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: August 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Weekly Environmental Conditions for Systems Operations

Summary

Weather Conditions and Forecast

On Wednesday, thunderstorms may develop across the northern Kissimmee Valley and drift southeastward toward portions of the upper east coast during the late afternoon. Farther south, the northeasterly steering flow should shift the primary focus for afternoon rainfall toward the southwest coast supporting somewhat greater thunderstorm coverage. A similar rainfall pattern appears likely on Thursday, with overall rainfall remaining below average. By Friday, an increase in moisture may support a greater coverage of showers and thunderstorms, particularly across areas north and west of Lake Okeechobee. Moisture levels could increase further on Saturday; the northern edge of the moisture plume may be sufficient to support a greater coverage of afternoon showers and thunderstorms south of Lake Okeechobee. By Sunday, subsidence and a return to a more stable atmospheric environment should begin to reduce shower and thunderstorm coverage. A Saharan Air Layer, if it spreads across South Florida, could decrease daily rainfall coverage substantially. By Monday, higher moisture levels across North Florida may gradually shift southward. This could support some increase in shower and thunderstorm coverage across the northern portion of the SFWMD, particularly north of Lake Okeechobee, while drier conditions may persist farther south. For the 7-day period ending next Tuesday morning, this pattern favors much below average total SFWMD 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 August 9, 2026, was 140 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 decreased from 6.2 mg/L the previous week to 5.4 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 9.73 feet NAVD88 (11.04 ft NGVD29) on August 9, 2026, which was 0.14 feet higher than the previous week and 0.04 feet higher than a month ago. The lake remains in the water shortage management band. Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) increased from 530 cfs the previous week to 1,350 cfs. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) decreased from 150 cfs the previous week to 60 cfs. The most recent non-obscured satellite image from August 7, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate to high cyanobacteria potential along most of the shallow nearshore regions. Provisional phytoplankton results from the August 3-5 sampling event showed 14 of the 27 phytoplankton samples collected had detectable levels of cyanotoxins; 6 had cylindrospermopsin, and 8 had microcystins.

Estuaries

Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 734 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. 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 2,427 cfs over the past week with 16 cfs coming from Lake Okeechobee. Over the past week, salinities decreased at all 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 stressed range (10-15) 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, August 9th, 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 9,100 ac-feet. The total amount of inflows to the STAs in WY2027 is approximately 74,000 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

Above average rainfall occurred across the Everglades Protection Area (EPA) over the last week; however, amounts were spatially variable. The northern region of the EPA (WCA-1) averaged below an inch of rain while WCA-3A and Everglades National Park (ENP) averaged over an inch and a half. Stage changes across the EPA reflected the rainfall patterns with slight recessions occurring in WCA-1 and ascensions occurring from WCA-2A down to ENP. Water depths across portions of the Everglades have improved compared to last month, though for this time of year conditions remain dry across much of the system. Water levels now remain particularly low within the 10^{th} – 20^{th} percentile across all basins of the EPA, particularly so in WCA-3A. 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. Taylor Slough stages declined last week and are below the recent average for this time of year by 5.3 inches. Average Florida Bay salinity increased last week, and the central and western regions of Florida Bay remain above the hypersalinity threshold. Bay-wide salinities are now well above their recent average by 12.5. 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 August 9, 2026, mean daily lake stages were 54.7 feet NAVD88 (0.8 feet below schedule) in East Lake Toho, 52.3 feet NAVD88 (0.2 feet below schedule) in Lake Toho, and 47.7 feet NAVD88 (2.6 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 August 9, 2026, mean weekly discharge was 140 cfs at S-65 and 140 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly discharge from the Kissimmee River was 300 cfs at S-65D and 260 cfs at S-65E (**Table KB-2**). Mean weekly headwater stages were 45.3 feet NAVD88 at S-65A and 27.5 feet NAVD88 at S-65D. Mean weekly river channel stage increased by 0.1 feet to 29.8 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 decreased from 6.2 mg/L the previous week to 5.4 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)	
							8/9/26	*8/2/26*
Lakes Hart and Mary Jane	S-62	LKMJ	39	59.0	R	59.0	0.0	0.1
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	60.9	R	62.1	-1.2	-1.3
Lake Gentry	S-63	LKGT	0	58.9	R	59.9	-1.0	-1.3
East Lake Toho	S-59	TOHOE	0	54.7	R	55.5	-0.8	-1.0
Lake Toho	S-61	TOHOW S-61	0	52.3	R	52.5	-0.2	-0.5
Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha	S-65	KUB011 LKIS5B	130	47.7	T	50.3	-2.6	-2.7

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.

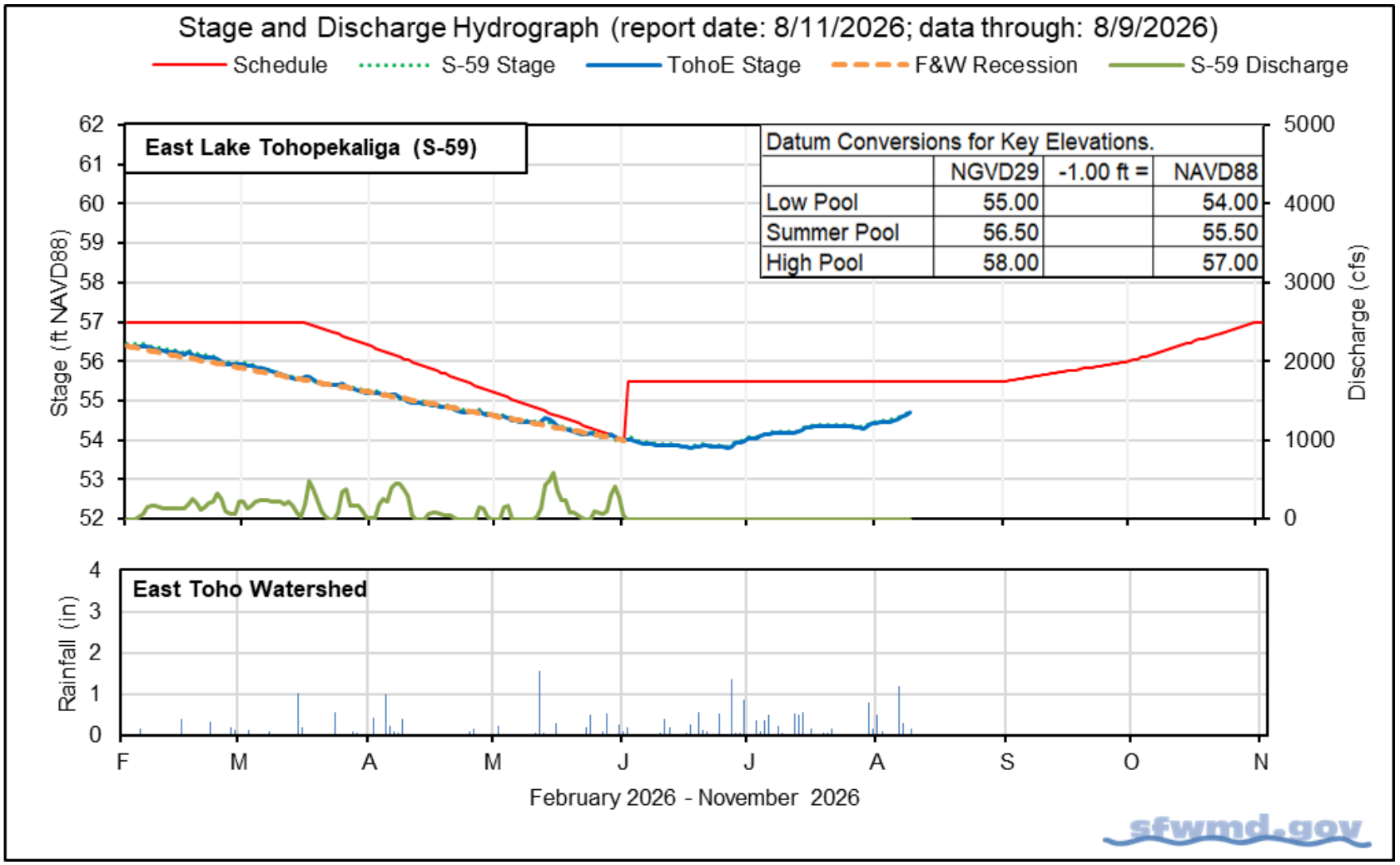


Figure KB-1. East Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

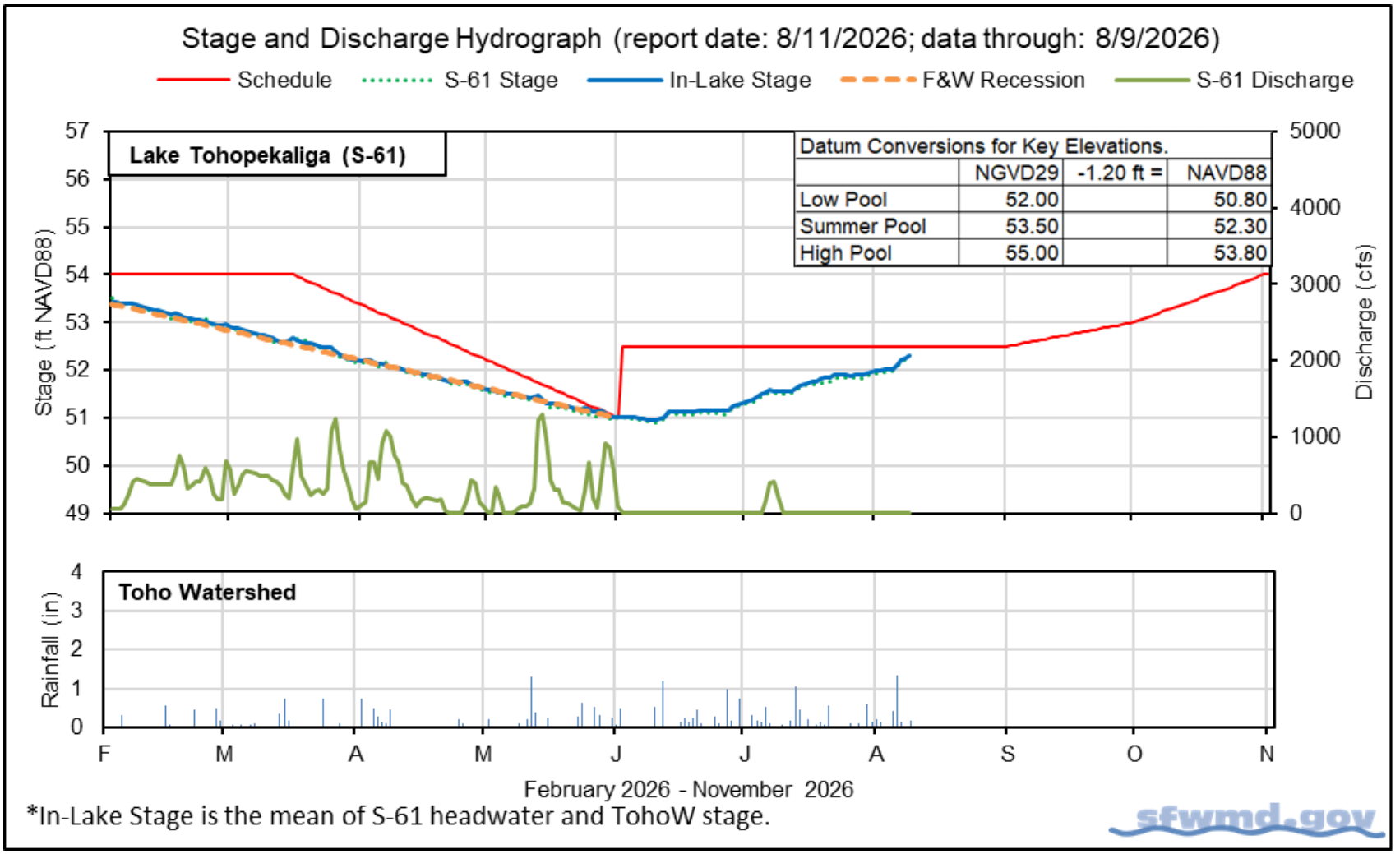


Figure KB-2. Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

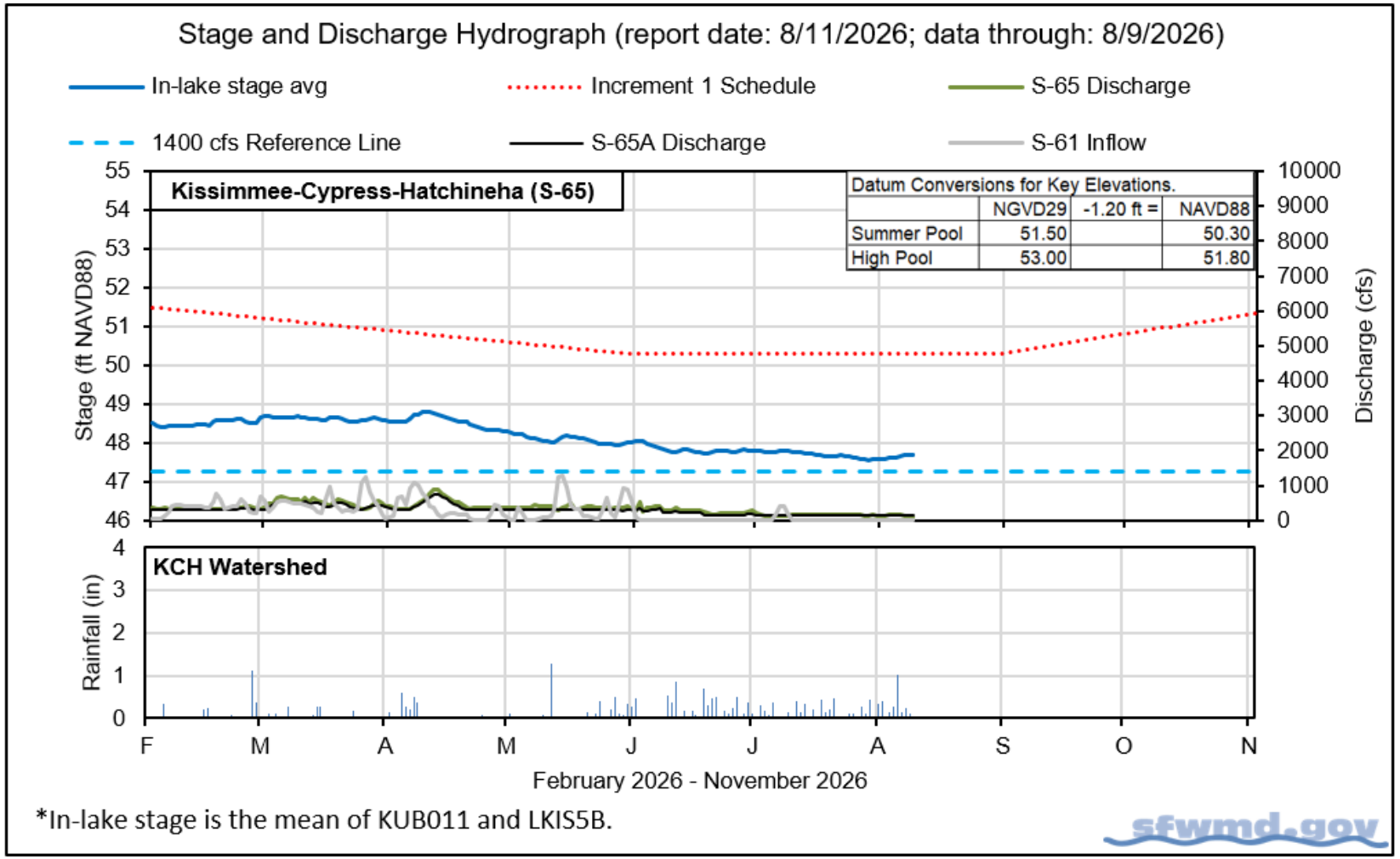


Figure KB-3. Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

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			
		8/9/26	8/9/26	8/2/26	7/26/26	7/19/26
Discharge	S-65	69	140	140	170	170
Discharge	S-65A[a]	150	140	140	140	140
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65A	45.4	45.3	45.2	45.2	45.2
Discharge	S-65D[b]	N/A	N/A	260	260	280
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65D[c]	24.6	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5
Discharge (cfs)	S-65E[d]	240	260	180	78	150
Discharge (cfs)	S-67	0	0	0	0	0
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L) [e]	Phase I, II/III river channel	4.9	5.4	6.2	7.0	6.6
River channel mean stage (feet NAVD88) [f]	Phase I river channel	29.9	29.8	29.7	29.6	29.7
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).

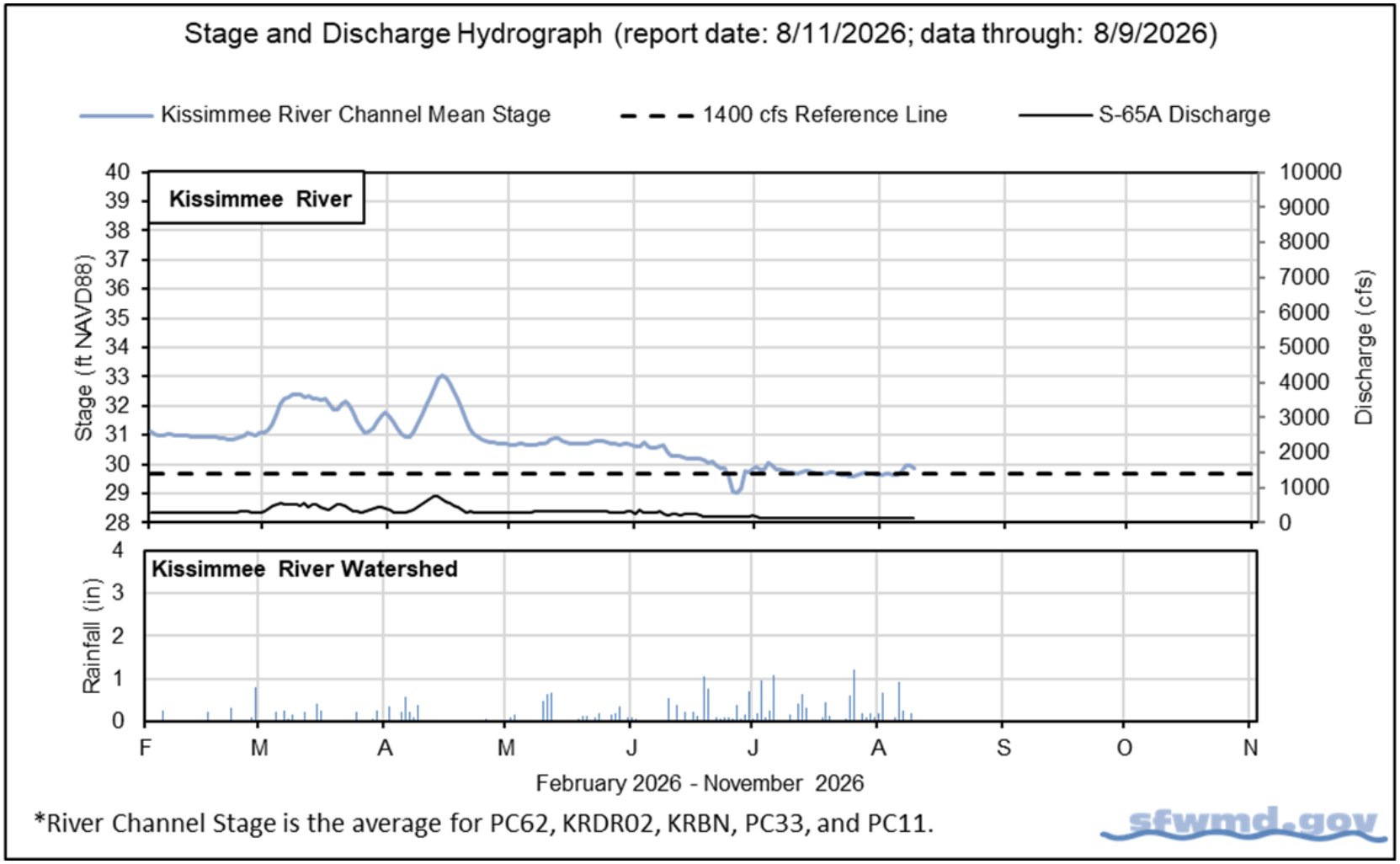


Figure KB-4. Kissimmee River stage, discharge, and rainfall.

