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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 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Weekly Environmental Conditions for Systems Operations

Summary

Weather Conditions and Forecast

Wednesday should serve as a transitional day as deep moisture is expected to persist north of Lake Okeechobee, and a weak Saharan Air Layer (SAL) may undercut this moisture south of the Lake, limiting rainfall potential. In the absence of a well-defined focusing mechanism, total SFWMD rainfall is expected to decrease to below the daily climatological average. The greatest rainfall should remain north of Lake Okeechobee, as well as near the Middle and Upper East Coast, where a moderately strong southwesterly steering wind flow interacting with the east-coast sea breeze should support greater rainfall coverage. From Thursday through Friday, a pronounced north-to-south gradient in rainfall will form across the SFWMD. North of Lake Okeechobee, abundant moisture, combined with sufficient instability, should support numerous showers and thunderstorms moving from west to east. As a result, widespread rainfall is likely across the northern half of the SFWMD, with the Kissimmee Valley having a good chance of receiving at least one-half inch of area-averaged rainfall on both days. Farther south, across roughly the southern one-third to nearly one-half of the SFWMD, little or no rainfall is expected as the suppressing influence of the weak SAL limits rainfall development. Rainfall chances will remain elevated, particularly north and west of Lake Okeechobee on Saturday. By Sunday and Monday, however, forecast confidence decreases considerably. Although model guidance indicates greater moisture than previous forecasts, only a modest increase in forecast rainfall has been introduced at this time. Given the uncertainty in the large-scale pattern, forecasts for Days 6 and 7 remain of lower confidence, and rainfall amounts could change appreciably in subsequent forecasts. For the week ending next Tuesday morning, total SFWMD rainfall is forecast to be near the long-term average. However, a marked regional contrast is expected, with the southern third of the SFWMD likely receiving below-average rainfall while areas north of Lake Okeechobee could receive near- to above-average area-averaged rainfall.

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 26, 2026, was 170 cfs at S-65 and 140 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain was unchanged at 0.33 feet. The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River increased from 6.1 mg/L the previous week to 6.9 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 9.53 feet NAVD88 (10.83 ft NGVD29) on July 26, 2026, which is 0.12 feet lower than the previous week and 0.13 feet lower than a month ago. The Lake remains in the water shortage management band. Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) decreased from 300 cfs the previous week to 100 cfs. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) increased from 10 cfs the previous week to 380 cfs. The most recent non-obscured satellite image from July 25, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate cyanobacteria potential across most of the lake. Provisional results from the July 20-22 water quality sampling showed 16 of the 27 phytoplankton samples collected had detectable levels of microcystins and/or cylindrospermopsins, all of which were well below the USEPA recreational threshold.

Estuaries

Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 189 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Mean salinities decreased 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 966 cfs over the past week with 177 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee. Over the past week, surface salinities increased at S-79 and Sanibel, remained unchanged at Shell Point, 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 26, 2026, no Lake Okeechobee water was delivered to the FEBs/STAs. The total amount of Lake releases sent to the FEBs/STAs in WY2027 is approximately 9,000 ac-feet. The total amount of inflows to the STAs in WY2027 is approximately 56,000 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. This week, if LOSOM recommends Lake releases to the WCAs and conditions allow, releases will be sent to STA-2 and STA-3/4.

Everglades

Near-average rainfall occurred across the Everglades Protection Area (EPA) but was not widespread as WCA-1 received only one-third the rain as WCA-3A. Stage in northern WCA-3A and WCA-1 declined last week while the rest of the Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) had stable water levels with overall water depths remain well below average. Water depths across portions of the Everglades have improved recently, though for this time of year conditions remain dry across much of the system. Water levels remain particularly low in north/central WCA-3, WCA-2A, and Big Cypress. Everglades National Park (ENP) water depths are approaching the 10th percentile. These dry conditions can have ecological consequences both system wide and within the central Everglades, including delayed prey production of what are now likely very low populations, increased risk of damaging wildfires, enhanced peat oxidation, and potential ridge and slough degradation. Most of Taylor Slough stages declined last week and are below the recent average for this time of year. Average Florida Bay salinity increased last week, and the central and western regions of Florida Bay remain above the hypersalinity threshold. Based on previous studies and surveys, high temperatures and hypersalinity in the central regions of FL Bay may initiate a seagrass die-off if upstream flows into FL Bay and direct rainfall are less than 50% of normal.

Supporting Information

Kissimmee Basin

Upper Kissimmee

On July 26, 2026, mean daily lake stages were 54.4 feet NAVD88 (1.1 feet below schedule) in East Lake Toho, 51.9 feet NAVD88 (0.6 feet below schedule) in Lake Toho, and 47.6 feet NAVD88 (2.7 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 26, 2026, mean weekly discharge was 170 cfs at S-65 and 140 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly discharge from the Kissimmee River was 200 cfs at S-65D and 78 cfs at S-65E (**Table KB-2**). Mean weekly headwater stages were 45.2 feet NAVD88 at S-65A and 27.5 feet NAVD88 at S-65D. Mean weekly river channel stage decreased by 0.1 feet to 29.6 feet NAVD88 (**Figure KB-4**). Mean weekly water depth on the Kissimmee River floodplain was unchanged at 0.33 feet (**Table KB-2, Figure KB-5**). The weekly average concentration of dissolved oxygen in the Kissimmee River increased from 6.1 mg/L the previous week to 6.9 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 feet/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 in Zone B5, target flows of 150 cfs; if stage increases into Zone B4, target flows of 300 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)	
							7/26/26	7/19/26
Lakes Hart and Mary Jane	S-62	LKMJ	0	58.9	R	59.0	-0.1	0.0
Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel	S-57	S-57	0	59.0	R	59.9	-0.9	-0.9
Alligator Chain	S-60	ALLI	0	60.7	R	62.1	-1.4	-1.3
Lake Gentry	S-63	LKGT	0	58.5	R	59.9	-1.4	-1.4
East Lake Toho	S-59	TOHOE	0	54.4	R	55.5	-1.1	-1.1
Lake Toho	S-61	TOHOW S-61	0	51.9	R	52.5	-0.6	-0.7
Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha	S-65	KUB011 LKIS5B	170	47.6	T	50.3	-2.7	-2.6

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.

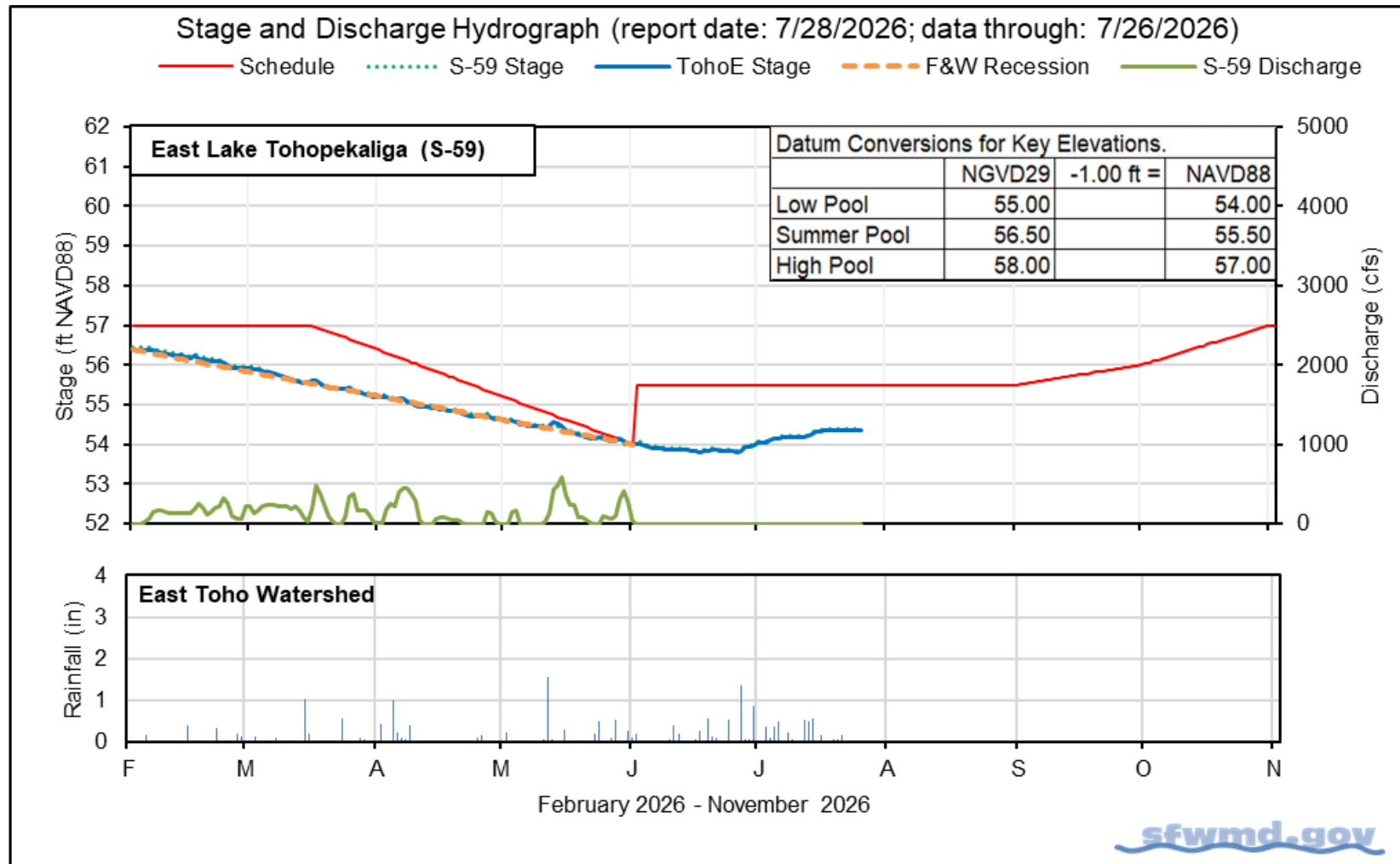


Figure KB-1. East Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

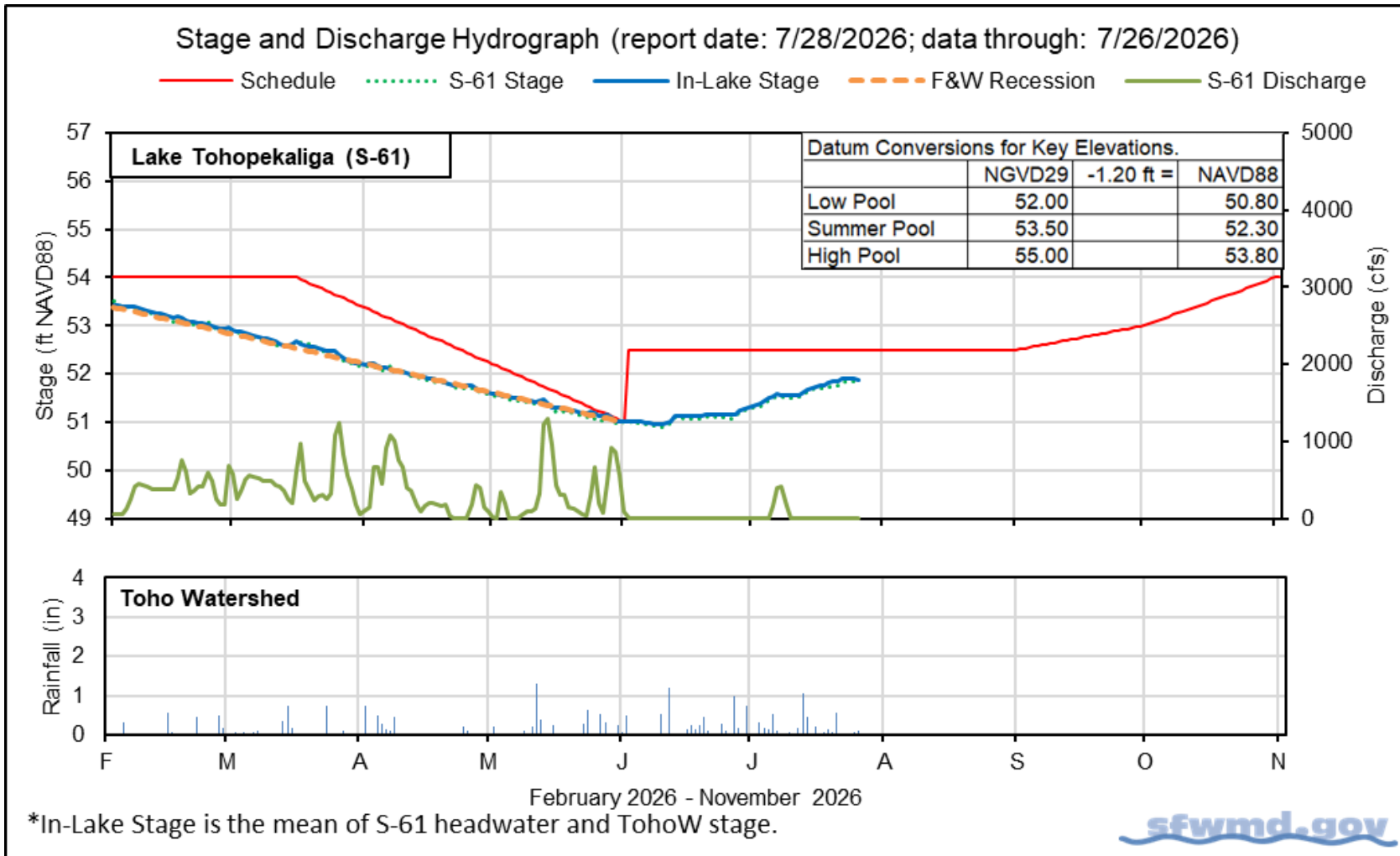


Figure KB-2. Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

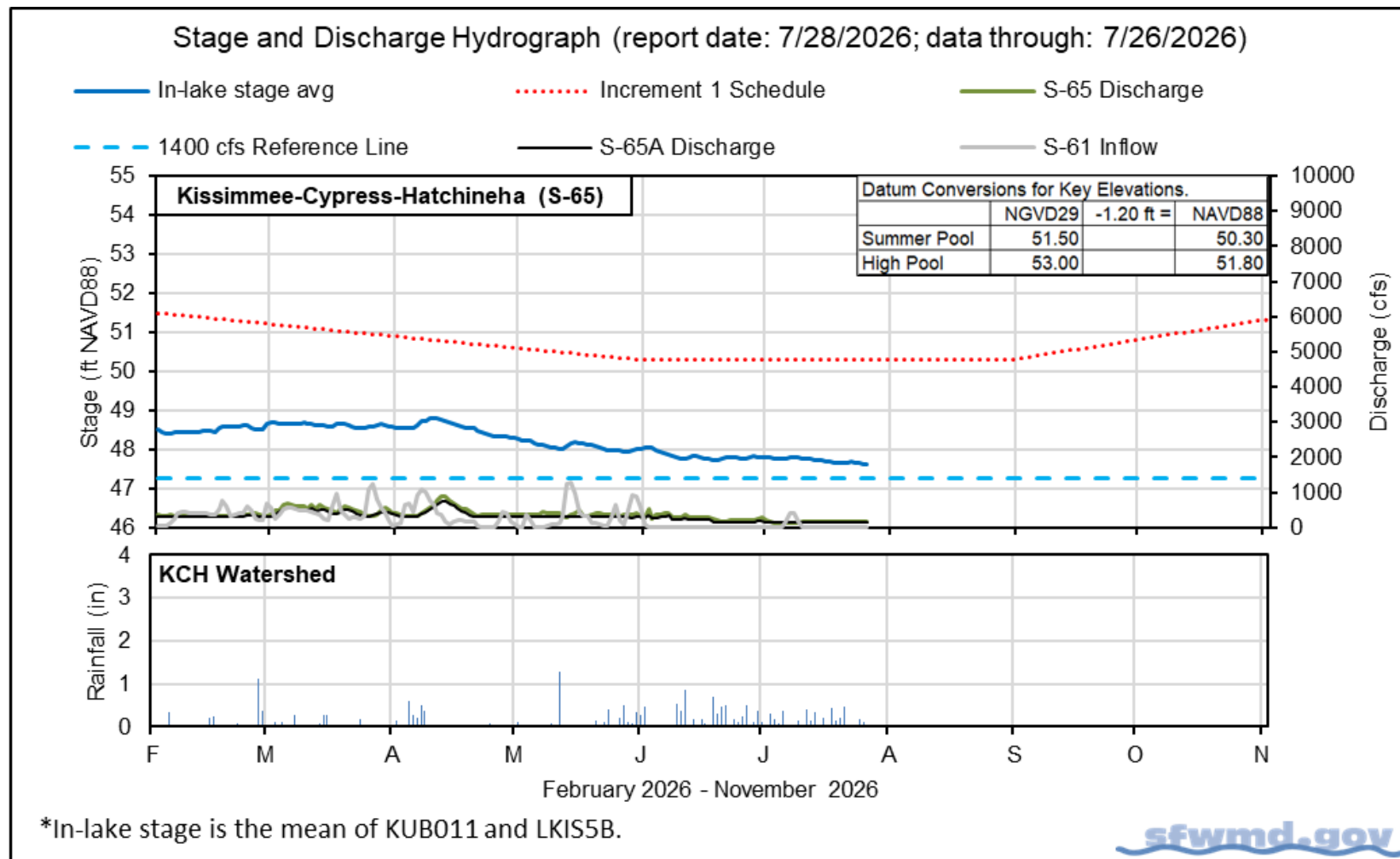


Figure KB-3. Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

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			
		7/26/26	7/26/26	7/19/26	7/12/26	7/5/26
Discharge	S-65	170	170	170	150	180
Discharge	S-65A ^a	140	140	140	140	160
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65A	45.2	45.2	45.2	45.3	45.4
Discharge	S-65D ^b	200	200	280	230	190
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65D ^c	24.7	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5
Discharge (cfs)	S-65E ^d	98	78	150	170	110
Discharge (cfs)	S-67	0	0	0	0	0
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L) ^e	Phase I, II/III river channel	6.5	6.9	6.1	5.9	6.7
River channel mean stage (feet NAVD88) ^f	Phase I river channel	29.6	29.6	29.7	29.8	29.9
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).

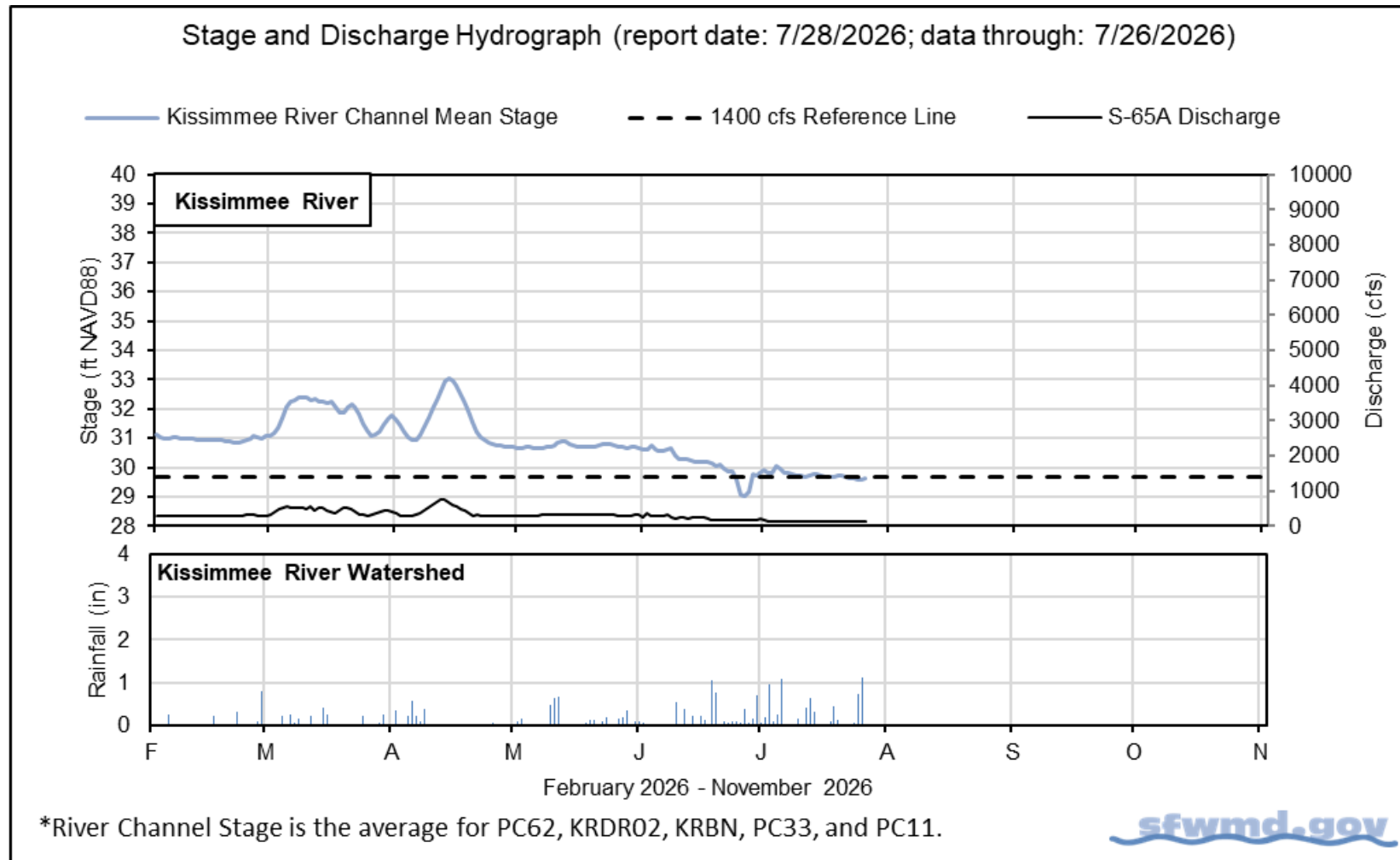


Figure KB-4. Kissimmee River stage, discharge, and rainfall.

