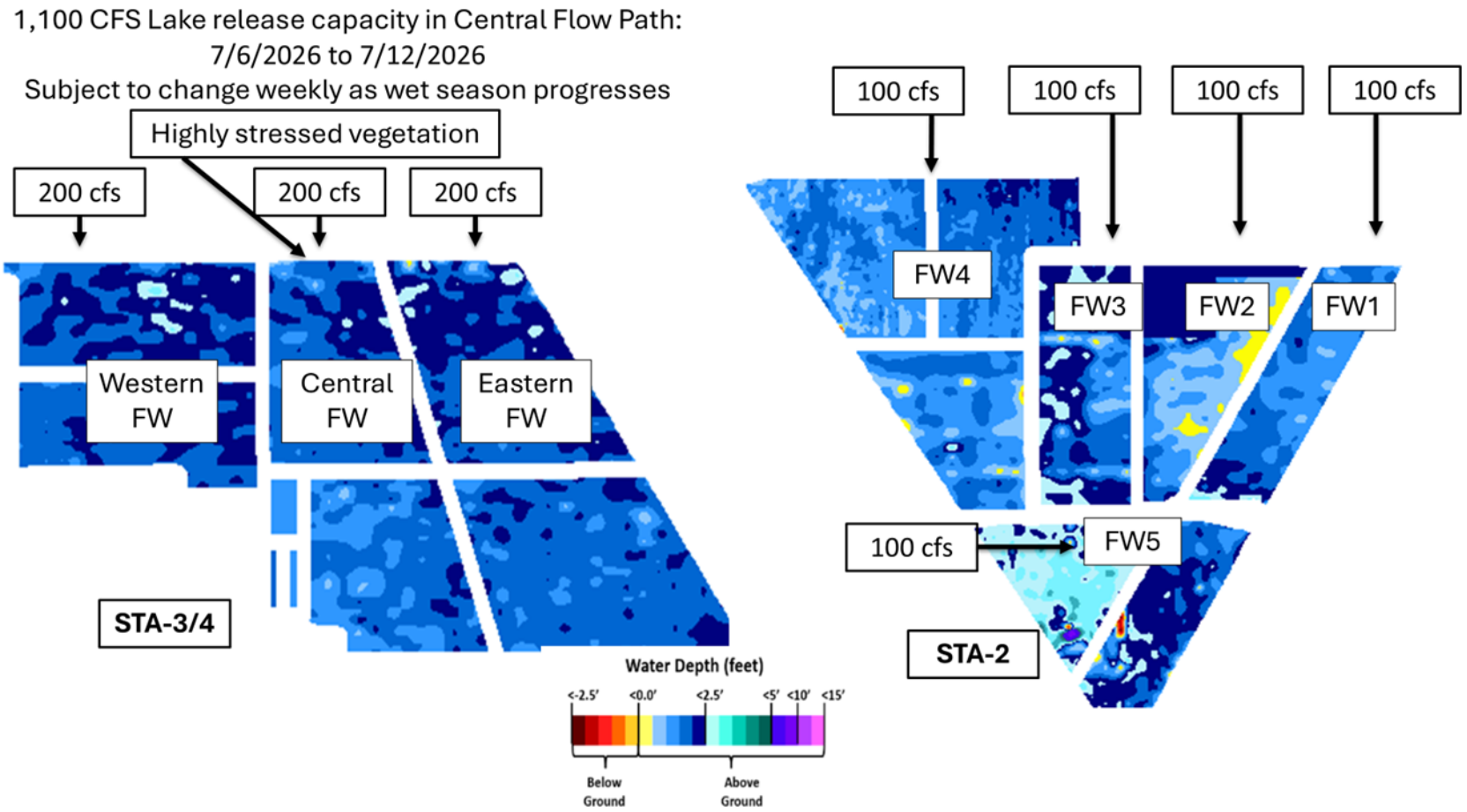

Figure S-3. Central Flow Path Weekly Status Report

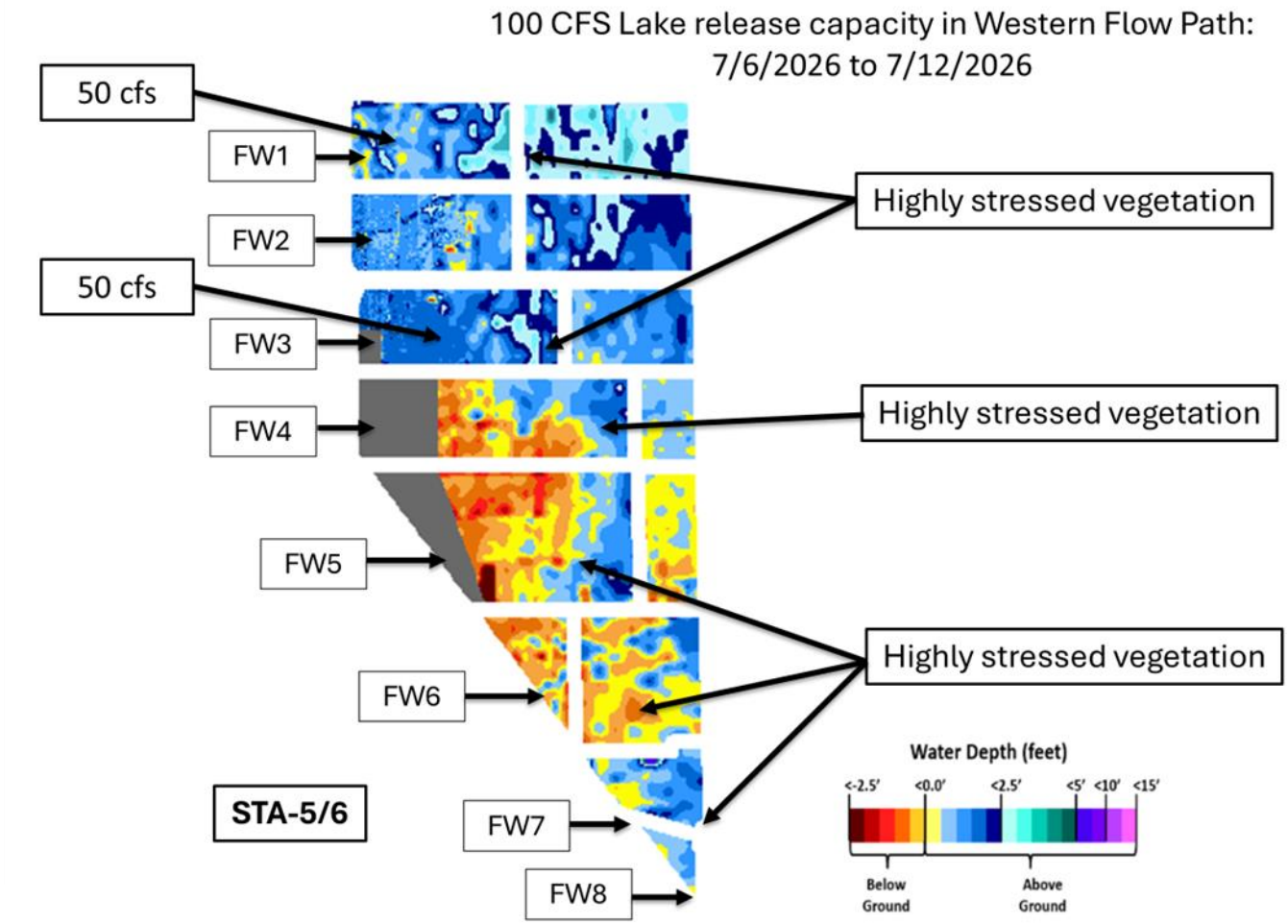

Figure S-4. Western Flow Path Weekly Status Report

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 remains steady at the 1-8C gauge and remained above the regulation line last week by 0.34 feet on Sunday, June 5, 2026 (**Figure EV-1**).

WCA-2A: Last week's depth change at the 2-17 gauge remained on a steady decline, and stages were 0.74 feet above the regulation line on Sunday (**Figure EV-2**).

WCA-3A: The 3-gauge average remains well within zone B, with a slightly increasing trend. On Sunday, stages were approximately 1.23 ft NGVD below the zone A regulation line (**Figure EV-3**).

WCA-3A Northwest: Stage at Gauge 62 (NW corner) began to decline away from the regulation line again last week and was below the Upper Schedule line by 0.69 feet on Sunday (**Figure EV-4)**.

Water Depths

The SFWDAT model output for July 5, 2026, illustrates that WCA-1 is slightly drier throughout the basin compared to one month ago. Water levels are showing an increase across WCA-3A with exception at the western boundary where it is getting slightly drier. The Big Cypress Basin is also showing a wetting trend although below ground conditions remain the same. Depths remain low across Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP), WCA-3A and -3B and now are below average across the majority of WCA-1 and WCA-2A with impacts to soil, flora and fauna. WCA-3A and -3B have remained especially dry, receiving the least amount of rainfall in the system over the last month, severely limiting wading bird nesting and foraging. In ENP, both Taylor Slough (TS) and Shark River Slough (SRS) show more connection from north to south and to the coast compared to a month ago. Comparing current conditions to depths over the last twenty years, WCA-1 depths remain slightly below average with some ponding occurring in the SE portion of that basin. WCA 2A depths are now well below average in the north and just below average in the central and south. BCNP depths continue to be below average in the west/center of the preserve and average depths are significantly below ground for this time of year along Tamiami Trail and US-29. Within WCA-3A and -3B, depths remain low, below the 10th percentile, and only inflows in the northwest are keeping a small portion of northwestern WCA-3A closer to the average. Recurring below average depths in the central Everglades illustrate the system level importance of maintaining water in the sloughs and low-water refugia in the central region. Conditions in most of ENP continue to be below average, with exceptions at a portion of the southwest coast and the TS region which remain at above average depths (**Figures EV-5** and **EV-6)**.