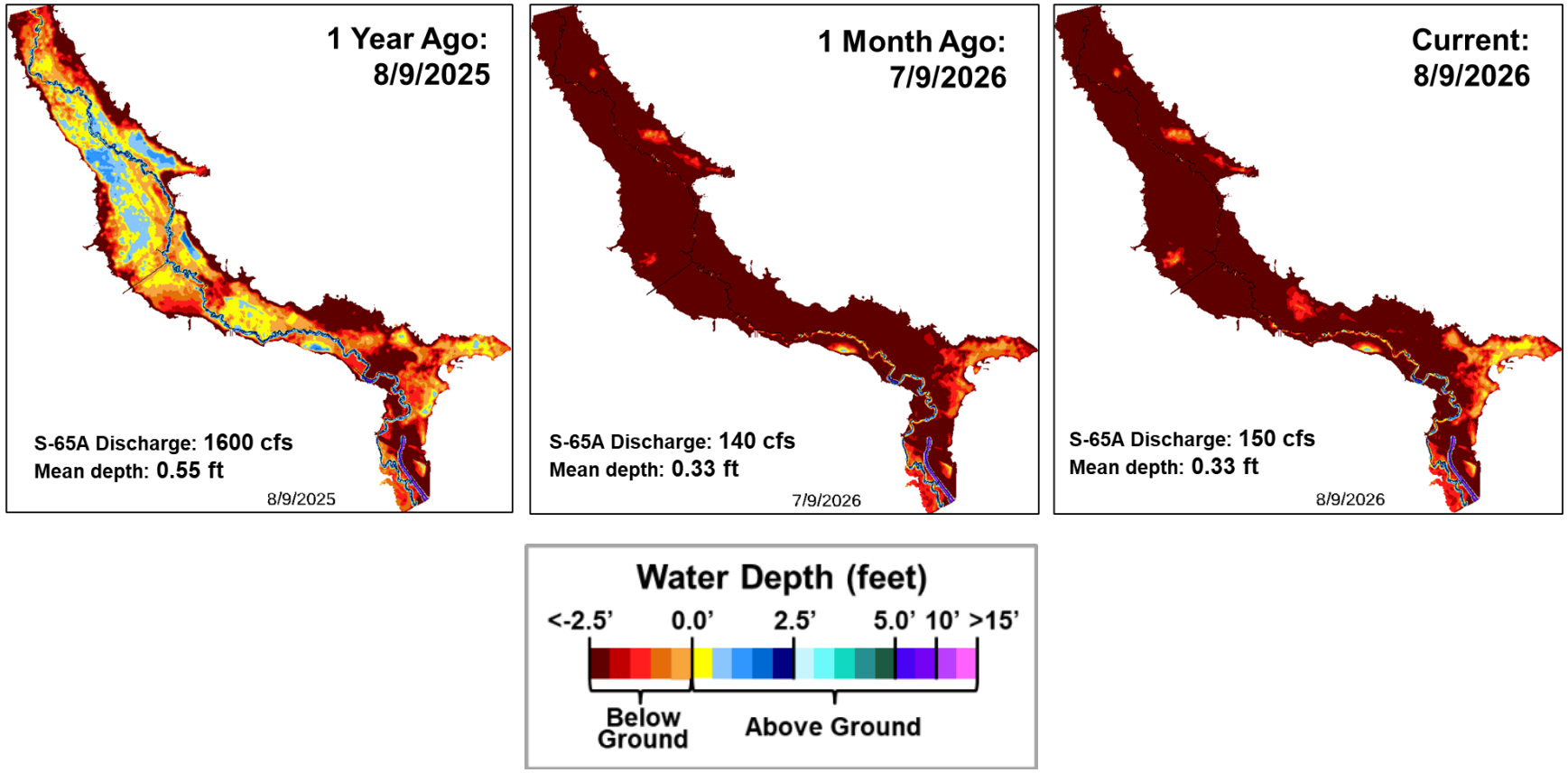
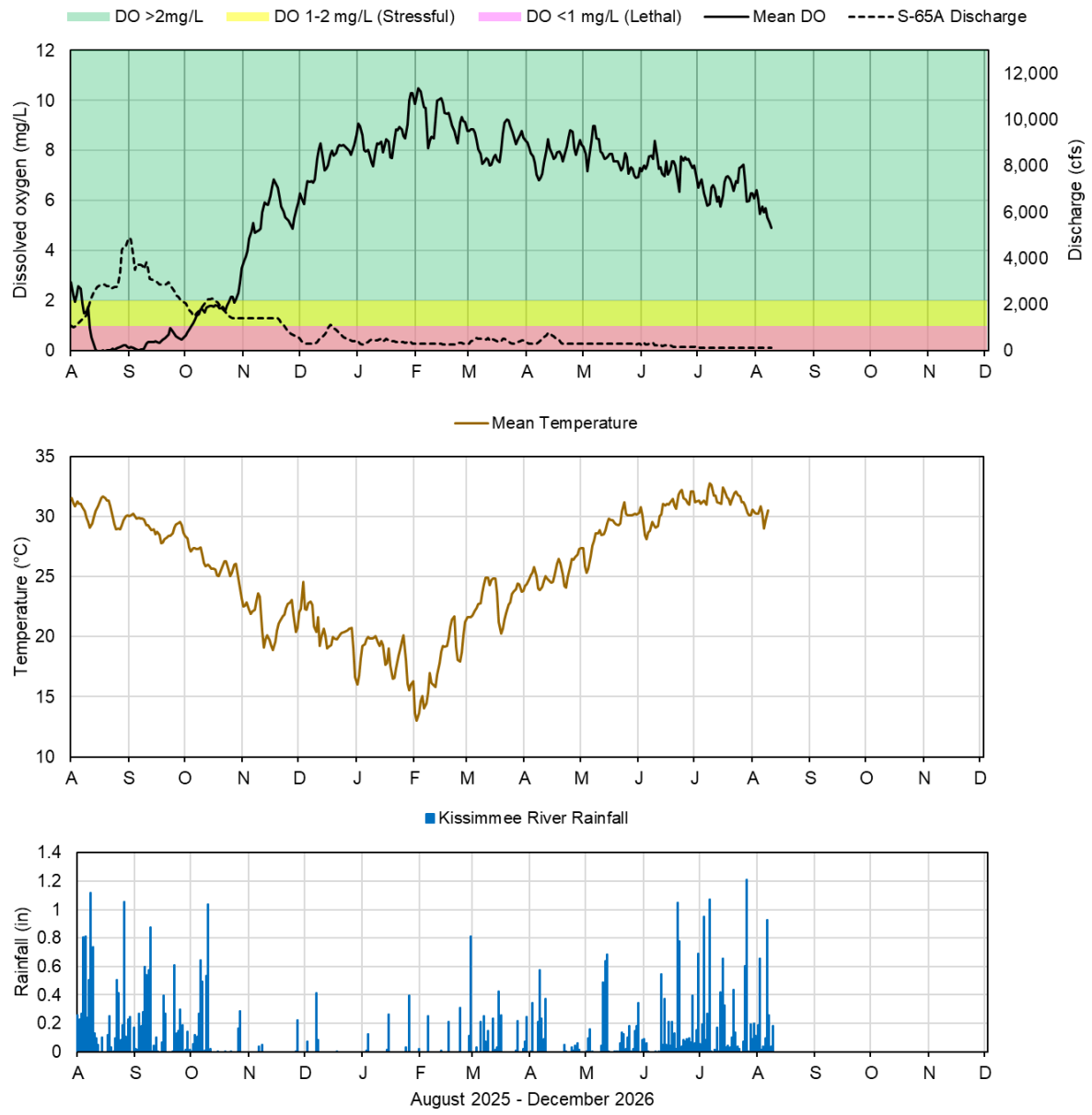


Figure KB-5. Phase I-II-III area Kissimmee River floodplain water depths (from left to right) one year ago, one month ago, and current.



Report Date: 8/11/2026; data are through: 8/9/2026

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

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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

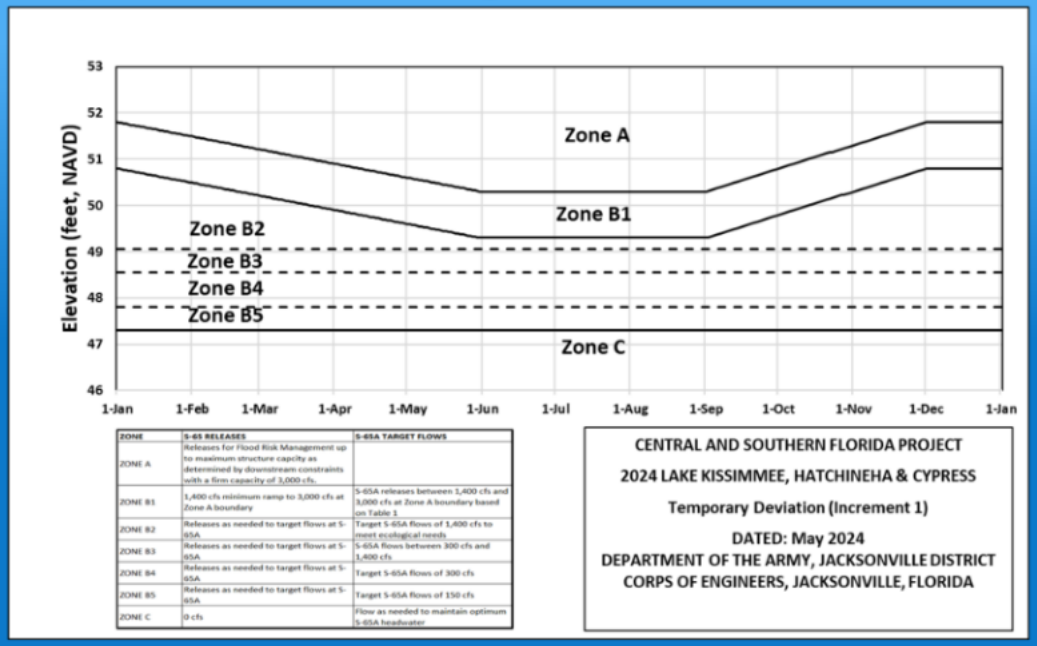
Discharge Guidance for Increment I Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan

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

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

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

Q (cfs)	Maximum rate of INCREASE (cfs/day)	Maximum rate of DECREASE (cfs/day)
0-300	50	-50
301-650	75	-75
651-1400	150	-150
1401-3000	300	-600
>3000	1000	-2000



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

Other Considerations

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

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

Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 9.73 feet NAVD88 (11.04 feet NGVD29) on August 9, 2026, which was 0.14 feet higher than the previous week and 0.04 feet higher than a month ago (**Figure LO-1**). Lake stage remains in the water shortage management band (0.89 feet below the upper limit, **Figure LO-2**) and is 0.96 feet below the ecological envelope (**Figure LO-3**). According to NEXRAD, 1.89 inches (approximately 70,400 ac-feet) of rain fell directly over the Lake during the previous week, and 1.15 inches (approximately 32,500 ac-feet) were lost to evapotranspiration.

Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) increased from 530 cfs the previous week to 1,350 cfs. The largest inflow came from the Kissimmee River (260 cfs via S-65E(X1)). Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) decreased from 150 cfs the previous week to 60 cfs. The only notable outflow was west to the C-43 canal (60 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 August 7, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate to high cyanobacteria potential along most of the shallow nearshore regions (**Figure LO-6**).

The routine water quality and phytoplankton monitoring sampling trips are now 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. Three samples had detectable cylindrospermopsin and microcystins, 7 had just cylindrospermopsin, and 6 had microcystins (**Figure LO-7**). Four of the 27 water quality samples had chlorophyll *a* values > 40 µg/L, indicating bloom level concentrations, while 7 samples had values between 20 and 40 µg/L (**Figure LO-7**). Provisional phytoplankton results from the August 3-5 sampling event showed 14 of the 27 phytoplankton samples collected had detectable levels of cyanotoxins; 6 had cylindrospermopsin, and 8 had microcystins (**Figure LO-8**). All detects were well below the USEPA recreational limits.

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

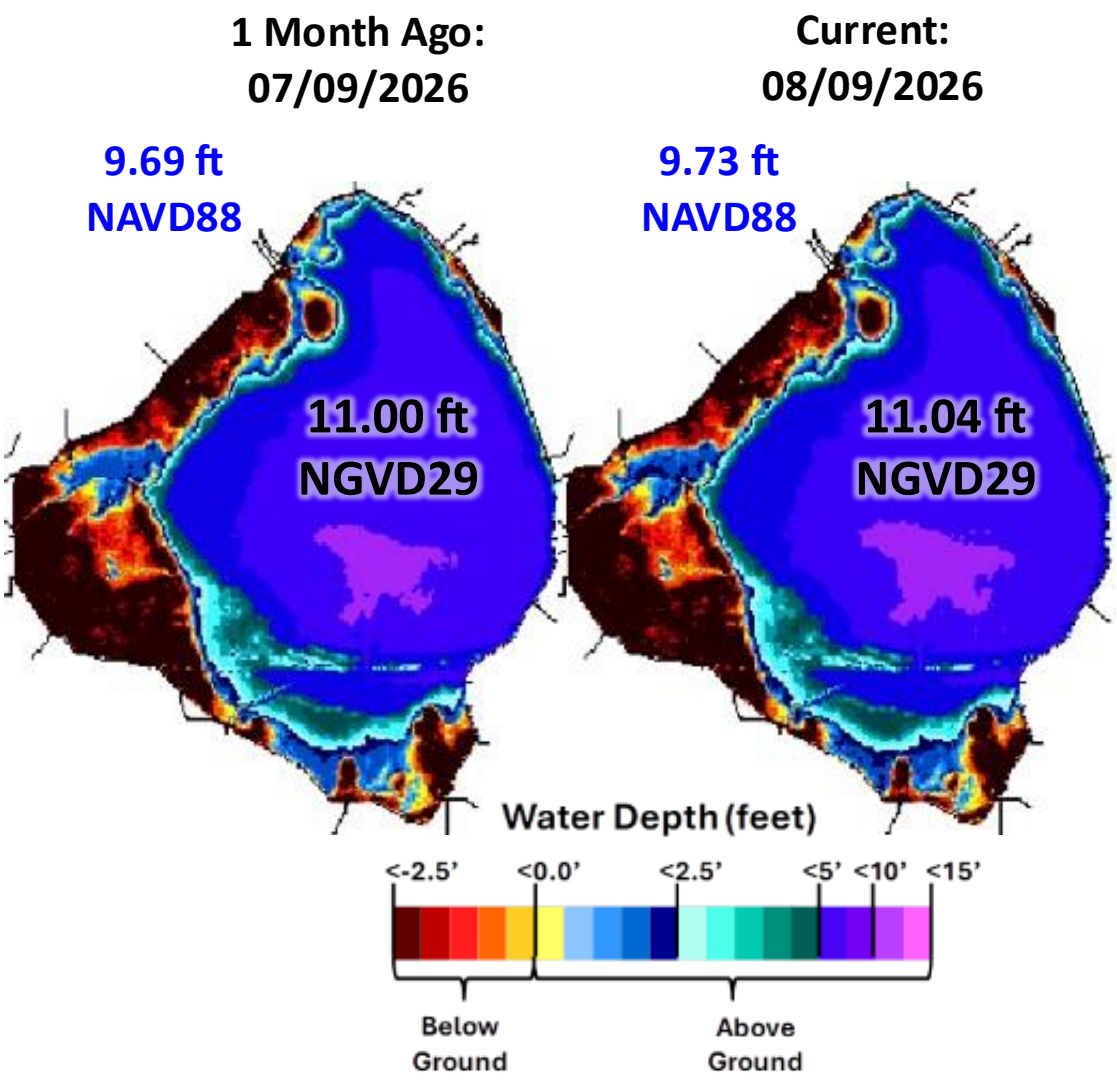

Figure LO-1. Lake Okeechobee water depth estimates based on South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

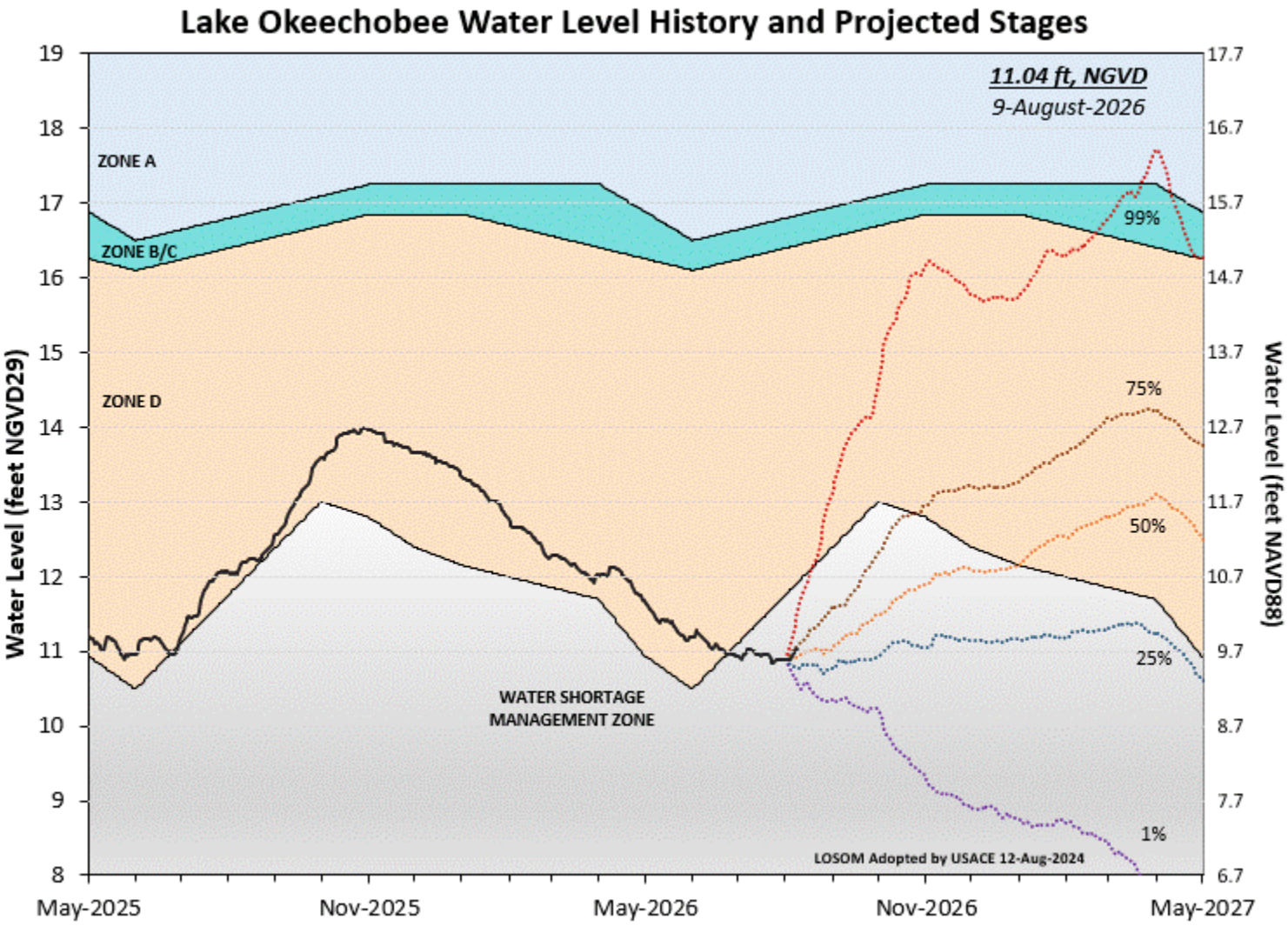

Figure LO-2. Recent Lake Okeechobee stages with projected stages based on a conditional position analysis. Note: stages are in NGVD29, approximate NAVD88 values are shown for reference.

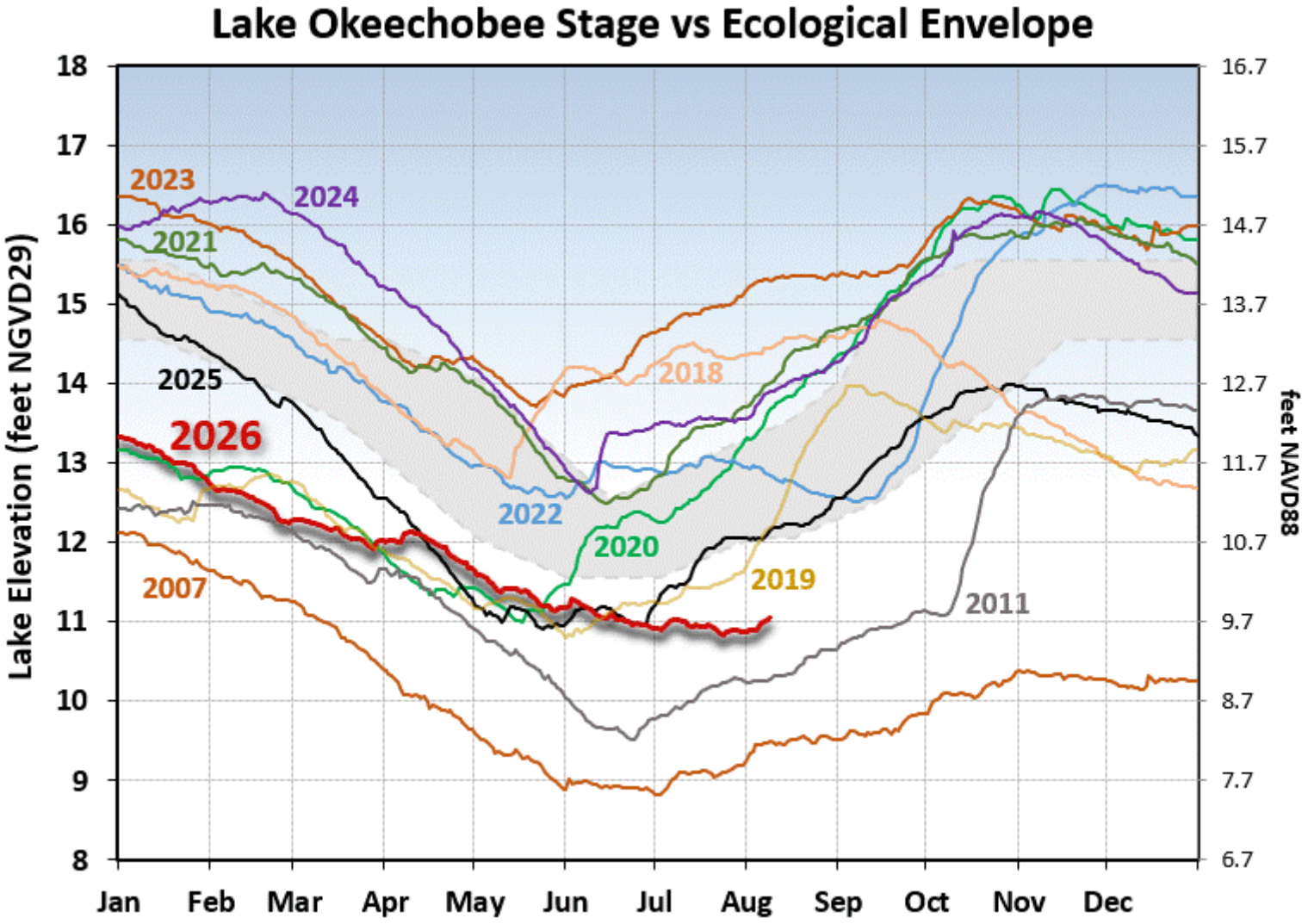

Figure LO-3. The current and select prior year's annual lake stage hydrographs in comparison to the Lake Okeechobee ecological envelope (light grey).