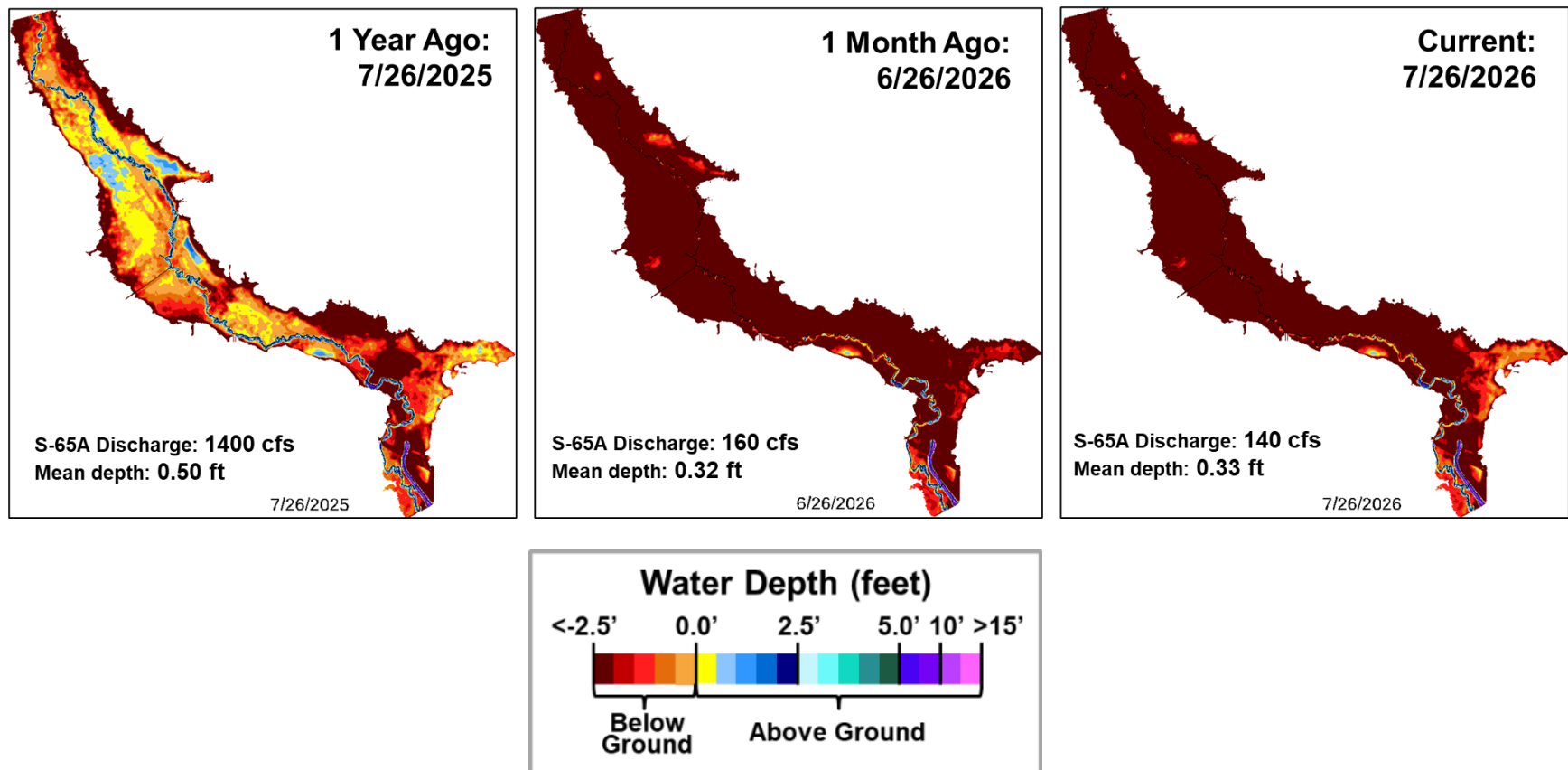
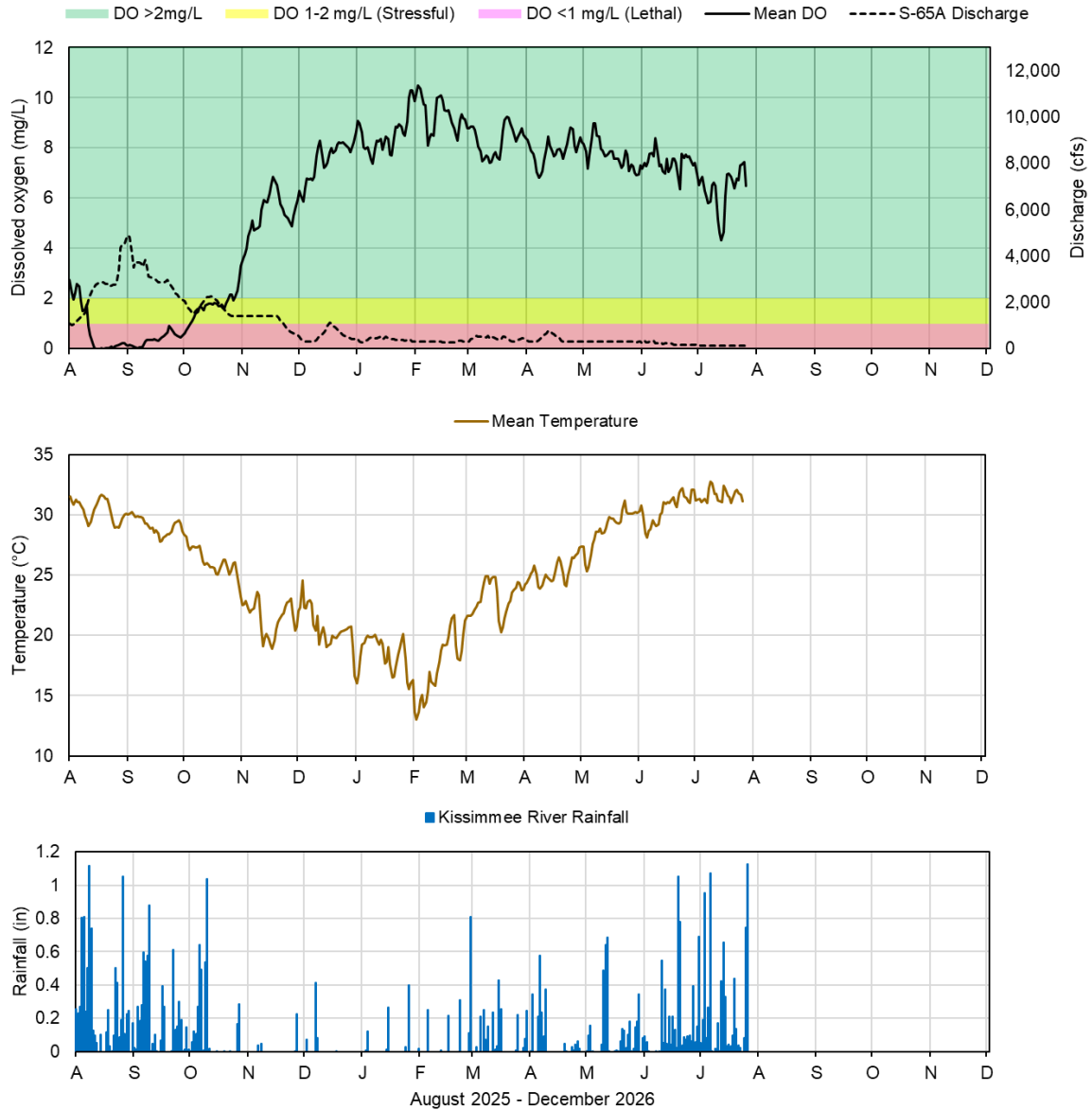


Figure KB-5. Phase I-II-III area Kissimmee River floodplain water depths (from left to right) one year ago, one month ago, and current.



Report Date: 7/28/2026; data are through: 7/26/2026

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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.

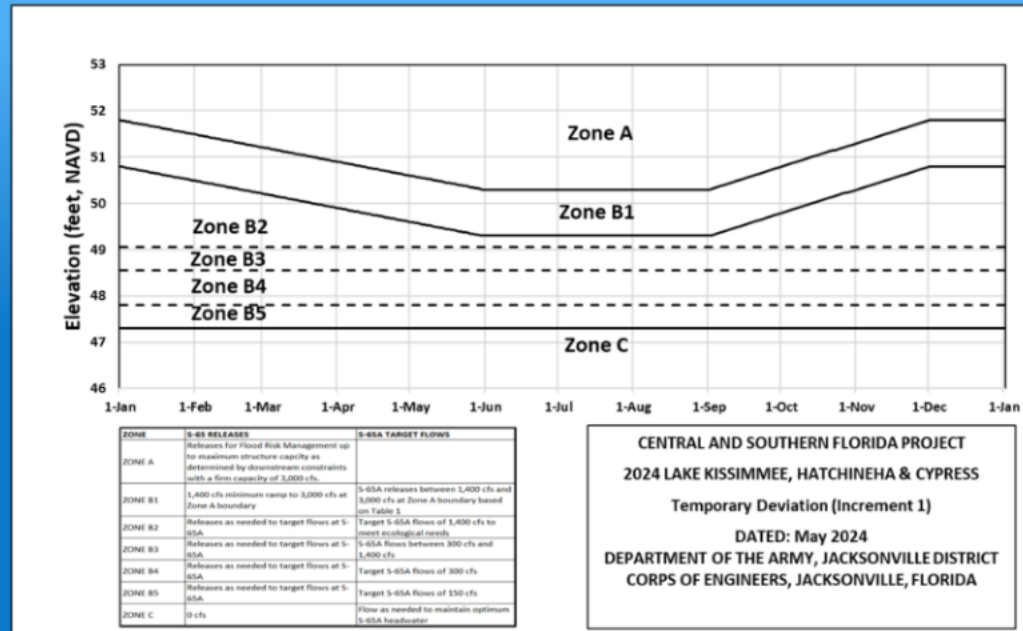
SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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

Discharge Guidance for Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan		
ZONE	S-65 RELEASES	S-65A TARGET FLOWS
ZONE A	Releases for Flood Risk Management up to maximum structure capacity 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 Change 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

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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.

Slide Revised 7/29/2024

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

Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 9.53 feet NAVD88 (10.83 feet NGVD29) on July 26, 2026, which 0.12 feet lower than the previous week and 0.13 feet lower than a month ago (**Figure LO-1**). Lake stage remains in the water shortage management band (0.81 feet below the upper limit, **Figure LO-2**) and is 1.07 feet below the ecological envelope (**Figure LO-3**). According to NEXRAD, 1.13 inches (approximately 42,100 ac-feet) of rain fell directly over the Lake during the previous week, and 1.28 inches (approximately 38,300 ac-feet) were lost to evapotranspiration.

Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) decreased from 300 cfs the previous week to 100 cfs. The largest inflow came from the Kissimmee River (80 cfs via S-65E(X1)). Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) increased from 10 cfs the previous week to 380 cfs. The only notable outflow was west to the C-43 canal (380 cfs via S-77). **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 25, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate cyanobacteria potential across most of the Lake, with high potential in some shallow nearshore regions (**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 July 20-22 sampling event showed 16 of the 27 phytoplankton samples collected had detectable levels of cyanotoxins, all of which were below the USEPA recreational guidelines. Seven had detectable levels of cylindrospermopsin, 6 had detectable microcystins, and 3 had both (**Figure LO-7**).

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

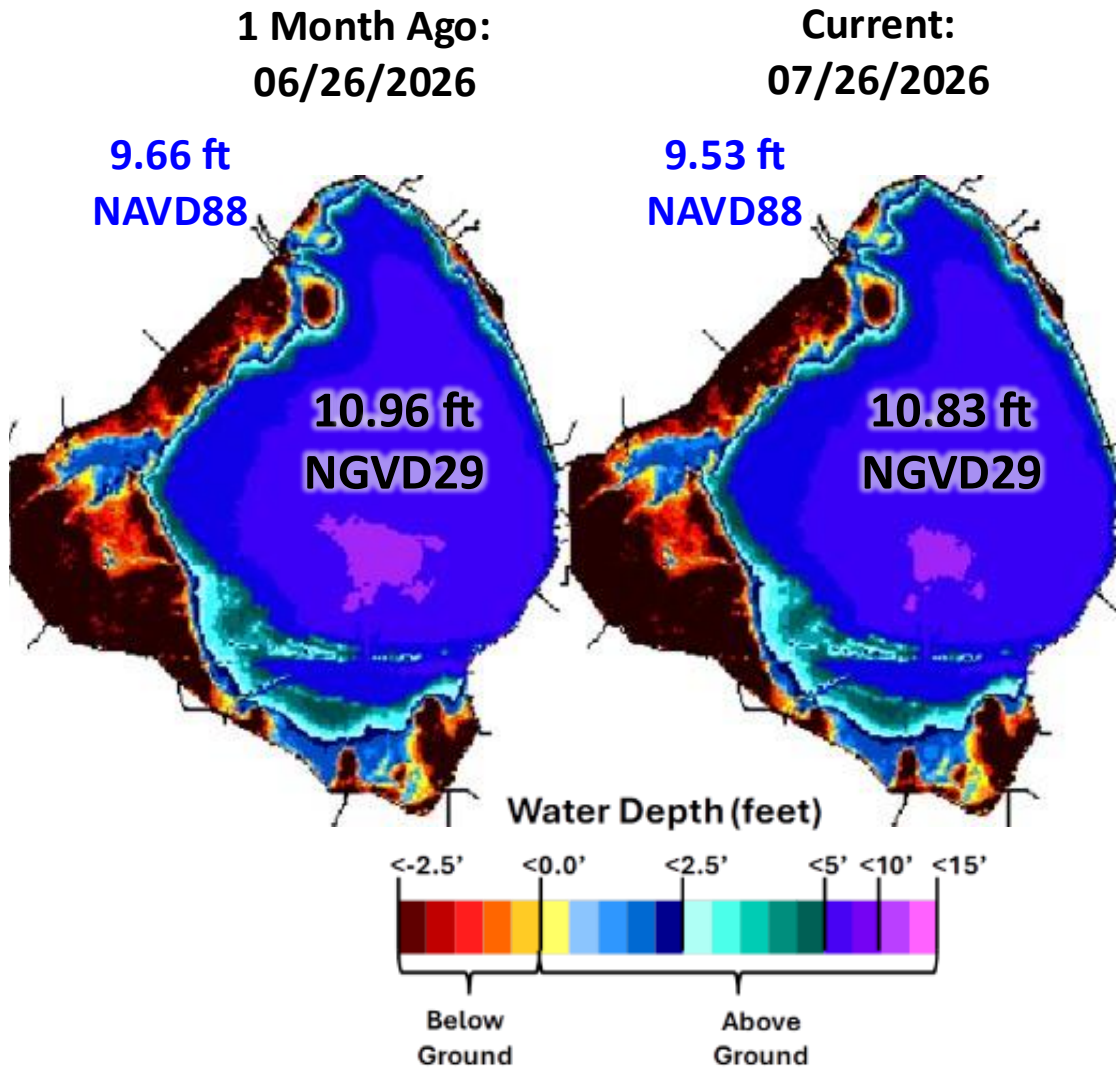


Figure LO-1. Lake Okeechobee water depth estimates based on South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

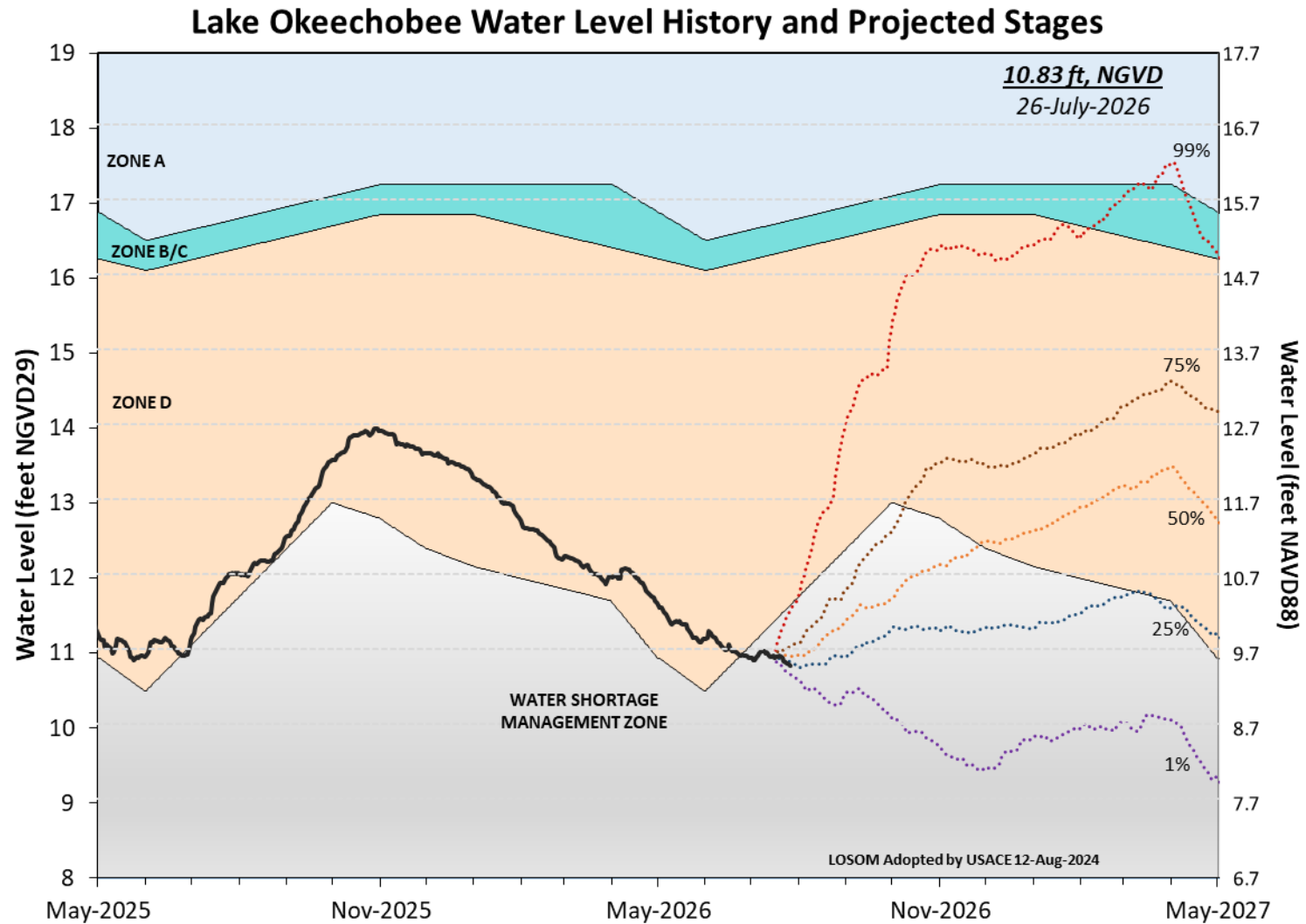


Figure LO-2. Recent Lake Okeechobee stages with projected stages based on a conditional position analysis.
 Note: stages are in NGVD29, approximate NAVD88 values are shown for reference.

