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: September 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Weekly Environmental Conditions for Systems Operations

Summary

Weather Conditions and Forecast

On Wednesday, afternoon shower and thunderstorm development will occur in the western half of the SFWMD, especially along the coast. By Thursday, moisture levels are forecast to increase substantially across South Florida as a surge of tropical moisture associated with a tropical wave moves into the region. This should favor periods of morning shower activity along portions of the east coast, followed by scattered to numerous heavy showers and thunderstorms developing across the interior and shifting toward the western half of the SFWMD during the afternoon. On Friday, afternoon shower and thunderstorm development should shift toward the eastern half of the SFWMD. Enhanced low-level convergence along the Atlantic sea-breeze boundary should favor stronger thunderstorms along portions of the east coast. Over the weekend, the subtropical ridge is forecast to rebuild across Florida and the western Atlantic, another surge of tropical moisture associated with a tropical wave is forecast to move into the region, enhancing the rainfall from the weekend into early next week. This pattern would favor periods of morning shower activity along portions of the lower east coast, followed by scattered to numerous heavy showers and thunderstorms developing across the interior and shifting toward the western half of the SFWMD during the afternoon. The forecast confidence remains lower than usual throughout the 7-day period due to the combination of weak steering currents, a nearby frontal boundary, weak cyclonic features, and surges of moisture from tropical waves. Relatively small changes in the position or strength of these features could result in meaningful changes in the steering flow and, ultimately, the location and intensity of the heaviest daily rainfall. For the 7-day period ending next Tuesday morning, above-average total SFWMD rainfall appears possible.

Kissimmee

In the last week, releases were made from East Lake Toho and Lake Toho to lower stage back to the regulation schedule. Releases from Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha

followed the Headwaters Revitalization Schedule Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan. Weekly average discharge on September 6, 2026, was 140 cfs at S-65 and 240 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 4.9 mg/L the previous week to 4.2 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 9.72 feet NAVD88 (11.03 ft NGVD29) on September 6, 2026, which was 0.12 feet higher than the previous week and 0.02 feet higher than a month ago. The Lake remains in the water shortage management band. Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) increased from 890 cfs the previous week to 3,140 cfs. Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) decreased from 540 cfs the previous week to 110 cfs. The September 6, 2026, satellite image from NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate to high cyanobacteria potential along most of the shallow nearshore regions, especially along Indian Prairie, and moderate potential in the central region. The September 1 - 2 phytoplankton monitoring found that 10 of the 27 phytoplankton samples collected had detectable levels of cyanotoxins (7 cylindrospermopsin and 3 microcystins), all well below the USEPA recreational thresholds.

Estuaries

Total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary averaged 941 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Mean salinities decreased at all sites over the past week. Salinity in the middle estuary was in the optimal range (10–25) for adult eastern oysters.

Total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary averaged 3,349 cfs over the past week with no flow coming from Lake Okeechobee. Over the past week, surface salinities decreased at all sites in the estuary. Salinities were in the optimal range (0-10) for tape grass at all sites in the upper estuary. 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 September 6, 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 9,500 ac-feet. The total amount of inflows to the STAs in WY2027 is approximately 159,000 ac-feet. Most online STA treatment cells are at or slightly above 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, there is no lake capacity for LOSOM Lake releases to the WCAs.

Everglades

Rainfall in the Everglades Protection Area (EPA) last week was consistently above average with rainfall averages slightly higher in the northern portion of the system (>3 inches in WCA-1 and WCA-2A) and slightly lower in the southern portion of the EPA (~2 inches in WCA-3A and Everglades National Park (ENP)). Stage changes across the EPA reflected the rainfall patterns with ascensions occurring throughout the EPA except WCA-3B. Water depths across portions of central and southern WCA-3A have improved compared to last month but remain very shallow for this time of year. All basins of the EPA are within the 10^{th} – 30^{th} percentile and persistently low in northeastern WCA-3A, where satellite monitoring is showing dry soils. These dry conditions can have ecological consequences system wide, including reduced prey production, increased risk of damaging wildfires, enhanced peat oxidation, and potential ridge and slough degradation. Taylor Slough water levels increased over the past week (+0.45 ft) and are now slightly above the recent seasonal average (+0.7 in). Florida Bay salinity declined slightly last week but remains elevated, with the bay-wide average decreasing by 2.4 to 41.5. Hypersaline conditions persist across Florida Bay. Salinity remains above historical/reference conditions in the eastern, central, and western regions and is 13.8 above the recent seasonal average bay-wide; the eastern region is at the hypersalinity threshold, while the central and western regions remain above it. Average baywide salinity is now at the highest level for this time of year when compared with 2000-present. 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 the bay and direct rainfall are less than 50% of normal.

Supporting Information

Kissimmee Basin

Upper Kissimmee

On August 30, 2026, mean daily lake stages were 55.4 feet NAVD88 (0.1 feet below schedule) in East Lake Toho, 52.8 feet NAVD88 (0.3 feet above 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

On September 6, 2026, mean daily lake stages were 55.6 feet NAVD88 (at schedule) in East Lake Toho, 52.8 feet NAVD88 (0.2 feet above schedule) in Lake Toho, and 48.1 feet NAVD88 (2.3 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 September 6, 2026, mean weekly discharge was 140 cfs at S-65 and 240 cfs at S-65A. Mean weekly discharge from the Kissimmee River was 180 cfs at S-65D and 500 cfs at S-65E (**Table KB-2**). Mean weekly headwater stages were 45.3 feet NAVD88 at S-65A and 28.0 feet NAVD88 at S-65D. Mean weekly river channel stage increased by 0.8 feet to 30.6 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 decreased from 4.9 mg/L the previous week to 4.2 mg/L (**Table KB-2**, **Figure KB-6**).

Water Management Recommendations

In KCH, follow the Headwaters Revitalization Schedule (HRS) Increment 1 Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan for S-65/S-65A (**Figure KB-7**). With KCH stage in Zone B4, target flows of 300 cfs; if stage increases into Zone B3, target flows between 300 and 1,400 cfs at S-65A using the Increment 1 Interpolation Tool to determine discharge relative to stage in KCH.

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)	
							9/6/26	*8/30/26*
Lakes Hart and Mary Jane	S-62	LKMJ	46	59.2	R	59.0	0.2	0.1
Lakes Myrtle, Preston and Joel	S-57	S-57	0	59.5	R	59.9	-0.4	-0.7
Alligator Chain	S-60	ALLI	0	61.6	R	62.1	-0.5	-0.8
Lake Gentry	S-63	LKGT	0	59.9	R	59.9	0.0	-0.3
East Lake Toho	S-59	TOHOE	270	55.6	R	55.6	0.0	-0.1
Lake Toho	S-61	TOHOW S-61	1200	52.8	R	52.6	0.2	0.3
Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha	S-65	KUB011 LKIS5B	140	48.1	T	50.4	-2.3	-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.