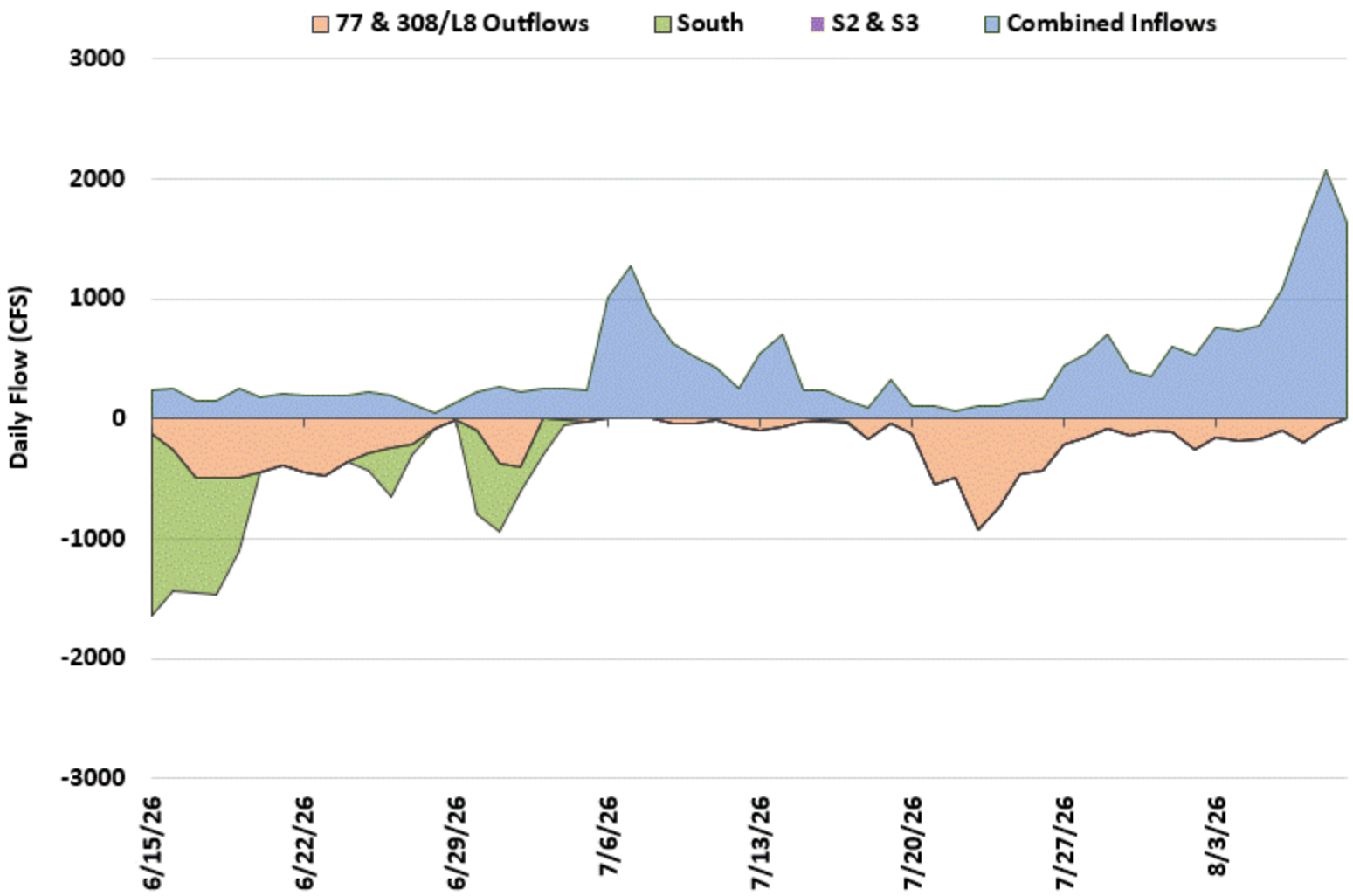

Figure LO-4. Major inflows (orange) to and outflows east and west (blue) from Lake Okeechobee. Outflows south are shown in green. Flows into Lake Okeechobee from the L-8 canal through S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) or from the C-44 canal through the S-308 are included as inflows. Conversely, flows from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

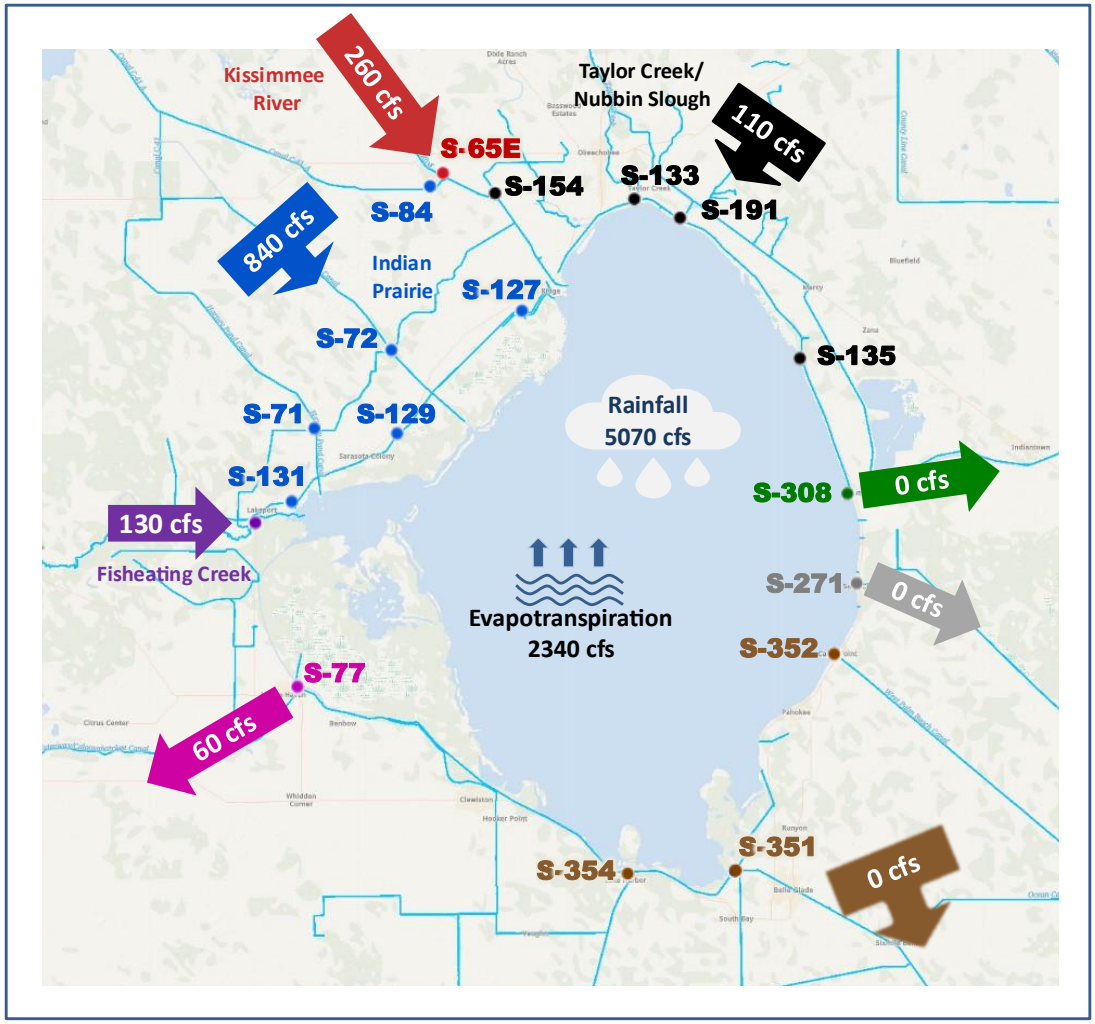

Figure LO-5. Inflows into Lake Okeechobee from Indian Prairie basins, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek (currently no flow data available for FECR), and outflows to the west via S-77, to the east via S-308, to the south via S-351, S-352, S-354, and to southeast via S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) for the week of August 3 - 9, 2026.

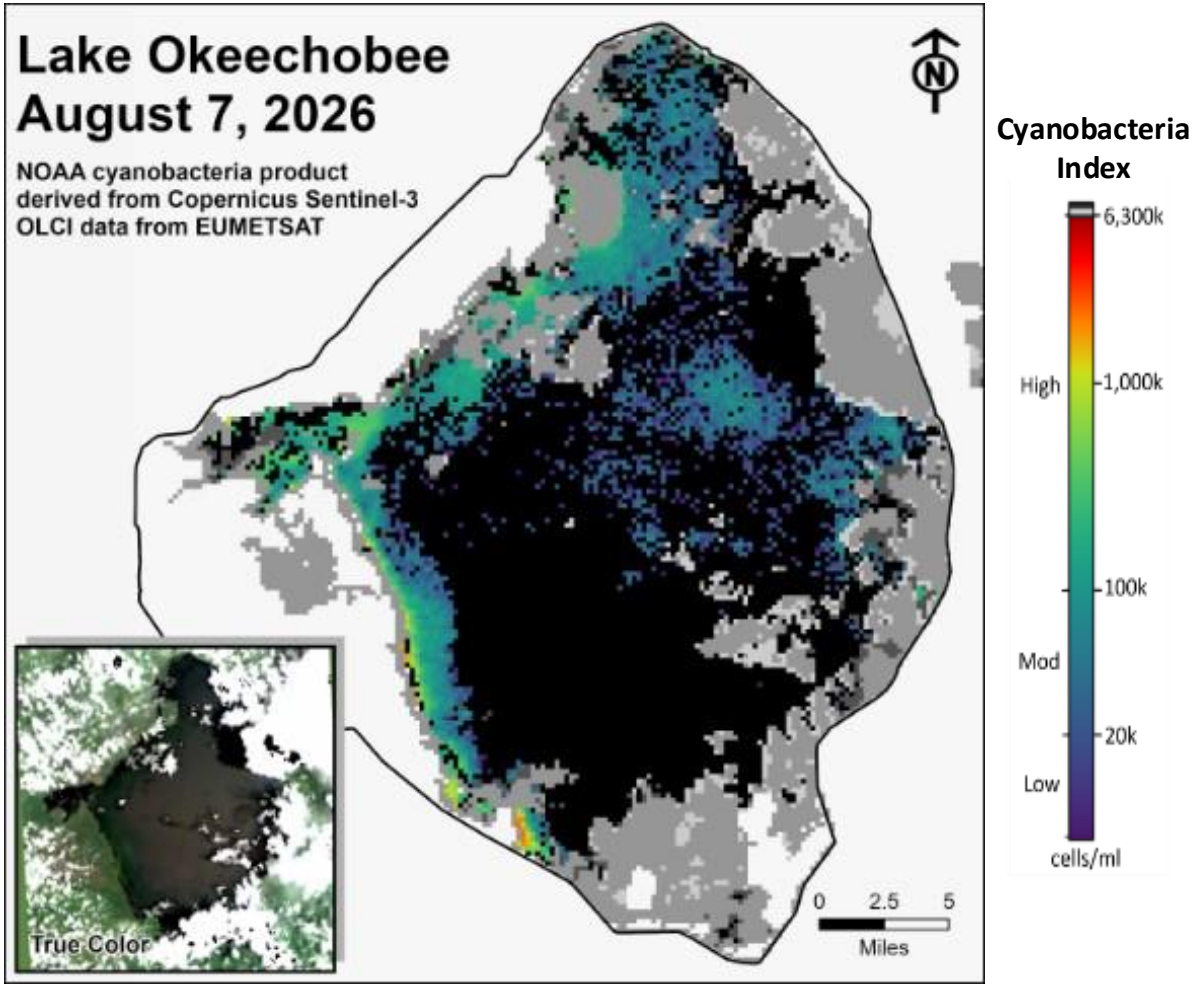

Figure LO-6. Cyanobacteria bloom index level on Lake Okeechobee, based on NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover. *Provisional NOAA image, subject to change*.

Collection Date: July 20-22, 2026

Station	CHL*a* (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA
FEBIN			
FEBOUT	23.4	BDL	*Raphi/Plank*
KISSR0.0	43.5	0.2	*Raphidio*
L005	17.8	BDL	*Dolichos*
LZ2	43.3	0.2	*Microcys*
KBARSE	26.6	0.3	*Raphi/Plank*
RITTAE2			
PELBAY3			
POLE3S			
LZ25A			
PALMOUT	5.6	BDL	*mixed*
PALMOUT1	3.1	BDL	*mixed*
PALMOUT2	8.5	1.0	*Microcys*
PALMOUT3	6.3	BDL	*mixed*
POLESOUT	16.5	0.1	*Planktol*
POLESOUT1	16.2	BDL	*Dolic/Plank*
POLESOUT2	15.1	BDL	*Microcys*
POLESOUT3	14.6	BDL	*Microcys*
EASTSHORE	39.1	0.8	*Microcys*
NES135	27.3	0.4	*Microcys*
NES191	34.1	0.2	*Micro/Plank*

Station	CHL*a* (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA
L001	19.6	0.2	*Micro/Plank*
L004	27.4	1.0	*Microcys*
L006	7.4	0.4	*Microcys*
L007	7.2	0.3	*Microcys*
L008	11.0	BDL	*Microcys*
LZ30	9.3	0.6	*Microcys*
LZ40	15.3	3.7	*Microcys*
CLV10A	28.2	0.7	*Micro/Plank*
NCENTER	91.5	0.3	*Raphi/Plank*
S308C	11.8	BDL	*Microcys*
S77	61.9	BDL	*Micro/Botry*

- SFWMD considers >40 µg/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/or microcsytins

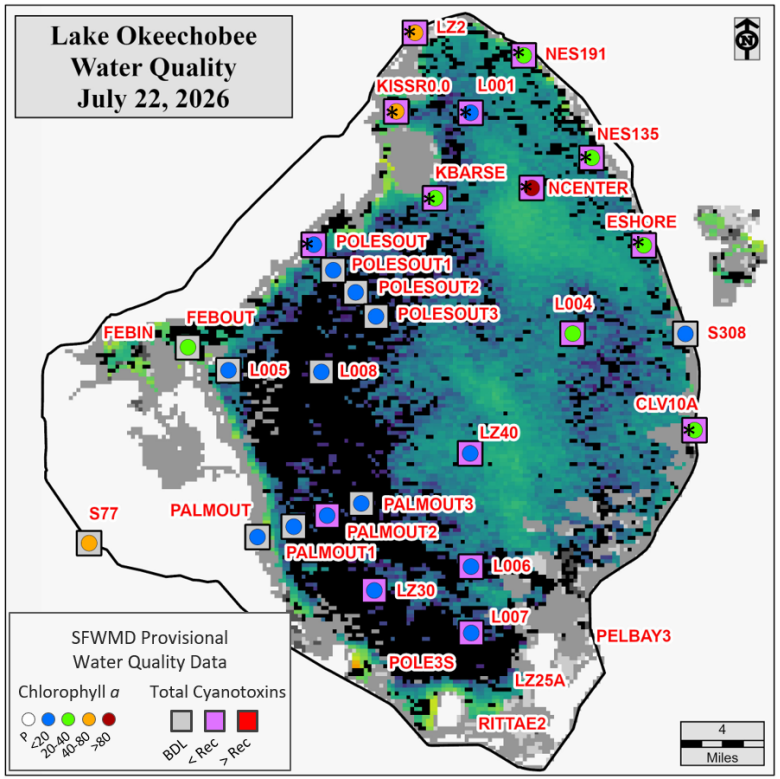

Figure LO-7. Dominant taxa, cyanotoxins (µg/L) and chlorophyll *a* (µg/L) concentration data from July 22-24, 2026. Sampling locations, chlorophyll *a*, and total toxin concentrations are overlaid on the July 22, 2026, image from NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud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

Collection Date: August 3-5, 2026

Station	CHL*a* (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA
FEBIN			
FEBOUT		BDL	*Raphi/Plank*
KISSR0.0		BDL	*mixed*
L005		BDL	*mixed*
LZ2		BDL	*mixed*
KBARSE		0.2	*Plank/Botry*
RITTAE2			
PELBAY3			
POLE3S			
LZ25A			
PALMOUT		BDL	*Microcys*
PALMOUT1		BDL	*Microcys*
PALMOUT2		0.5	*mixed*
PALMOUT3		0.3	*mixed*
POLESOUT		BDL	*Raphi/Plank*
POLESOUT1		BDL	*Dolic/Plank*
POLESOUT2		BDL	*Microcys*
POLESOUT3		BDL	*Microcys*
EASTSHORE		0.1	*Microcys*
NES135		0.1	*Microcys*
NES191		BDL	*mixed*

Station	CHL*a* (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA
L001		0.1	*Microcys*
L004		1.6	*Microcys*
L006		0.3	*Micro/Dinop*
L007		BDL	*mixed*
L008		0.3	*Microcys*
LZ30		0.3	*Microcys*
LZ40		0.7	*Microcys*
CLV10A		0.1	*Microcys*
NCENTER		0.2	*Planktol*
S308C		0.5	*Microcys*
S77		BDL	*mixed*

- SFWMD considers >40 µg/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;
  Botry = Botryococcus; Dinop = Dinophyceae

Toxins include cylindrospermopsin* and/or microcsytins

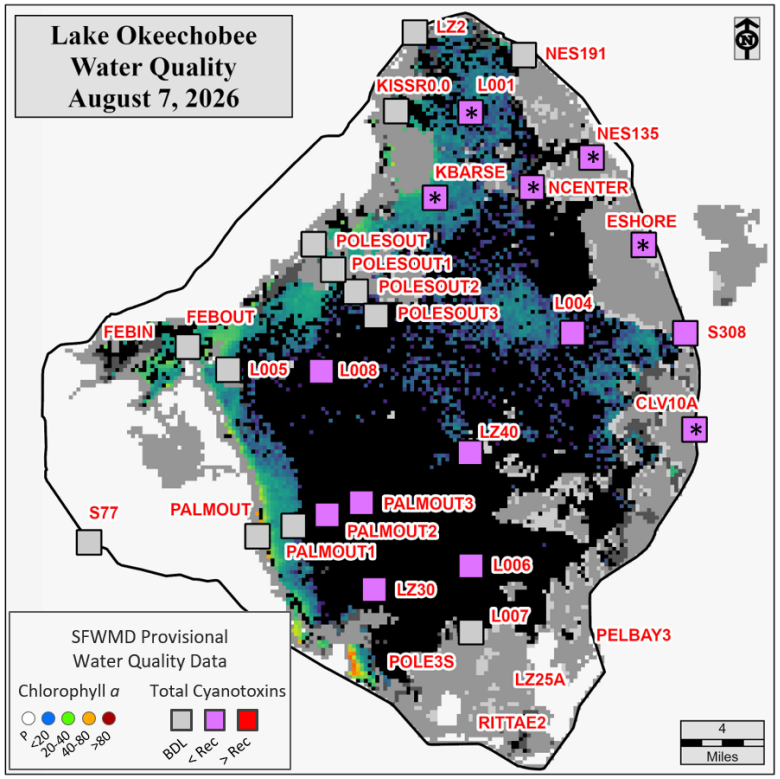

Figure LO-8. Dominant taxa, cyanotoxins (µg/L) and chlorophyll *a* (µg/L) concentration data from August 3-5, 2026. Sampling locations, chlorophyll *a*, and total toxin concentrations are overlaid on the August 7, 2026, image from NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover.