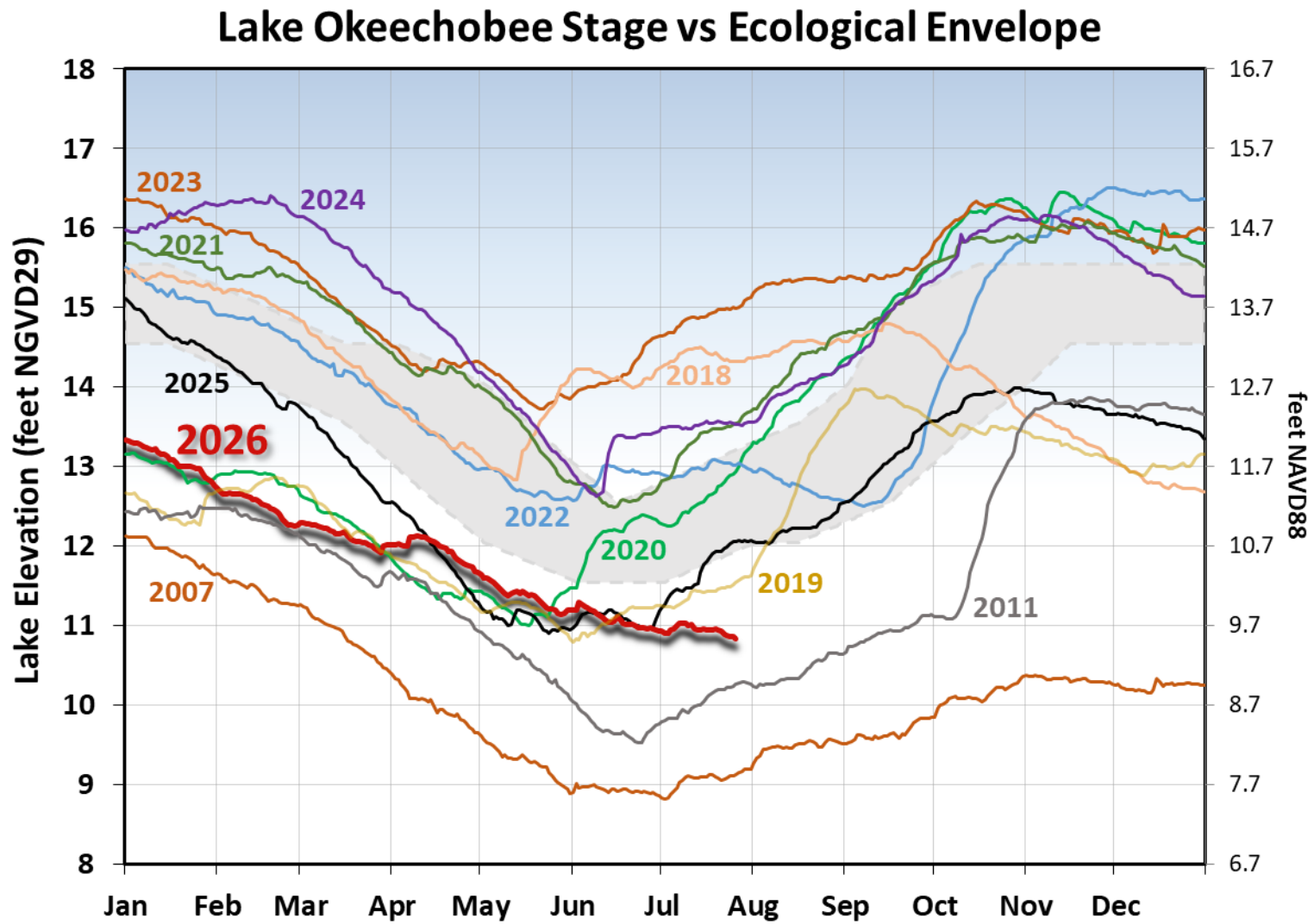


Figure LO-3. The current and select prior year's annual lake stage hydrographs in comparison to the Lake Okeechobee ecological envelope (light grey).

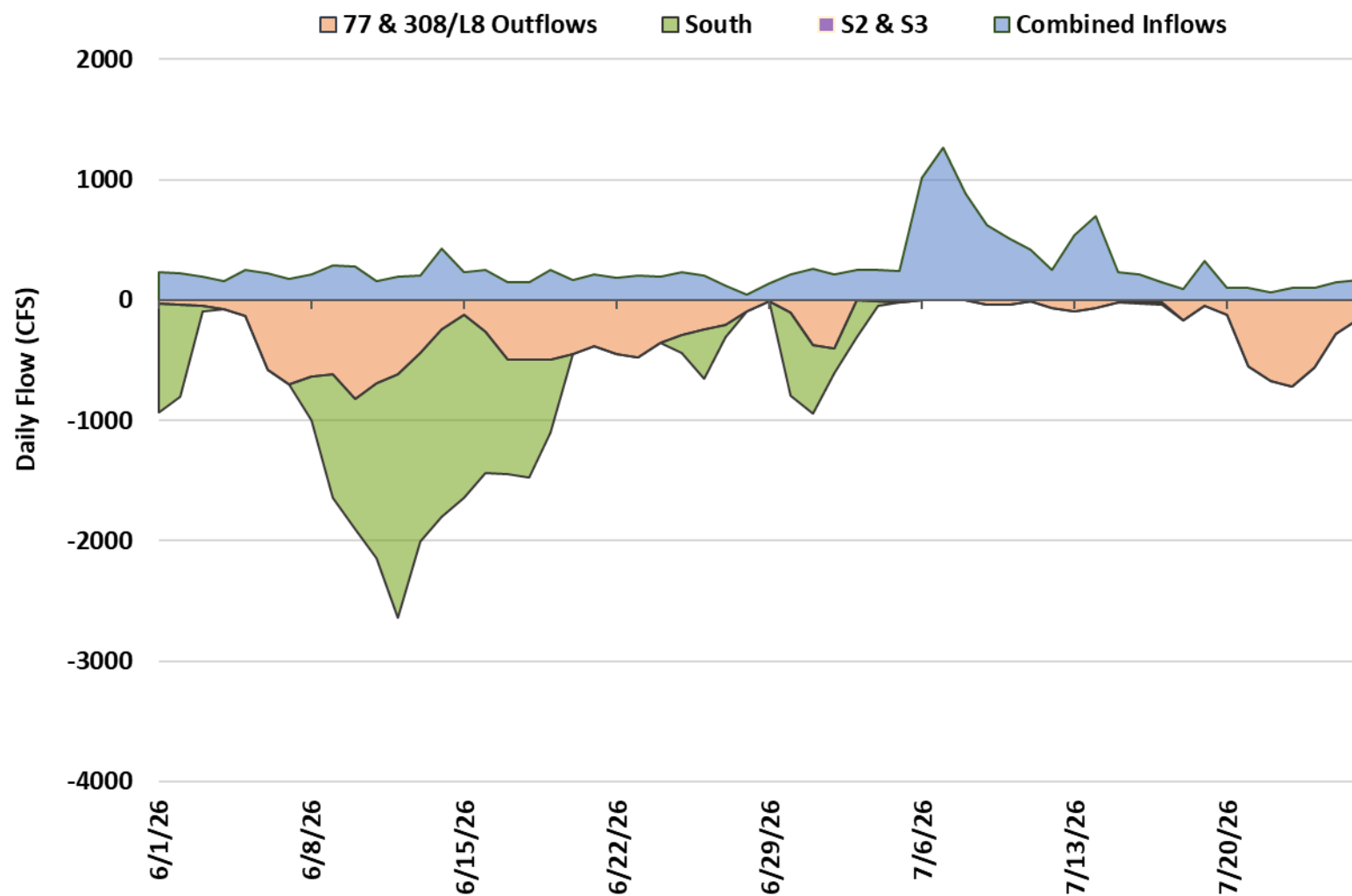


Figure LO-4. Major inflows (orange) to and outflows east and west (blue) from Lake Okeechobee. Outflows south are shown in green. Flows into Lake Okeechobee from the L-8 canal through S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) or from the C-44 canal through the S-308 are included as inflows. Conversely, flows from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

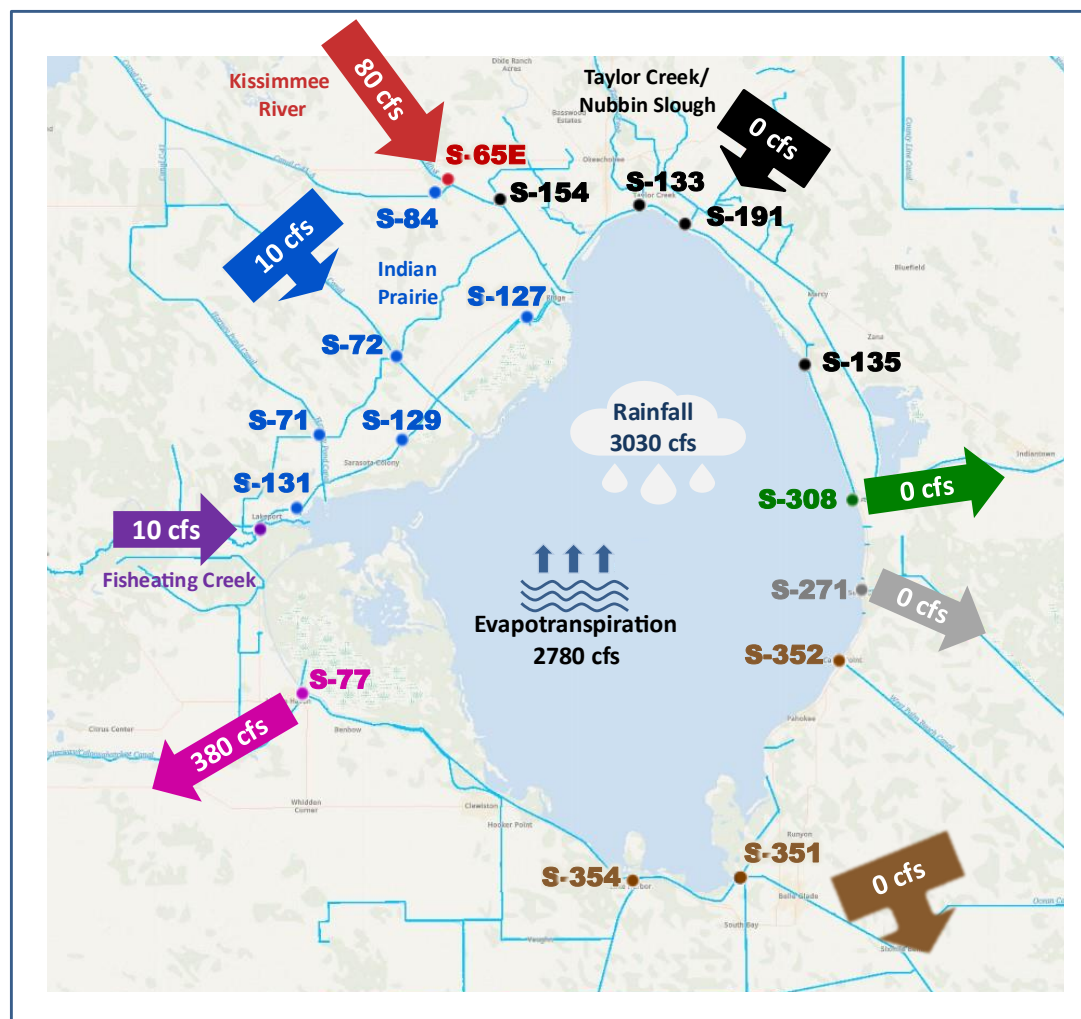


Figure LO-5. Inflows into Lake Okeechobee from Indian Prairie basins, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek (currently no flow data available for FECR), and outflows to the west via S-77, to the east via S-308, to the south via S-351, S-352, S-354, and to southeast via S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) for the week of July 20 - 26, 2026.

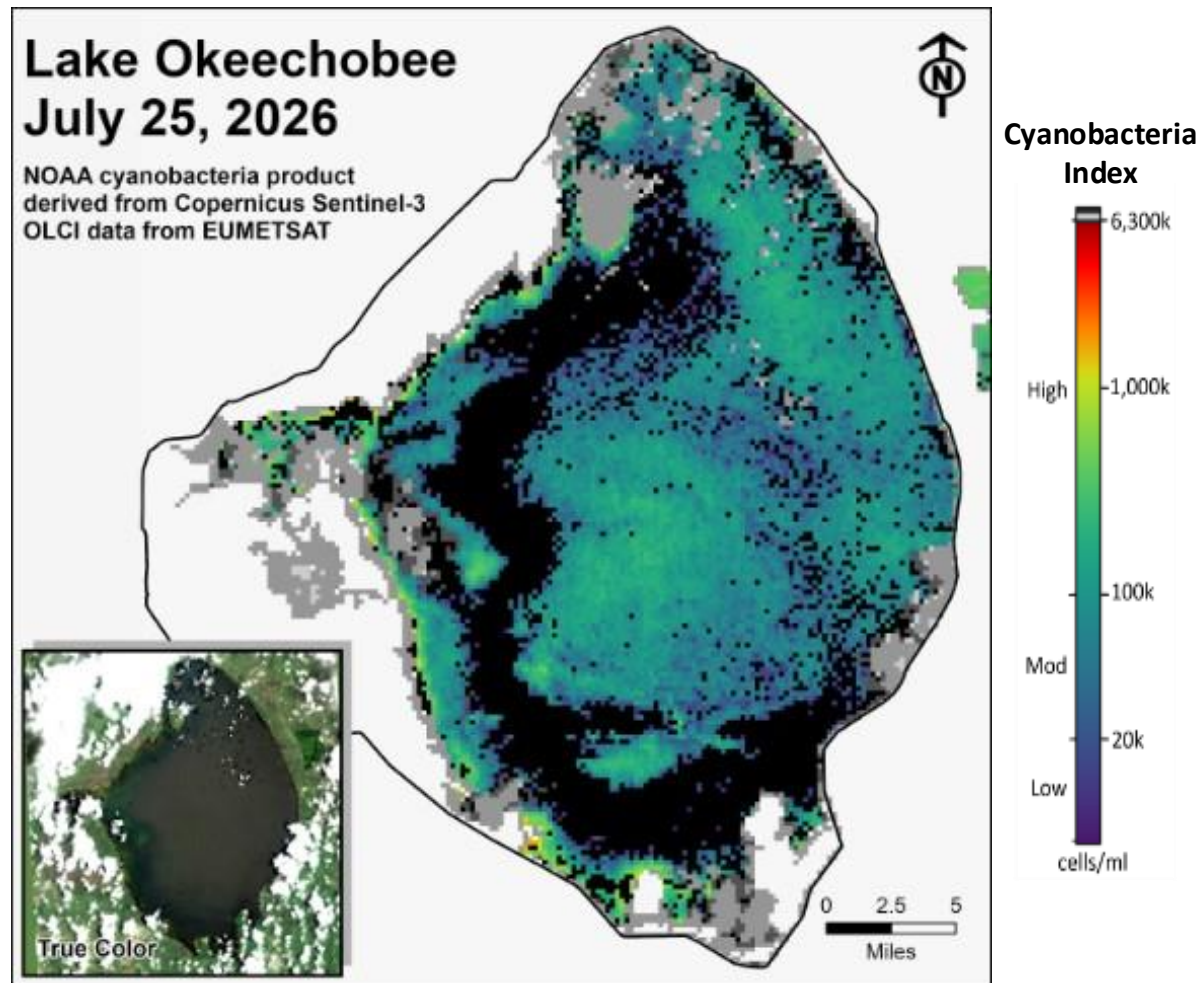


Figure LO-6. Cyanobacteria bloom index level on Lake Okeechobee, based on NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover. *Provisional NOAA image, subject to change*.

Collection Date: July 20-22, 2026

Station	CHLa (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA	Station	CHLa (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA
FEBIN				L001		0.2	Micro/Plank
FEBOUT		BDL	Raphi/Plank	L004		1.0	Microcys
KISSR0.0		0.2	Raphidio	L006		0.4	Microcys
L005		BDL	Dolichos	L007		0.3	Microcys
LZ2		0.2	Microcys	L008		BDL	Microcys
KBARSE		0.3	Raphi/Plank	LZ30		0.6	Microcys
RITTAE2				LZ40		3.7	Microcys
PELBAY3				CLV10A		0.7	Micro/Plank
POLE3S				NCENTER		0.3	Raphi/Plank
LZ25A							
PALMOUT		BDL	mixed	S308C		BDL	Microcys
PALMOUT1		BDL	mixed	S77		BDL	Micro/Botry
PALMOUT2		1.0	Microcys	> 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 (CHLa) analyzed by SFWMD > Toxin & Taxa analyzed by FDEP: Microcys = Microcystis; Raphi = Raphidiopsis; Planktol = Planktolyngbya; Dolicho = Dolichospermum; Pseud = Pseudanabaena; Dinop = Dinophyceae Toxins include cylindrospermopsin* and/or microcystins			
PALMOUT3		BDL	mixed				
POLESOUT		0.1	Planktol				
POLESOUT1		BDL	Dolic/Plank				
POLESOUT2		BDL	Microcys				
POLESOUT3		BDL	Microcys				
EASTSHORE		0.8	Microcys				
NES135		0.4	Microcys				
NES191		0.2	Micro/Plank				

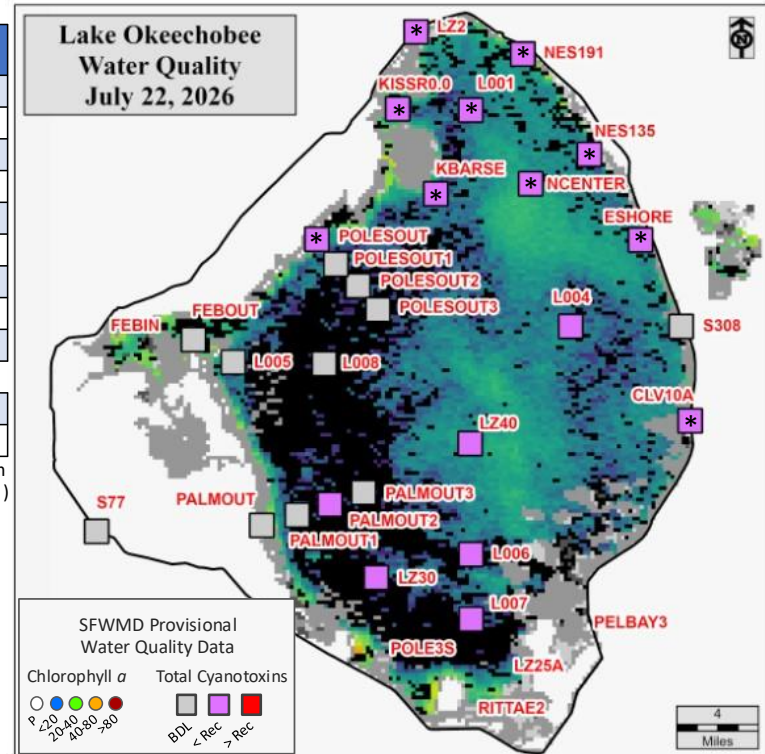


Figure LO-7. Dominant taxa, cyanotoxins (µg/L) and chlorophyll a (µg/L) concentration data from July 20 - 22, 2026. Sampling locations, chlorophyll a (pending), and total toxin concentrations are overlaid on the July 22, 2026, image from NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover.

Estuaries

St. Lucie Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was 189 cfs (**Figures ES-1 and ES-2**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 407 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-2**.

Over the past week, salinities decreased at all sites in the estuary (**Table ES-1 and Figure ES-3**). The seven-day moving average water column salinity at the US1 Bridge was 17.4. 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 July was 7.8 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 966 cfs (**Figures ES-6 and ES-7**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 977 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from the contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-7**.

Over the past week, surface salinities increased at S-79 and Sanibel, remained unchanged at Shell Point, and decreased at the remaining sites in the estuary (**Table ES-2 and Figures ES-8 and ES-9**). The seven-day mean water column salinity was 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 (**Table ES-2**). 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 July were 3.4 spat/shell at Iona Cove and 7.1 spat/shell at Bird Island, which is a decrease and increase from the previous month, respectively (**Figures ES-11 and ES-12**).