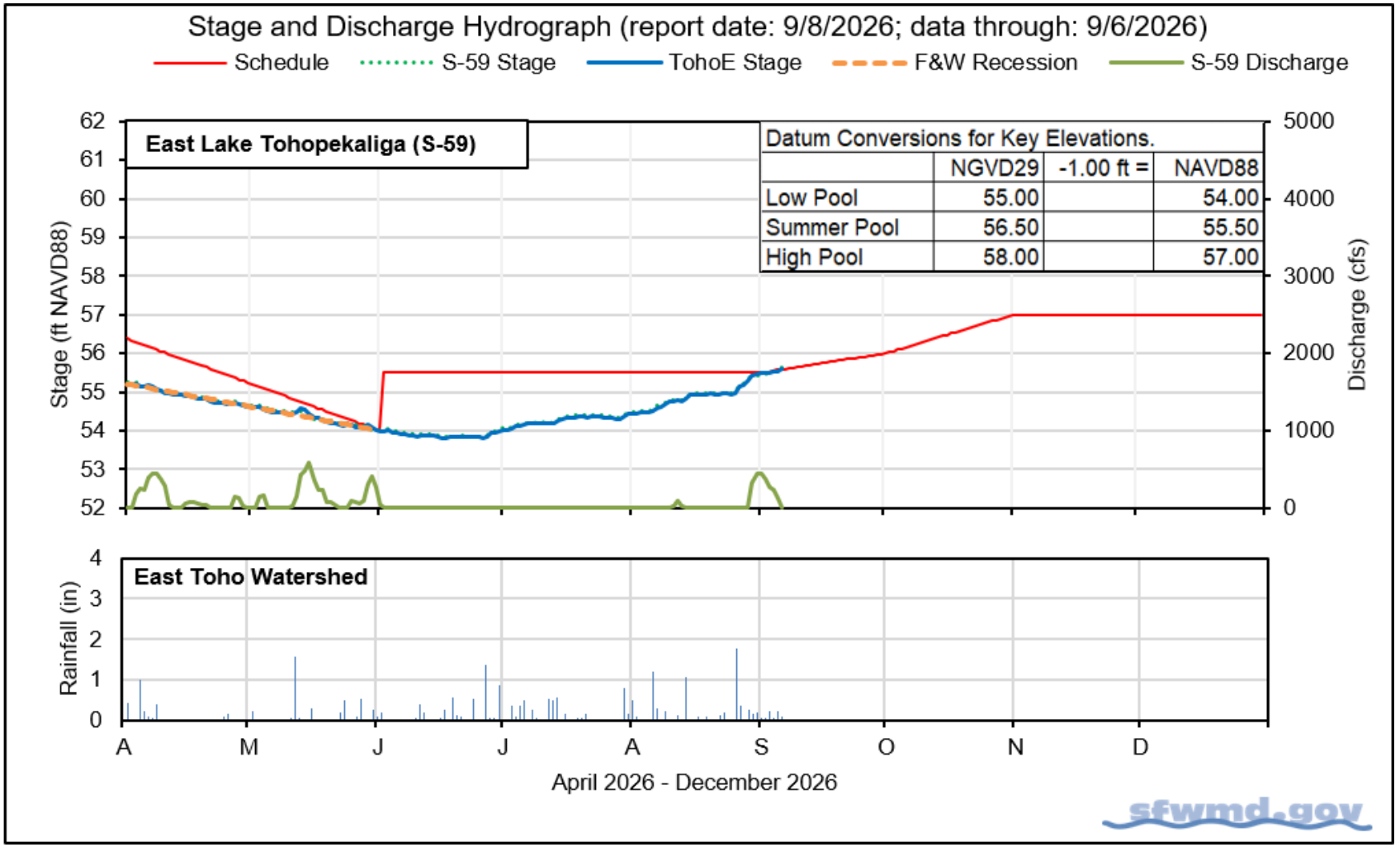


Figure KB-1. East Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

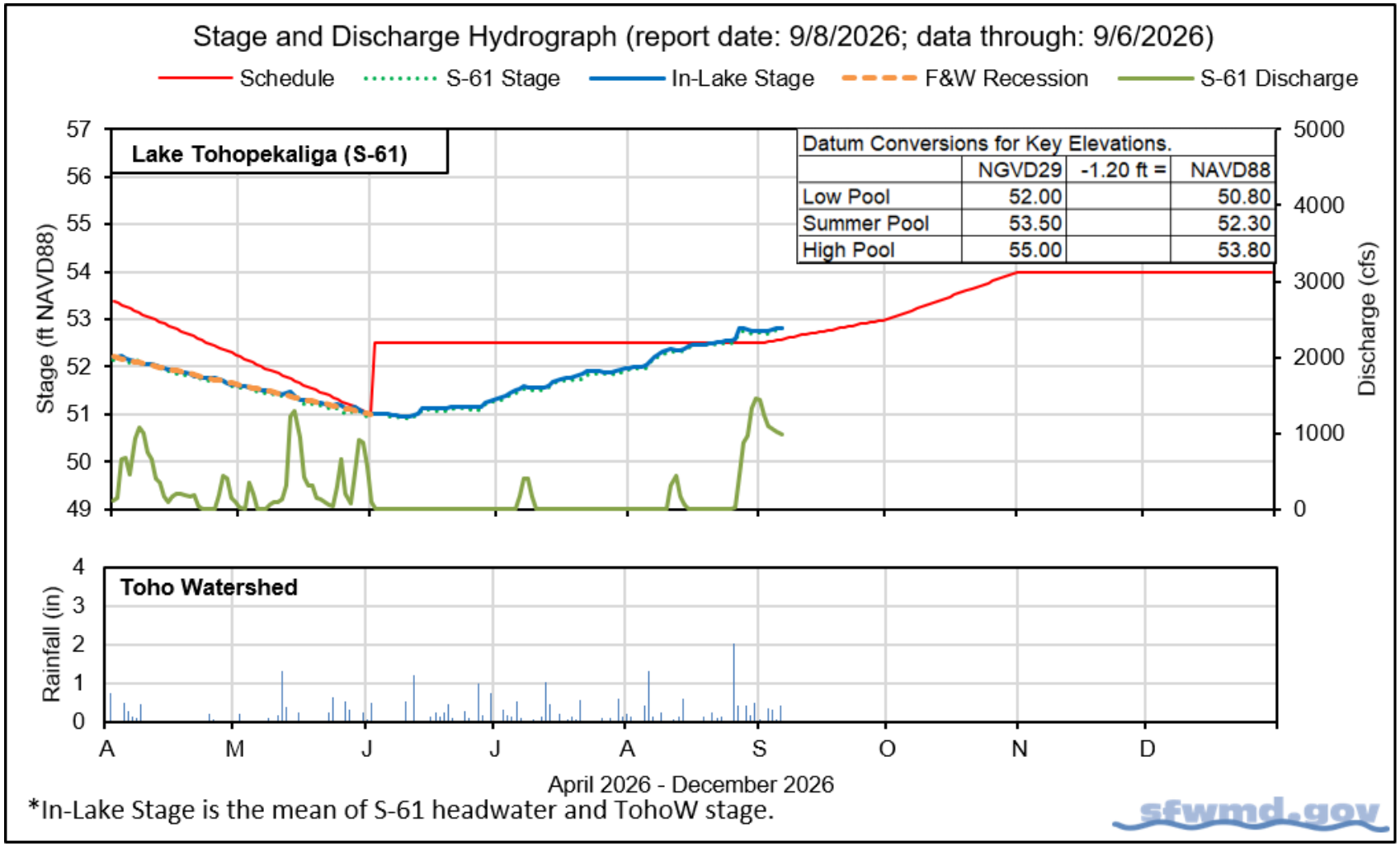


Figure KB-2. Lake Toho regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

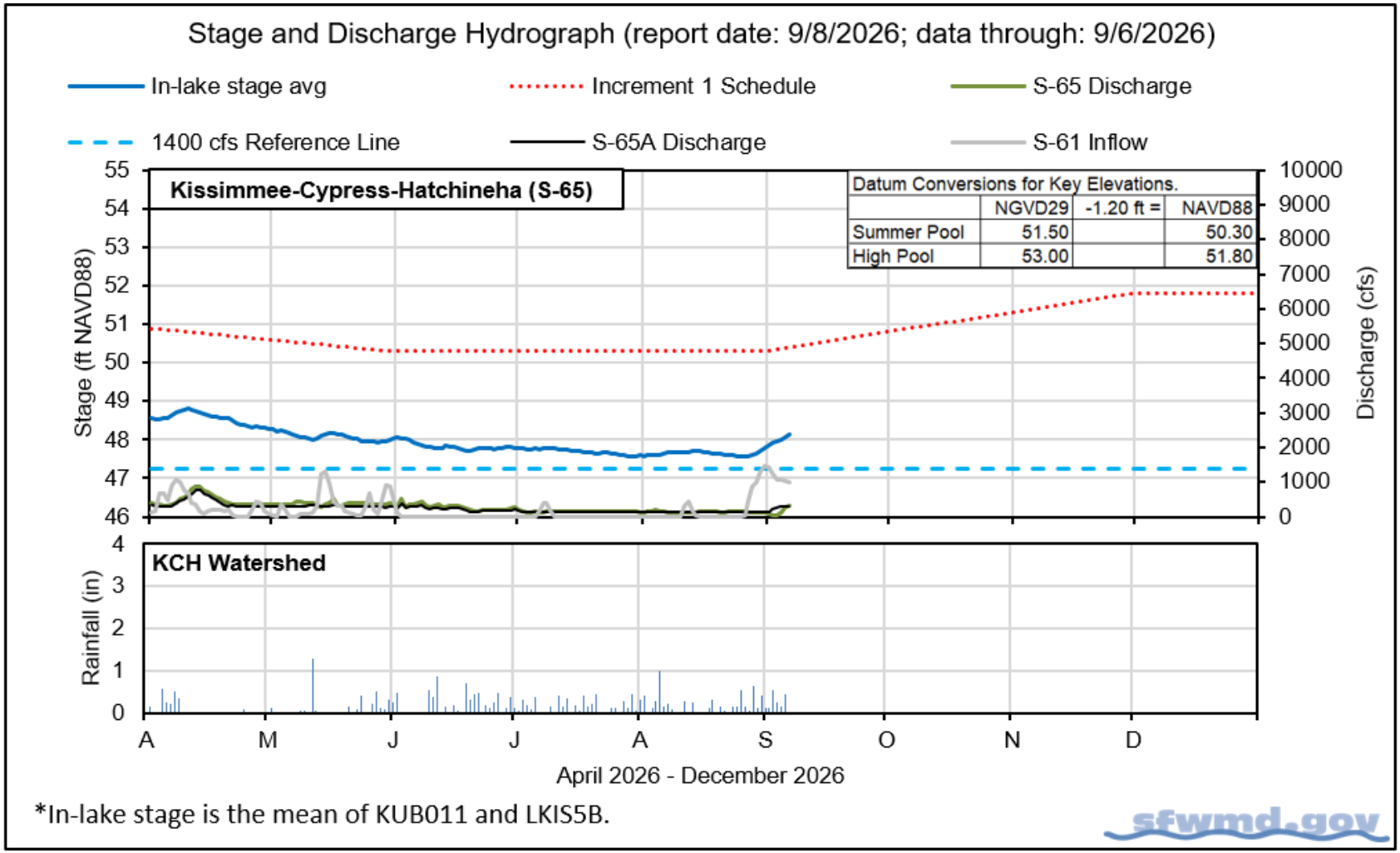


Figure KB-3. Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha regulation schedule, stage, discharge, and rainfall.

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			
		9/6/26	9/6/26	8/30/26	8/23/26	8/16/26
Discharge	S-65	310	140	140	150	120
Discharge	S-65A[a]	320	240	150	150	150