Estuaries

St. Lucie Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was 734 cfs (**Figures ES-1** and **ES-2**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 897 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 (**Table ES-1** and **Figure ES-3**). The seven-day moving average water column salinity at the US1 Bridge was 18.9. 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 2,427 cfs (**Figures ES-6** and **ES-7**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 1,341 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from the contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-7**.

Over the past week, salinities decreased at all sites in the estuary (**Table ES-2** and **Figures ES-8** and **ES-9**). The seven-day mean water column salinity (**Table ES-2**) was in the optimal range (0–10) for tape grass at S-79 and Val I-75, and in the stressed range (10-15) at Ft. Myers. The seven-day mean salinity values were within the optimal range for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral and in the stressed range 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 are 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, 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 951 cfs. Model results from all scenarios predict daily salinity to be 8.1 or lower and the 30-day moving average surface salinity to be 6.4 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.

[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 August 7, 2026, that *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide dinoflagellate, was not observed at bloom concentrations in samples collected from the District region over the past week.

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 release at S-79 to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary and no releases at S-80 to the St. Lucie Estuary.

Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels

The minimum flows and levels (MFL) for the Caloosahatchee River Estuary is a 30-day moving average flow of 457 cfs or greater at S-79. The current 30-day average flow at S-79 is 645 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 47 cfs **(Figure ES-15)** and the 20-day average salinity at RM 9.2 is 0.4 **(Figure ES-16)** which is not an exceedance.

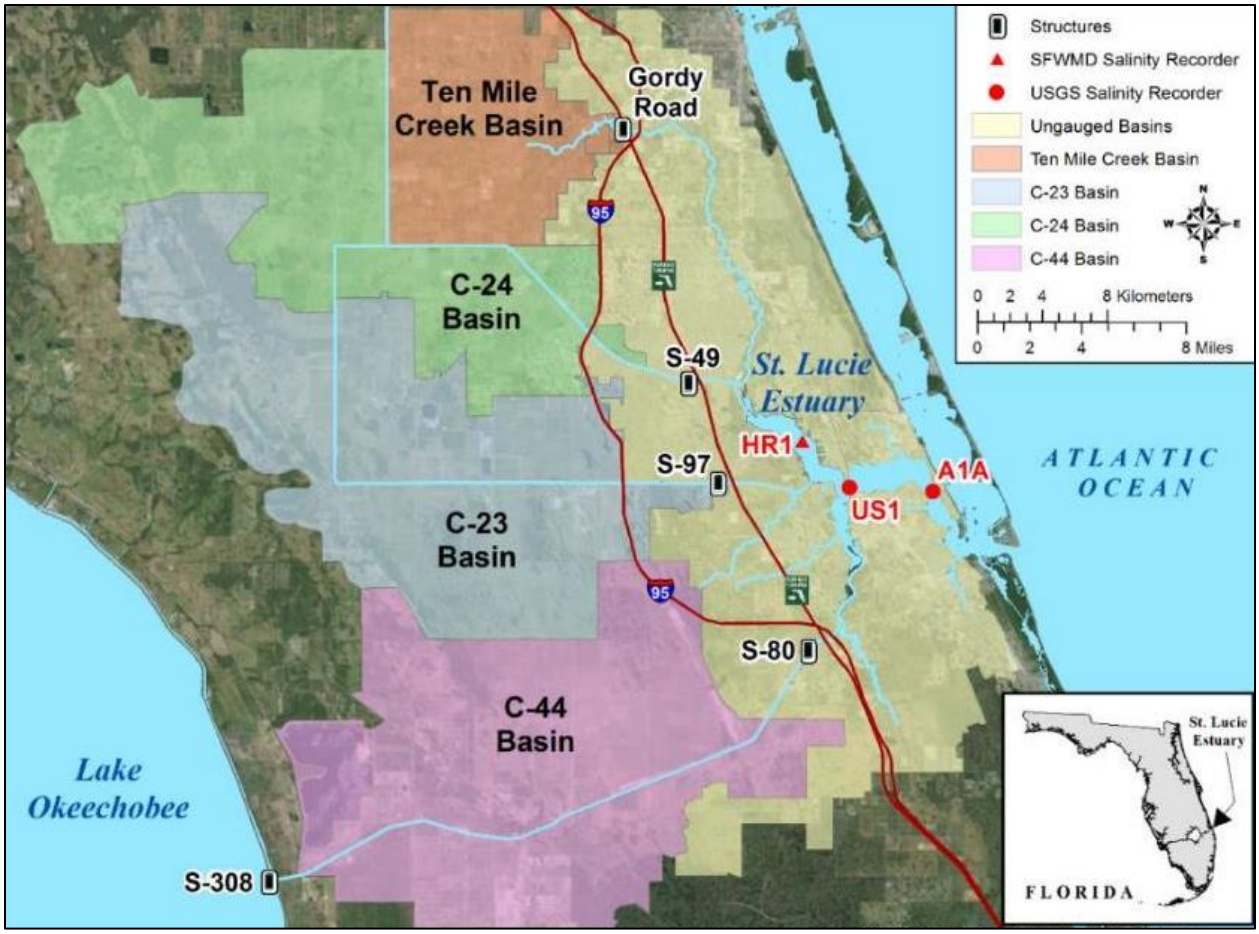

Figure ES-1. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

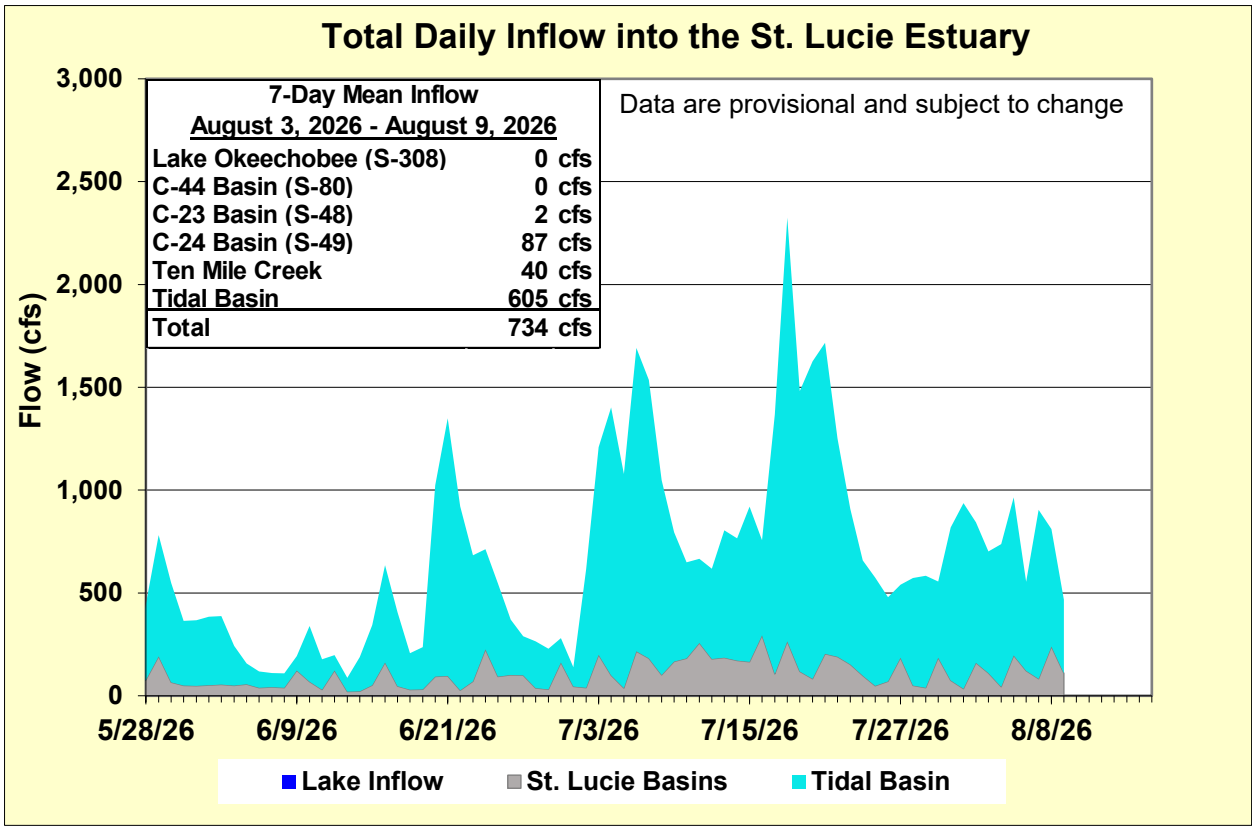

Figure ES-2. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-44, C-23, C-24, Ten Mile Creek, and Tidal Basins into the St. Lucie Estuary.

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)	**12.7** (11.4)	**16.8** (18.0)	10.0 – 25.0
US1 Bridge	**18.6** (18.0)	**19.1** (20.1)	10.0 – 25.0
A1A Bridge	**26.1** (25.6)	**28.1** (28.0)	10.0 – 25.0

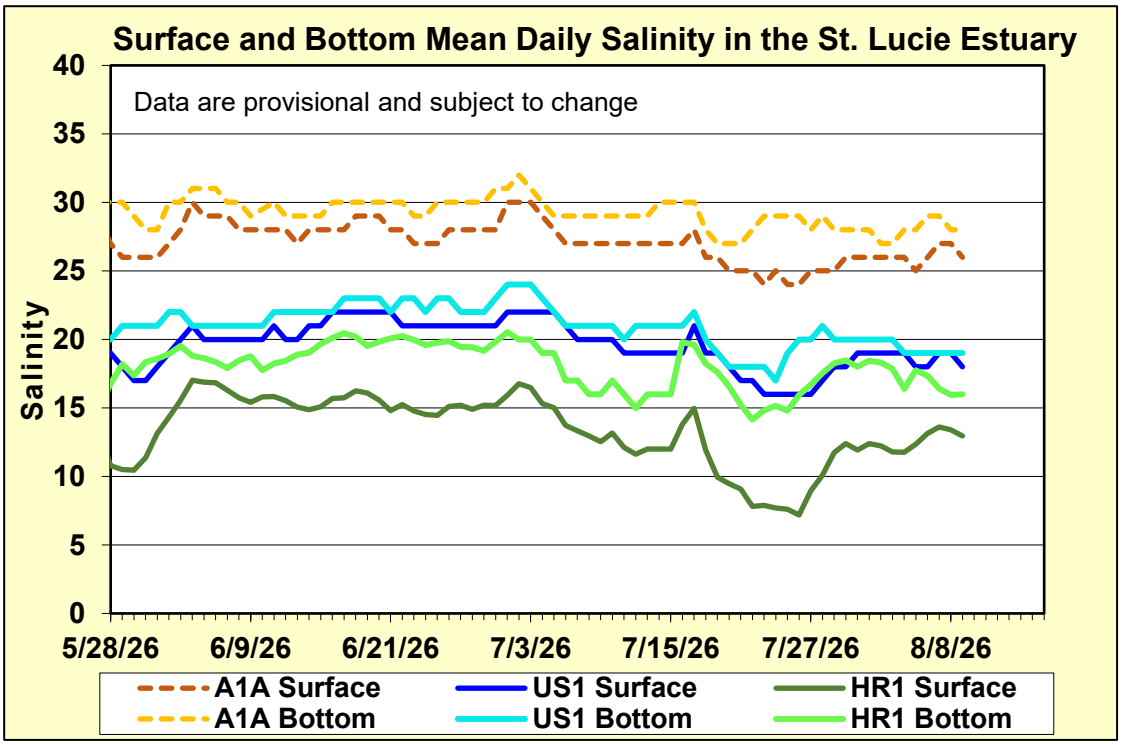

Figure ES-3. Mean daily salinity at the A1A, US1, and HR1 sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

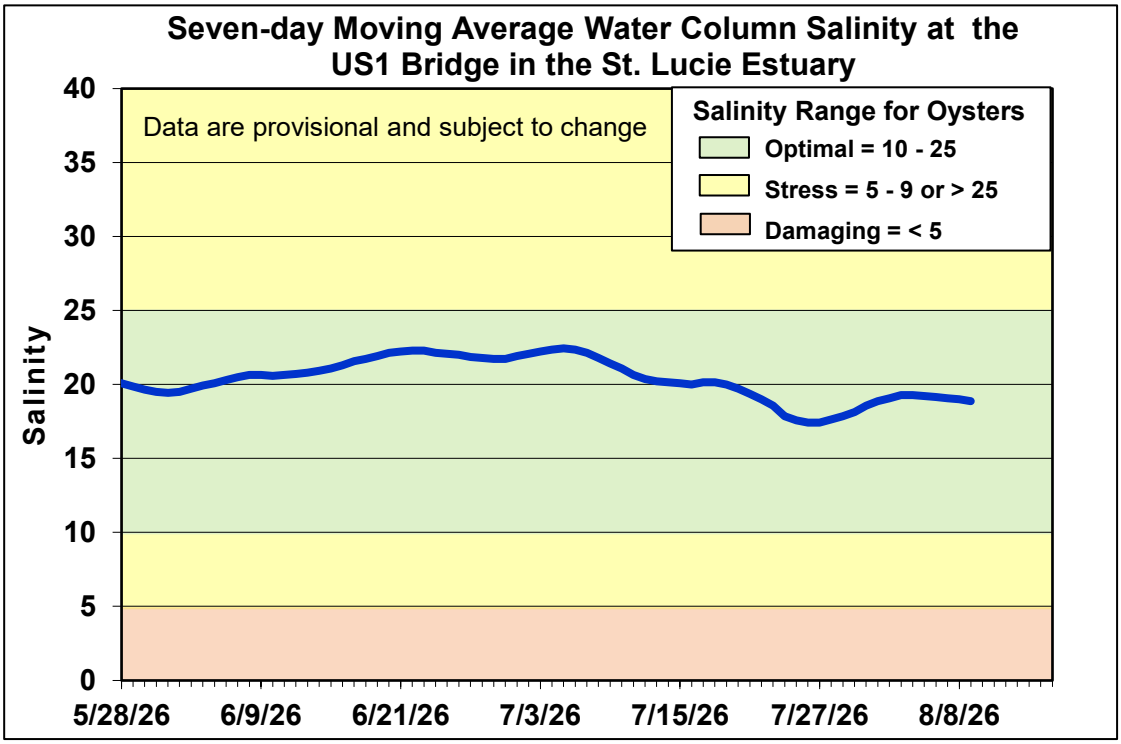

Figure ES-4. Seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge in the St. Lucie Estuary.

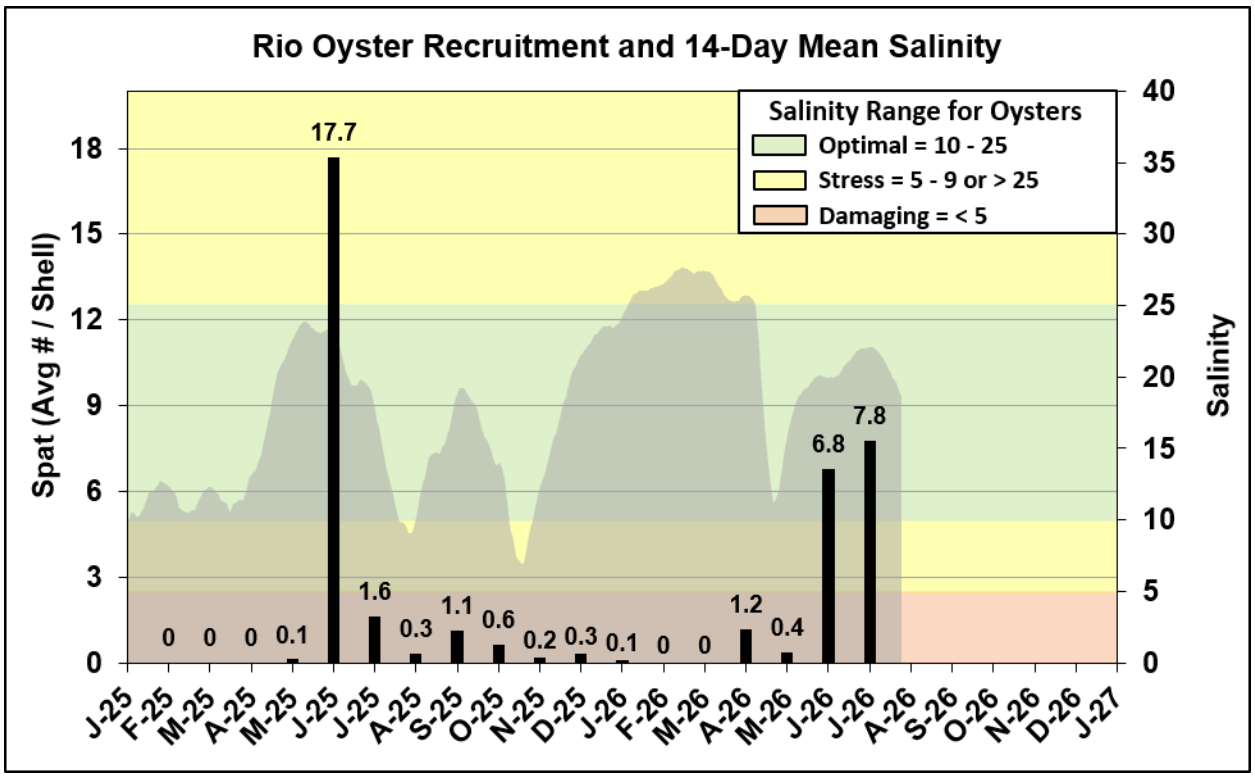

Figure ES-5. Mean oyster recruitment at the Rio oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at US1 Bridge.

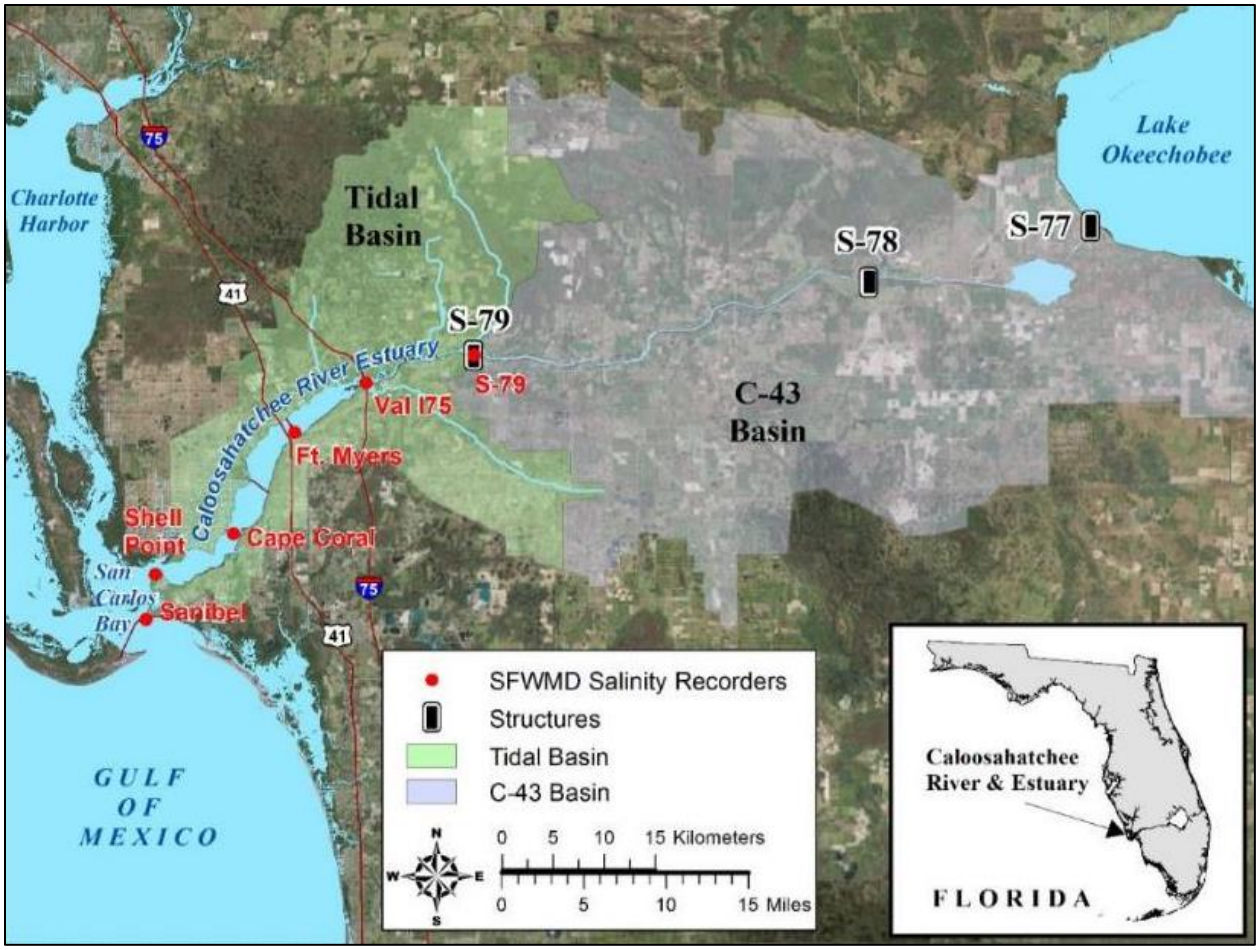

Figure ES-6. Basins, water control structures, and salinity monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