Surface salinity at Val I-75 was forecast for the next two weeks using an autoregression model (Qiu and Wan, 2013¹) 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 144 cfs. Model results from all scenarios predict daily salinity to be 10.2 or lower and the 30-day moving average surface salinity to be 7.7 or lower at Val I-75 at the end of the two-week period (**Table ES-3 and Figure ES-13**). Predicted salinities for the next two weeks remain within the optimal salinity range (0-10) for tape grass in the upper estuary if S-79 flows are above 450 cfs.

¹ Qiu, 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 24, 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 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 512 cfs (**Figure ES-14**) which is not 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 50 cfs (**Figure ES-15**) and the 20-day average salinity at RM 9.2 is 0.3 (**Figure ES-16**) which is not an exceedance.

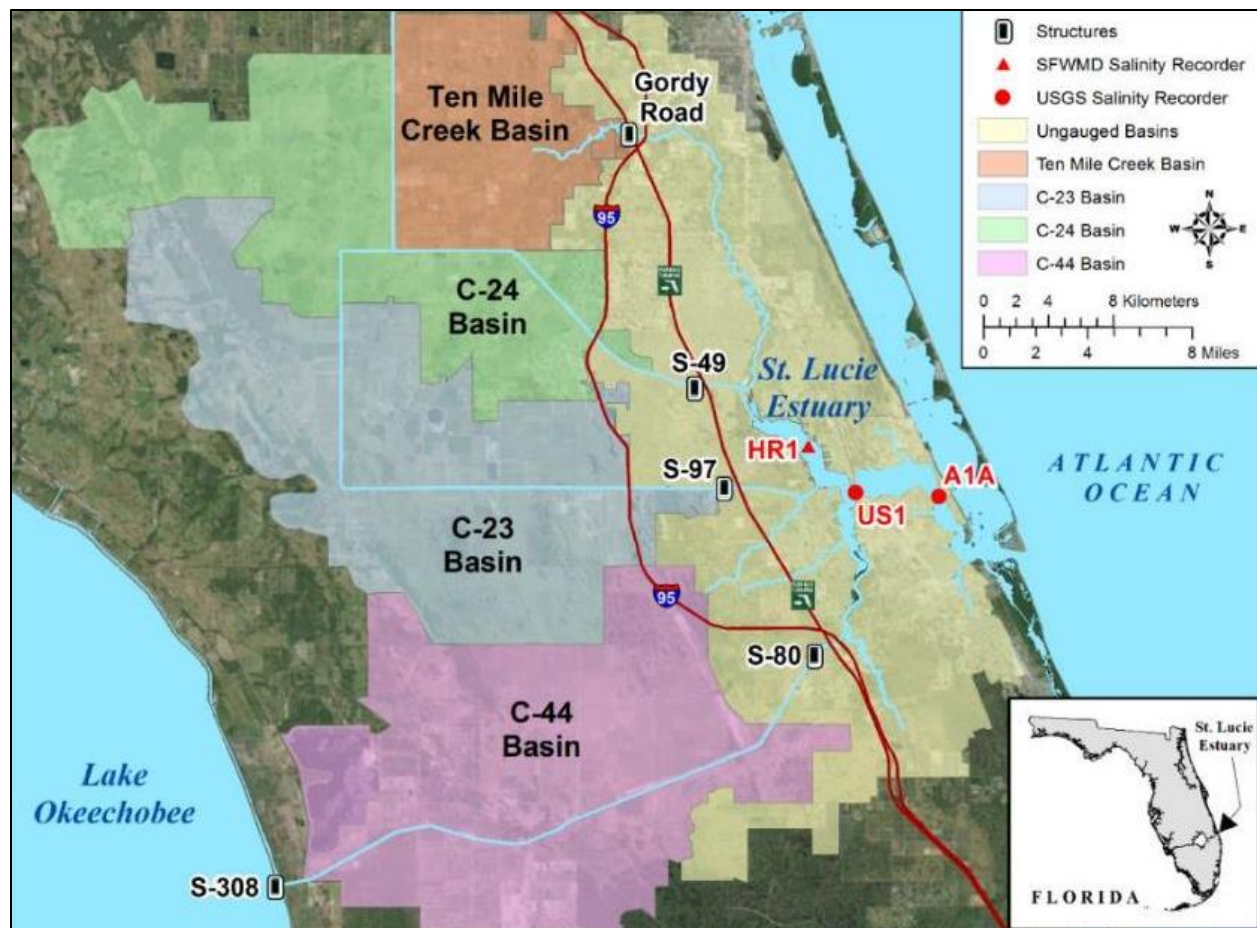


Figure ES-1. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

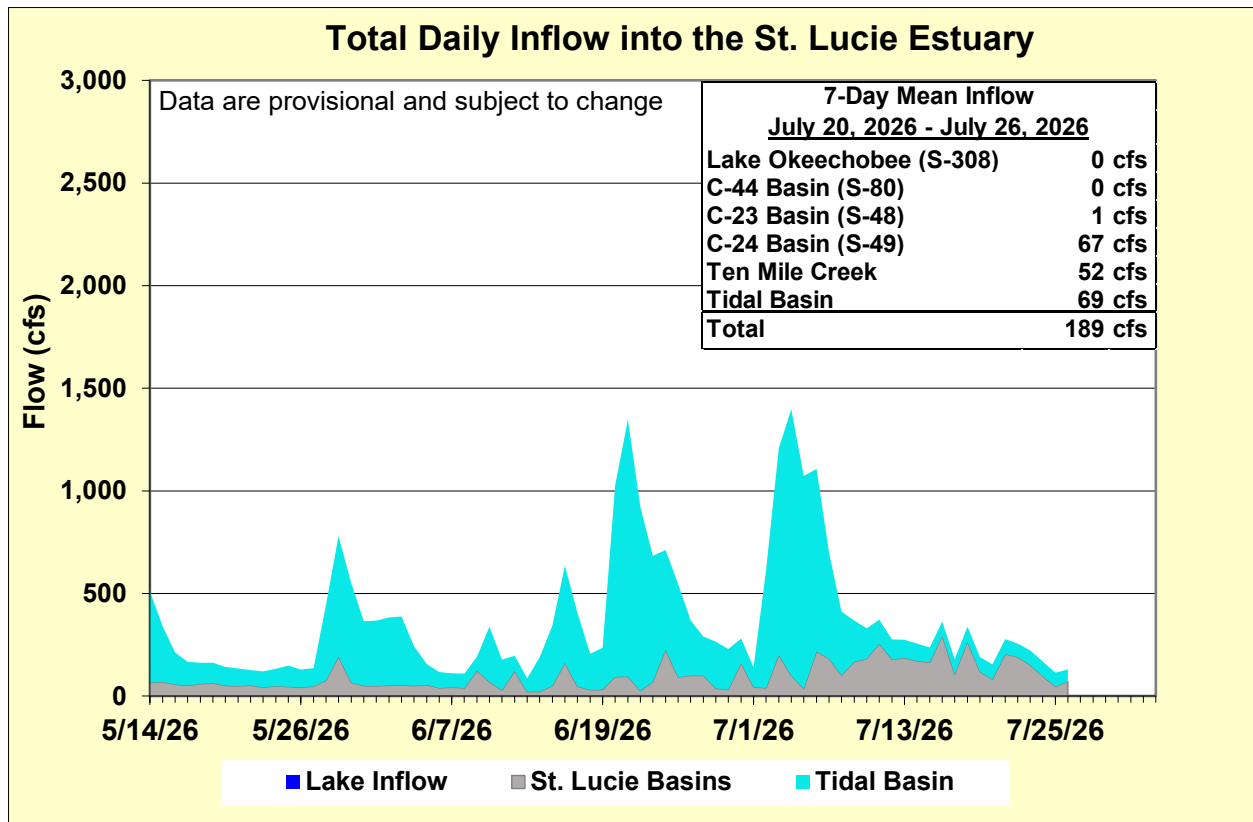


Figure ES-2. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-44, C-23, C-24, Ten Mile Creek, and Tidal Basins into the St. Lucie Estuary.

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)	8.1 (12.4)	15.2 (17.6)	10.0 – 25.0
US1 Bridge	16.6 (19.3)	18.3 (20.7)	10.0 – 25.0
A1A Bridge	24.6 (26.9)	28.3 (29.1)	10.0 – 25.0

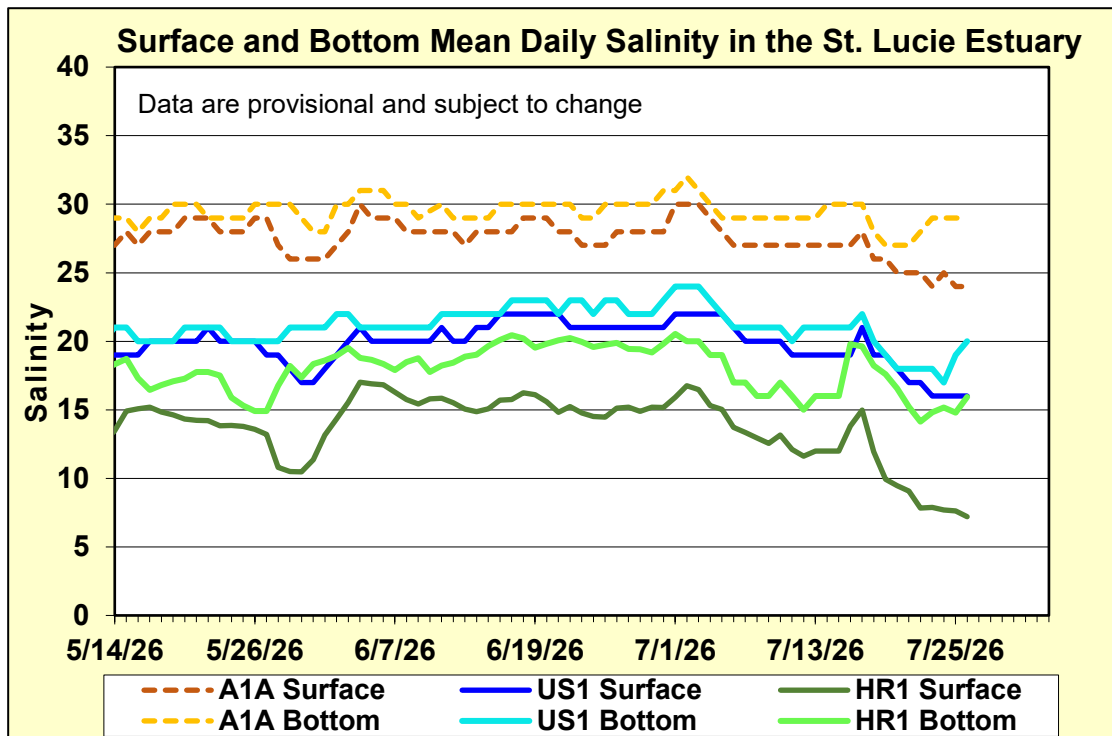


Figure ES-3. Mean daily salinity at the A1A, US1, and HR1 sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

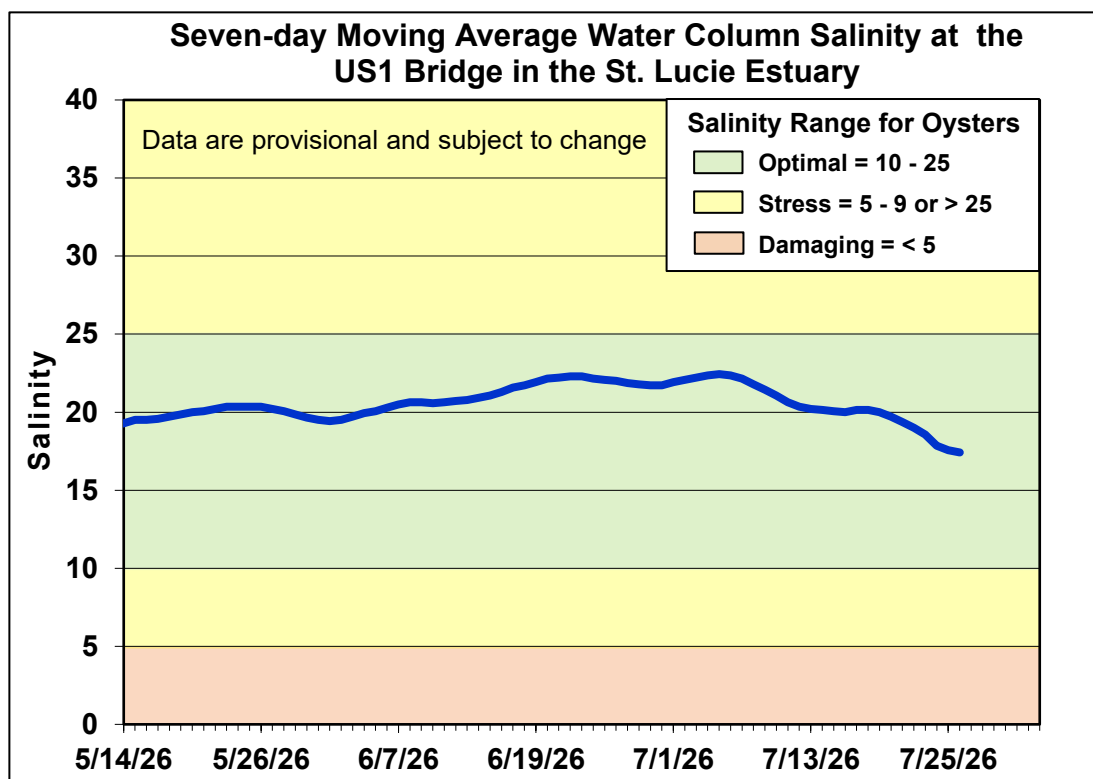


Figure ES-4. Seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge in the St. Lucie Estuary.

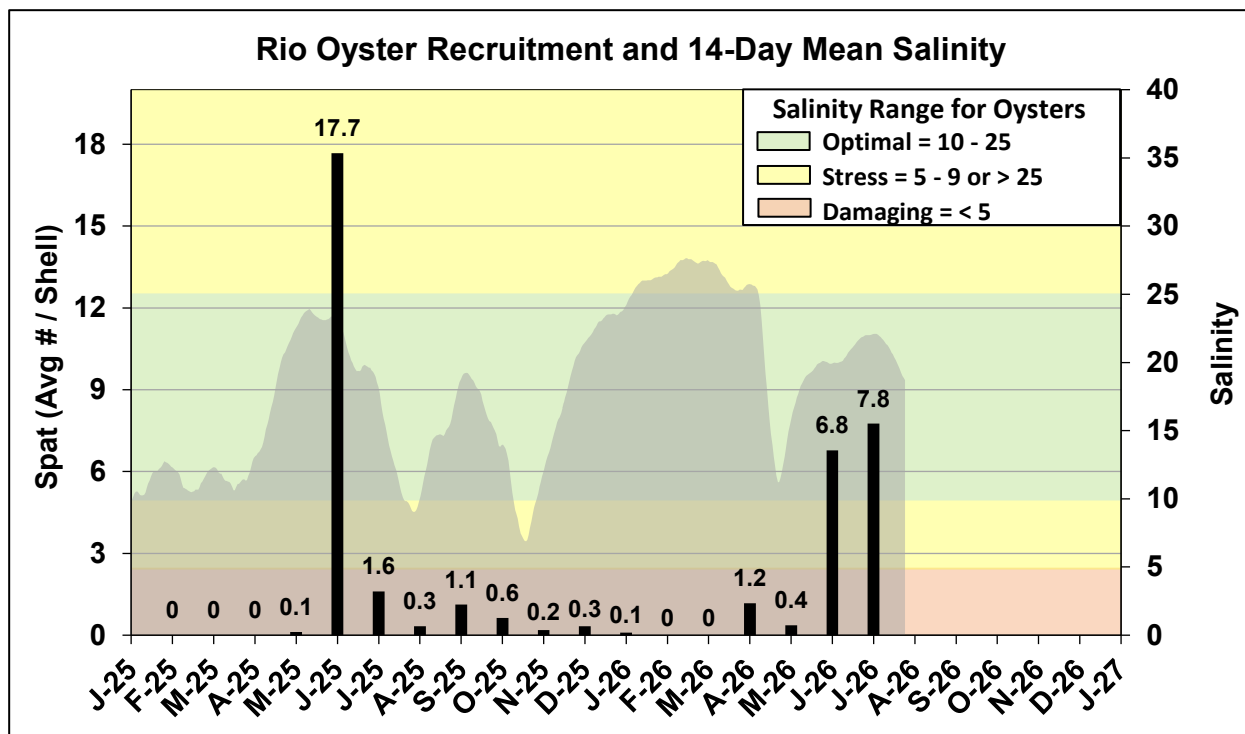


Figure ES-5. Mean oyster recruitment at the Rio oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at US1 Bridge.

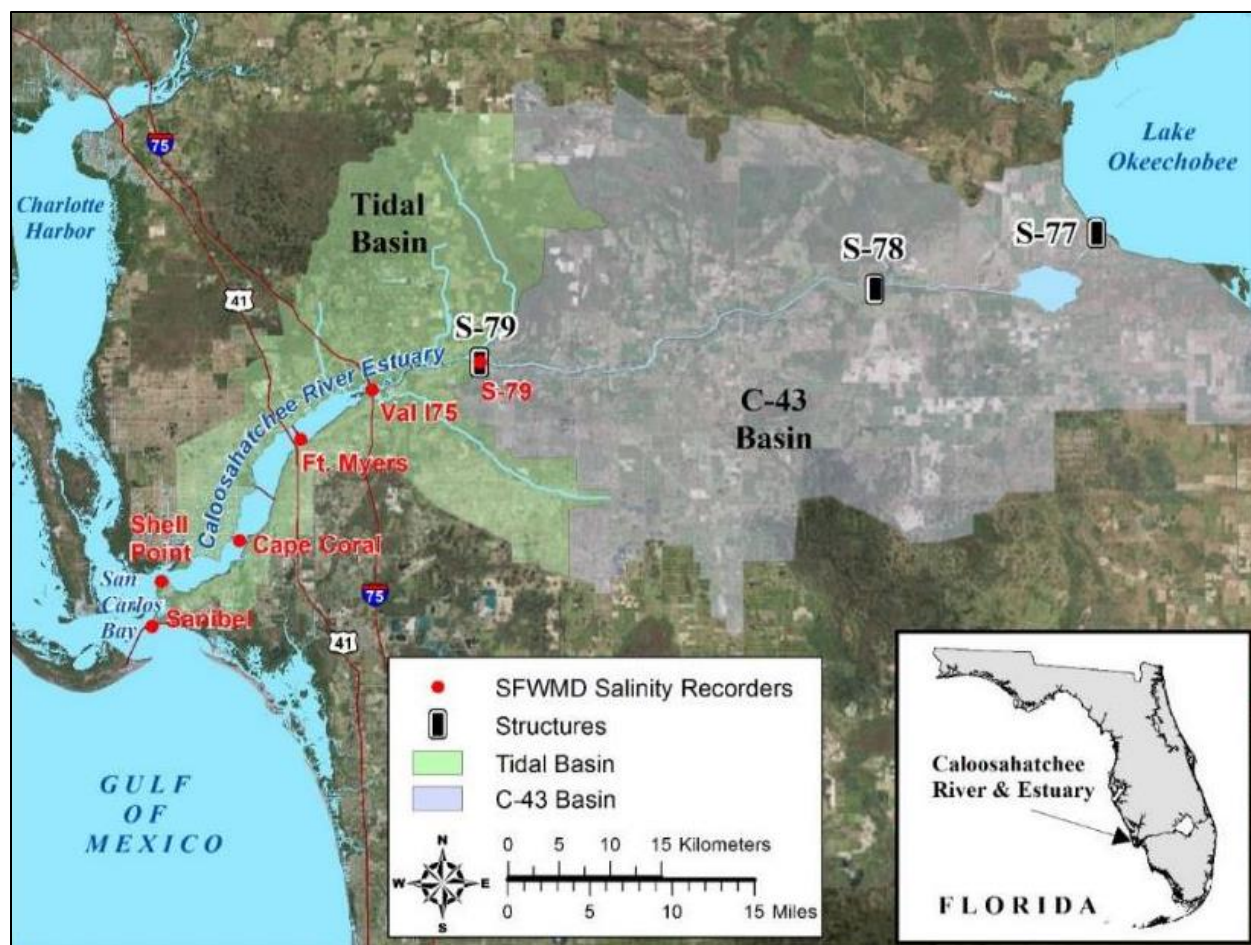


Figure ES-6. Basins, water control structures, and salinity monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