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65A	45.4	45.3	45.2	45.2	45.2
Discharge	S-65D[b]	290	180	270	310	380
Headwater Stage (feet NAVD88)	S-65D[c]	24.6	28.0	27.5	27.5	27.5
Discharge (cfs)	S-65E[d]	670	500	220	210	260
Discharge (cfs)	S-67	0	0	0	0	0
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L) [e]	Phase I, II/III river channel	3.5	4.2	4.9	4.6	5.7
River channel mean stage (feet NAVD88) [f]	Phase I river channel	31.5	30.6	29.8	29.7	30.1
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).

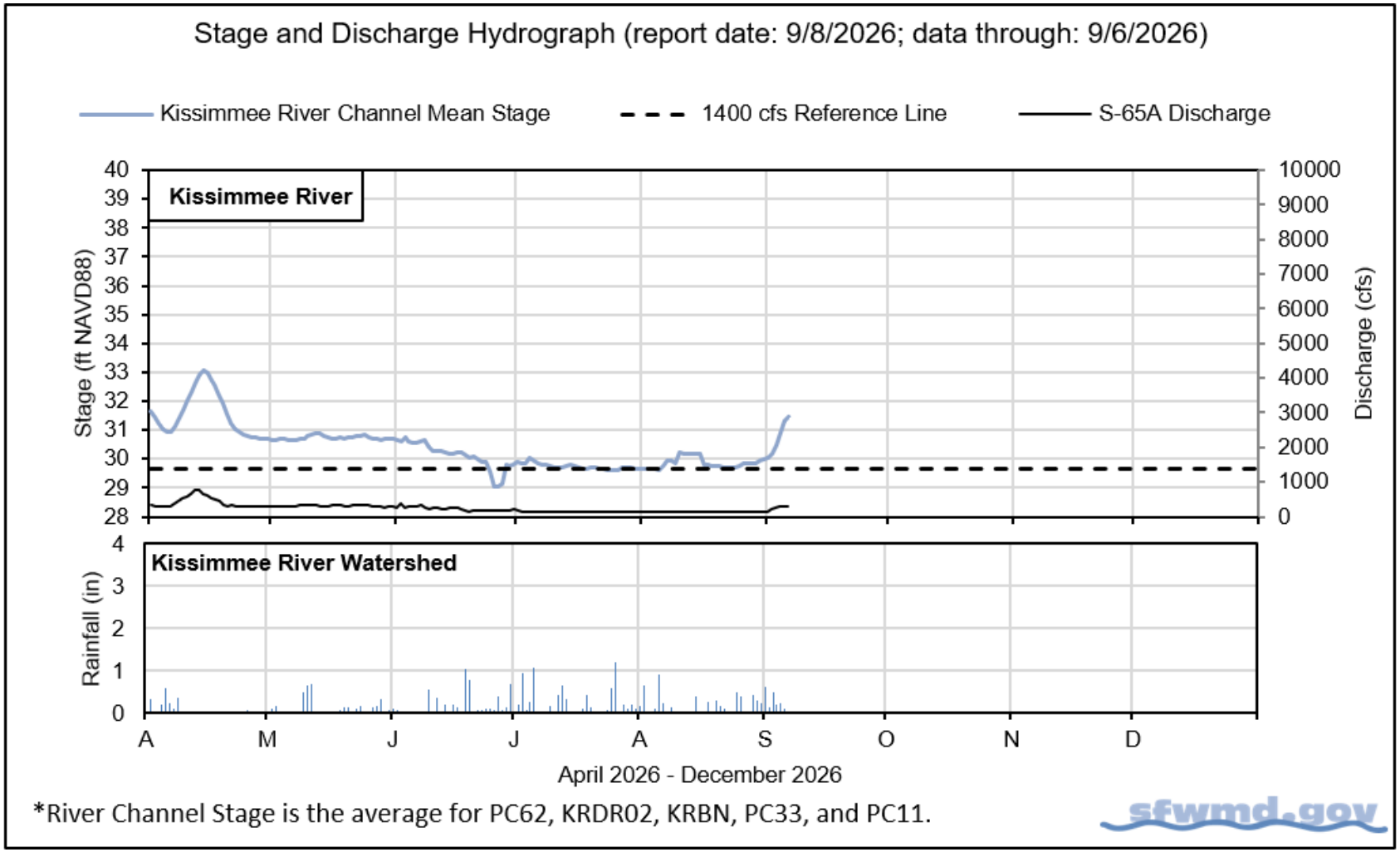


Figure KB-4. Kissimmee River stage, discharge, and rainfall.