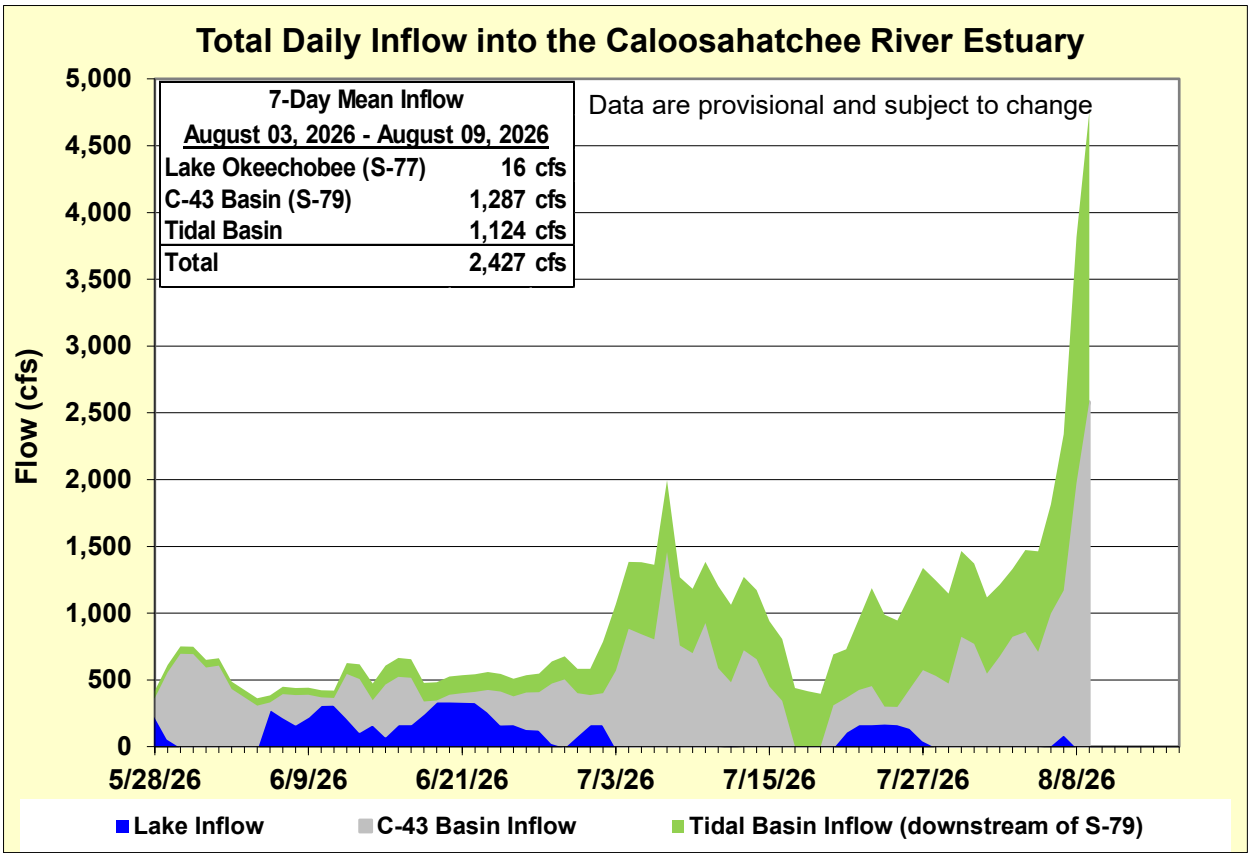

Figure ES-7. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee, and runoff from the C-43 and Tidal basins into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

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

Sampling Site	Surface	Bottom	Optimum Envelope
S-79 (Franklin Lock)	**2.8** (4.3)	**2.9** (4.4)	0.0 – 10.0
Val I-75	**3.7** (5.9)	**5.3** (7.0)	0.0 – 10.0
Fort Myers Yacht Basin	**10.5** (13.0)	**14.3** (14.5)	0.0 – 10.0
Cape Coral	**18.3** (20.9)	**20.4** (21.5)	10.0 – 25.0
Shell Point	**29.5** (31.4)	**29.9** (31.5)	10.0 – 25.0
Sanibel	**34.1** (34.5)	**38.8** (39.2)	10.0 – 25.0

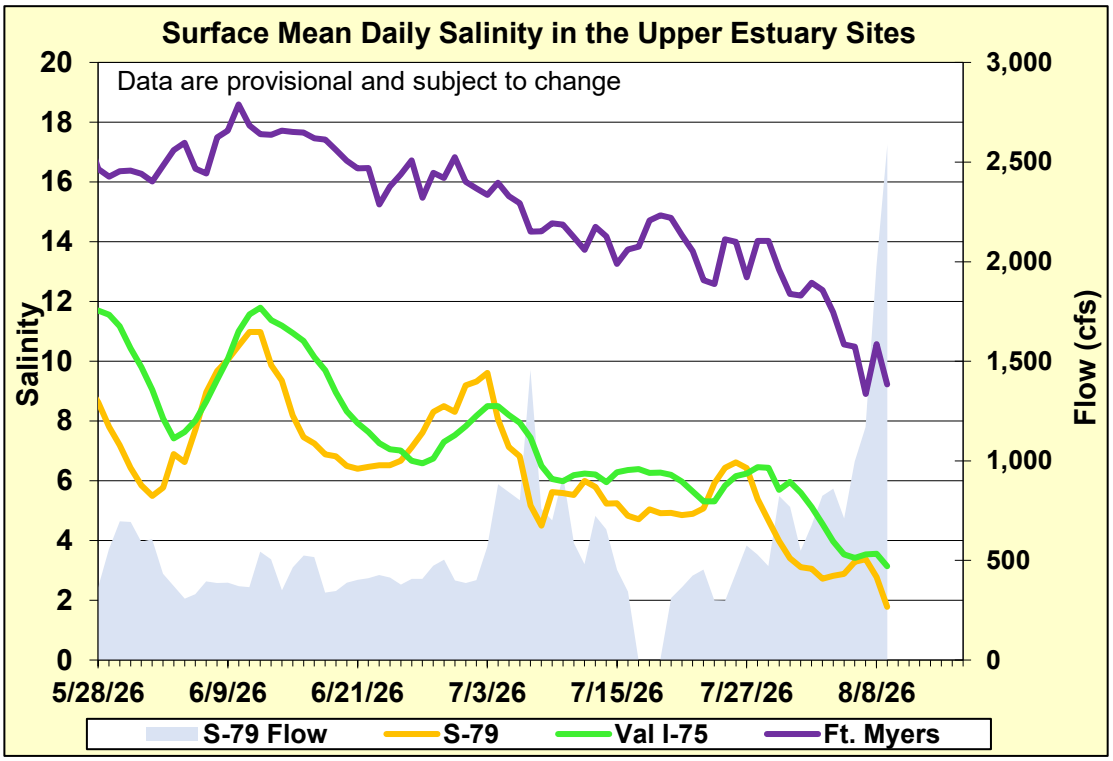

Figure ES-8. Mean daily salinity at upper Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

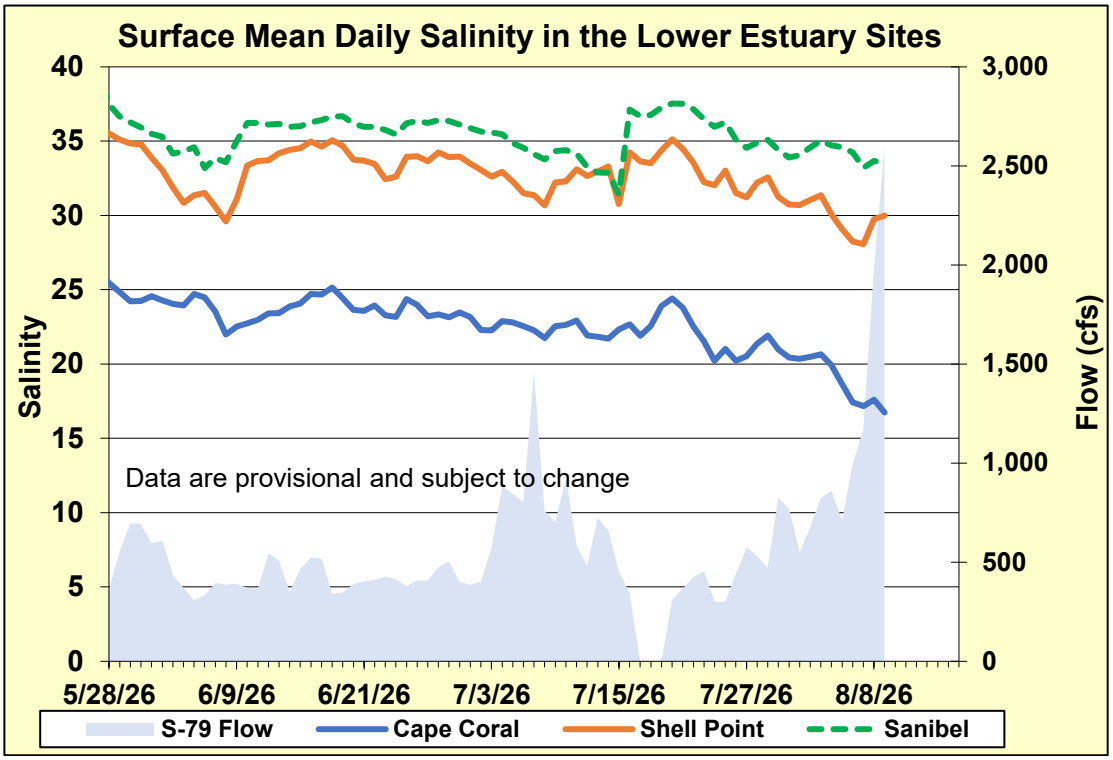

Figure ES-9. Mean daily surface salinity at lower Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

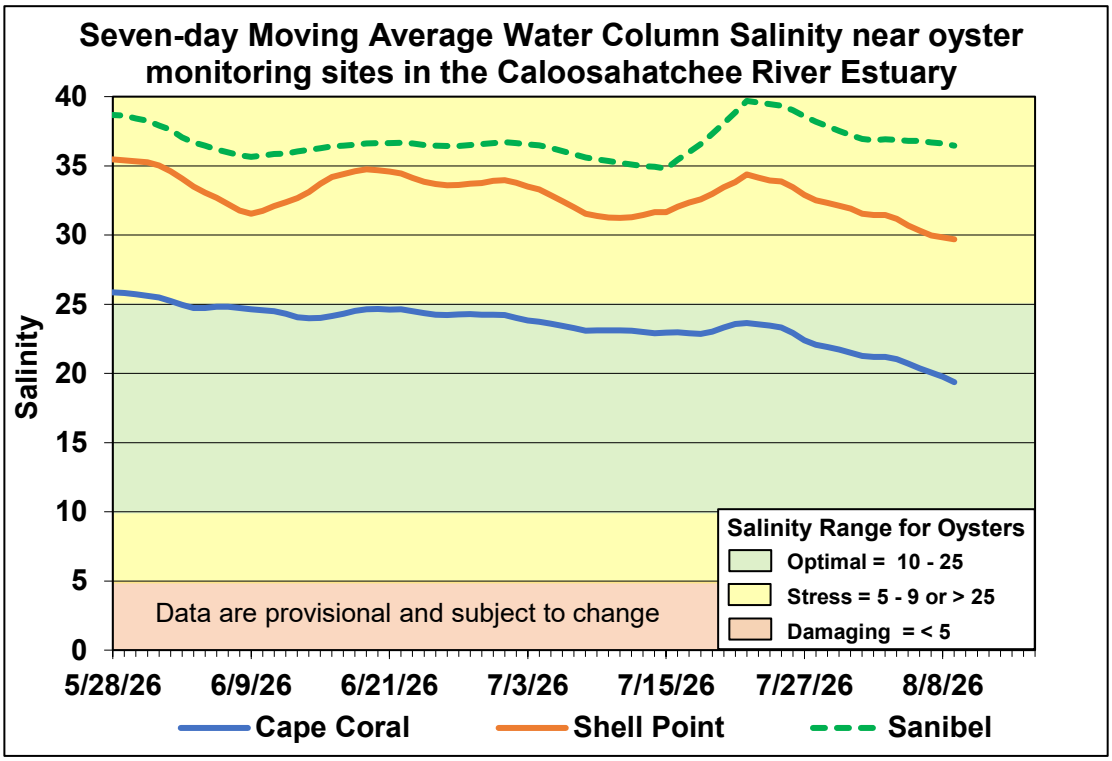

Figure ES-10. Seven-day moving average of surface and bottom salinities at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

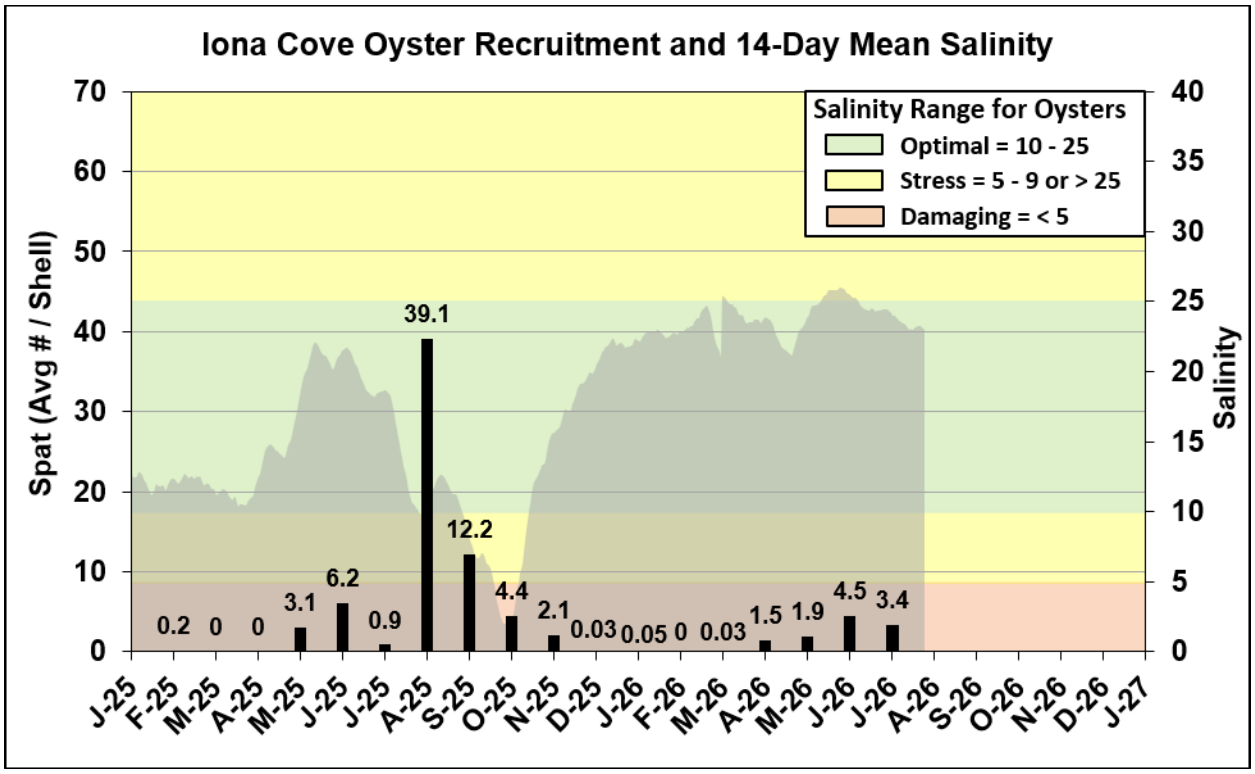

Figure ES-11. Mean oyster recruitment at the Iona Cove oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Cape Coral.

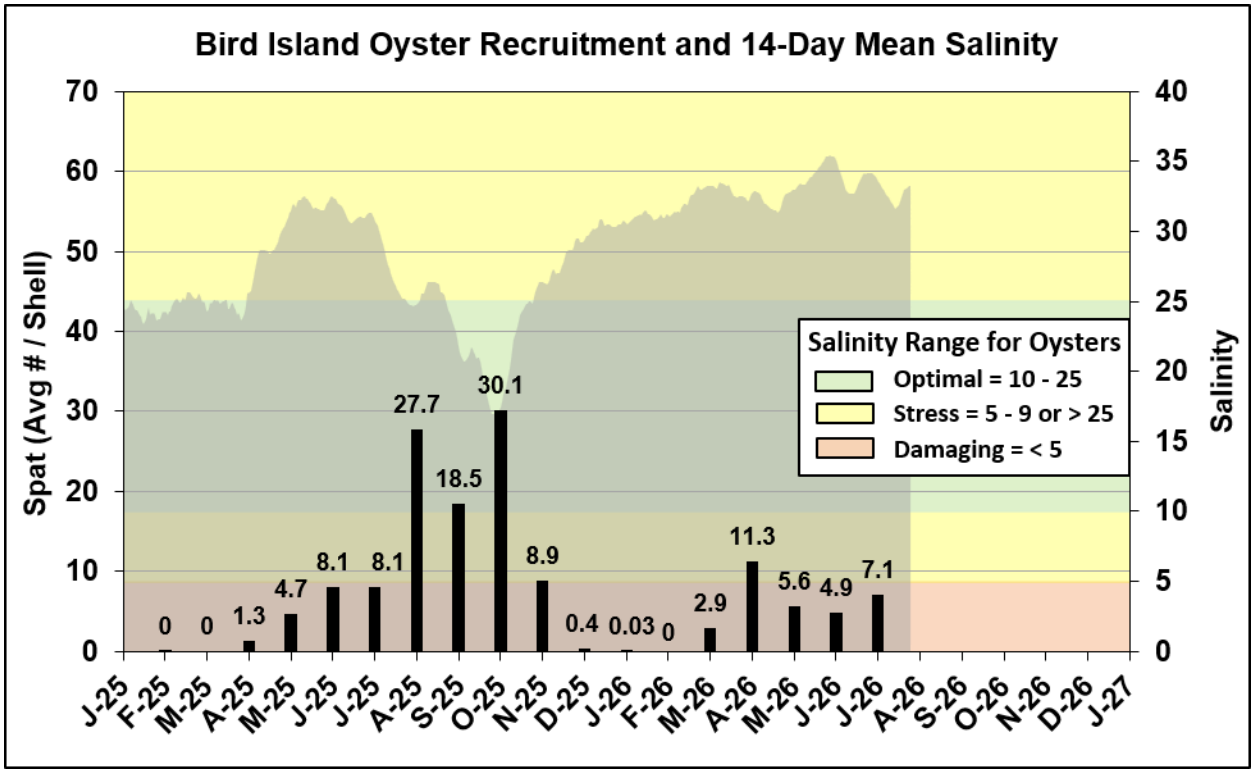

Figure ES-12. Mean oyster recruitment at the Bird Island oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Shell Point.

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	951	8.1	6.4
B	750	951	5.6	5.7
C	1,000	951	4.6	5.2
D	1,500	951	2.7	4.5
E	2,000	951	1.3	4.0

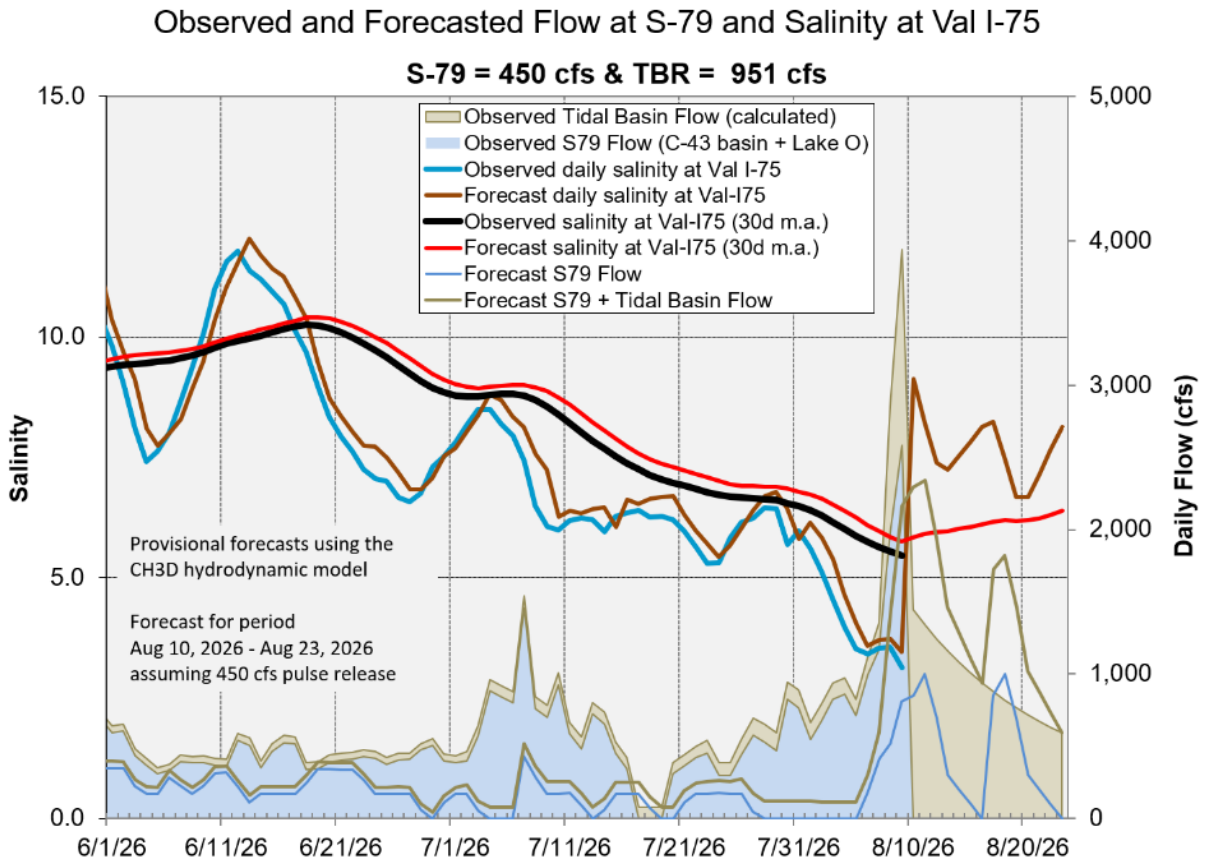

Figure ES-13. Surface salinity forecast at the Val I-75 site assuming a 450 cfs pulse release at S-79.