Taylor Slough and Florida Bay

All stages increased across Taylor Slough over the past week, with an average increase of 0.25 feet for the week. Changes ranged from +0.09 feet at EPSW in the C-111 area to +0.48 feet at E112 in the northern slough (**Figures EV-7 and EV-8**). Taylor Slough water

levels remain below the recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 3.1 inches compared to before the Florida Bay Initiative (starting in 2017), an increase of 2.5 inches relative to last week's comparison. Stages at Craighead Pond (CP) and Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB) are below the estimated historical average by 0.89 and 2.36 feet, respectively.

Average salinity in Florida Bay was 39.5, an increase of 0.7 from last week. Salinity changes ranged from −2.2 at Johnson Key (JK) in the western region to +6.8 at Joe Bay (JB) in the eastern nearshore region (**Figure EV-7**). Salinity is above the estimated historical average and near the WY2001-2016 Interquartile Range (IQR) 75th percentile for the eastern and central regions and above the 75th percentile in the western region (**Figure EV-9**). Salinities in both the central and western regions are above the hypersalinity threshold. Bay-wide salinity is above its recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 8.4, an increase of 1.2 from last week's comparison. The continued increase in salinities is likely due to the bay receiving less direct rainfall compared to the slough and negative creek flows driven by southerly winds.

Salinity at the Taylor River (TR) station in the mangrove zone (tracked for the Florida Bay MFL) was 25.5, an increase of 8.7 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 1.23 inches for the week, based on the 18 gauges used for this report. Rainfall ranged from 0.17 inches at Highway Creek (HC) in the eastern nearshore region to 4.41 inches at CP in the southern slough (**Figure EV-11**). Wind directions and speeds in Florida Bay ranged from 0.2 mph W on July 1st to 17.0 mph SE on July 6th (**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 −202 acre-feet, with net negative flows for the week. Total daily creek flow ranged from −377 acre-feet on June 2nd to 50 acre-feet on June 6th (**Figure EV-13**). Average daily flow from Alligator Creek was −42 acre-feet, with net negative flows for the week (**Figure EV-13**).