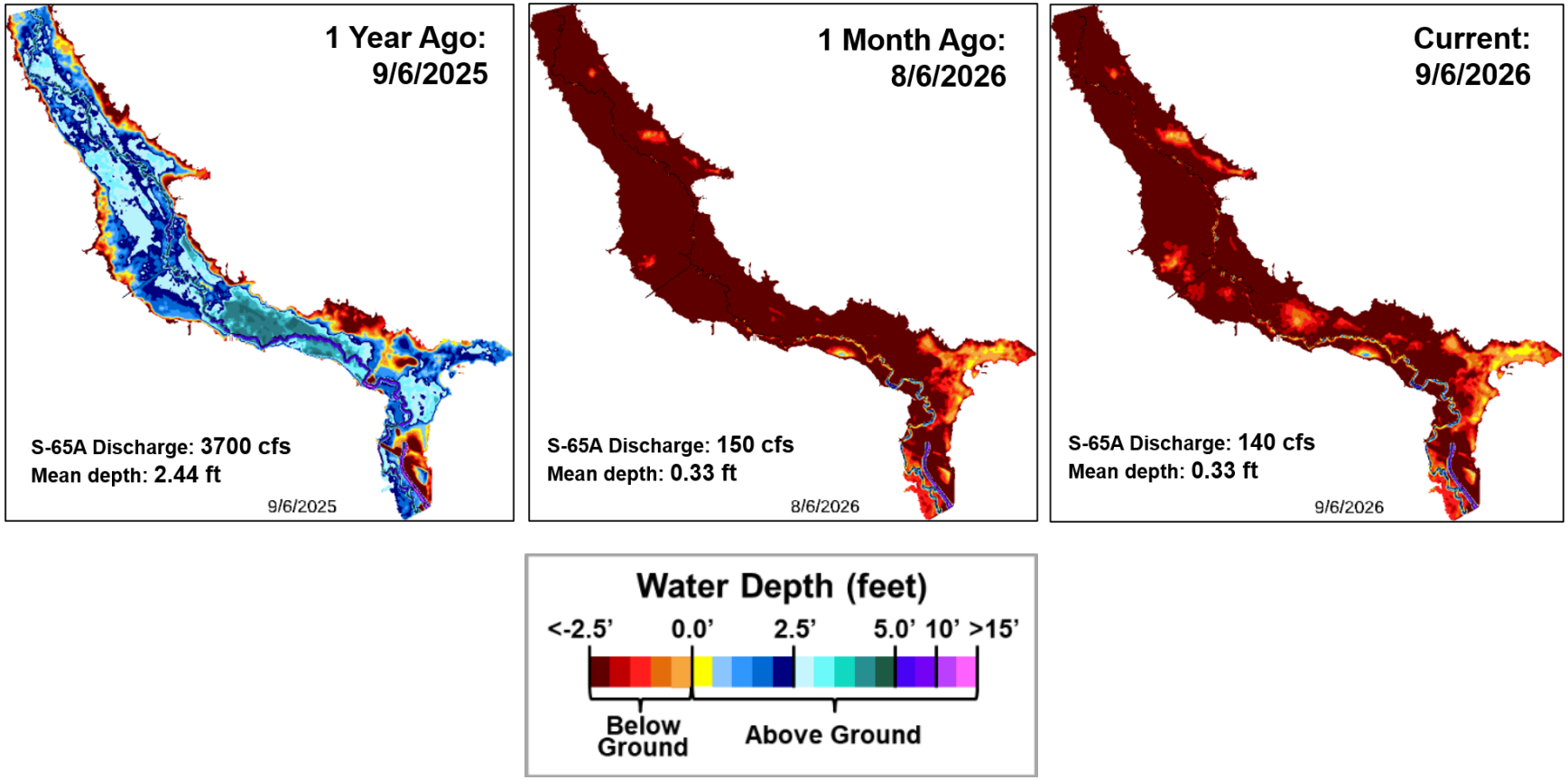
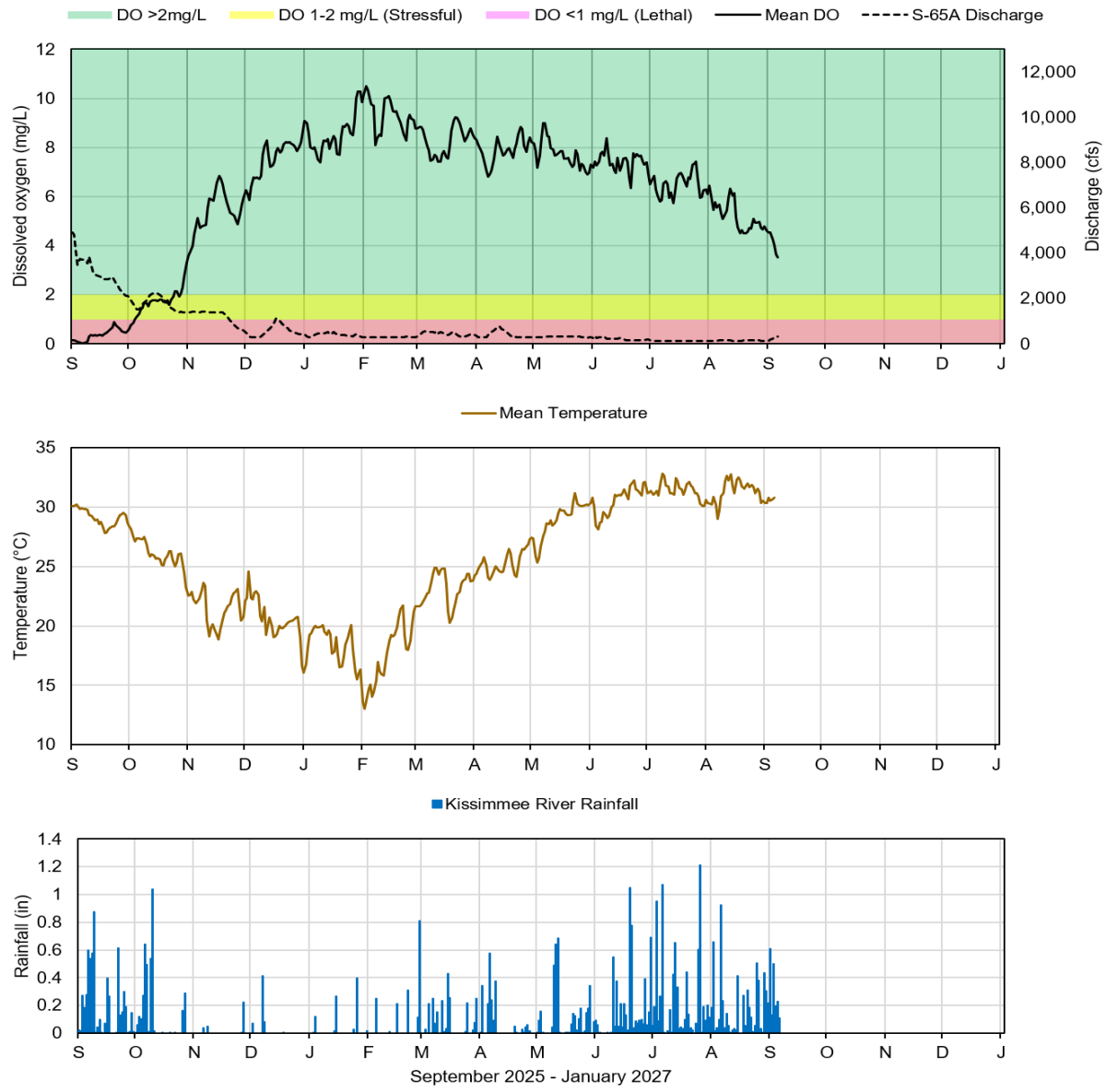


Figure KB-5. Phase I-II-III area Kissimmee River floodplain water depths (from left to right) one year ago, one month ago, and current.



Report Date: 9/8/2026; data are through: 9/6/2026

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

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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

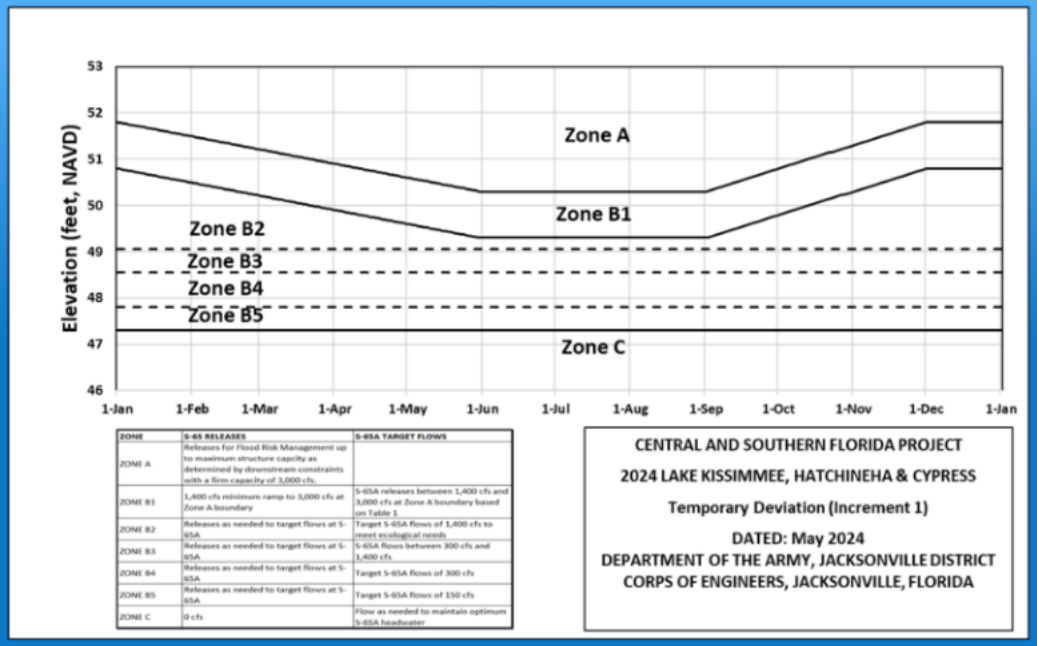
Discharge Guidance for Increment I Temporary Deviation Discharge Plan