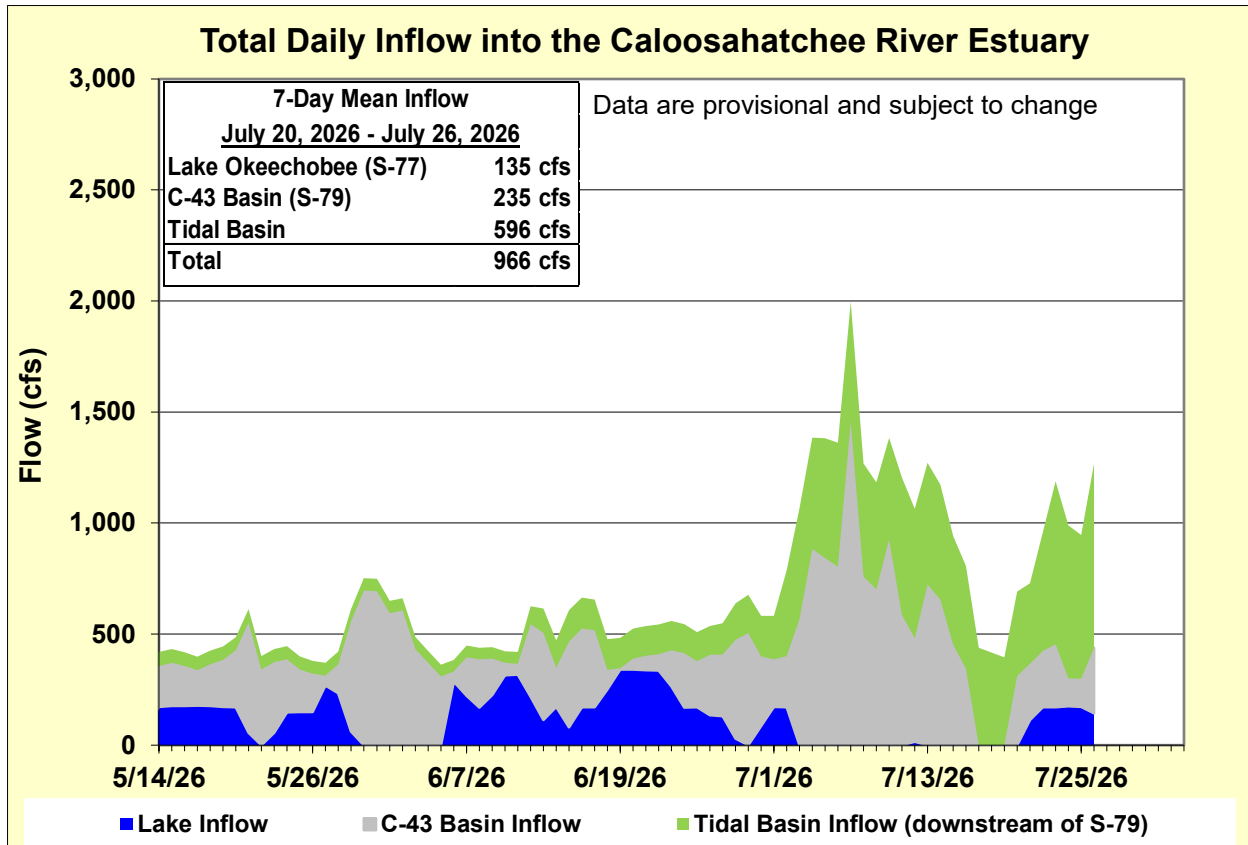


Figure ES-7. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee, and runoff from the C-43 and Tidal basins into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

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)	5.5 (5.1)	5.7 (5.3)	0.0 – 10.0
Val I-75	5.8 (6.2)	8.1 (7.8)	0.0 – 10.0
Fort Myers Yacht Basin	13.7 (14.2)	17.0 (16.1)	0.0 – 10.0
Cape Coral	22.0 (22.4)	23.9 (23.6)	10.0 – 25.0
Shell Point	33.2 (33.2)	33.8 (32.7)	10.0 – 25.0
Sanibel	36.6 (35.0)	41.5 (39.6)	10.0 – 25.0

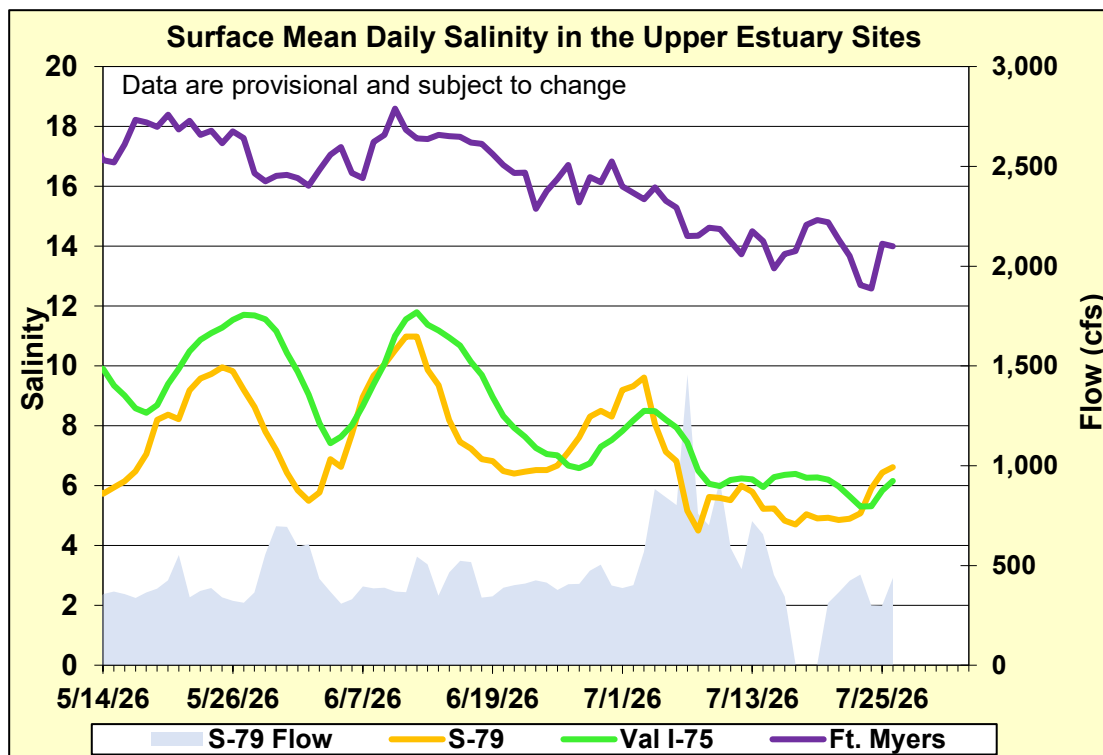


Figure ES-8. Mean daily salinity at upper Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

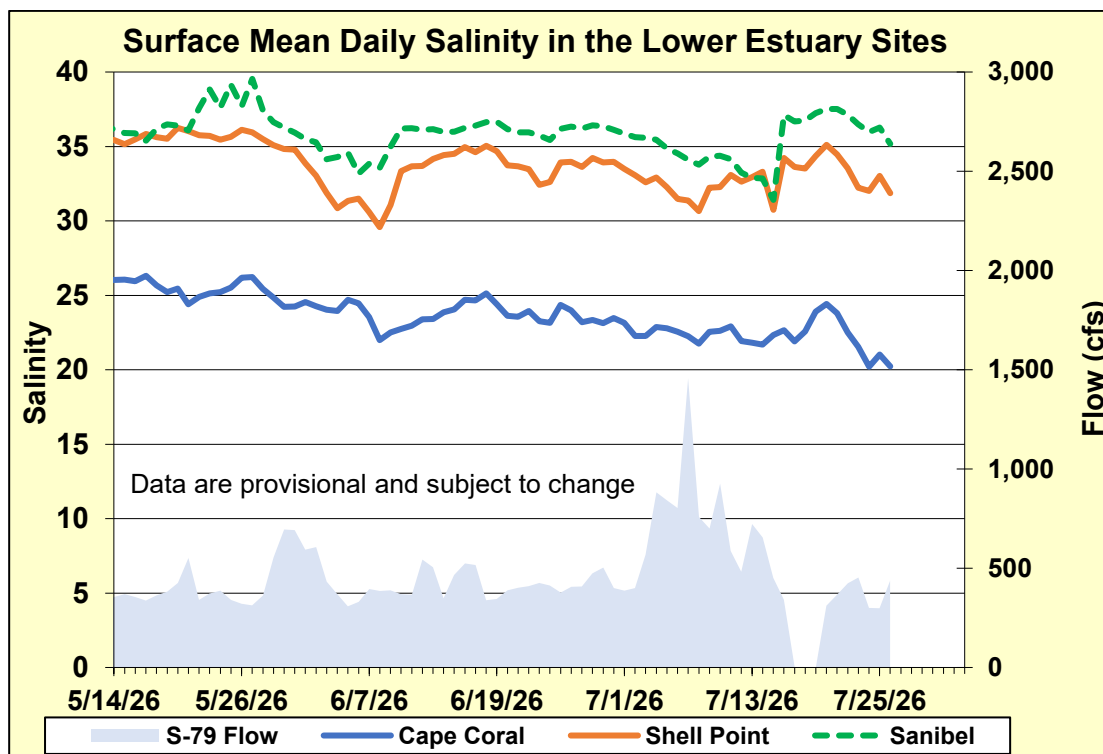


Figure ES-9. Mean daily surface salinity at lower Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

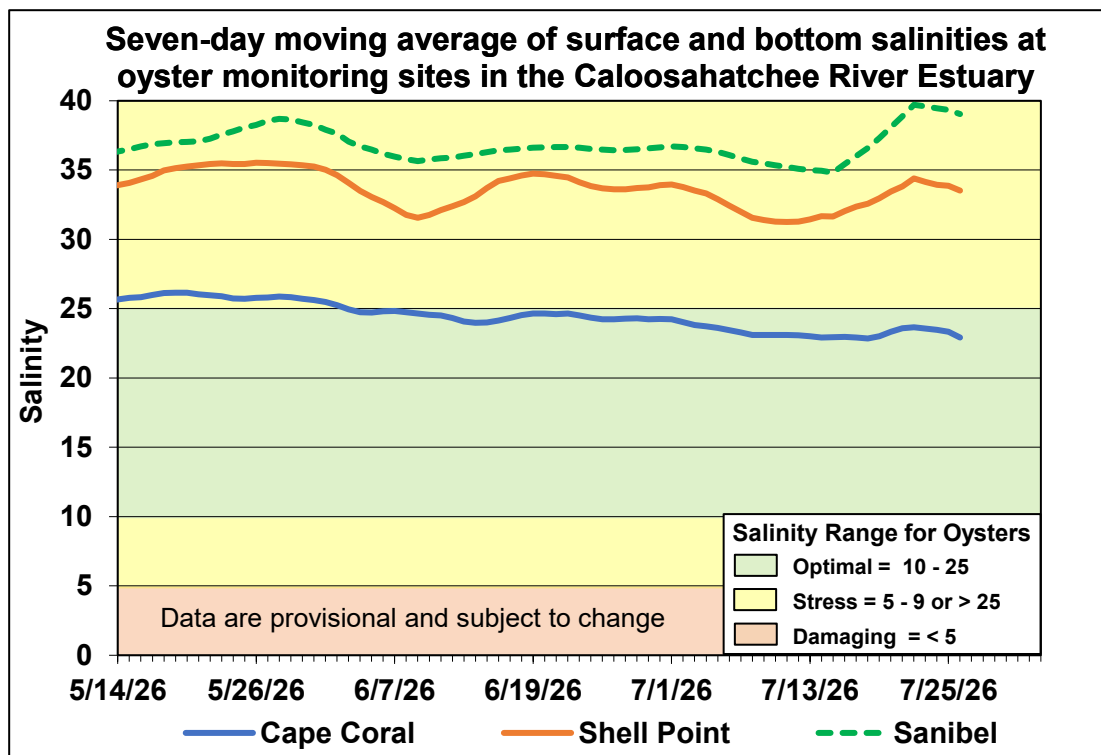


Figure ES-10. Seven-day moving average of surface and bottom salinities at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

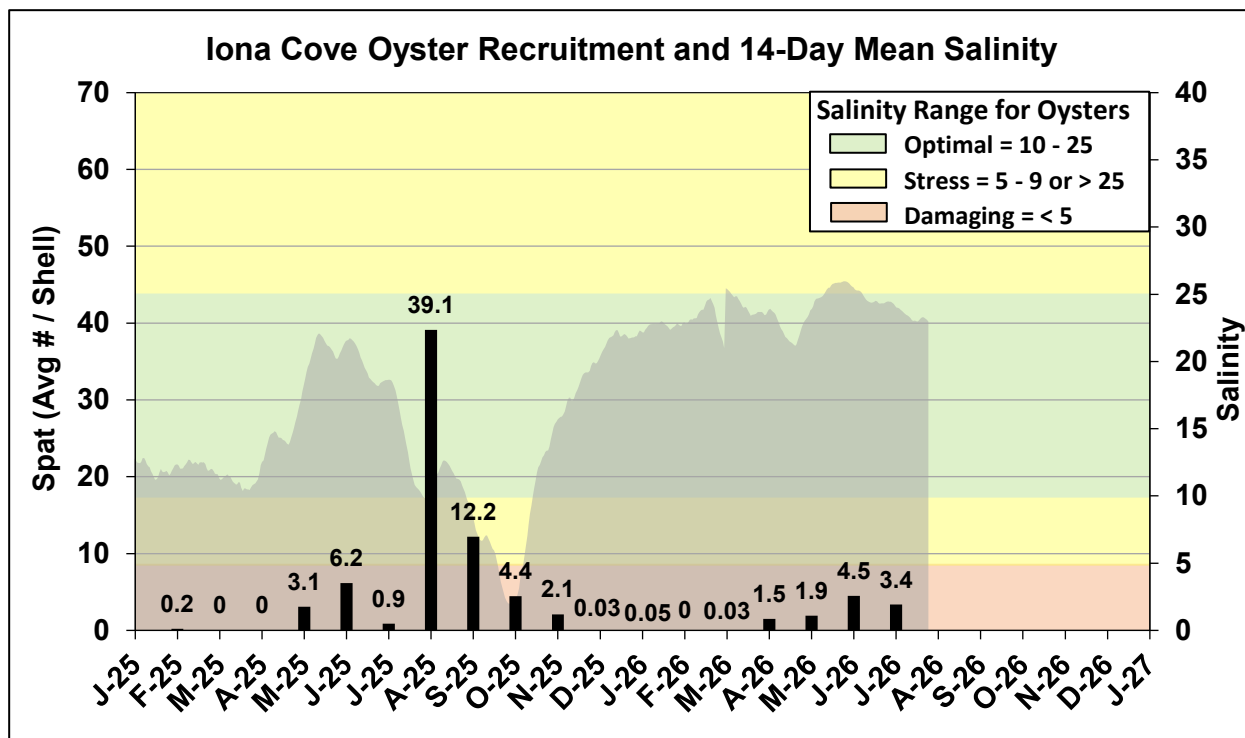


Figure ES-11. Mean oyster recruitment at the Iona Cove oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Cape Coral.

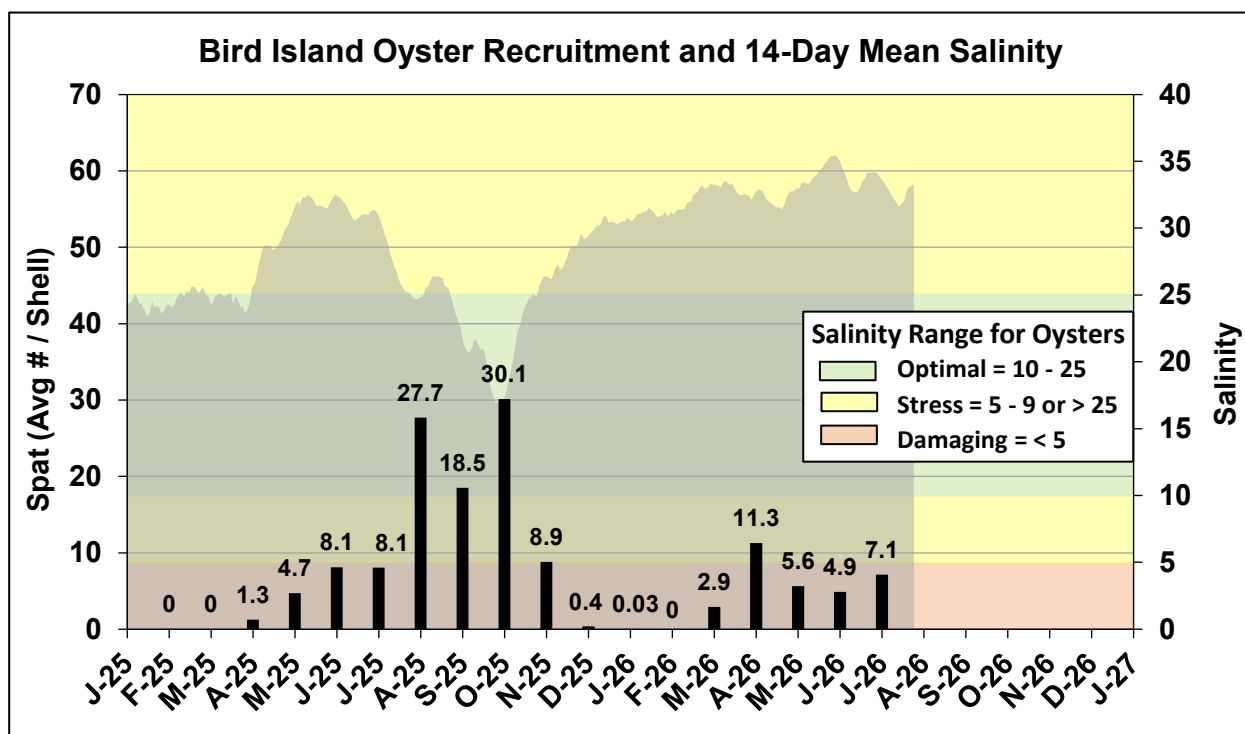


Figure ES-12. Mean oyster recruitment at the Bird Island oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Shell Point.

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	144	10.2	7.7
B	750	144	7.1	6.8
C	1000	144	5.9	6.2
D	1500	144	3.5	5.3
E	2000	144	1.8	4.7

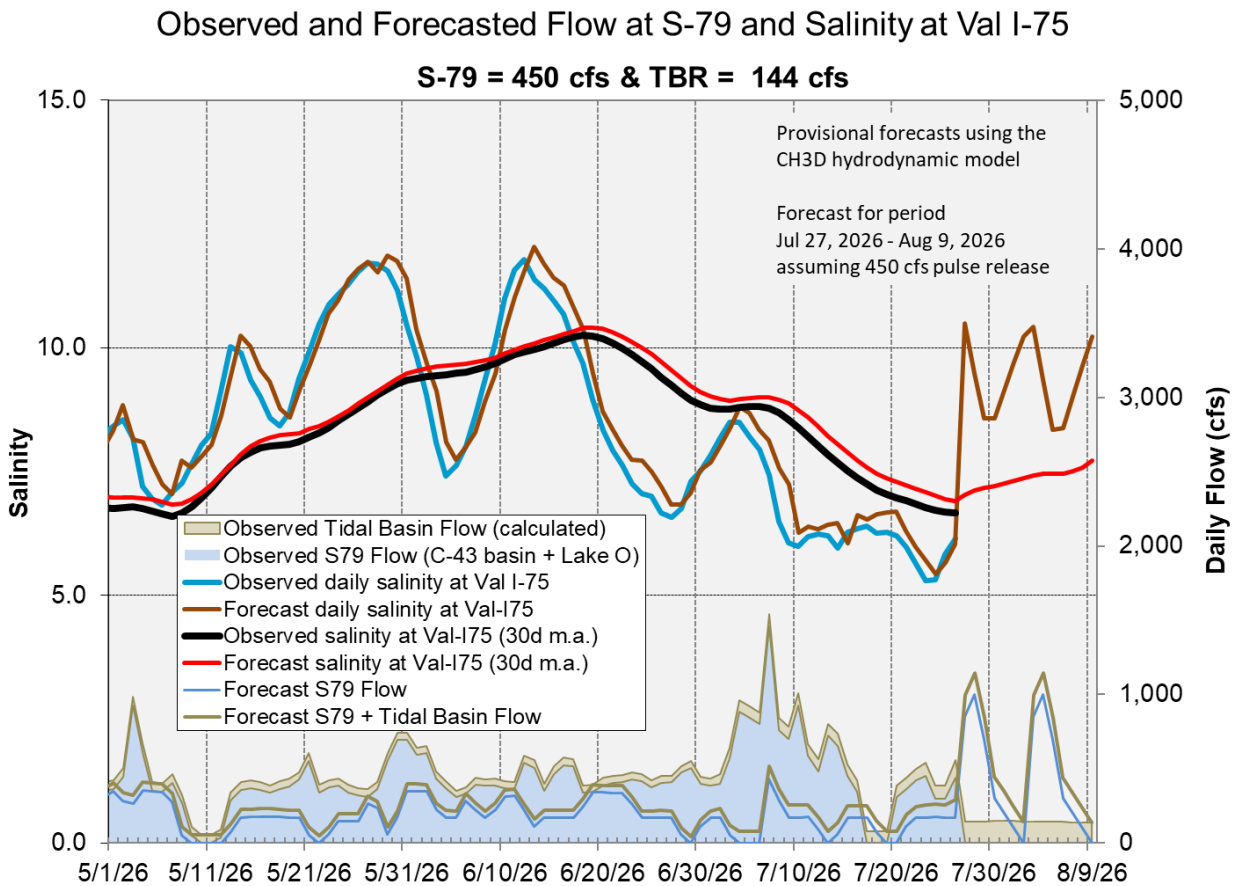


Figure ES-13. Surface salinity forecast at the Val I-75 site assuming a 450 cfs pulse release at S-79.