Implications/considerations for water management.

- Due to current drought conditions, slower recessions and more ascensions would help protect wetland ecology from damaging dry conditions.
    - WCA-3A and WCA-3B continue to experience unseasonably dry conditions.
    - With continued drought conditions, conserving water within the WCAs, especially WCA-3A, will continue to be ecologically beneficial.
- Taylor Slough depth increased slightly last week but remains below the recent average for this time of year by 3.1 inches. There is still good potential for slough connectivity extending down to Florida Bay; however, salinities in Florida Bay remain above their recent average by 8.4 and the central/western zones are now above the hypersalinity thresholds.

    - 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 requires 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	2.57	+0.06
WCA-2A	1.30	−0.05
WCA-2B	1.69	−0.04
WCA-3A	1.69	+0.03
WCA-3B	2.30	+0.09
ENP	2.05	+0.00

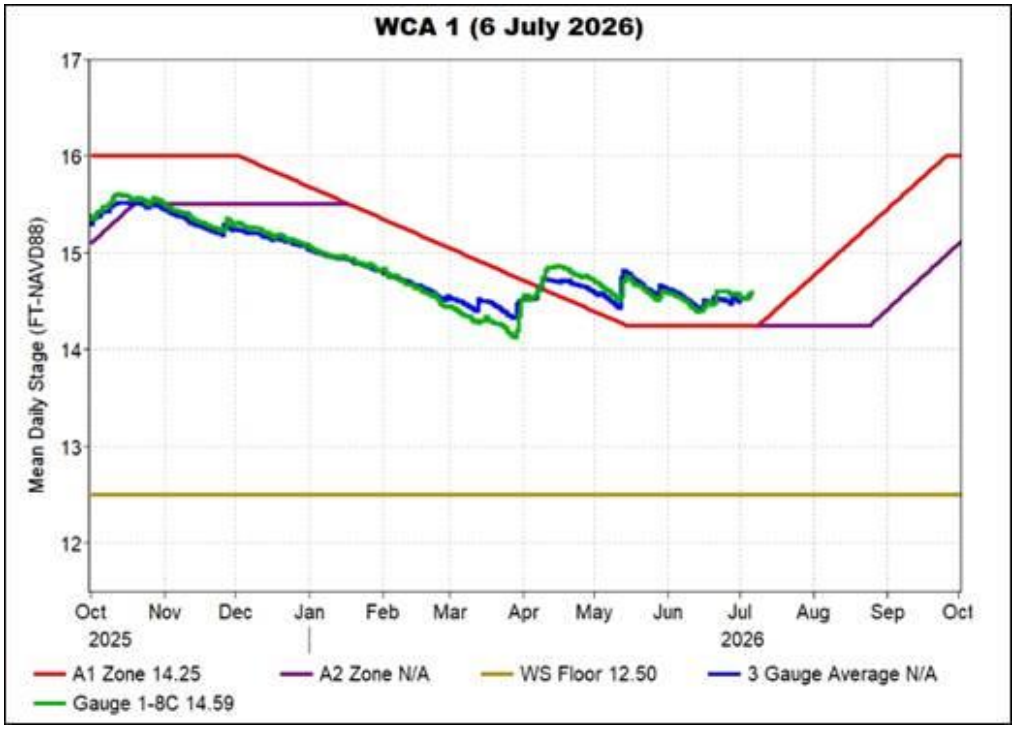

Figure EV-1. WCA-1 stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

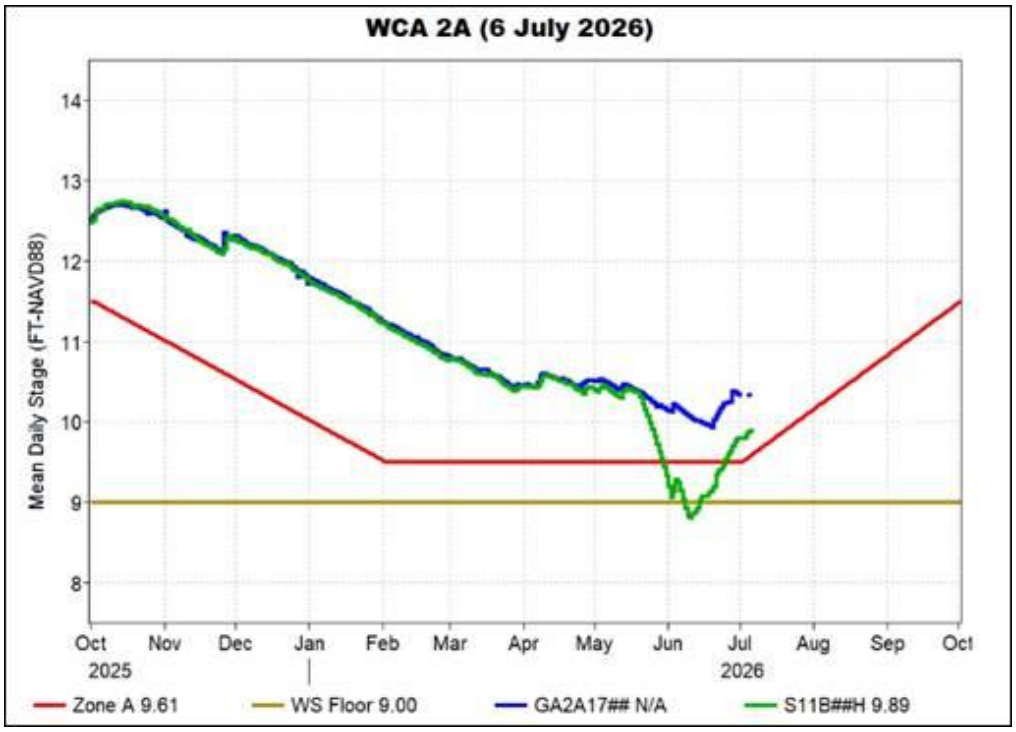

Figure EV-2. WCA-2A stage hydrographs and regulation schedule. 12.04

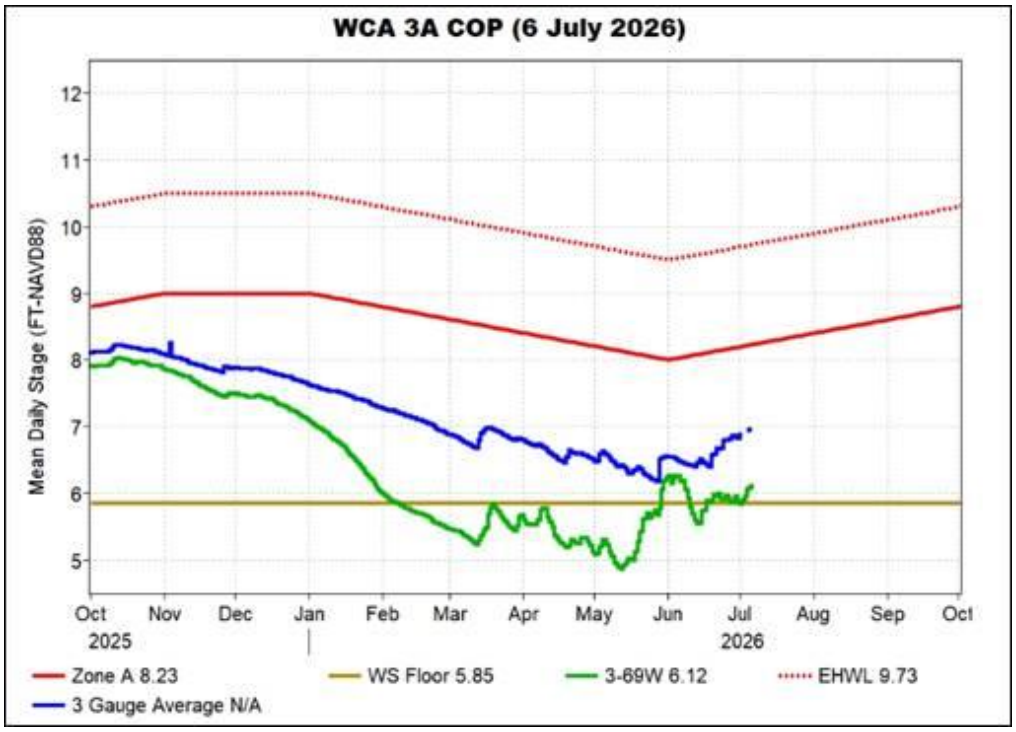

Figure EV-3. WCA-3A stage hydrographs (three-gauge average, 3-69W) and regulation schedule. 8.08

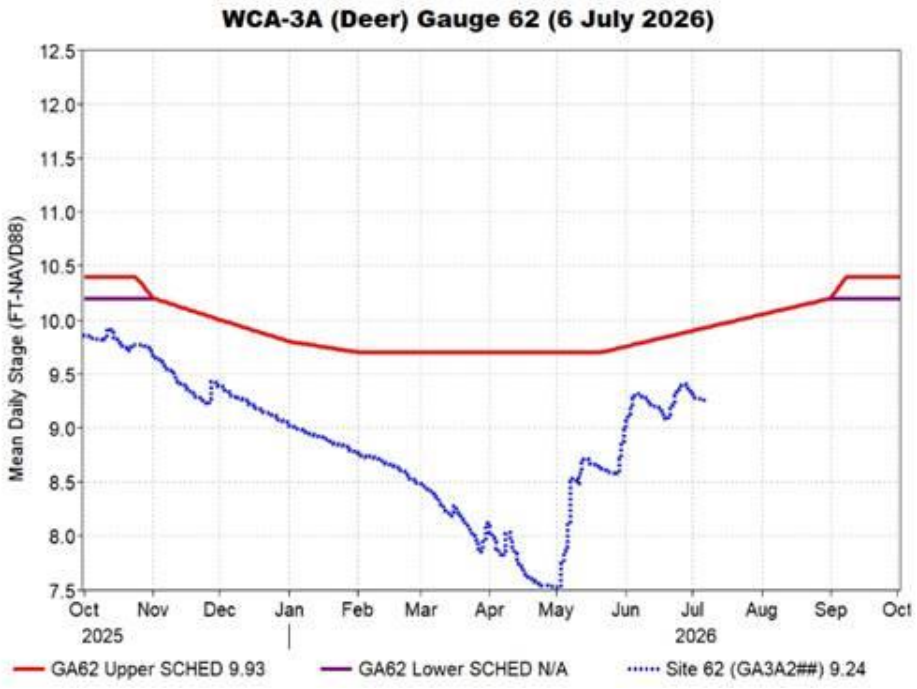

Figure EV-4. WCA-3A stage hydrograph (Deer gauge; Site 62) and regulation schedule.