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

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

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

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



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

Other Considerations

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

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

Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee stage was 9.72 feet NAVD88 (11.03 ft NGVD29) on September 6, 2026, which was 0.12 feet higher than the previous week and 0.02 feet higher than a month ago (**Figure LO-1**). Lake stage remains in the water shortage management band (1.47 feet below the upper limit, **Figure LO-2**) and is 1.32 feet below the ecological envelope (**Figure LO-3**). According to NEXRAD, 1.55 inches (approximately 57,800 ac-feet) of rain fell directly over the Lake during the previous week, and 1.07 inches (approximately 30,300 ac-feet) were lost to evapotranspiration.

Average daily inflows (excluding rainfall) increased from 890 cfs the previous week to 3,140 cfs. The largest single structure inflow came as backflow from the C-44 Canal through the S-308 structure (940 cfs). Average daily outflows (excluding evapotranspiration) decreased from 110 cfs the previous week to 0 cfs. **Figures LO-4 and LO-5** show the combined average daily inflows and outflows for the Lake over the past eight weeks, and the average inflows and outflows last week, respectively.

In the most recent non-obscured satellite image from September 6, 2026, NOAA's Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System suggests moderate to high cyanobacteria potential along most of the shallow nearshore regions, especially along Indian Prairie, and moderate potential in the central region (**Figure LO-6**).

The routine water quality and phytoplankton monitoring sampling trips are on the bloom season (May-Oct) twice per month sampling schedule. Provisional phytoplankton results from the September 1 - 2 sampling event found that 10 of the 27 phytoplankton samples collected had detectable levels of cyanotoxins. Seven had detectable levels of cylindrospermopsin, and 3 had detectable microcystins, all well below USEPA recreational thresholds (**Figure LO-7**). Five of the 16 sites with available chlorophyll data had chlorophyll *a* values > 40 µg/L, indicating bloom level concentrations, while 6 samples had values between 20 and 40 µg/L (**Figure LO-7**).

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

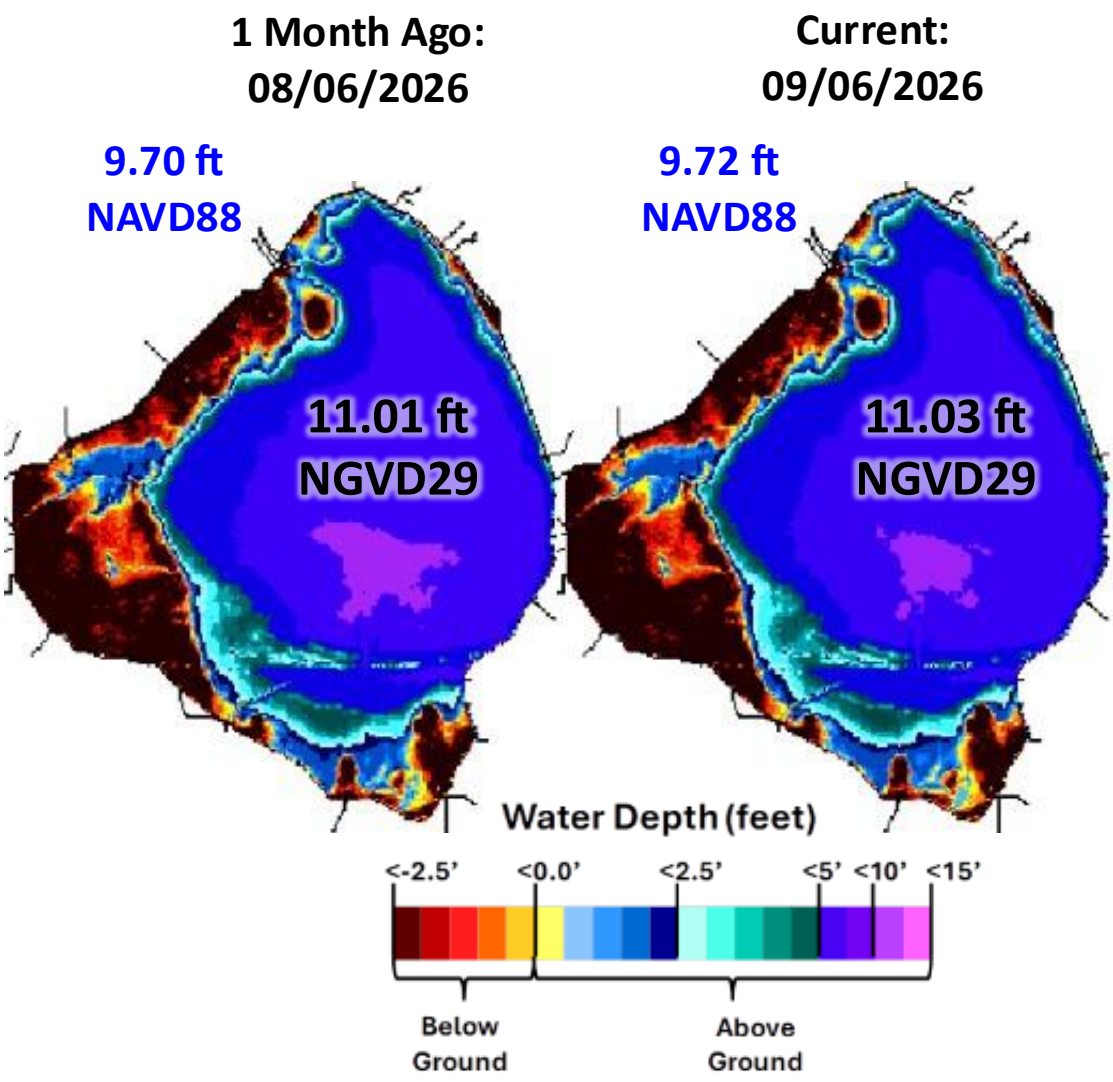

Figure LO-1. Lake Okeechobee water depth estimates based on South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT).