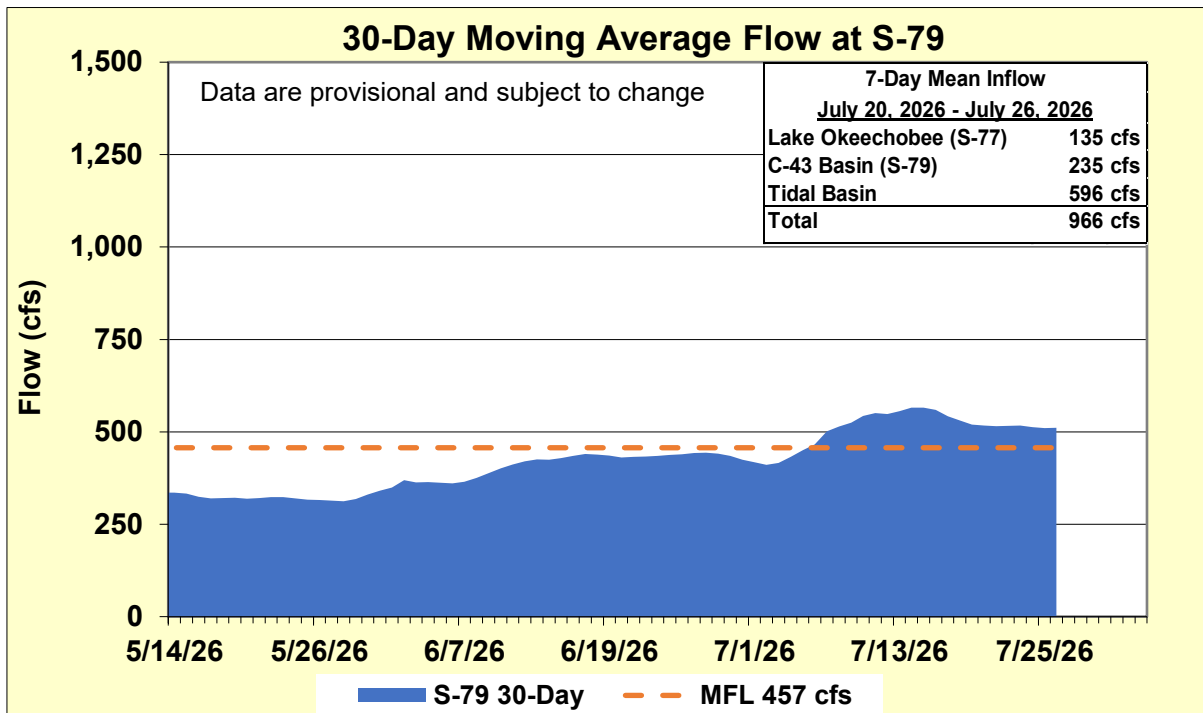


Figure ES-14. 30-day moving average flow at S-79 for the Caloosahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

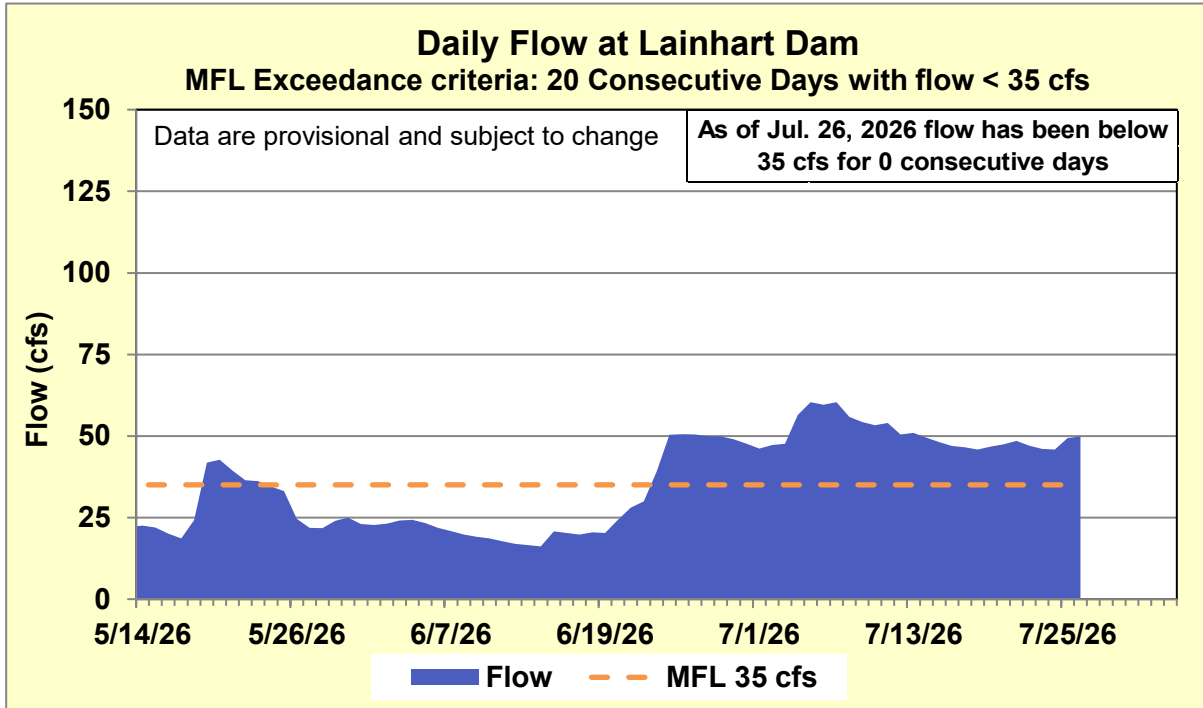


Figure ES-15. Average daily flow (cfs) at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

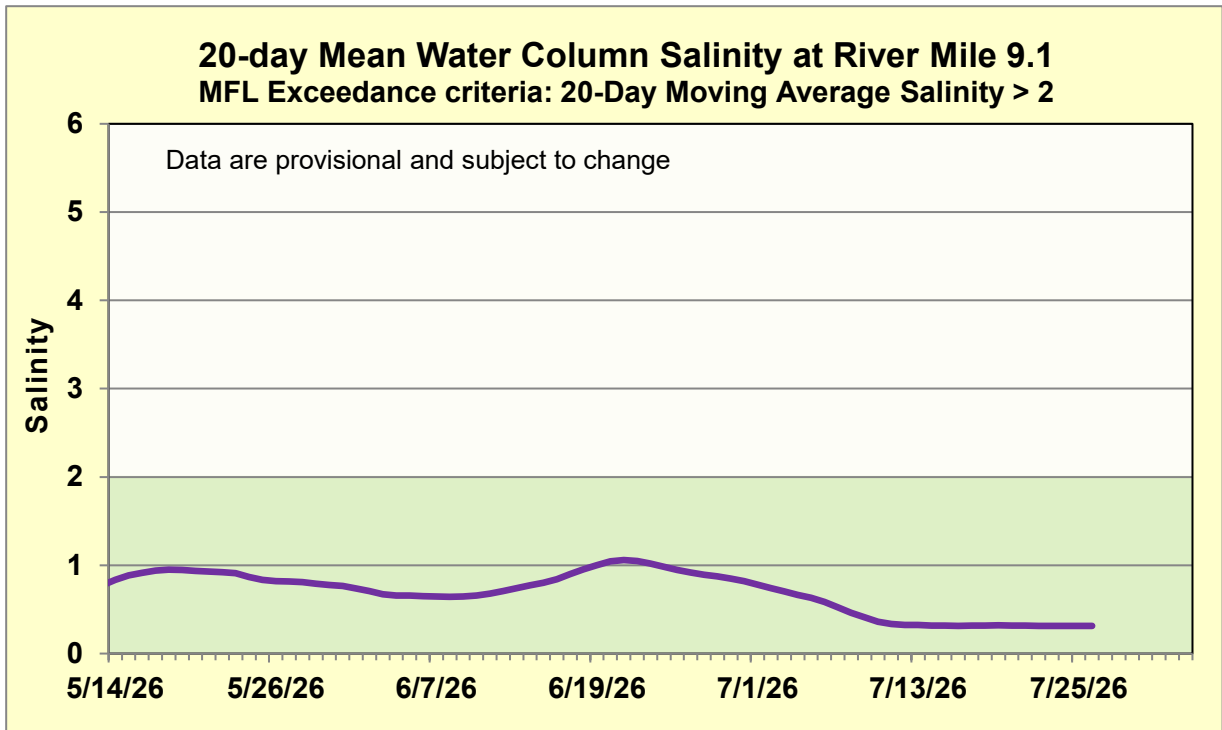


Figure ES-16. 20-day moving average salinity at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

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. 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/m²/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. 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/m²/year (**Figure S-2**).

STA-2: Treatment cells are at or near 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/m²/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 near 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/m²/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/m²/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 7/26/2026): ~56,000 ac-ft
- Lake Okeechobee releases to FEBs/STAs
 - 7/20/2026 to 7/26/2026: 0 ac-ft
 - WY 2027: ~ 9,000 ac-ft
- Extensive vegetation management activities underway to address stressed and highly stressed vegetation in EAV cells
- All treatment cells are at or near target water depth

Estimated Inflow and Outflow Volumes

Jul. 20th, 2026 - Jul. 26th, 2026 *Includes preliminary data*

	Total Inflow (acre-feet)	Total Outflow (acre-feet)
STA-1E	0	900
STA-1W	0	100
STA-2	2,000	4,500
STA-3/4	0	1,500
STA-5/6	700	0

Water Depths (7/26/2026)

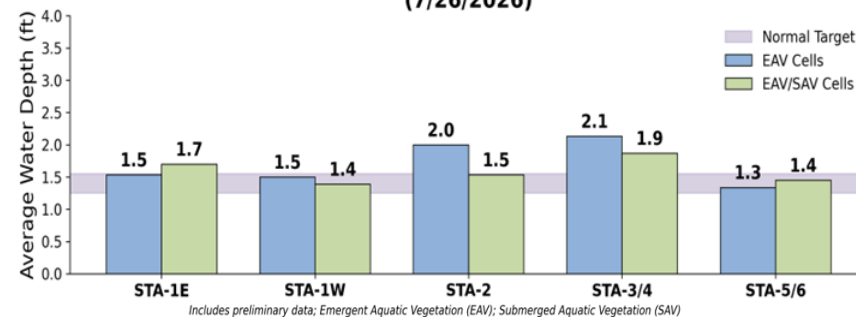


Figure S-1. STA depths and flow volumes

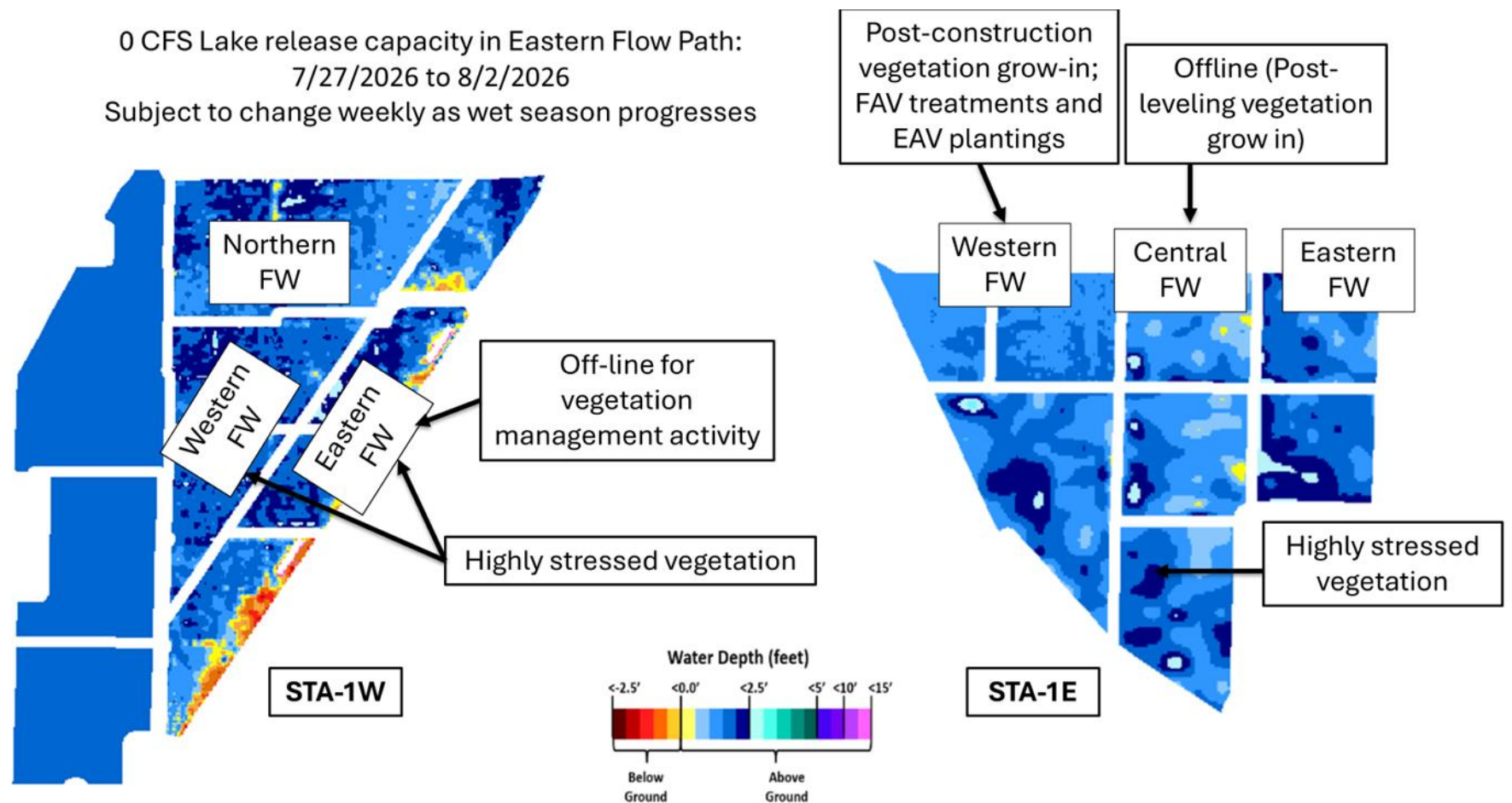


Figure S-2. Eastern Flow Path Weekly Status Report

700 CFS Lake release capacity in Central Flow Path:
7/27/2026 to 8/2/2026
Subject to change weekly as wet season progresses

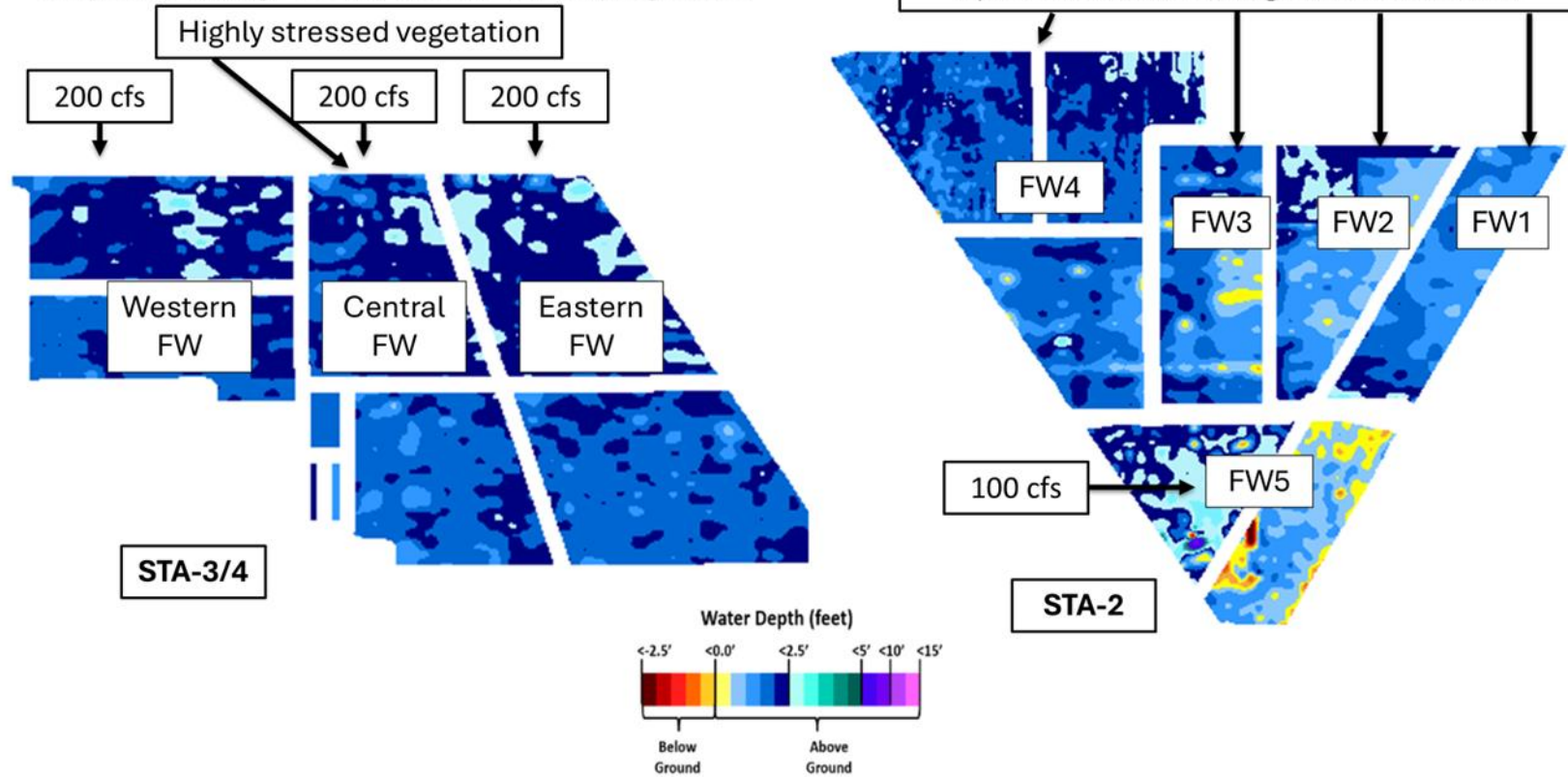


Figure S-3. Central Flow Path Weekly Status Report

0 CFS Lake release capacity in Western Flow Path:
7/27/2026 to 8/2/2026

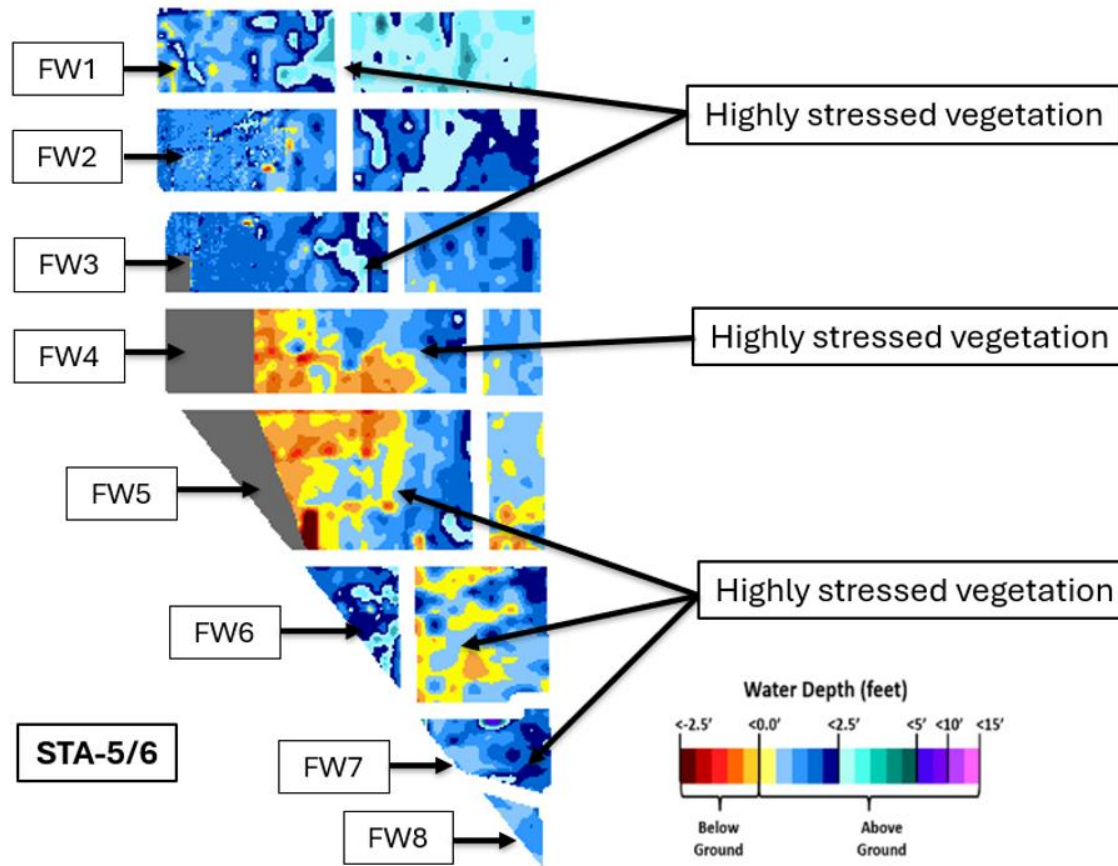


Figure S-4. Western Flow Path Weekly Status Report

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, $\mu\text{g/L}$ 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 Areas

Regulation Schedules

WCA-1: Stage fell at the 1-8C gauge last week and remained just above the regulation line last week by 0.07 feet on Monday, June 27, 2026 (**Figure EV-1**).