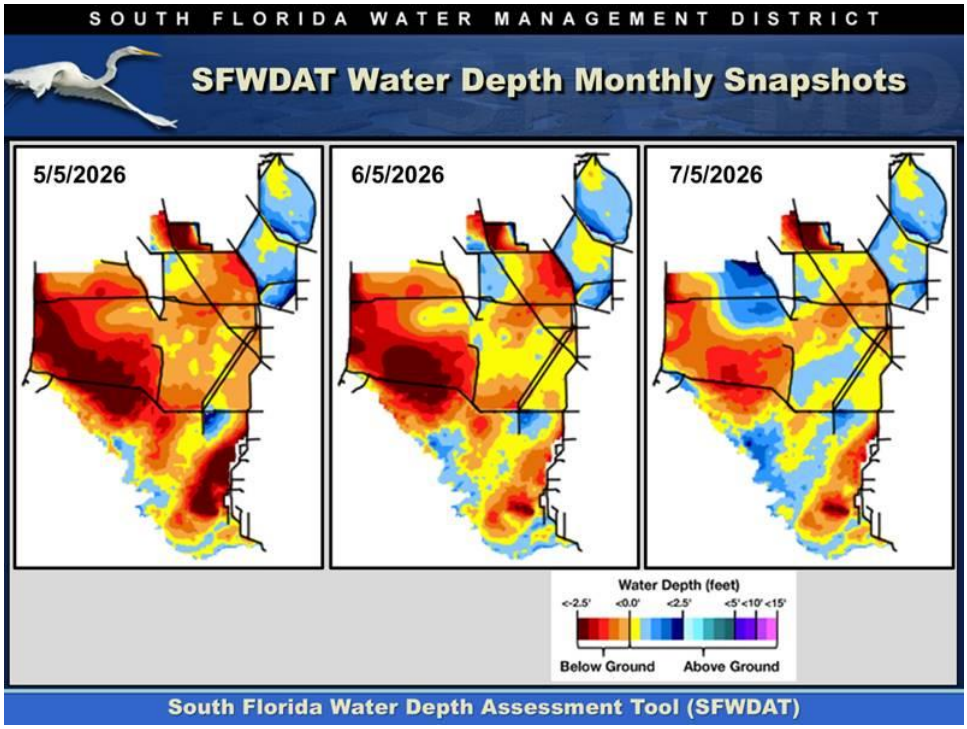

Figure EV-5. Everglades water depths from two months ago (left), one month ago (center) and present (right), based on SFWDAT.

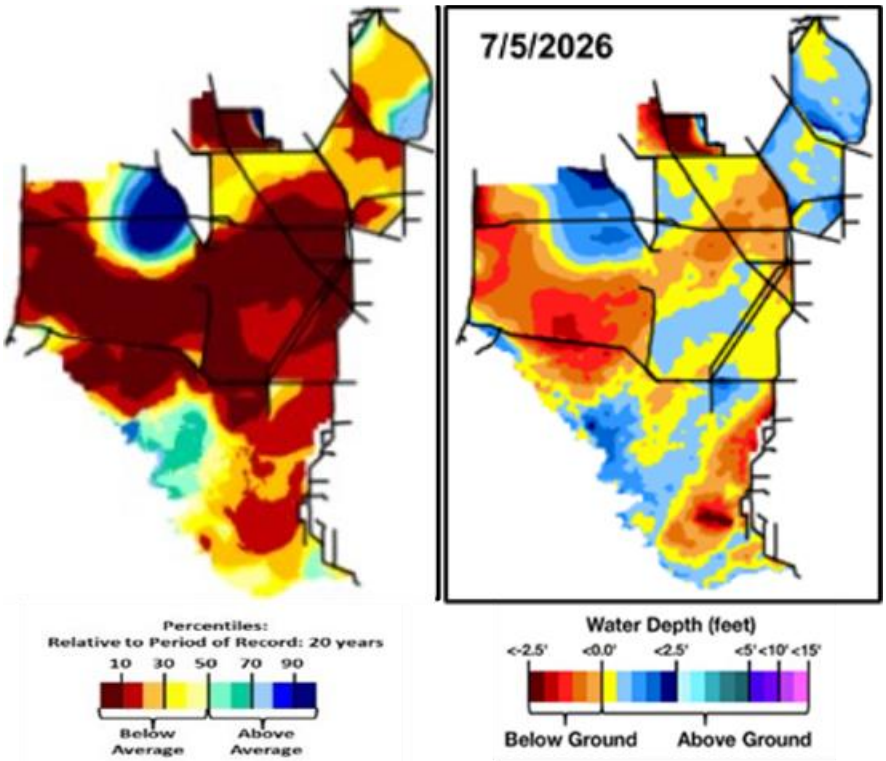

Figure EV-6. Present water depths (July 5, 2026) compared to the day of year relative to average (percentile) over the previous 20 years.