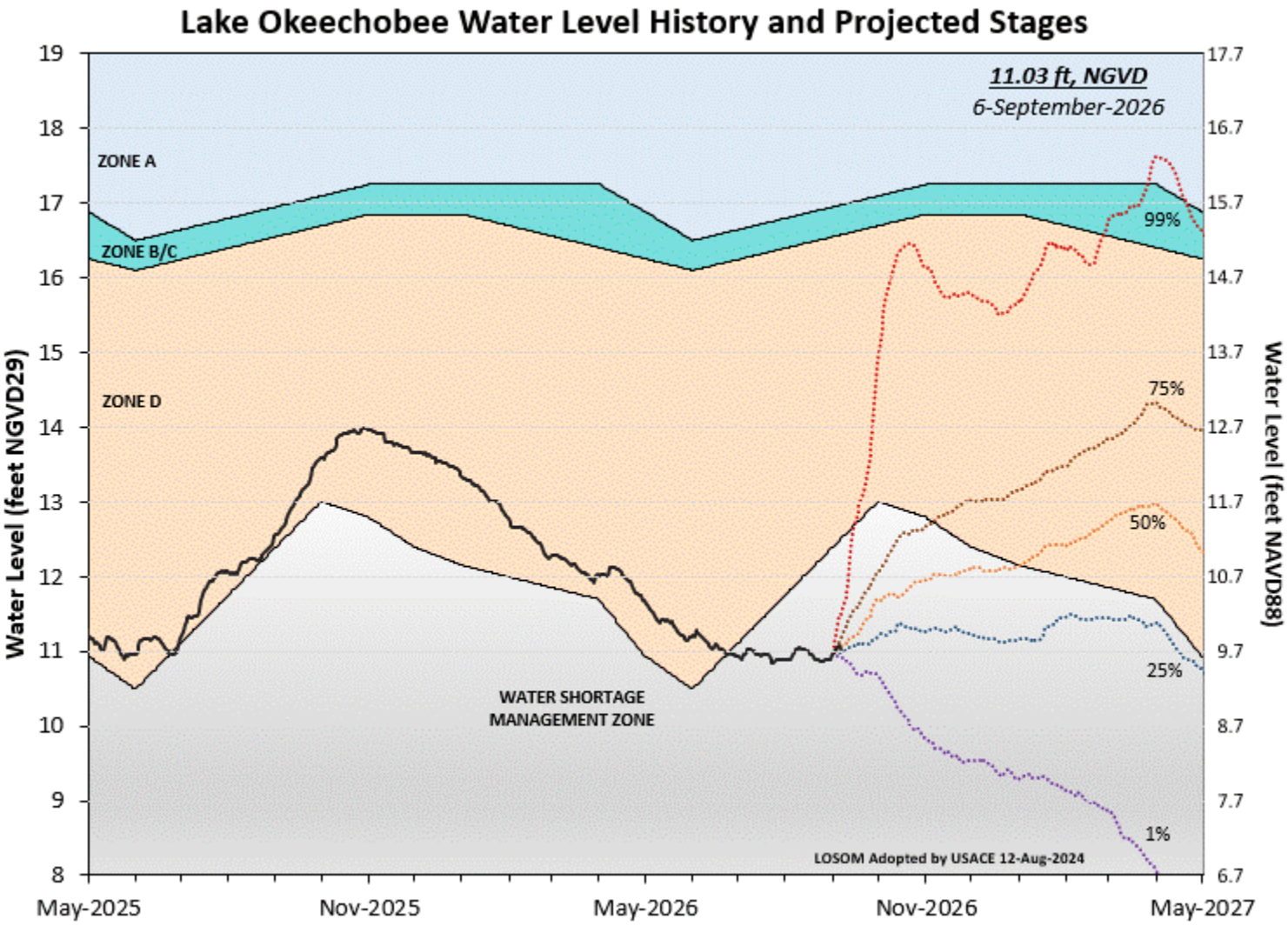

Figure LO-2. Recent Lake Okeechobee stages with projected stages based on a conditional position analysis. Note: stages are in NGVD29, approximate NAVD88 values are shown for reference.

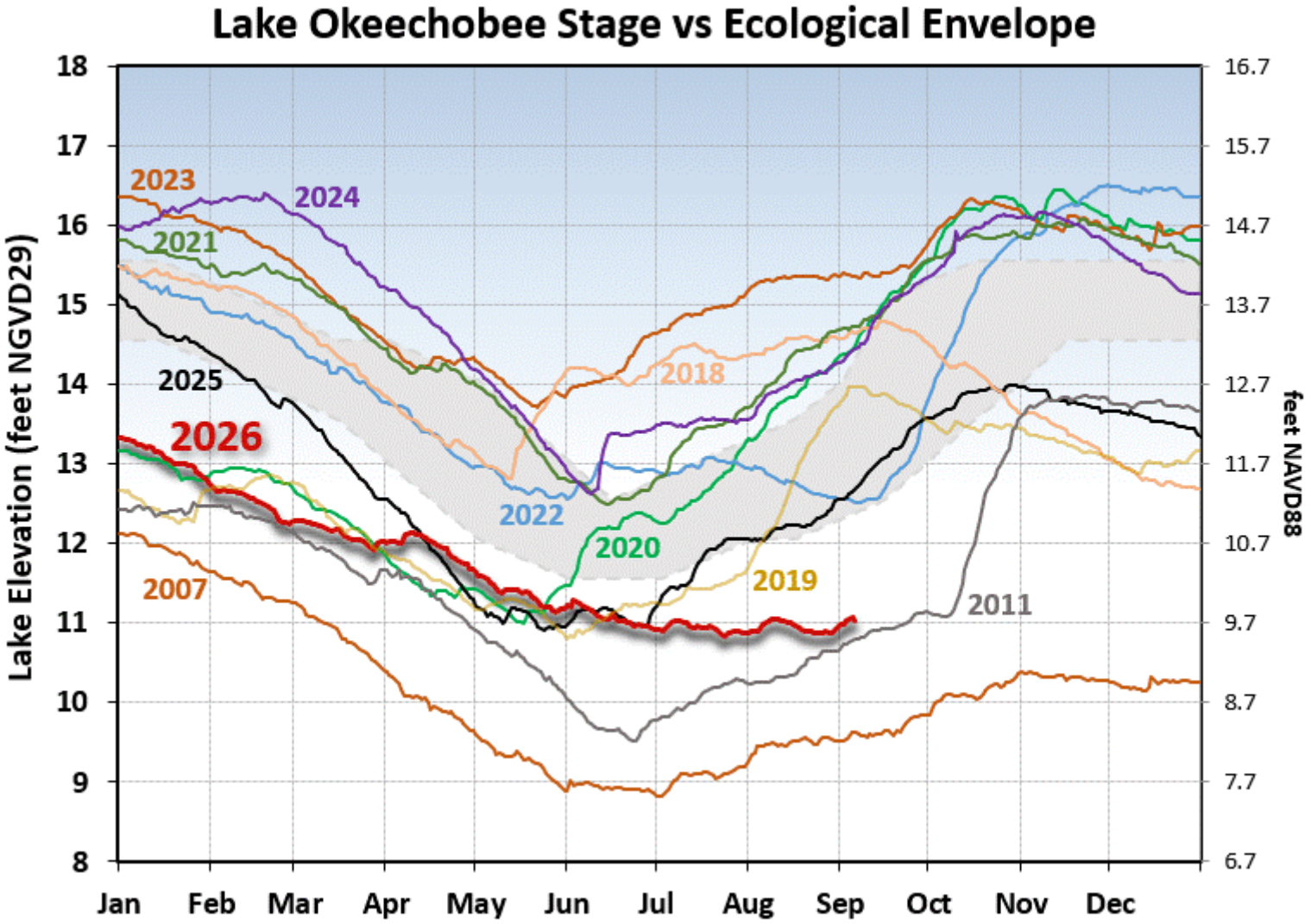

Figure LO-3. The current and select prior year's annual lake stage hydrographs in comparison to the Lake Okeechobee ecological envelope (light grey).