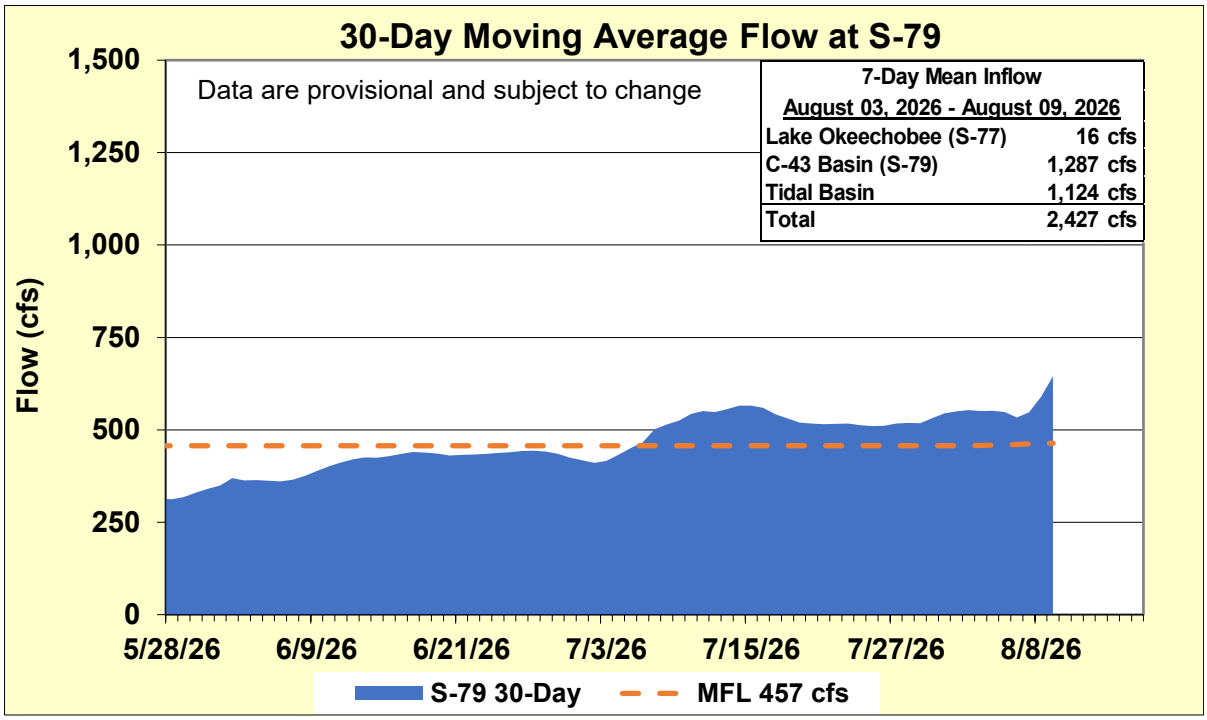

Figure ES-14. 30-day moving average flow at S-79 for the Caloosahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

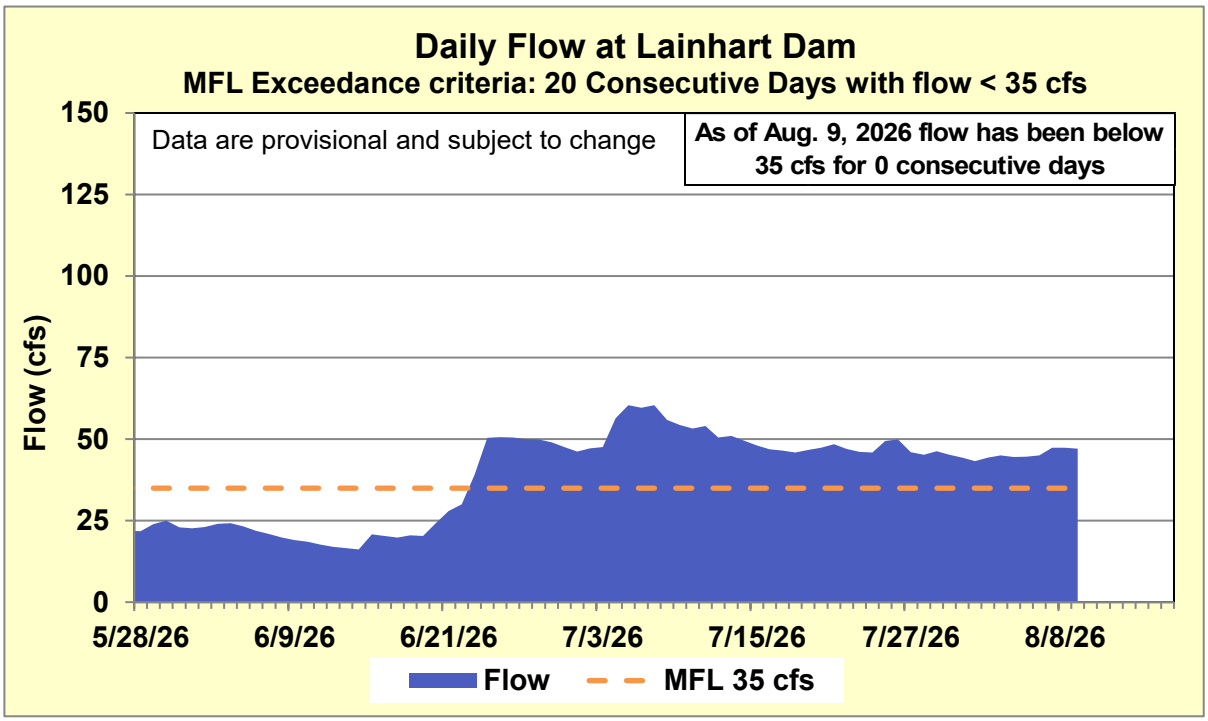

Figure ES-15. Average daily flow (cfs) at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

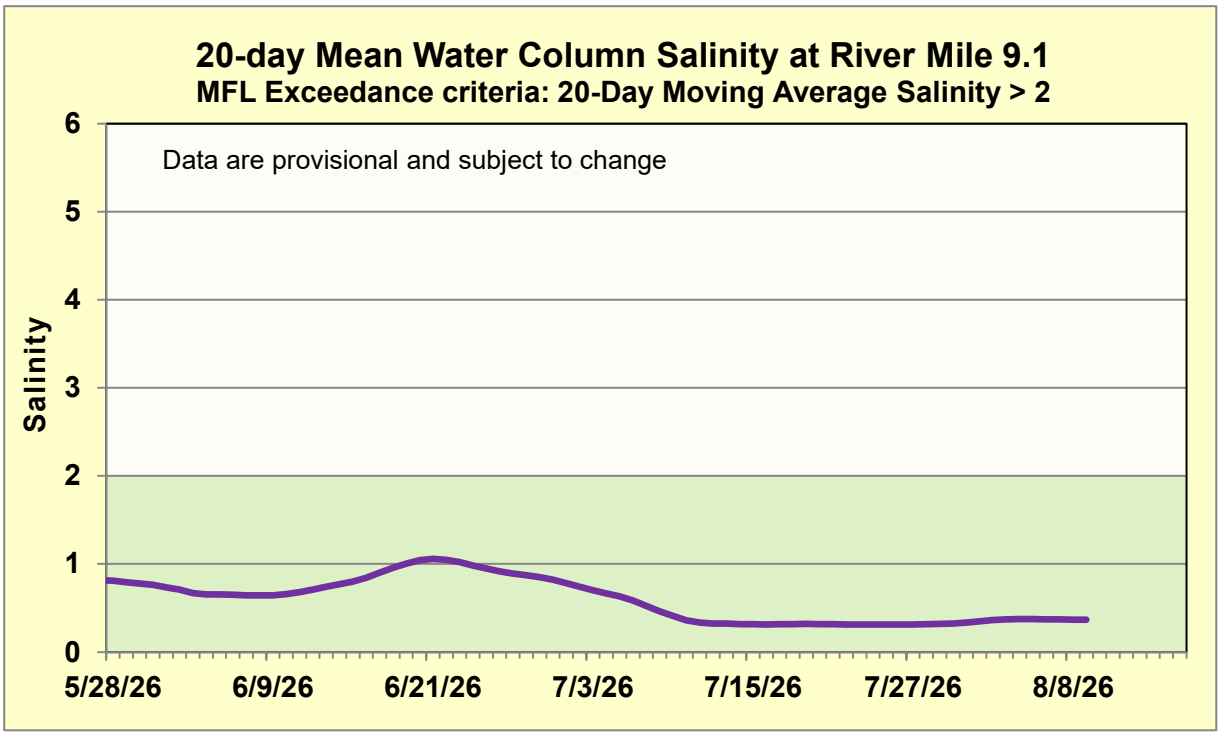

Figure ES-16. 20-day moving average salinity at Lainhart Dam for the Loxahatchee River Estuary Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels (MFL).

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/m^2/year (**Figure S-2**).

STA-1W: STA-1W Eastern Flow-way is offline for vegetation management activities. Treatment cells are at or near target stage. 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 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/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 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/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 8/9/2026): ~74,000 ac-ft
- Lake Okeechobee releases to FEBs/STAs
  - 8/3/2026 to 8/9/2026: 0 ac-ft
  - WY 2027: ~ 9,100 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
Aug. 3rd, 2026 - Aug. 9th, 2026 *Includes preliminary data*

	Total Inflow (acre-feet)	Total Outflow (acre-feet)
STA-1E	600	550
STA-1W	1,700	300
STA-2	9,800	6,500
STA-3/4	2,300	3,100
STA-5/6	400	0

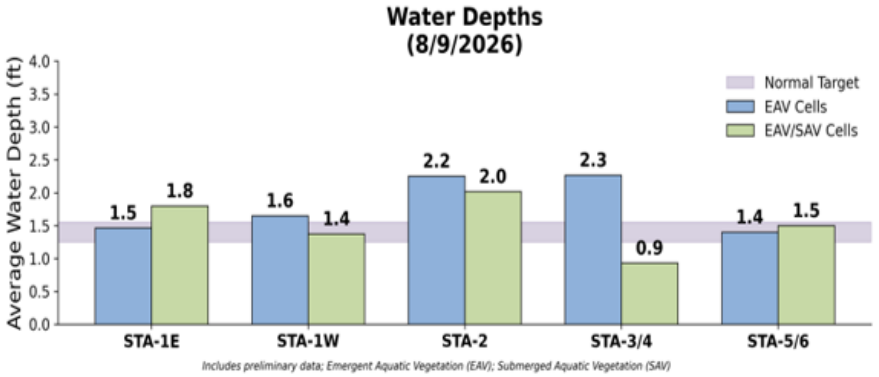

Figure S-1. STA depths and flow volumes

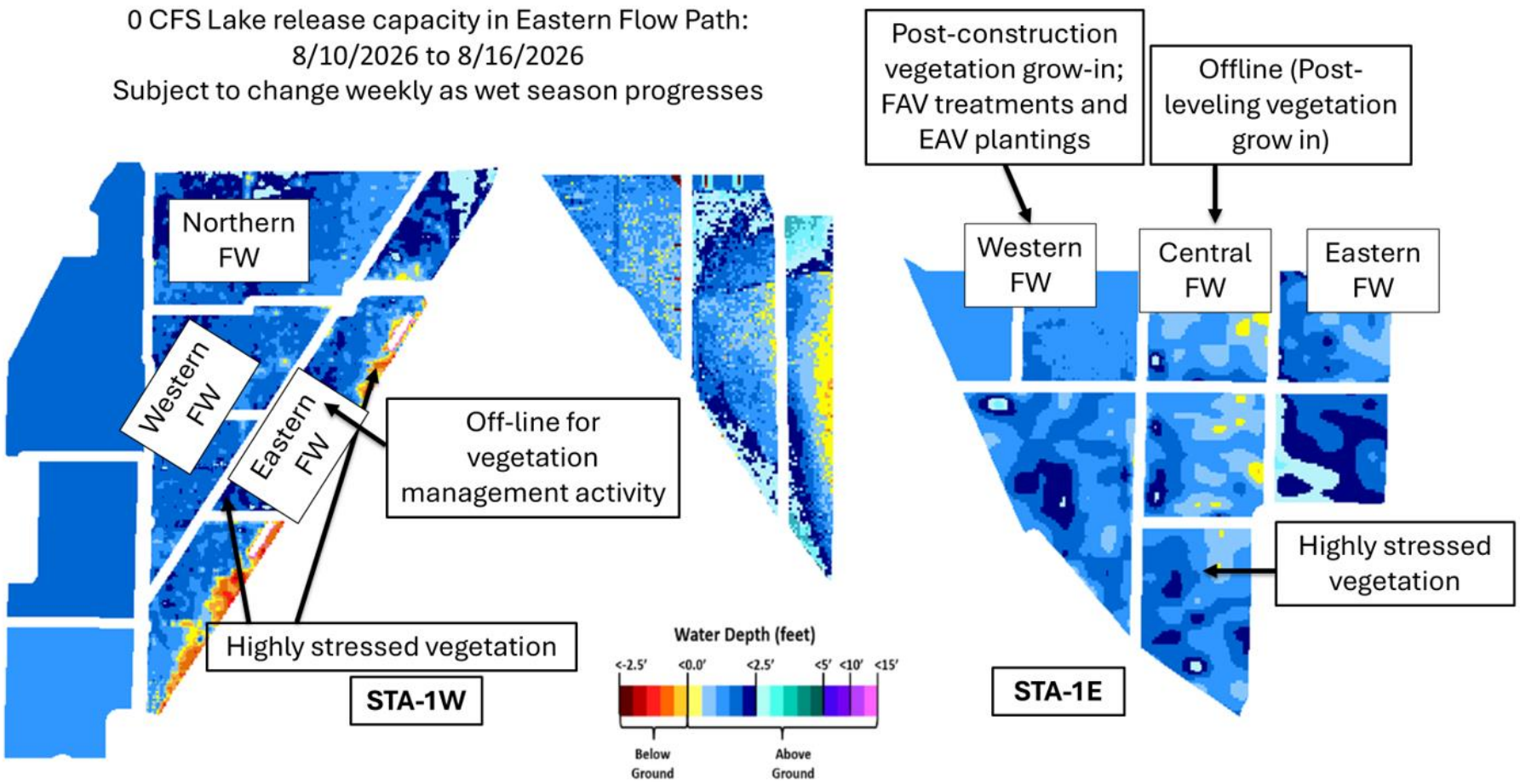

Figure S-2. Eastern Flow Path Weekly Status Report

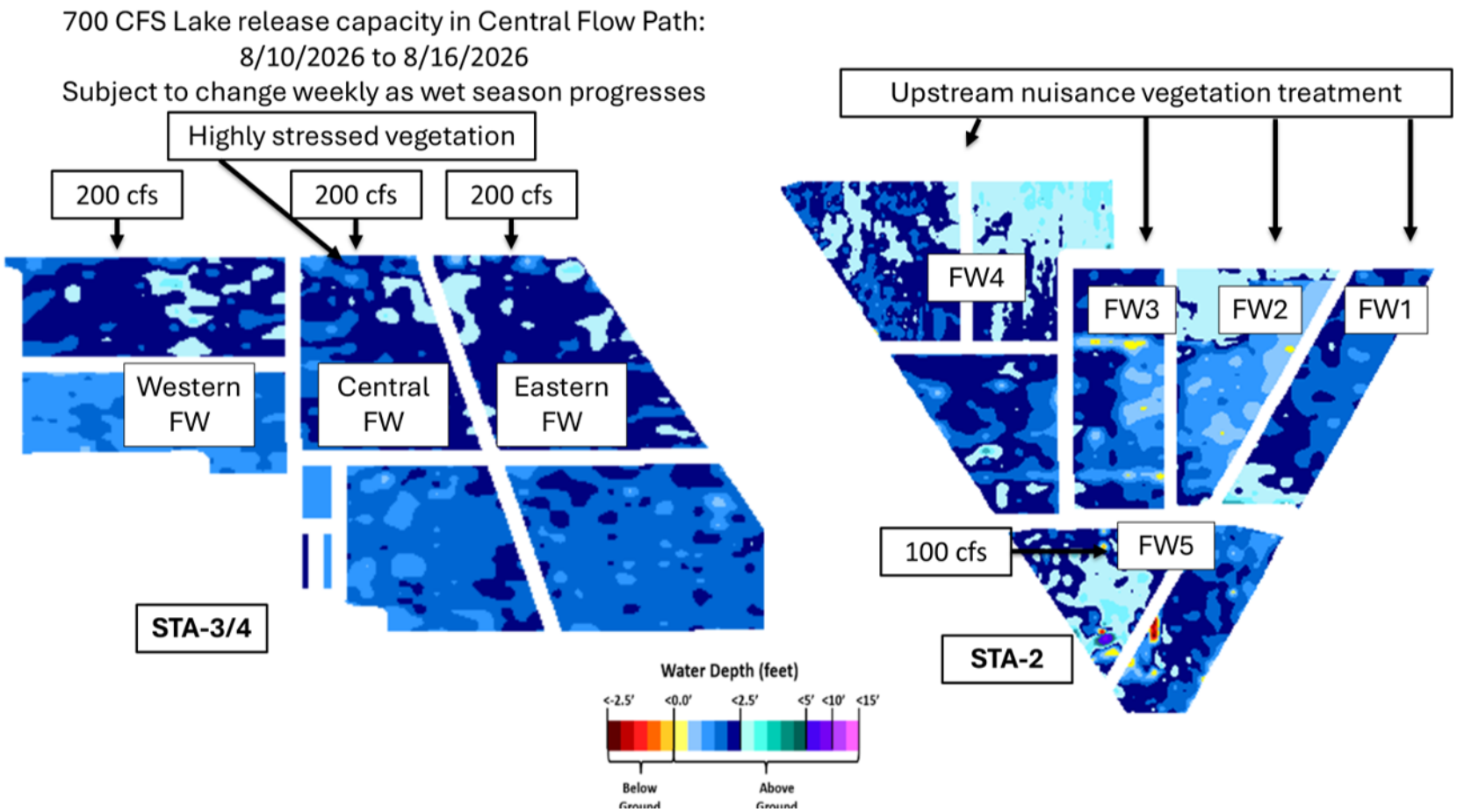

Figure S-3. Central Flow Path Weekly Status Report

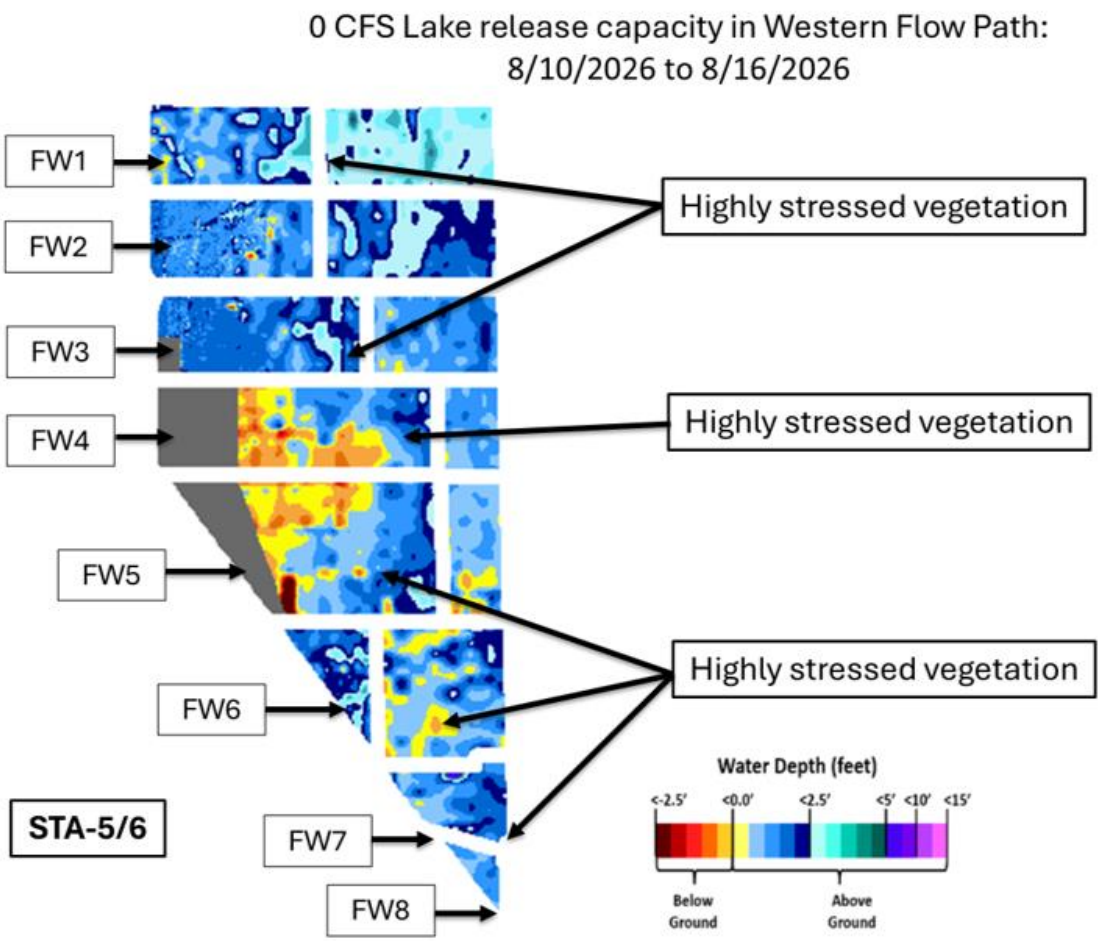

Figure S-4. Western Flow Path Weekly Status Report

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 Areas

Regulation Schedules

WCA-1: Stage remained steady at the 1-8C gauge last week and is now below the regulation line by 0.39 feet on Sunday, August 9, 2026 (**Figure EV-1**).