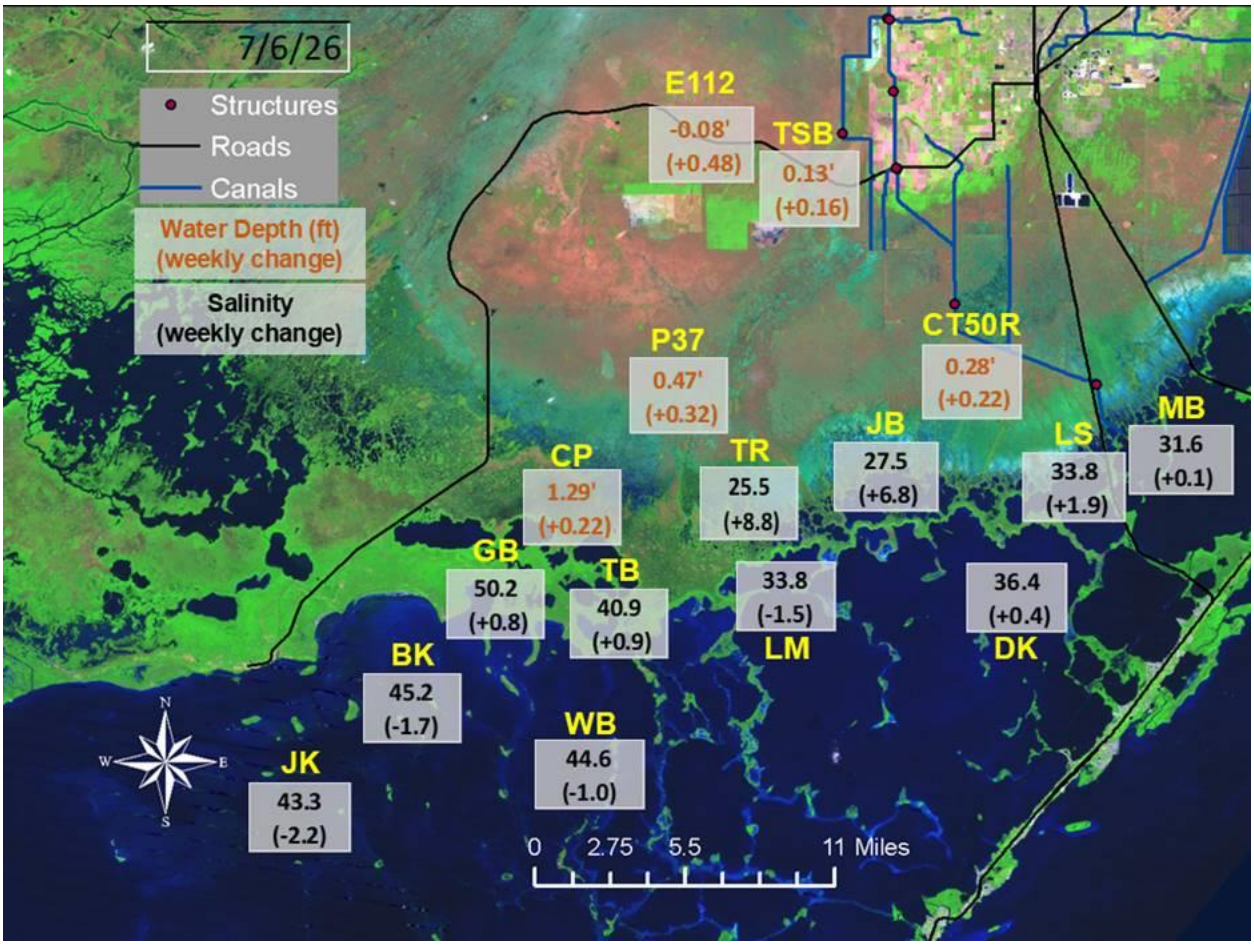

Figure EV-7. Taylor Slough water depths and Florida Bay salinities with changes since a week ago.

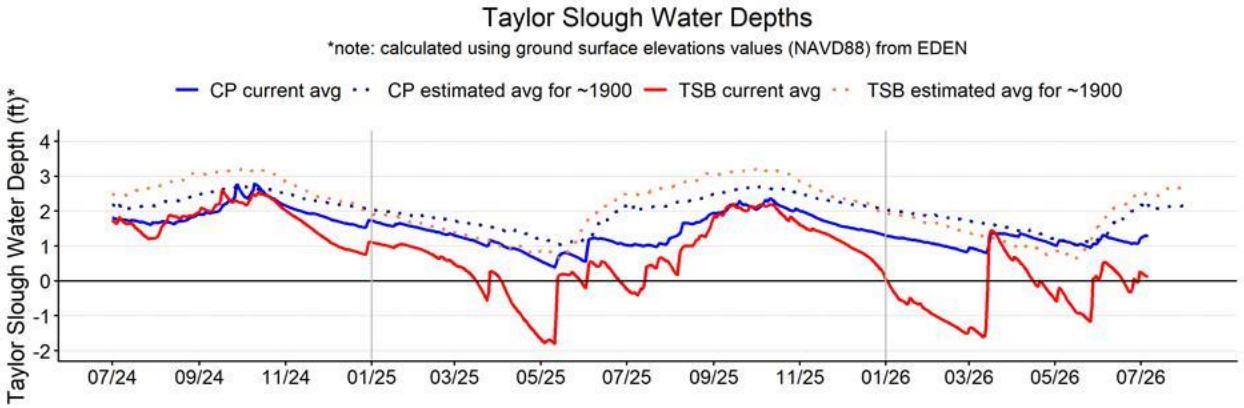

Figure EV-8. Taylor Slough water depth time series for Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB; northern slough) and Craighead Pond (CP; southern slough).