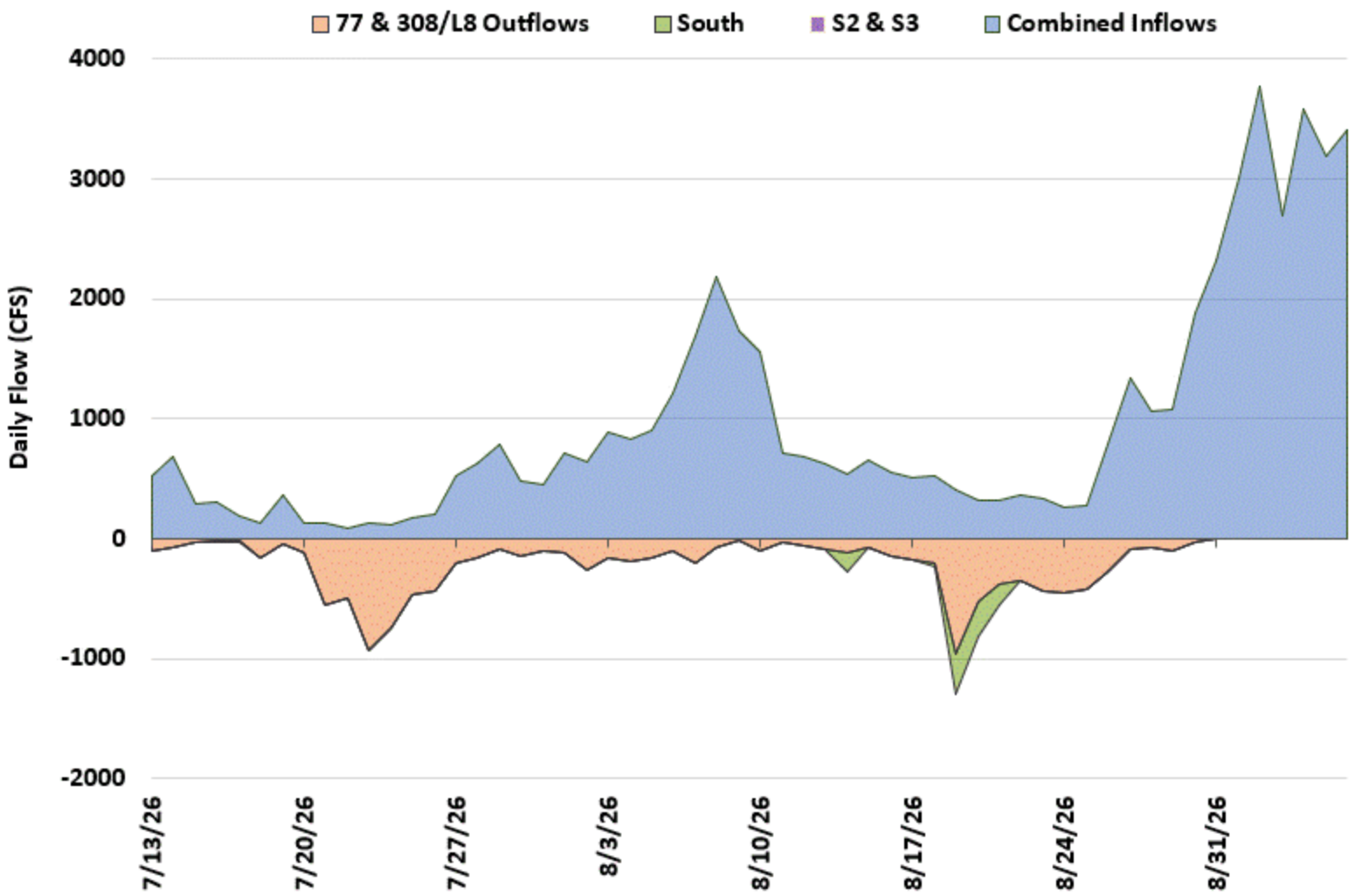

Figure LO-4. Major inflows (orange) to and outflows east and west (blue) from Lake Okeechobee. Outflows south are shown in green. Flows into Lake Okeechobee from the L-8 canal through S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) or from the C-44 canal through the S-308 are included as inflows. Conversely, flows from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

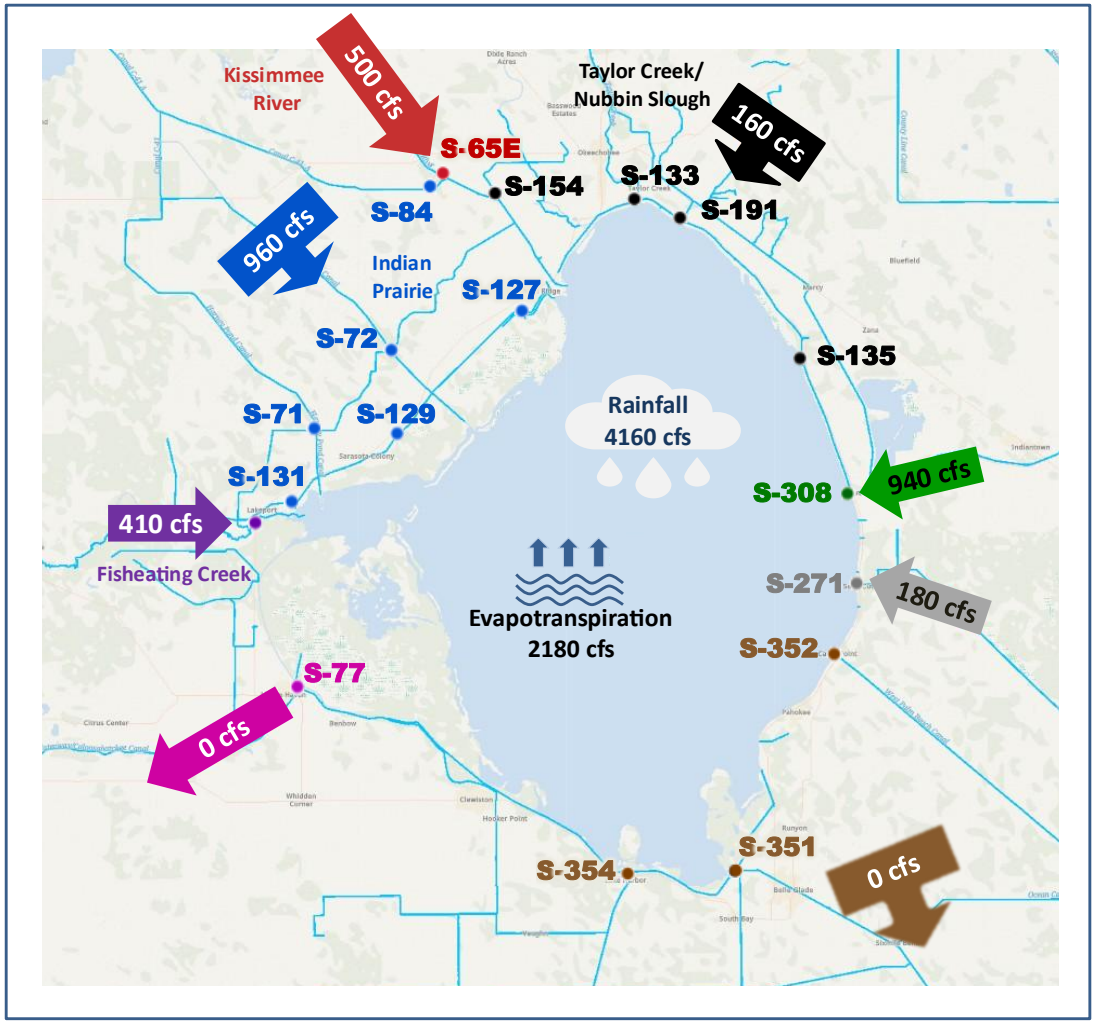

Figure LO-5. Inflows into Lake Okeechobee from Indian Prairie basins, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek (currently no flow data available for FECR), and outflows to the west via S-77, to the east via S-308, to the south via S-351, S-352, S-354, and to southeast via S-271 (formerly Culvert 10A) for the week of August 31 – September 6, 2026.