WCA-2A: Last week's water depth at the 2-17 gauge remained steady. Stage was 0.27 feet above the regulation line on Monday (**Figure EV-2**).

WCA-3A: The 3-gauge average remains well within Zone B, with a stable trend. On Monday, stages were approximately 1.32 feet below the Zone A regulation line. Stage at Gauge 62 (NW corner) was also stable last week and was below the Upper Schedule line by 0.77 feet on Monday (**Figures EV-3 and EV-4**).

Water Depths

The SFWDAT model output for July 27, 2026, illustrates that WCA-1 and WCA-2A have very similar depths compared to one month ago. Water levels are increasing across WCA-3, particularly in the southern region but the north and central remain dry. The Big Cypress basin is also showing a wetting trend, although water depth remains below ground across most of that basin. Water depths remain very low for this time of year across Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP), WCA-3A, and -3B, and are below average across the majority of WCA-1 and well below in WCA-2A; impacting soil, flora, and fauna. Northern WCA-3A remains especially dry in the east of that sub-basin. In Everglades National Park (ENP), both Taylor Slough (TS) and Shark River Slough (SRS) increased in water depths from north to south compared to a month ago with expected greater connection to the coast. Recurring below average depths in the central Everglades are illustrating the system level importance of maintaining water in the sloughs and low-water refugia for wildlife and vegetation needs. Water depths in most of ENP approach the 10th percentile for this time of year. See **Figures EV-5 and EV-6**.

Taylor Slough and Florida Bay

Most stages decreased across Taylor Slough over the past week, with an average decrease of 0.02 feet for the week. Changes ranged from -0.14 feet at E112 in the northern slough to +0.14 feet at CT50R in the C-111 area (**Figure EV-7 and Figure EV-8**). Taylor Slough water levels remain below the recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 2.6 inches compared to before the Florida Bay Initiative (starting in 2017), a decrease of 1.0 inch relative to last week. Stages at Craighead Pond (CP) and Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB) are below the estimated historical average by 0.80 and 1.97 feet, respectively.

Average salinity in Florida Bay was 41.1, an increase of 1.9 from last week. Salinity changes ranged from -2.2 at Joe Bay (JB) in the eastern nearshore region to +4.0 at Garfield Bight (GB) in the western nearshore region (**Figure EV-7**). Salinity is above the estimated historical average and at the WY2001-2016 Interquartile Range (IQR) 75th percentile in the eastern region and above the 75th percentile in the central and western

regions (**Figure EV-9**). Salinities in 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 11.2, an increase of 2.3 from last week.

Salinity at the Taylor River (TR) station in the mangrove zone (tracked for the Florida Bay MFL) was 29.9, an increase of 1.2 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 0.69 inches for the week based on the 18 gauges used for this report. Rainfall ranged from 0.07 inches at Terrapin Bay (TB) in the central nearshore bay region to 2.03 inches at Royal Palm Lake (RPL) in the northern slough (**Figure EV-11**). Wind directions and speeds in Florida Bay ranged from 0.4 mph S on July 25th to 18.6 mph NE on July 23rd (**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 184 ac-feet, with net positive flows for the week. Total daily creek flow ranged from -1,993 ac-feet on July 20th to 1,645 ac-feet on July 23rd (**Figure EV-13**). Average daily flow from Alligator Creek was -4 ac-feet, with net negative flows for the week (**Figure EV-12**).

Implications/considerations for water management

- Due to current drought conditions, slower recessions and more ascensions would help to protect the wetland ecology from damaging dry conditions during the wet season.
 - With continued drought conditions, conserving water within the WCAs, especially WCA-3A, will continue to be ecologically beneficial.
- 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	0.45	-0.09
WCA-2A	1.18	+0.02
WCA-2B	0.58	-0.18
WCA-3A	1.58	+0.03
WCA-3B	1.23	+0.00
ENP	1.18	+0.01

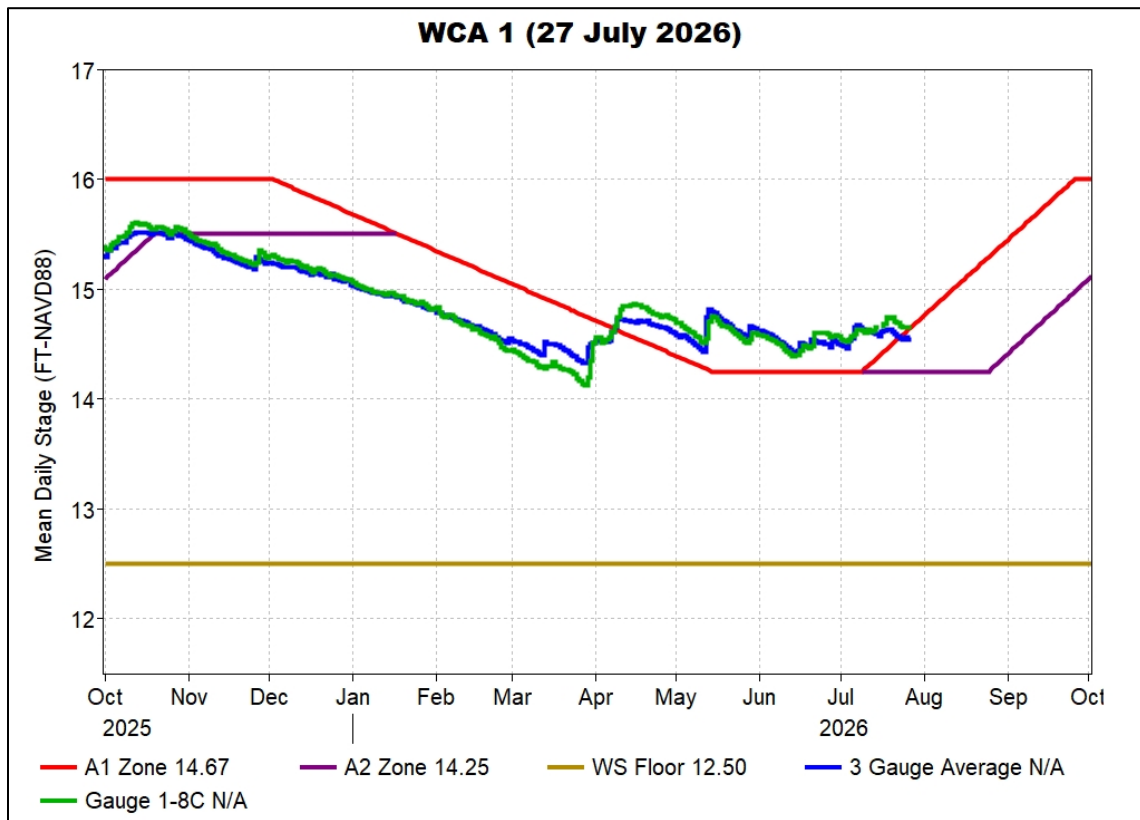


Figure EV-1. WCA-1 stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

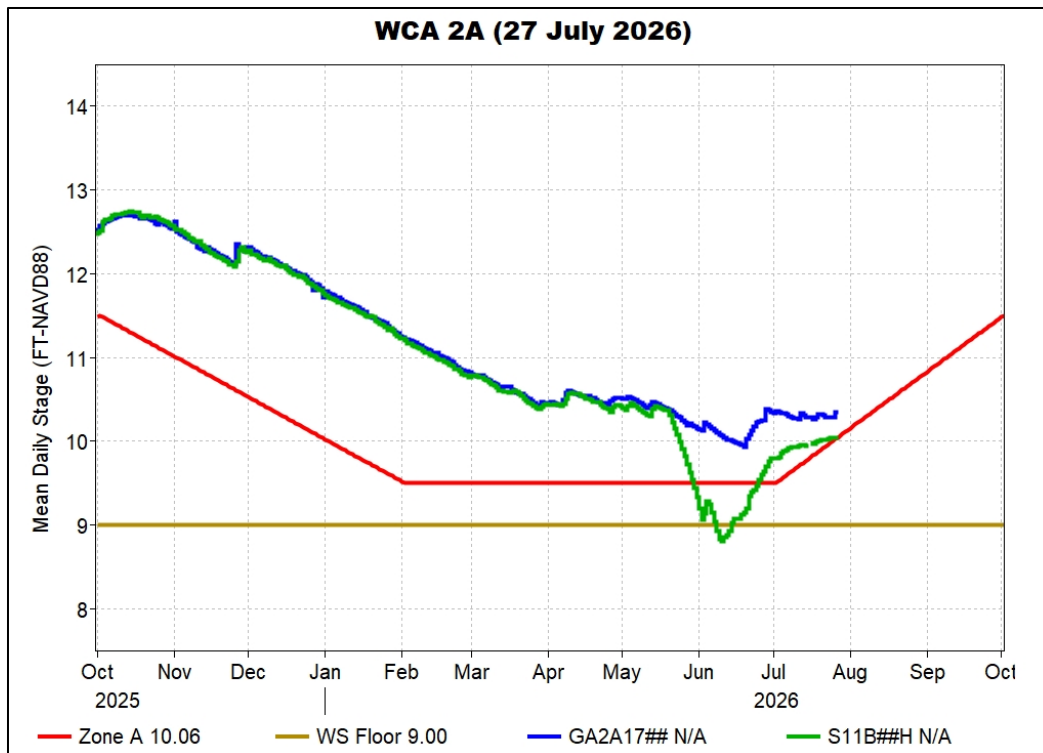


Figure EV-2. WCA-2A stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

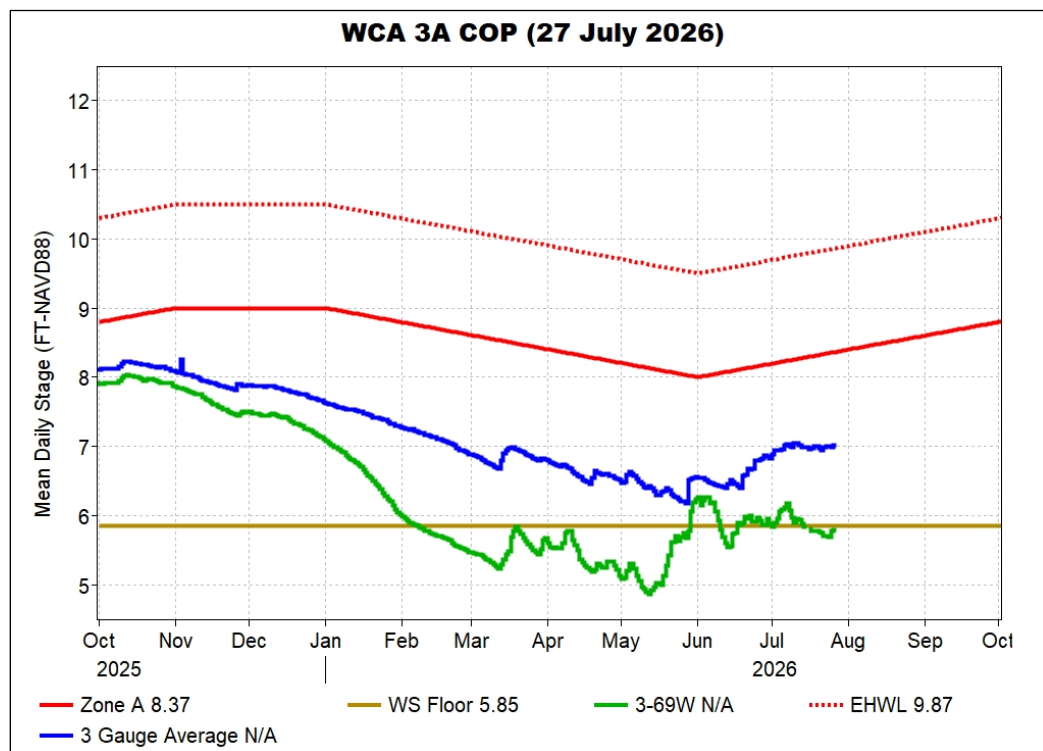


Figure EV-3. WCA-3A stage hydrographs (three-gauge average, 3-69W) and regulation schedule.

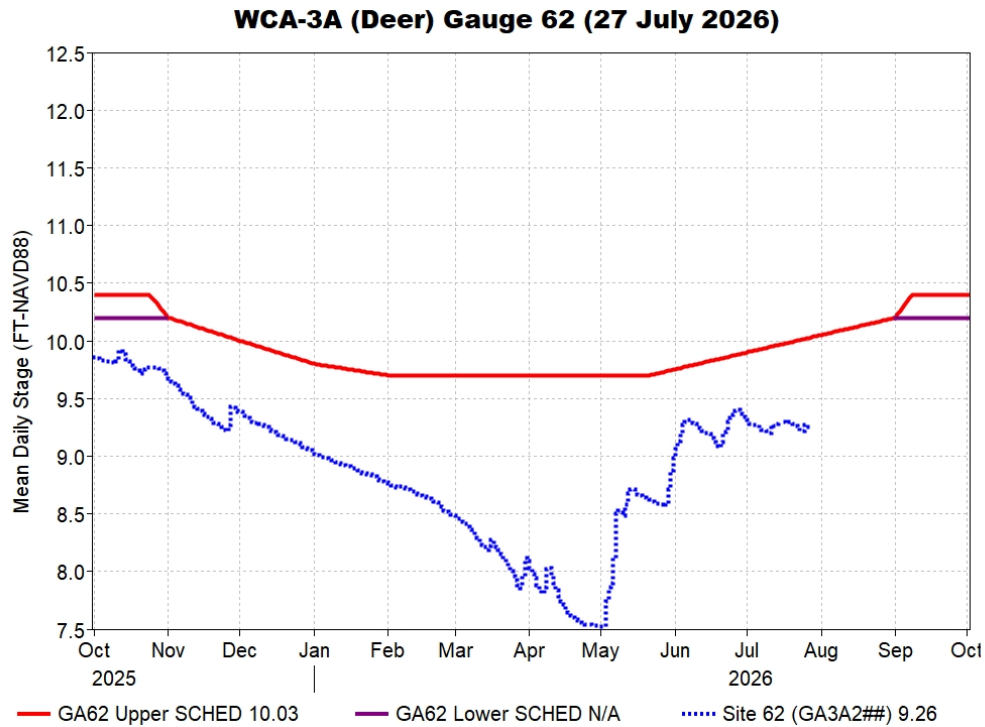


Figure EV-4. WCA-3A stage hydrograph (Deer gauge; Site 62) and regulation schedule.

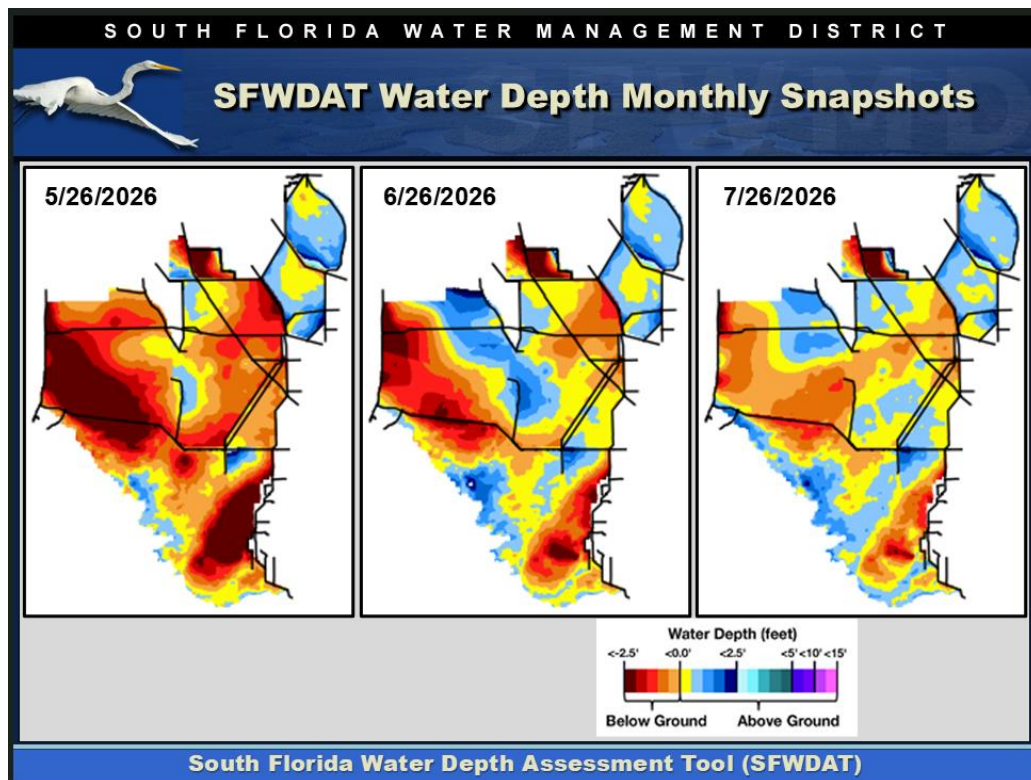


Figure EV-5. Everglades water depths from two months ago (left), one month ago (center) and present (right), based on SFWDAT.