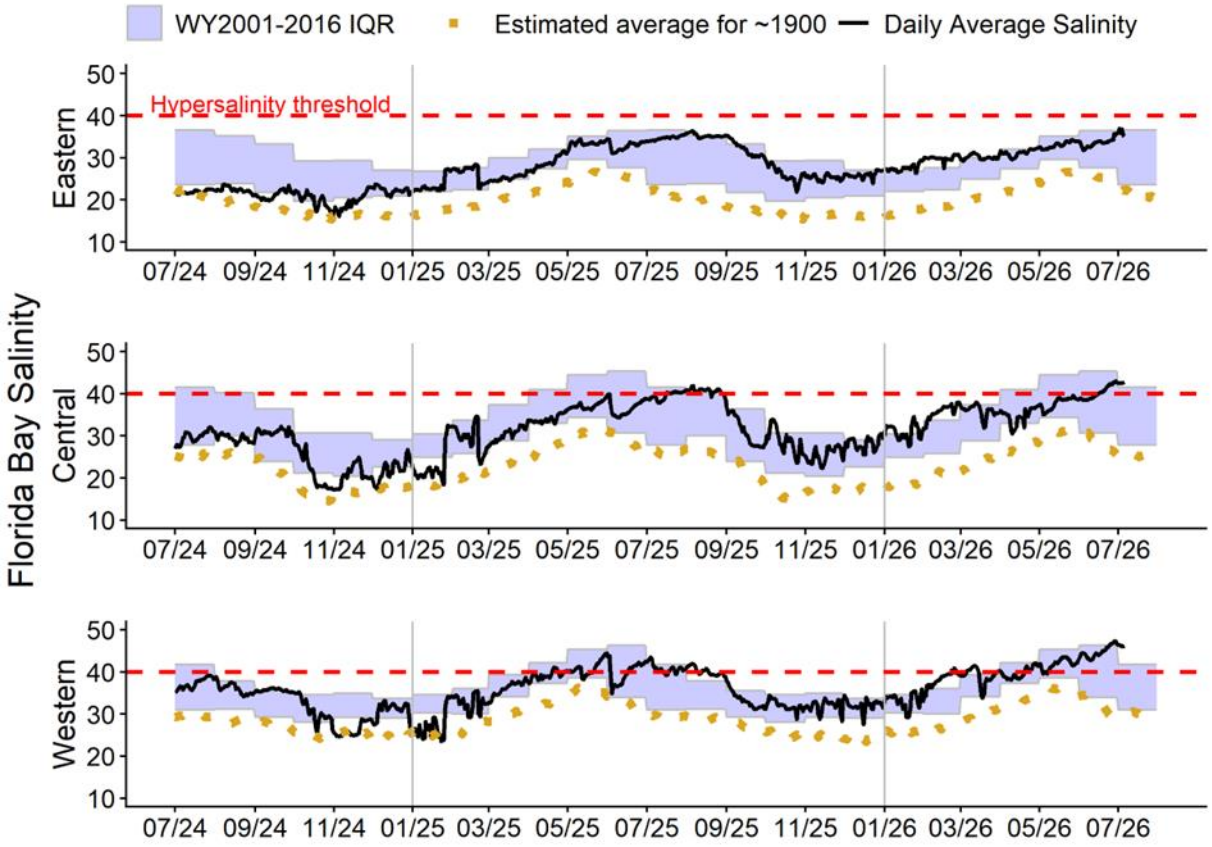

Figure EV-9. Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with WY2001-2016 interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges (IQR) and estimated historical daily average salinities. The hypersalinity threshold indicates the level at which salinities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

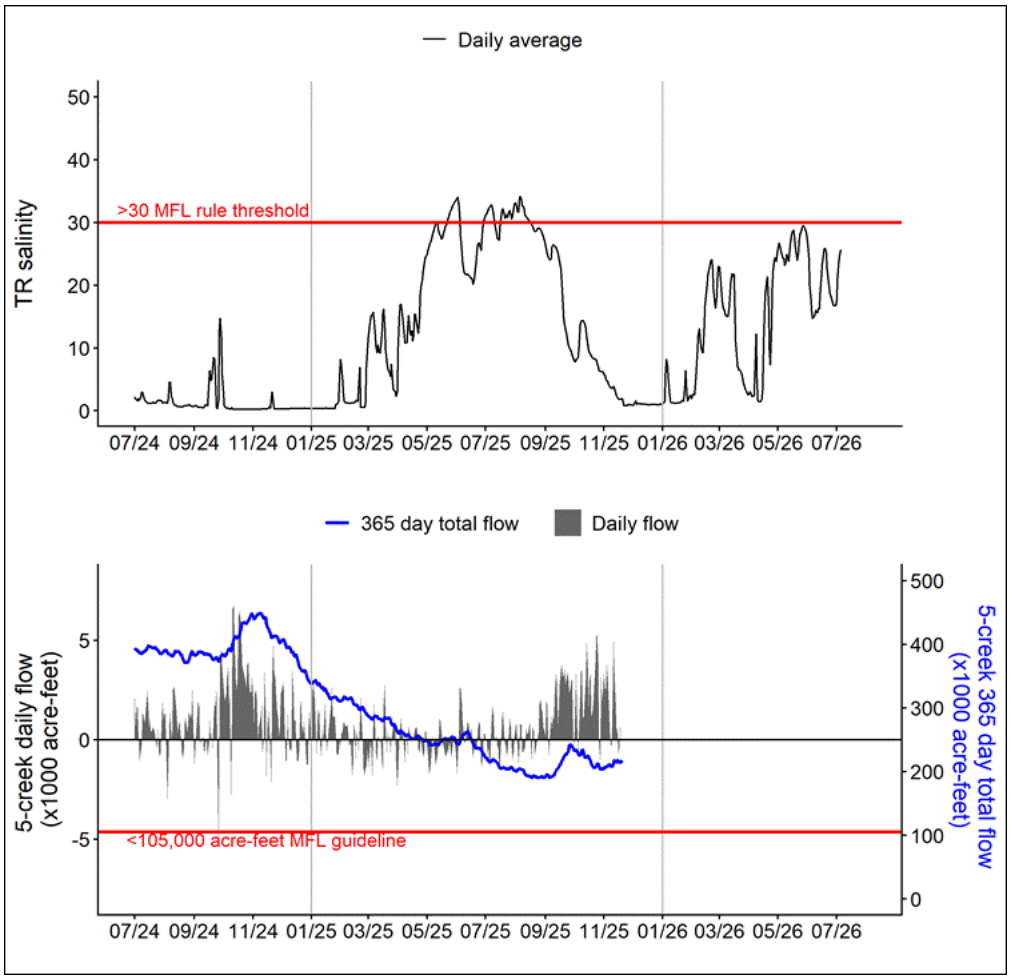

Figure EV-10. Daily average salinity at Taylor River (TR) tracked for the Florida Bay MFL criteria. The 365-day total creek flow MFL metric is not currently available due to missing creek flow data.