WCA-2A: Last week's water depth at the 2-17 gauge remained steady with a slight increase. Stage was 0.1 feet above the regulation line on Sunday (**Figure EV-2**).

WCA-3A: The 3-gauge average remains well within Zone B, remaining steady. On Monday, stages were 1.42 feet below the Zone A regulation line. Stage at Gauge 62 (NW corner) was also stable last week with a slight decline toward the end of the week and was below the Upper Schedule line by 0.72 feet on Monday (**Figures EV-3** and **EV-4)**.

Water Depths

The SFWDAT model output for August 8, 2026, illustrates that WCA-1 is exhibiting a drying trend in the north while WCA-2A has showed a slight wetting trend especially in the central region. Water levels are increasing across WCA-3, particularly in the southern region, but the northeast and central remain dry. The Big Cypress basin is also showing a wetting trend in the center of the basin although the WDAT output may have issues in this region. Water depths remain very low, in the 10^{th} – 20^{th} percentile, for this time of year across the EPA; impacting soil, flora, and fauna. Northern WCA-3A remains especially dry in the east of that sub-basin. In 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 water 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. 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 0.05 feet for the week. Changes ranged from −0.11 feet at Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB) to +0.01 feet at E112, both in the northern slough (**Figure EV-7 and Figure EV-8**). Taylor Slough water levels remain below the recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 5.3 inches compared to before the Florida Bay Initiative (starting in 2017), a decrease of 1.8 inches relative to last week. Stages at Craighead Pond (CP) and TSB are below the estimated historical average by 1.04 and 2.30 feet, respectively.

Average salinity in Florida Bay was 41.5, an increase of 0.3 from last week. Salinity changes ranged from −0.6 at Terrapin Bay (TB) in the central nearshore region to +1.2 at Little Madeira Bay (LM) in the eastern nearshore region (**Figure EV-7**). Salinity is above the estimated historical average and above the WY2001-2016 Interquartile Range (IQR) 75^{th} percentile in all regions (**Figure EV-9**). Salinities in the central and western regions are also above the hypersalinity threshold, while salinity in the eastern region is nearing

it. Bay-wide salinity is above its recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 12.5, an increase of 1.2 from last week.

Salinity at the Taylor River (TR) station in the mangrove zone (tracked for the Florida Bay MFL) was 26.8, a decrease of 3.0 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 0.31 inches for the week, based on the 18 gauges used for this report. Rainfall ranged from 0.00 inches at TR in the eastern nearshore region to 0.91 inches at Buoy Key (BK) in the western region (**Figure EV-11**). Wind directions and speeds in Florida Bay ranged from 0.4 mph E on August 4th to 20.4 mph NE on August 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 273 ac-feet, with net positive flows for the week. Total daily creek flow ranged from −660 ac-feet on August 3rd to 1,468 ac-feet on August 6th (**Figure EV-13**). Average daily flow from Alligator Creek was −10 ac-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 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	0.85	−0.03
WCA-2A	1.03	+0.03
WCA-2B	1.62	+0.06
WCA-3A	1.74	+0.08
WCA-3B	0.98	+0.02
ENP	1.34	+0.09

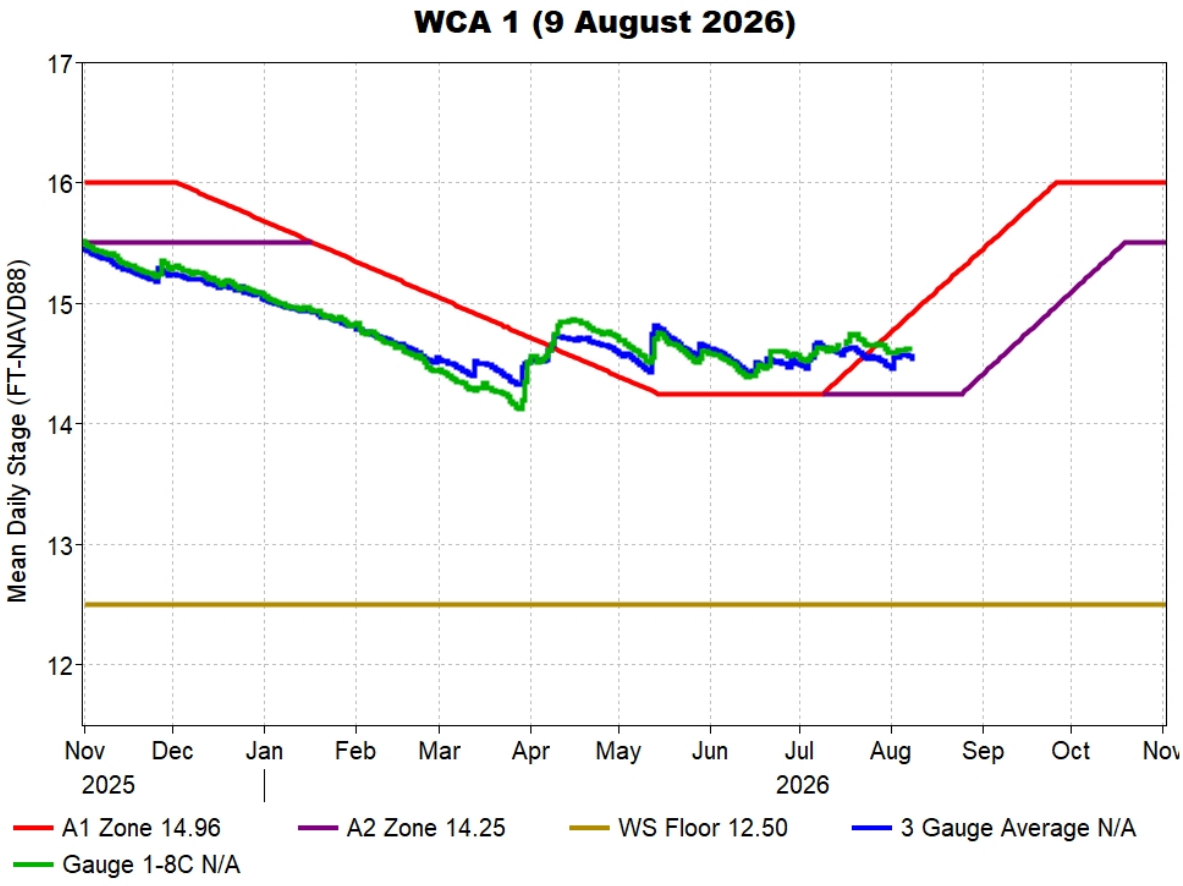

Figure EV-1. WCA-1 stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

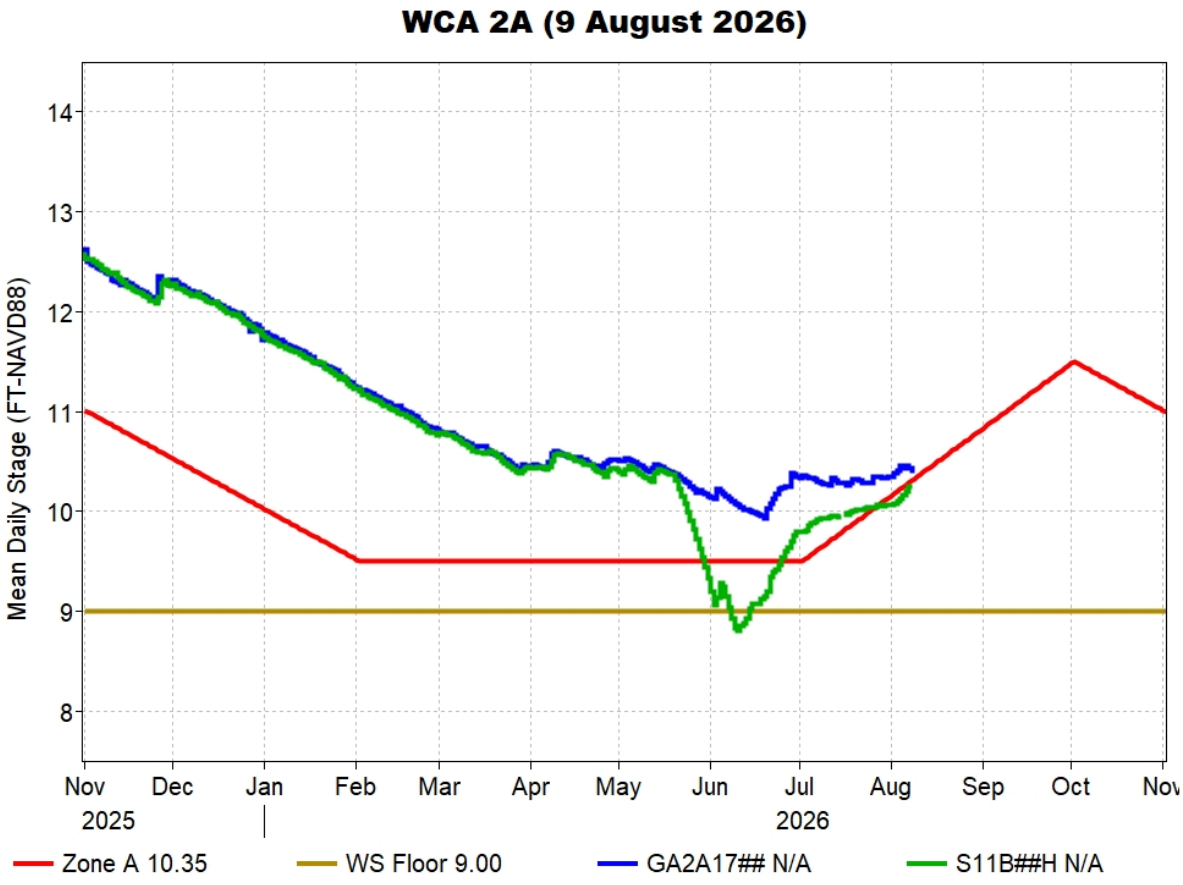

Figure EV-2. WCA-2A stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

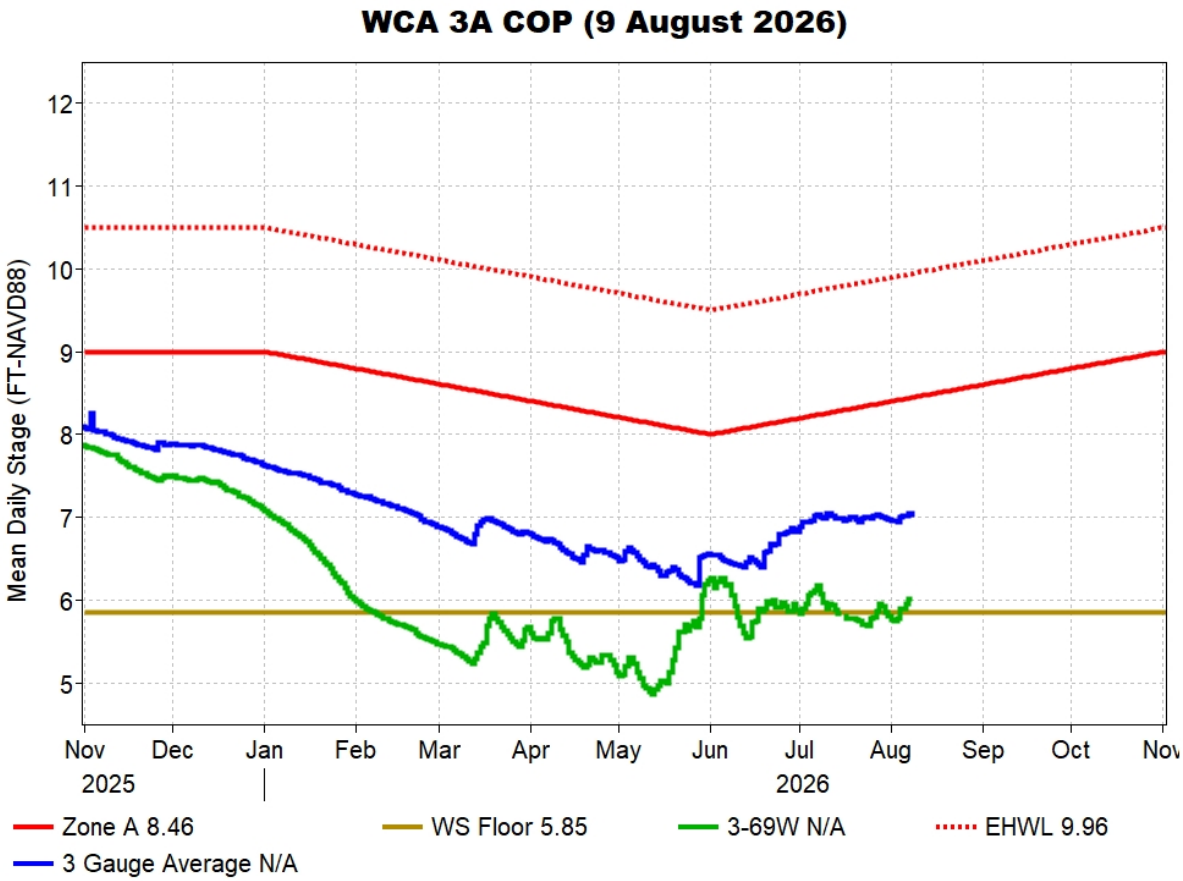

Figure EV-3. WCA-3A stage hydrographs (three-gauge average, 3-69W) and regulation schedule.

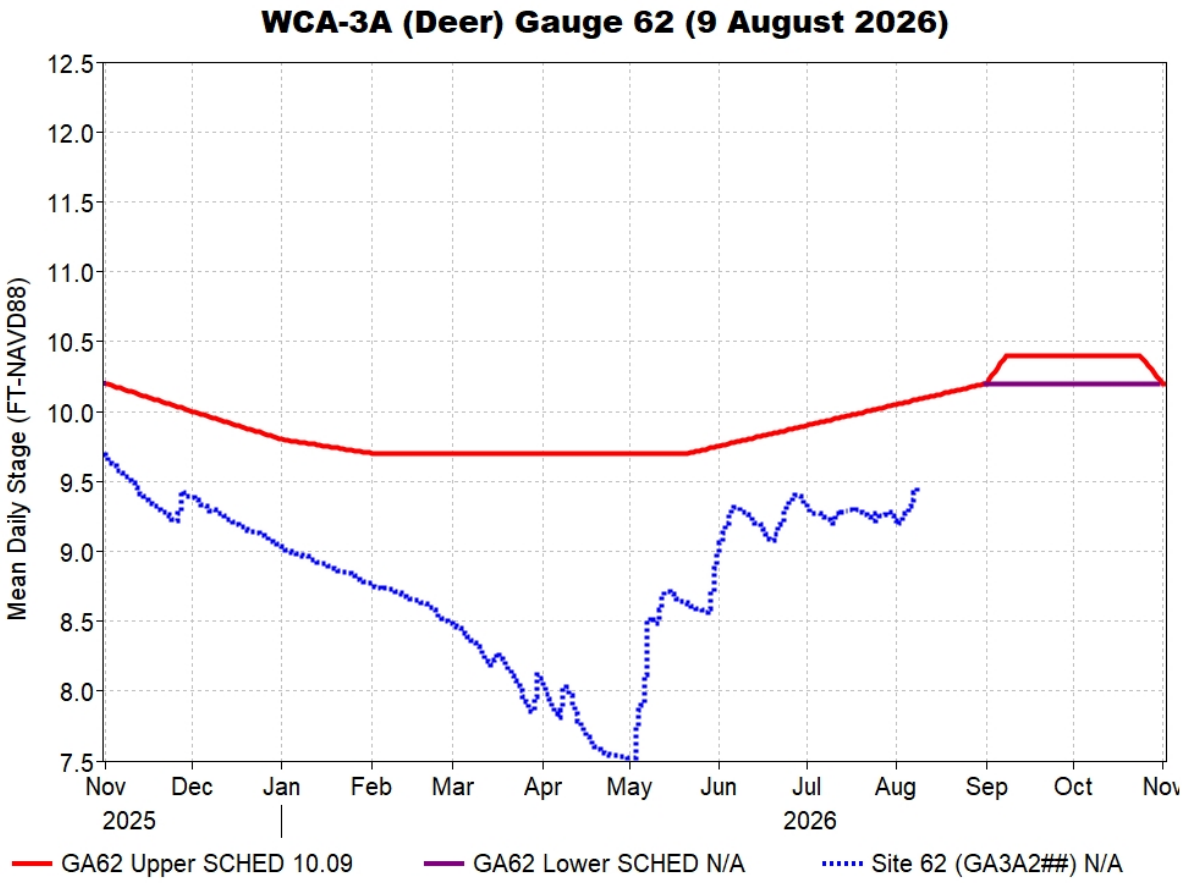

Figure EV-4. WCA-3A stage hydrograph (Deer gauge; Site 62) and regulation schedule.

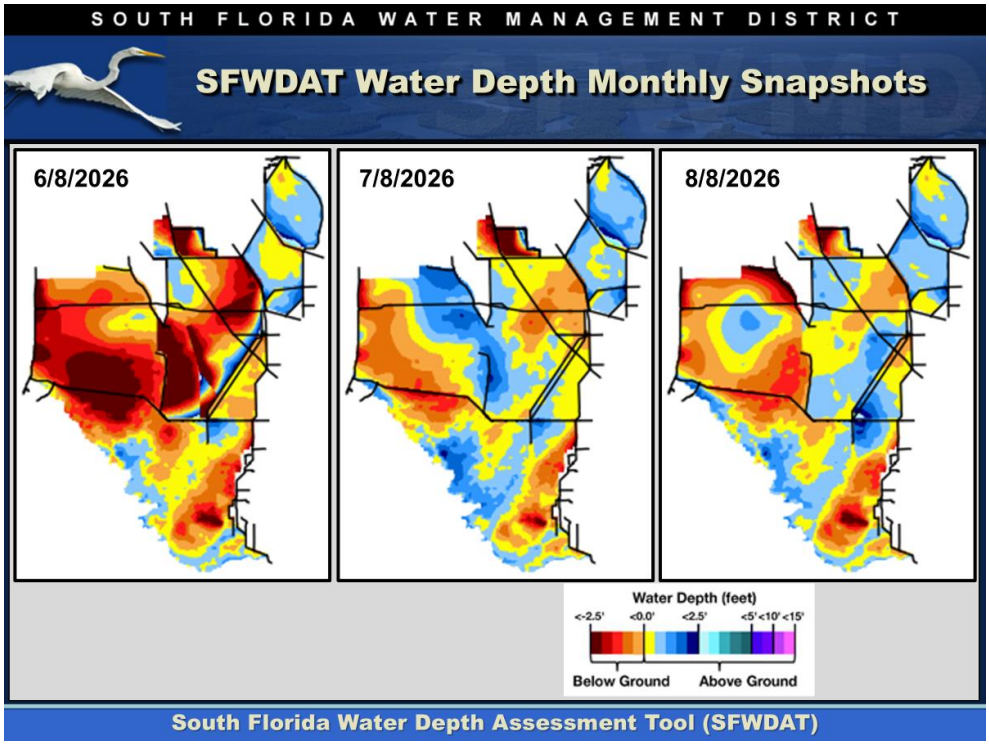

Figure EV-5. Everglades water depths from two months ago (left), one month ago (center) and present (right), based on SFWDAT.