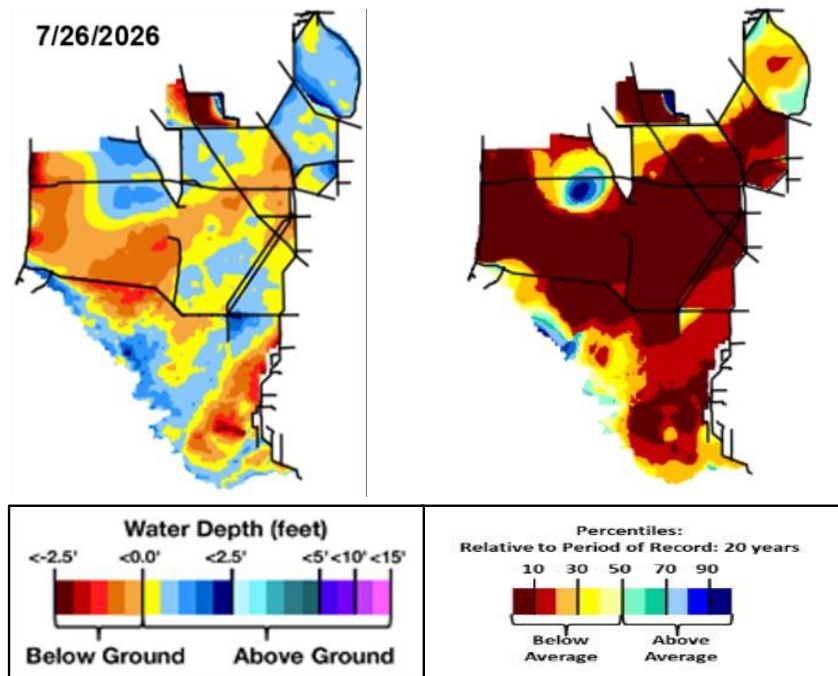


Figure EV-6. Present water depths (July 26, 2026) compared to the day of year relative to average (percentile) over the previous 20 years.

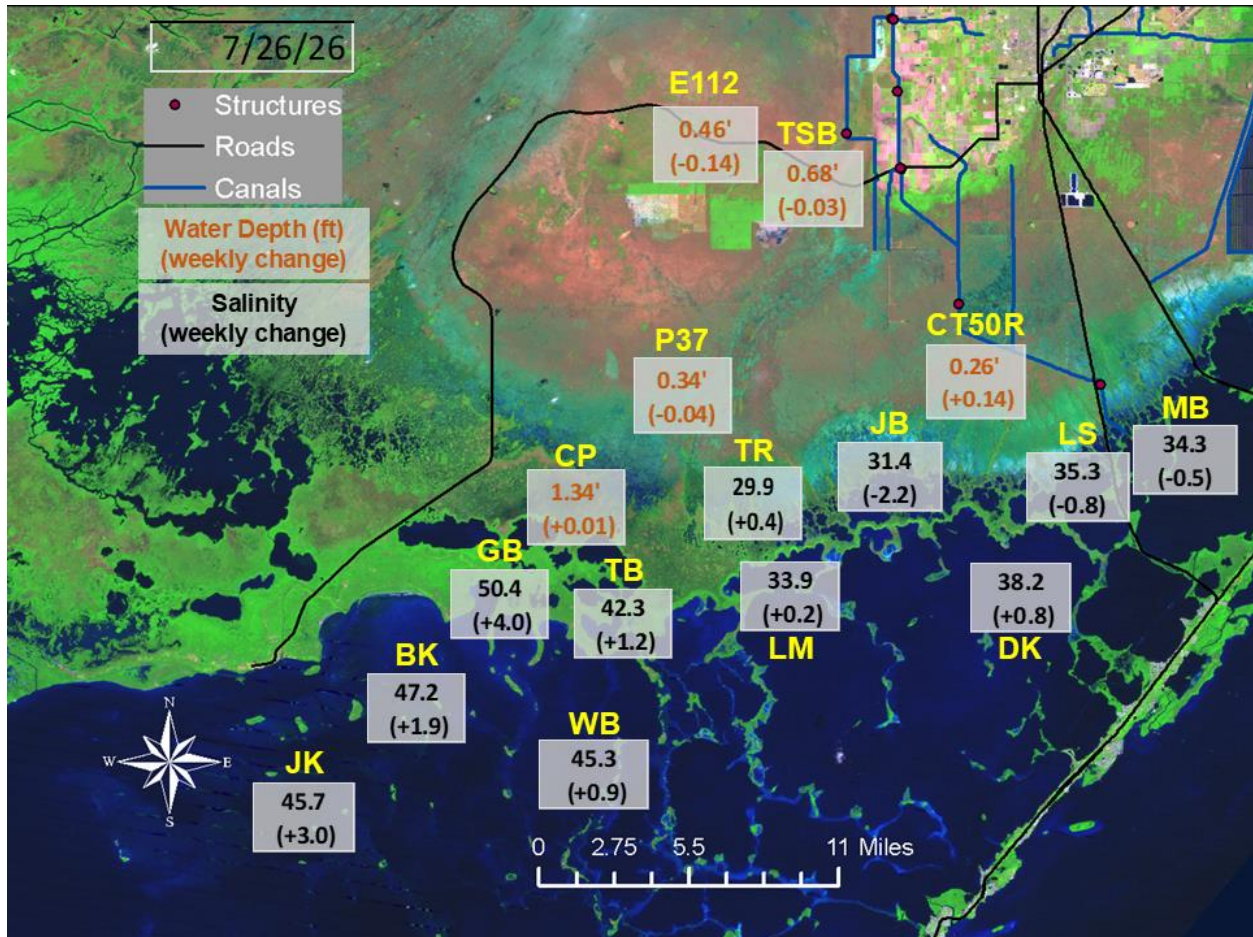


Figure EV-7. Taylor Slough water depths and Florida Bay salinities with changes since a week ago.

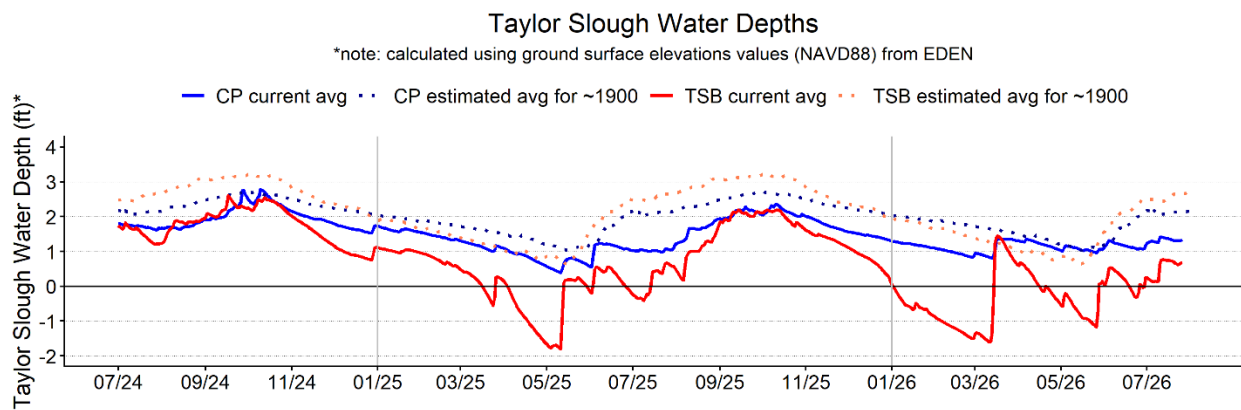


Figure EV-8. Taylor Slough water depth time series for Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB; northern slough) and Craighead Pond (CP; southern slough).

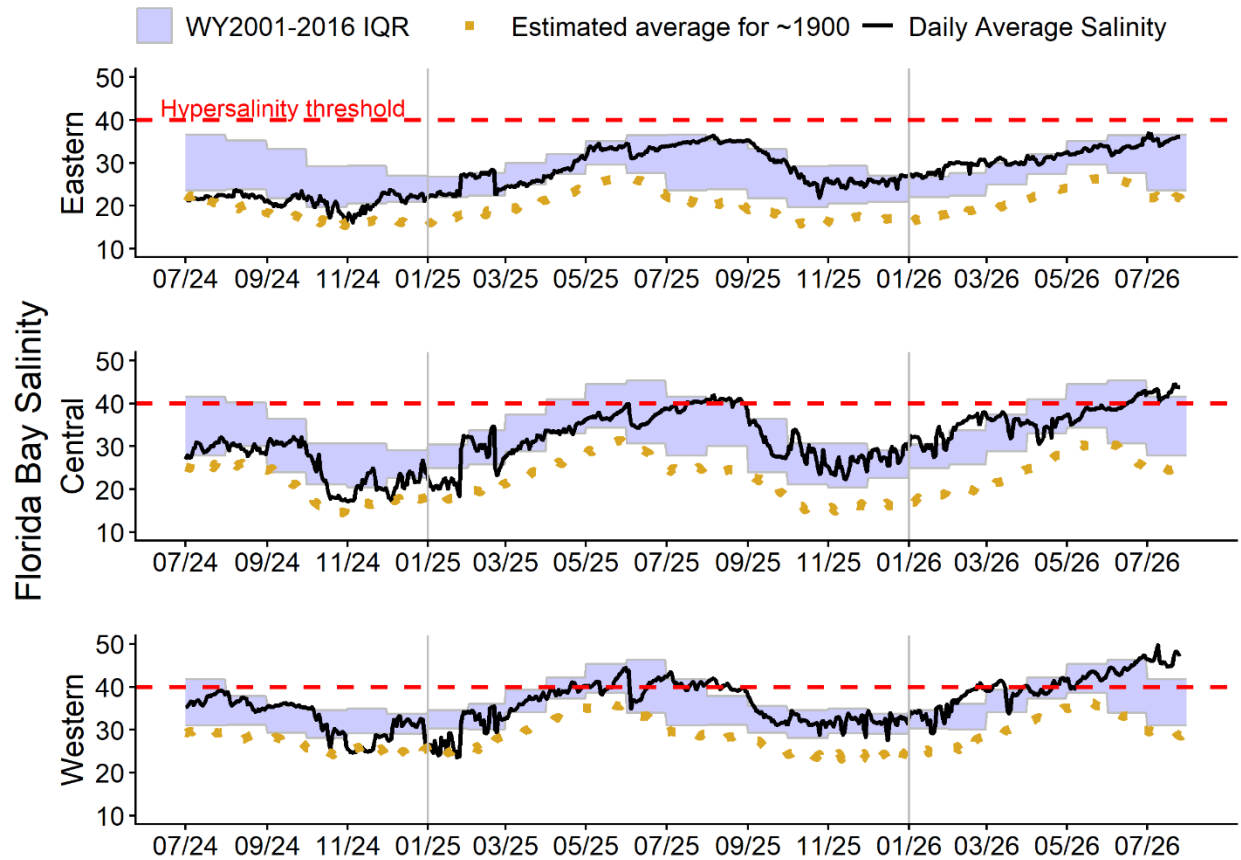


Figure EV-9. Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with WY2001-2016 interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges (IQR) and estimated historical daily average salinities. The hypersalinity threshold indicates the level at which salinities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

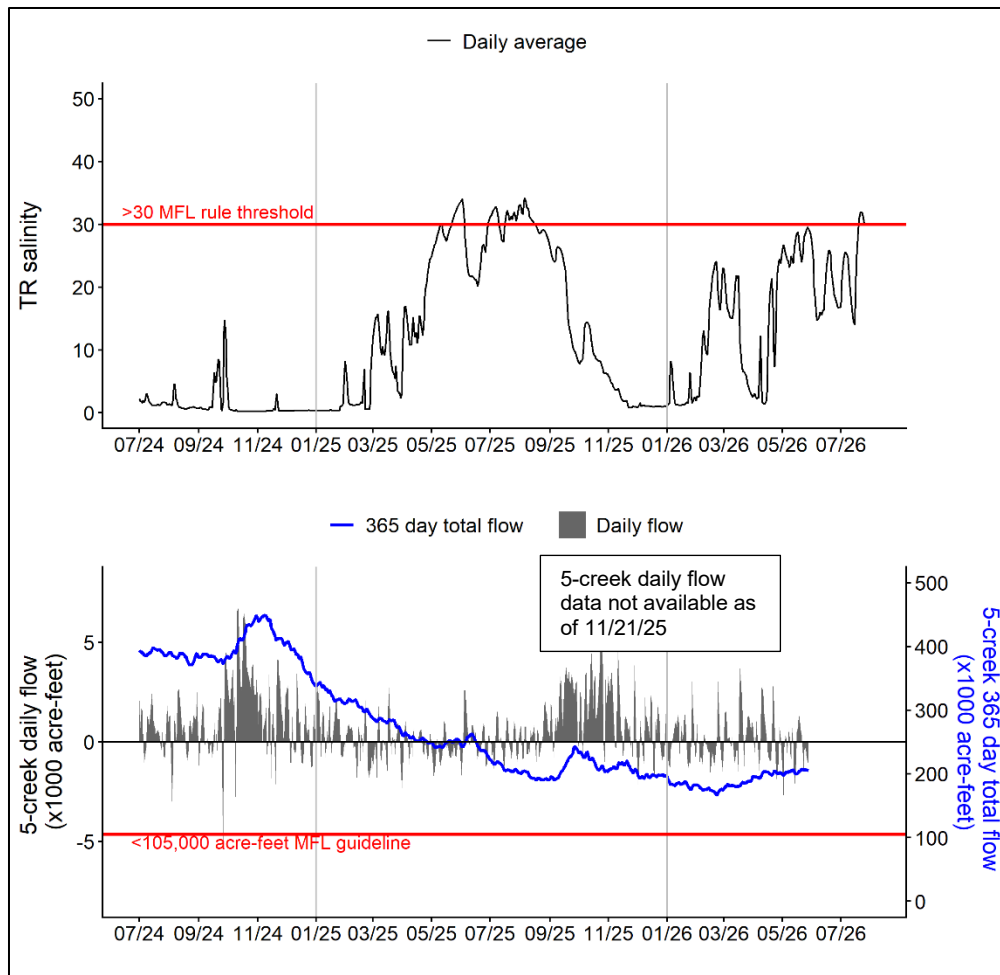


Figure EV-10. Daily average salinity at Taylor River (TR) tracked for the Florida Bay MFL criteria. The 365-day total creek flow MFL metric is not currently available due to missing creek flow data.

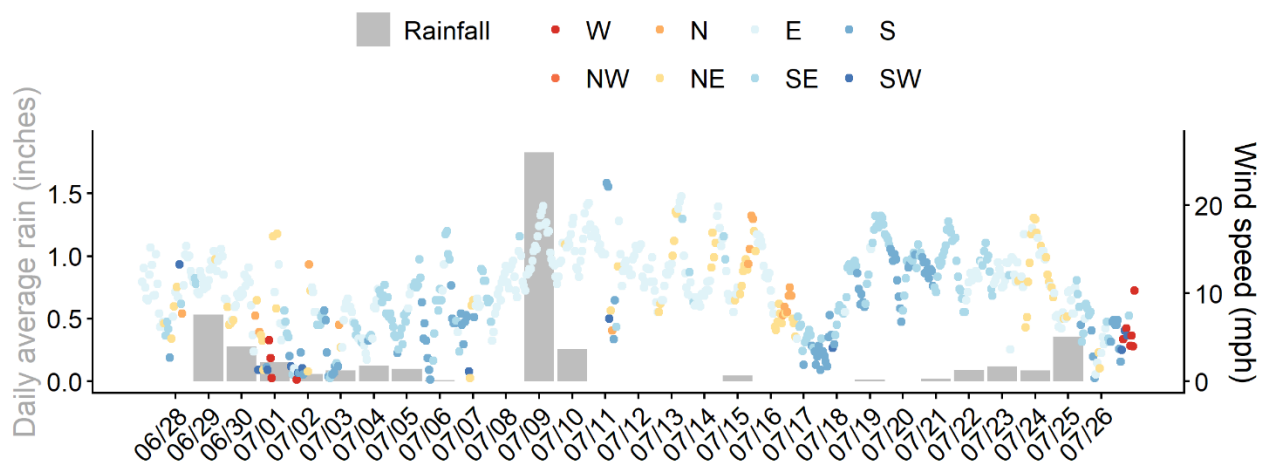


Figure EV-11. Daily average rain across Taylor Slough and Florida Bay, along with hourly average wind speed and direction (measured at Long Key) in Florida Bay over the past four weeks.

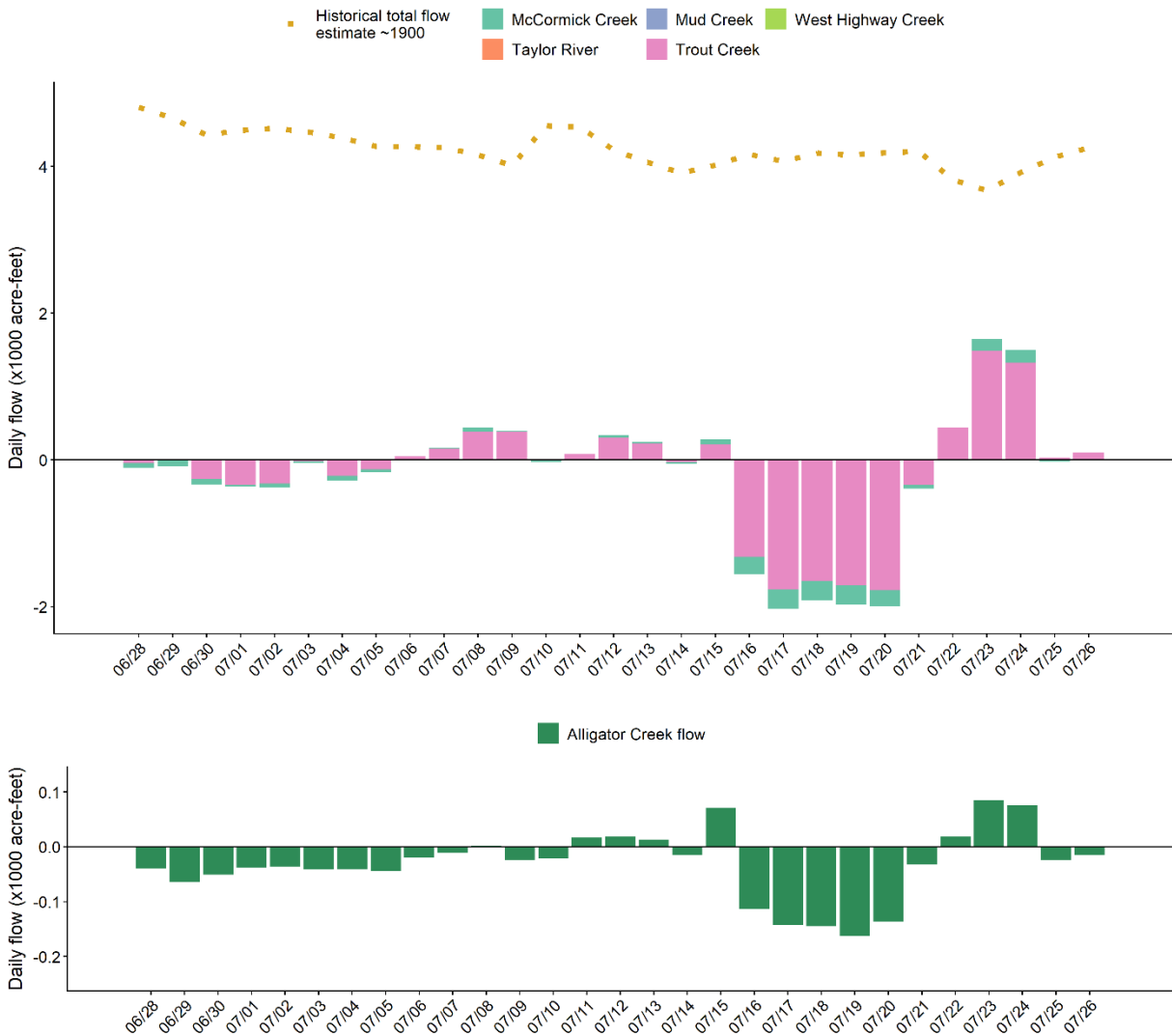


Figure EV-12. Top: daily average creek flow summed between the five major creeks with estimated historical daily flow over the past four weeks (**note:** data from Taylor River, Mud Creek and West Highway Creek are currently unavailable since November 21st, 2025). Bottom: Daily average Alligator Creek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

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

SFWMD Everglades Ecological Recommendations, July 28, 2026 (red is new)			
	Weekly change	Recommendation	Reasons
WCA-1	Stage decreased by 0.09 feet.	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Conserve water, maintain within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Maintain maintenance access for vegetation management.
WCA-2A	Stage increased by 0.02	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Maintain within basin (north versus south) and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-2B	Stage decreased by 0.18 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NE	Stage decreased by 0.09 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 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 0.03 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	
Central WCA-3A S	Stage increased by 0.07 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Conserve water, maintain within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Provide suitable depths for aquatic prey and protect against peat soil loss during the dry season.
Southern WCA-3A S	Stage decreased by 0.08 feet		
WCA-3B	Stage was unchanged	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
ENP-SRS	Stage increased by 0.01 feet	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 -0.14 feet to +0.14 feet	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.
FB- Salinity	Salinity changes ranged from -2.2 to +4.0	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.