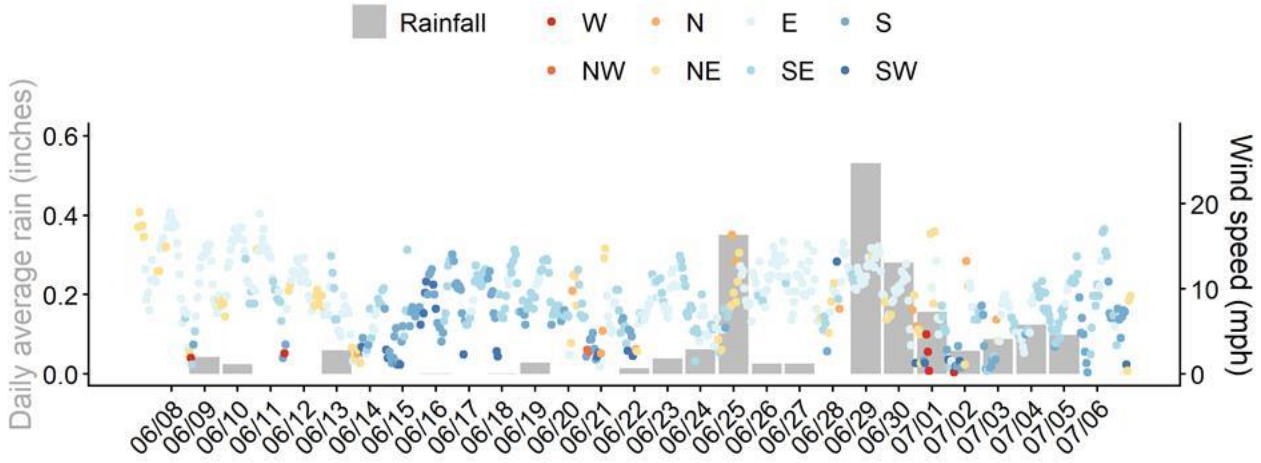

Figure EV-11. Daily average rain across Taylor Slough and Florida Bay, along with hourly average wind speed and direction (measured at Long Key) in Florida Bay over the past four weeks.

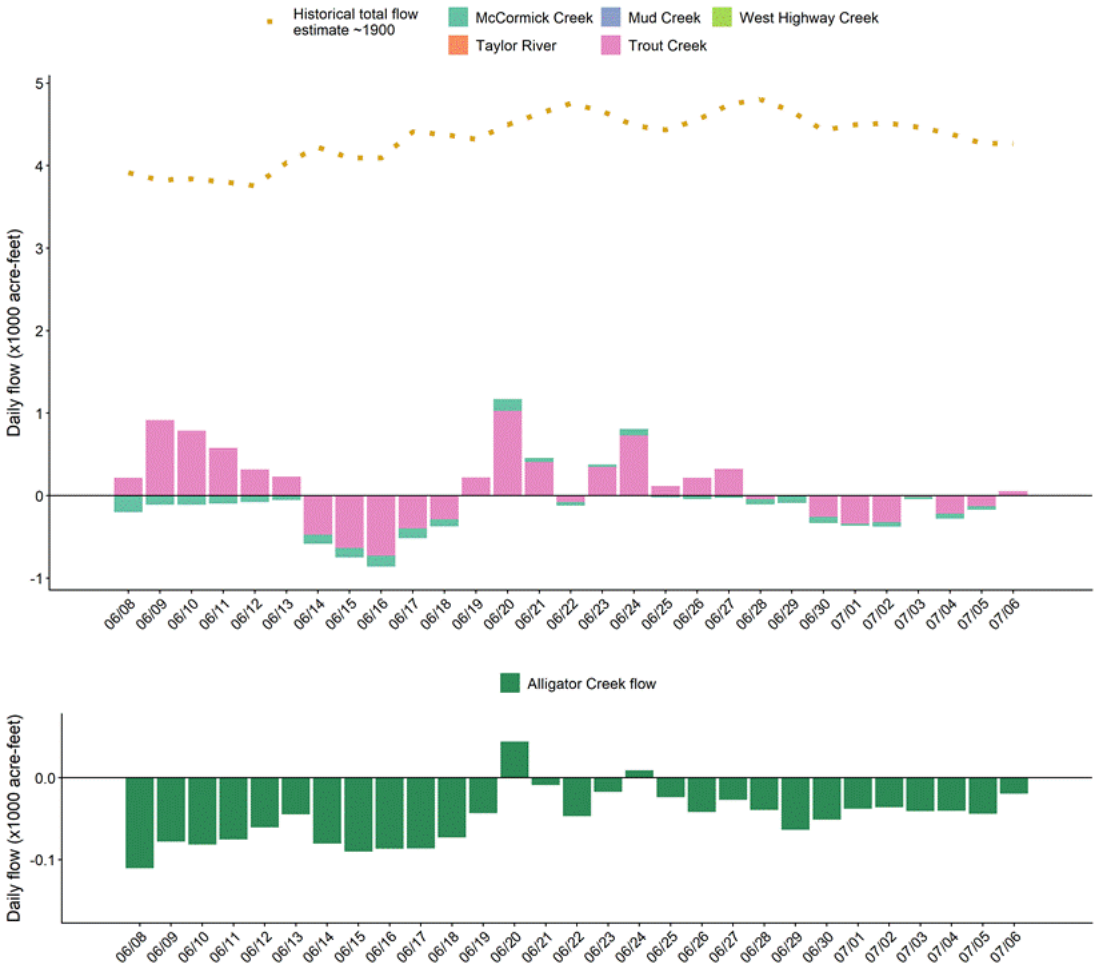

Figure EV-12. Top: daily average creek flow summed between the five major creeks with estimated historical daily flow over the past four weeks (**note**: data from Taylor River, Mud Creek and West Highway Creek are currently unavailable since November 21st, 2025). Bottom: Daily average Alligator Creek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

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

SFWMD Everglades Ecological Recommendations, July 5th, 2026 (red is new)			
	Weekly change	Recommendation	Reasons
WCA-1	Stage increased by 0.06 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 0.05 feet	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 decreased by 0.04 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NE	Stage data not available	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 0.11 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 increased by 0.32 feet		
WCA-3B	Stage increased by 0.09 feet	A recession of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
ENP-SRS	Stage showed no 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 +0.09 feet to +0.48 feet	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.
FB- Salinity	Salinity changes ranged from -2.2 to +6.8	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.