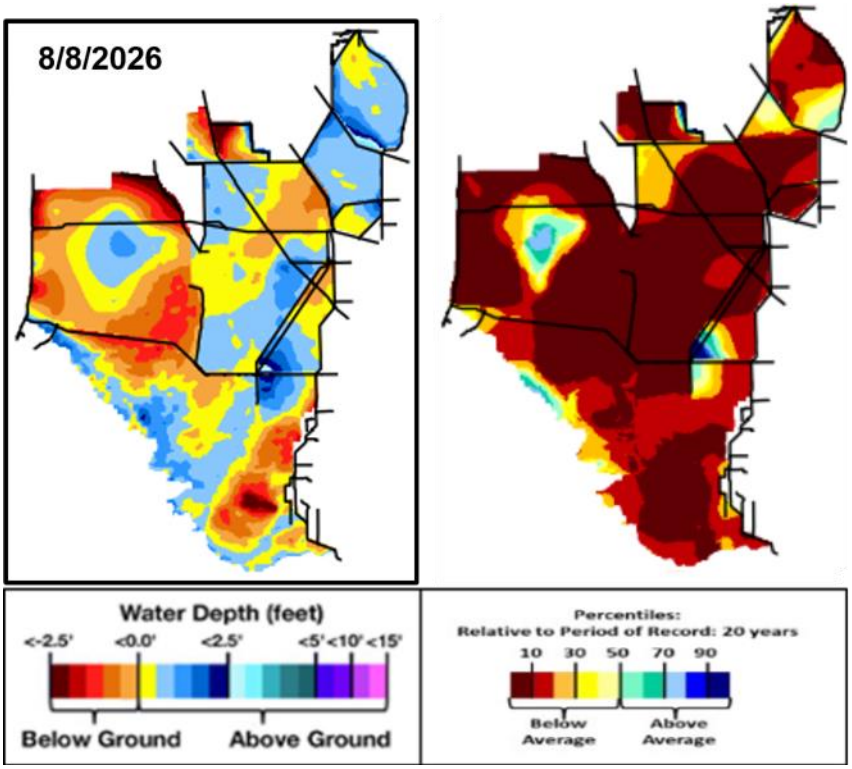

Figure EV-6. Present water depths (August 8, 2026) compared to the day of year relative to average (percentile) over the previous 20 years.

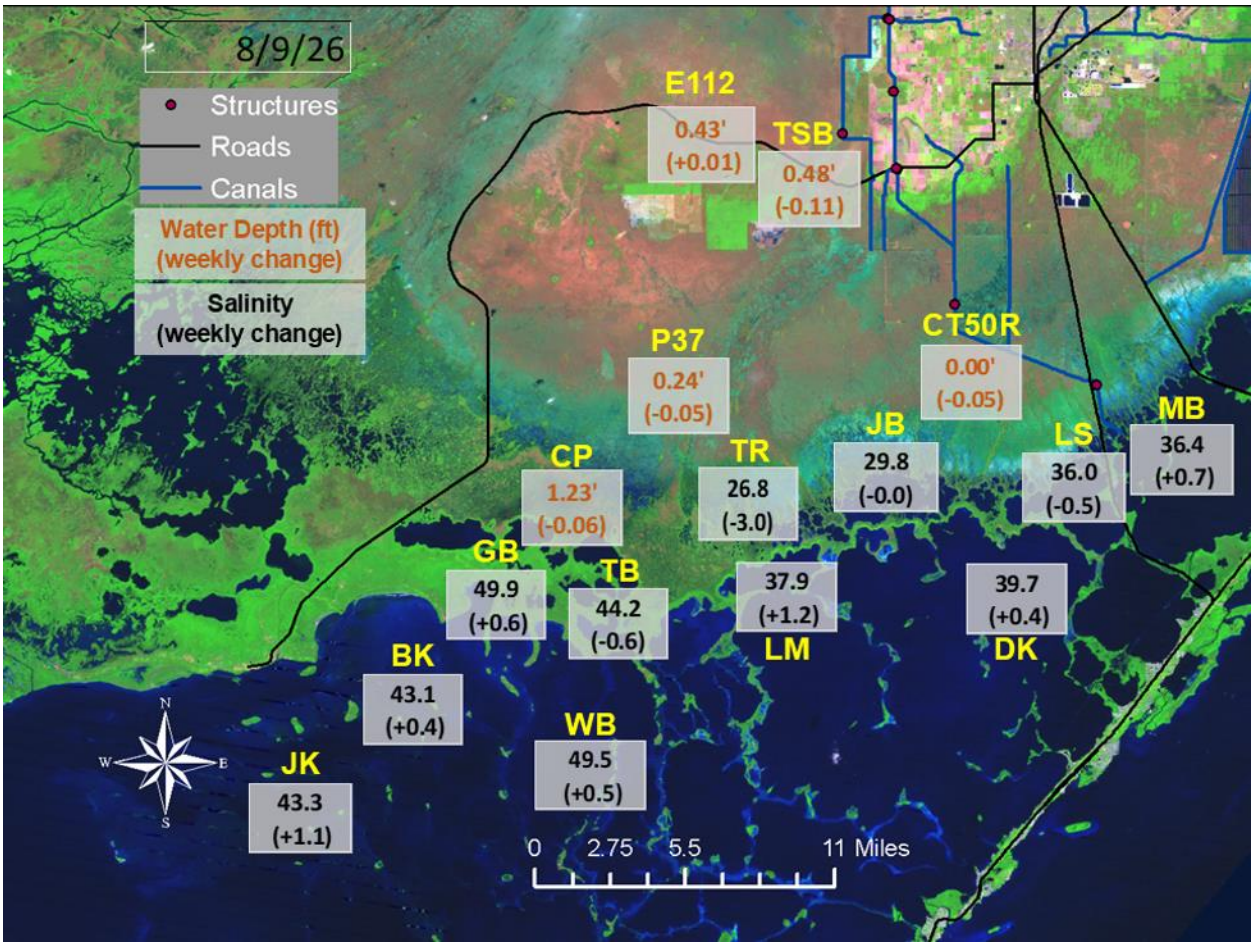

Figure EV-7. Taylor Slough water depths and Florida Bay salinities with changes since a week ago.

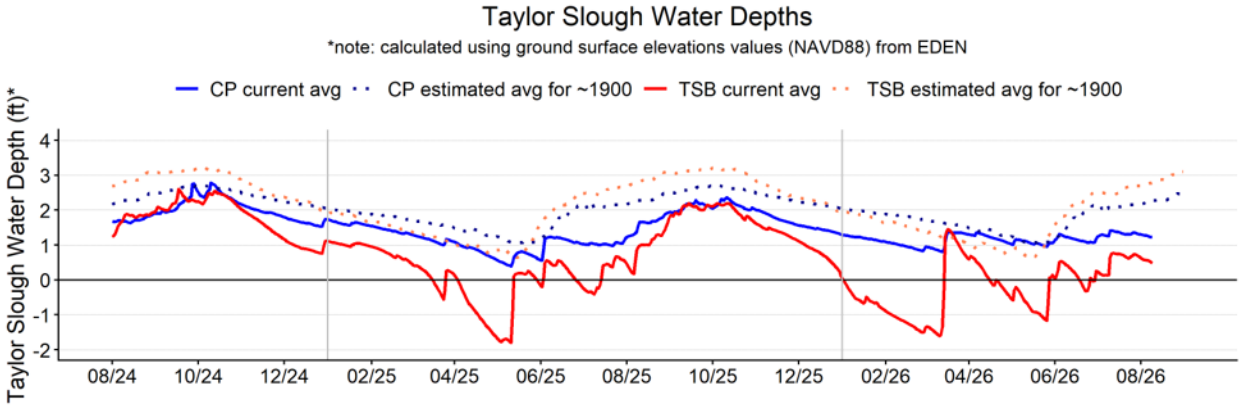

Figure EV-8. Taylor Slough water depth time series for Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB; northern slough) and Craighead Pond (CP; southern slough).

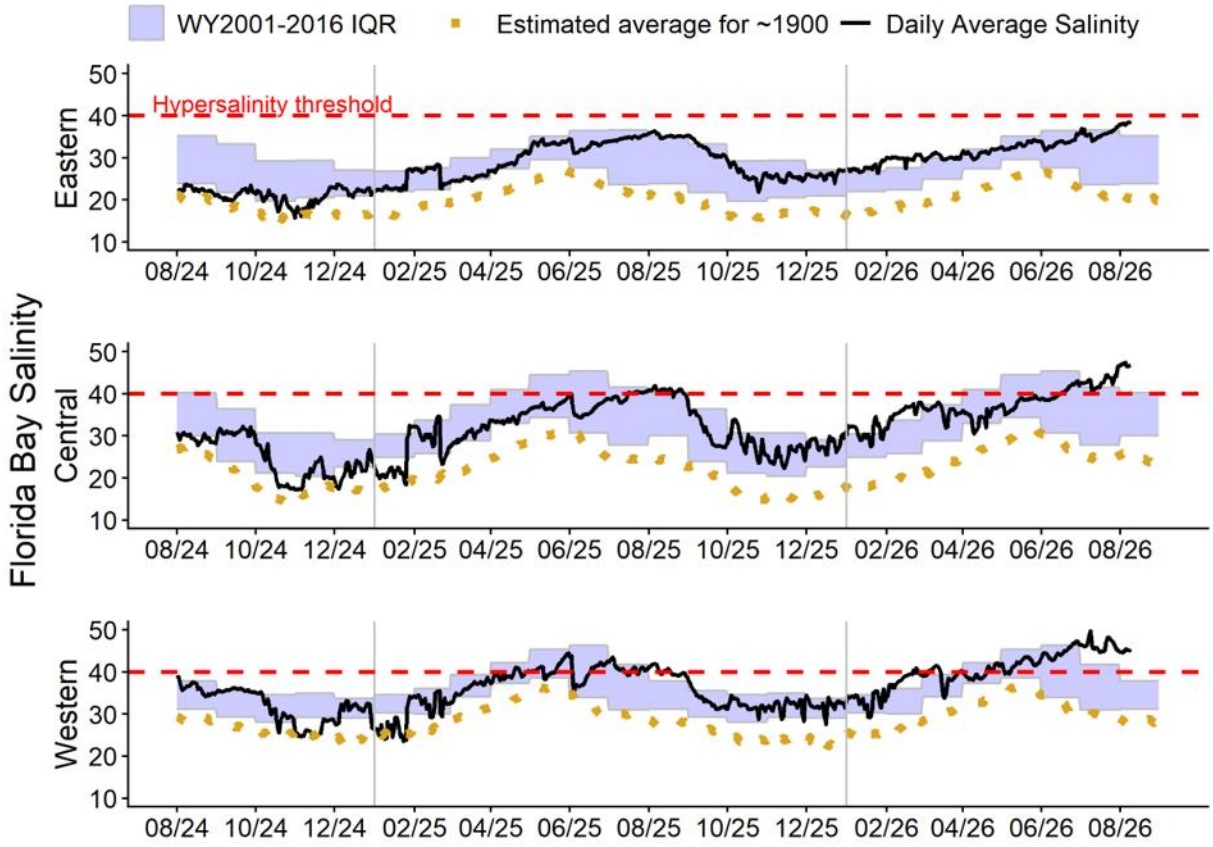

Figure EV-9. Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with WY2001-2016 interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges (IQR) and estimated historical daily average salinities. The hypersalinity threshold indicates the level at which salinities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

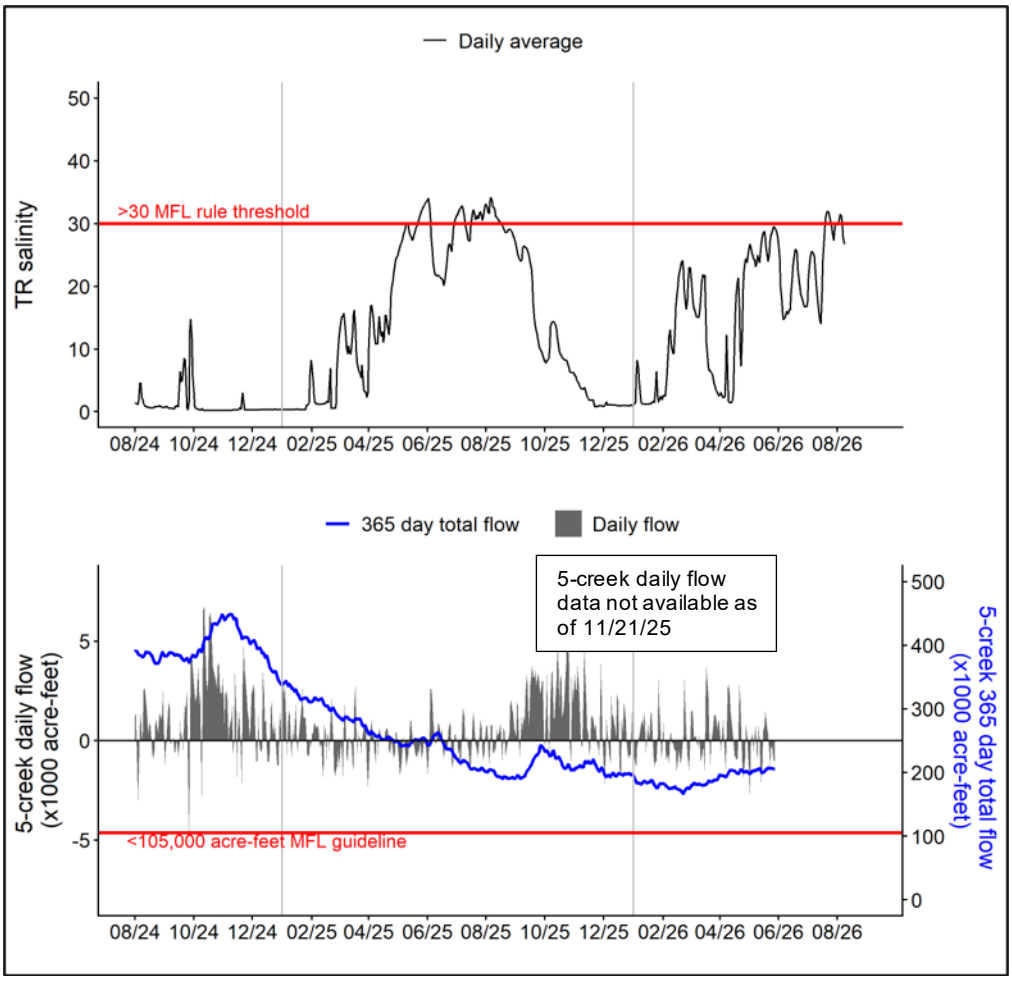

Figure EV-10. Daily average salinity at Taylor River (TR) tracked for the Florida Bay MFL criteria. The 365-day total creek flow MFL metric is not currently available due to missing creek flow data.

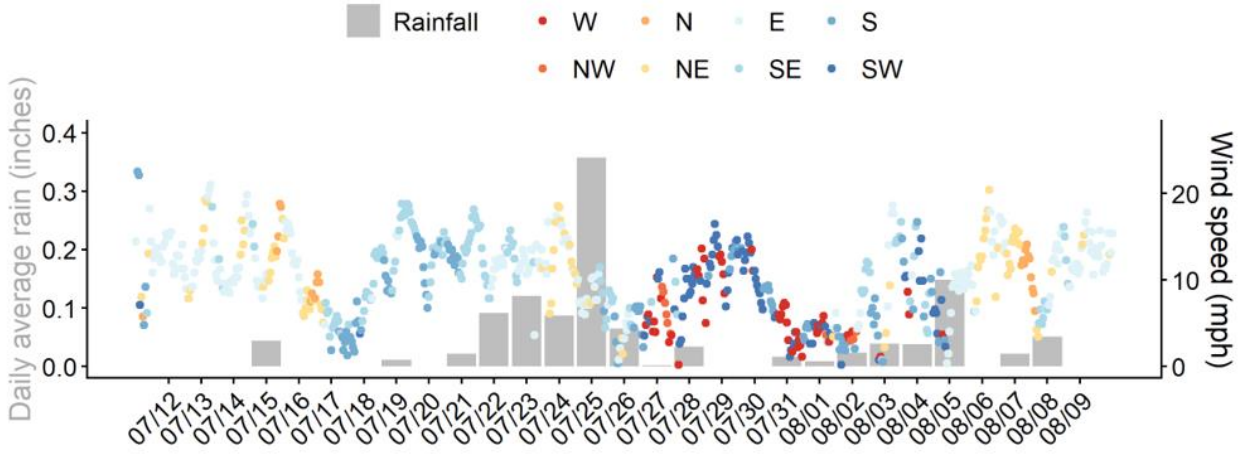

Figure EV-11. Daily average rain across Taylor Slough and Florida Bay, along with hourly average wind speed and direction (measured at Long Key) in Florida Bay over the past four weeks.

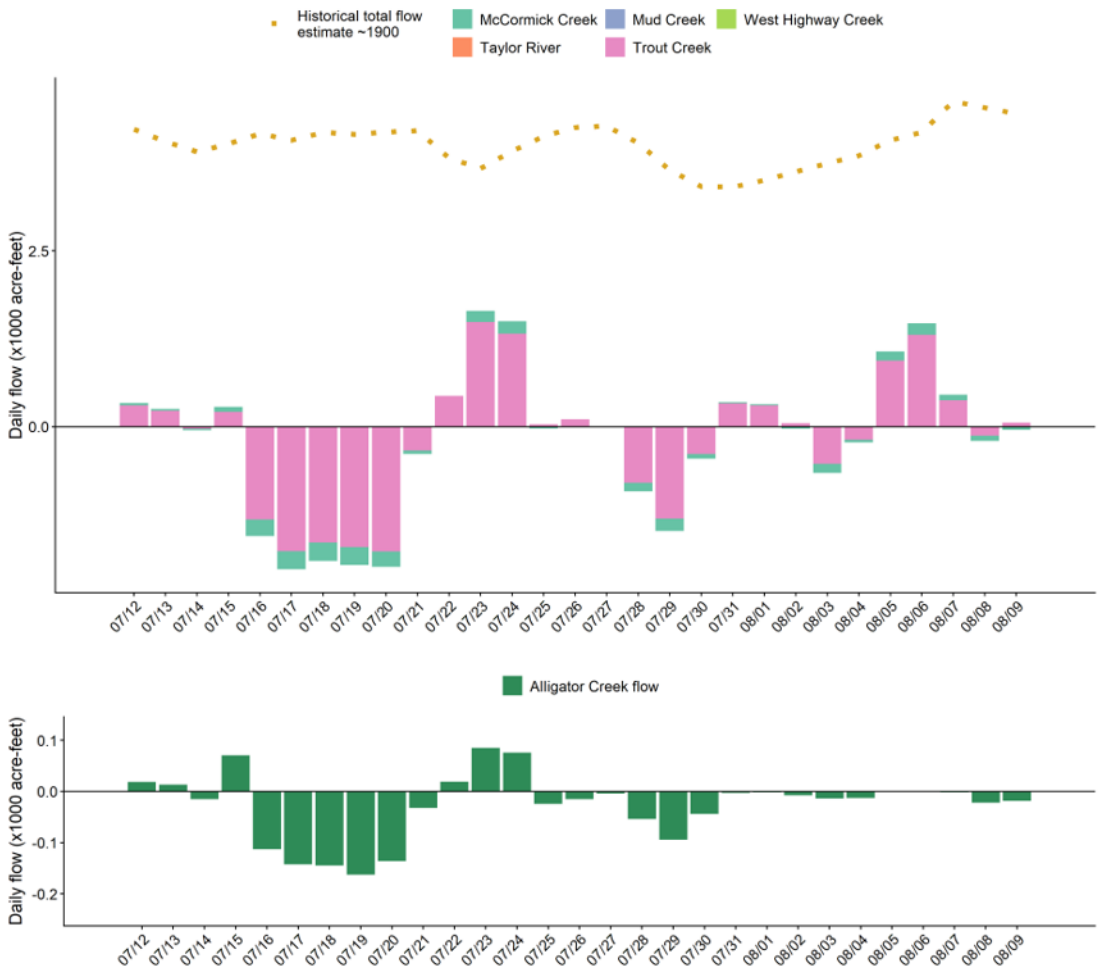

Figure EV-12. Top: daily average creek flow summed between the five major creeks with estimated historical daily flow over the past four weeks (**note**: data from Taylor River, Mud Creek and West Highway Creek are currently unavailable since November 21st, 2025). Bottom: Daily average Alligator Creek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

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

SFWMD Everglades Ecological Recommendations, August 10, 2026 (red is new)			
	Weekly change	Recommendation	Reasons
WCA-1	Stage decreased by 0.03 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 0.03	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 increased by 0.06 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NE	Stage showed no change	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 increased by 0.14 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	
Central WCA-3A S	Stage increased by 0.03 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 increased by 0.14 feet		
WCA-3B	Stage increased by 0.02 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.12 feet per week.	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
ENP-SRS	Stage increased by 0.09 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 —0.11 feet to +0.01 feet	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.
FB- Salinity	Salinity changes ranged from —0.6 to +1.2	Move water southward as possible.	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.