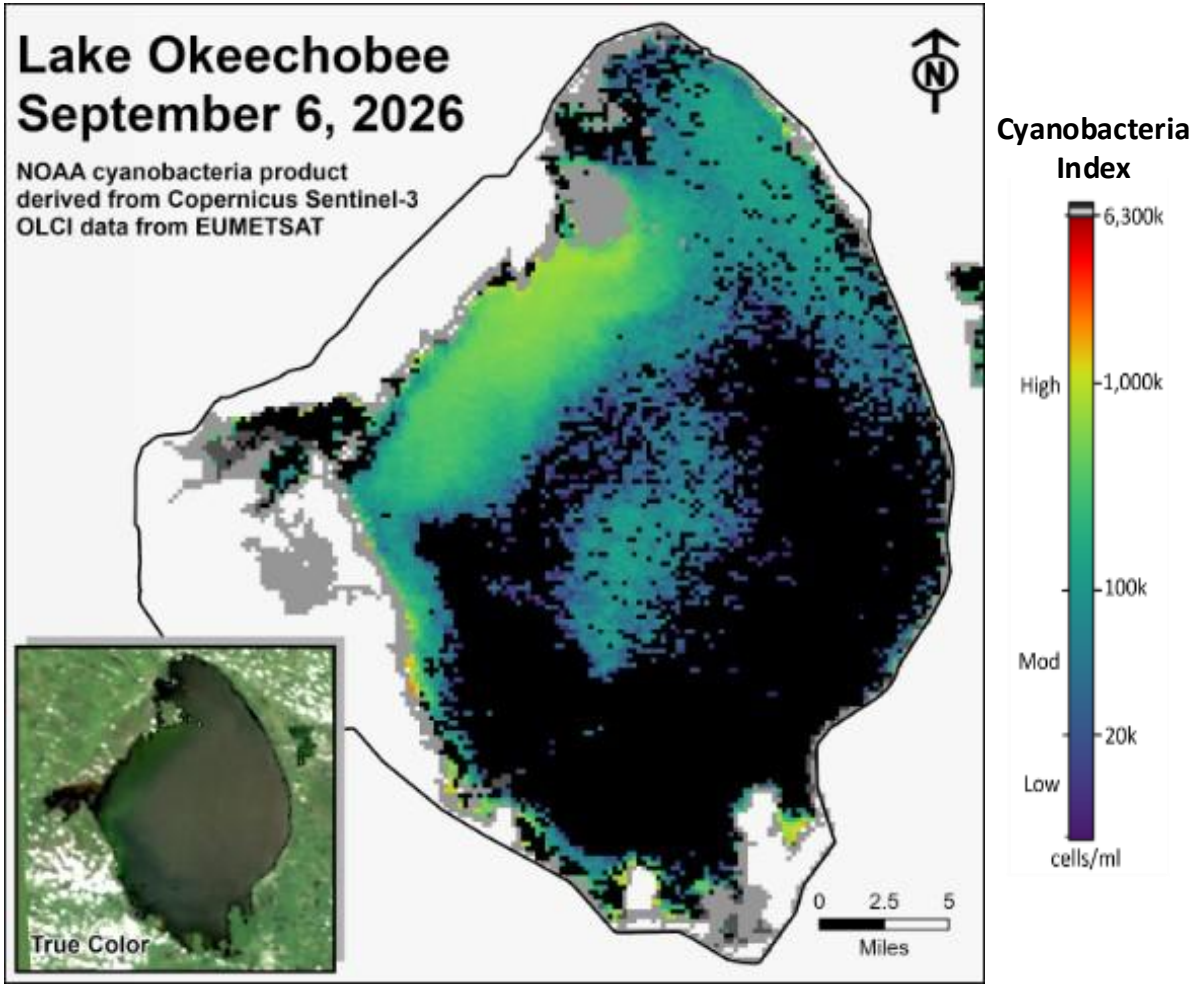

Figure LO-6. Cyanobacteria bloom index level on Lake Okeechobee, based on NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover. *Provisional NOAA image, subject to change*.

Collection Date: September 1-2, 2026

Station	CHL*a* (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA
FEBIN			
FEBOUT	52.2	BDL	*mixed*
KISSR0.0	22.4	BDL	*Microcys*
L005	33.6	0.2	*Dolic/Plank*
LZ2	12.0	0.1	*Planktol*
KBARSE	37.3	0.3	*Raphi/Plank*
RITTAE2			
PELBAY3			
POLE3S			
LZ25A			
PALMOUT		BDL	*mixed*
PALMOUT1		BDL	*Planktol*
PALMOUT2		BDL	*Micro/Dolic*
PALMOUT3		BDL	*Microcys*
POLESOUT	67.2	0.8	*Raphi/Plank*
POLESOUT1	86.9	0.7	*Raphi/Plank*
POLESOUT2	78.1	0.5	*Raphi/Plank*
POLESOUT3	31.0	BDL	*Microcys*
EASTSHORE	15.3	BDL	*mixed*
NES135	23.3	BDL	*Micro/Plank*
NES191	9.9	BDL	*Botryoco*

Station	CHL*a* (ug/L)	TOXIN (ug/L)	TAXA
L001	59.2	0.3	*Raphi/Plank*
L004	17.4	BDL	*Microcys*
L006		1.0	*Microcys*
L007		0.9	*Microcys*
L008	18.4	BDL	*mixed*
LZ30		BDL	*mixed*
LZ40		0.4	*Microcys*
CLV10A		BDL	*Plank/Plank*
NCENTER	33.3	BDL	*Micro/Plank*
S308C		BDL	*mixed*
S77		BDL	*Dinophyc*

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

Toxins include cylindrospermopsin* and/or microcsytins

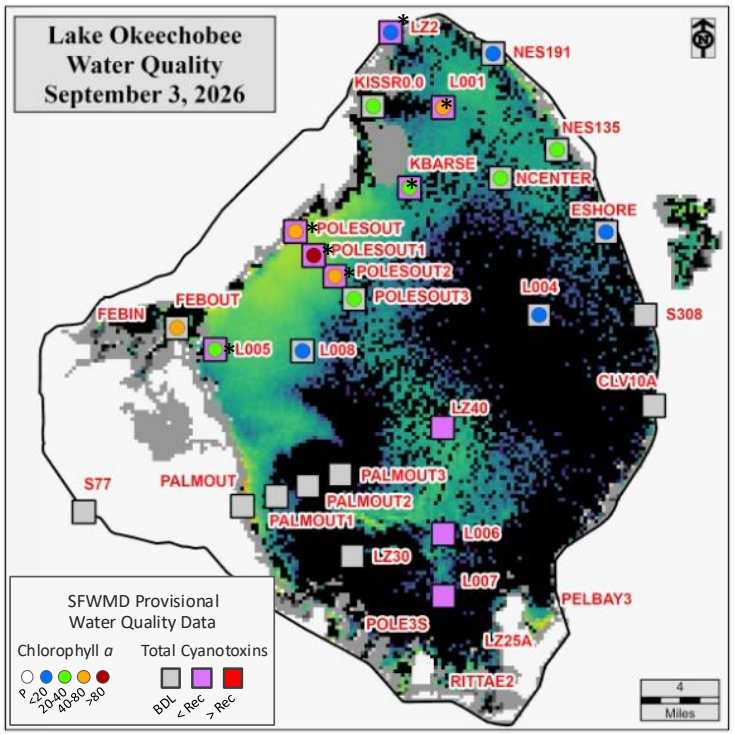

Figure LO-7. Dominant taxa, cyanotoxins (µg/L) and chlorophyll *a* (µg/L) concentration data from September 1-2, 2026. Sampling locations, chlorophyll *a*, and total toxin concentrations are overlaid on the September 3, 2026, image from NOAA's harmful algal bloom monitoring system. Gray color indicates cloud cover.

Estuaries

St. Lucie Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the St. Lucie Estuary was 941 cfs (**Figures ES-1** and **ES-2**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 722 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 16.8. 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 August was 1.6 spat/shell at Rio, which is a decrease from the previous month (**Figure ES-5**).

Caloosahatchee River Estuary

Over the past week, mean total inflow to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary was 3,349 cfs (**Figures ES-6** and **ES-7**), and the previous 30-day mean inflow was 2,635 cfs. For comparison, the historical provisional mean inflows from the contributing areas are shown in **Figure ES-7**.

Over the past week, surface salinities decreased at all 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 in the upper estuary (**Table ES-2**). The seven-day mean salinity values were within the optimal range for adult eastern oysters at Cape Coral and in the upper stressed range at Shell Point and Sanibel (**Figure ES-10**). The mean larval oyster recruitment rates reported by the FWRI in August were 3.4 spat/shell at Iona Cove and 9.6 spat/shell at Bird Island, which is no change at Iona Cove and an increase at Bird Island compared to the previous month (**Figures ES-11 and ES-12**).

Surface salinity at Val I-75 was forecast for the next two weeks using an autoregression model (Qiu and Wan, 2013[1]) coupled with a linear reservoir model for the tidal basin. Model scenarios included pulse releases at S-79 ranging from 450 to 2,000 cfs, with estimated tidal basin inflows of 284 cfs. Model results from all scenarios predict daily salinity to be 5.2 or lower and the 30-day moving average surface salinity to be 2.3 or lower at Val I-75 at the end of the two-week period (**Table ES-3** and **Figure ES-13**). This keeps predicted salinities in the upper estuary within the optimal salinity range (0–10) for tape grass.

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

Red Tide

The FWRI reported on September 4, 2026, that *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide dinoflagellate, was not observed in any samples collected within the District region.

Water Management Recommendations

Lake stage is in the Water Shortage Management Zone. Current climatological and hydrological conditions are normal. The LOSOM release guidance suggests no releases at S-79 to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary and no releases at S-80 to the St. Lucie Estuary.

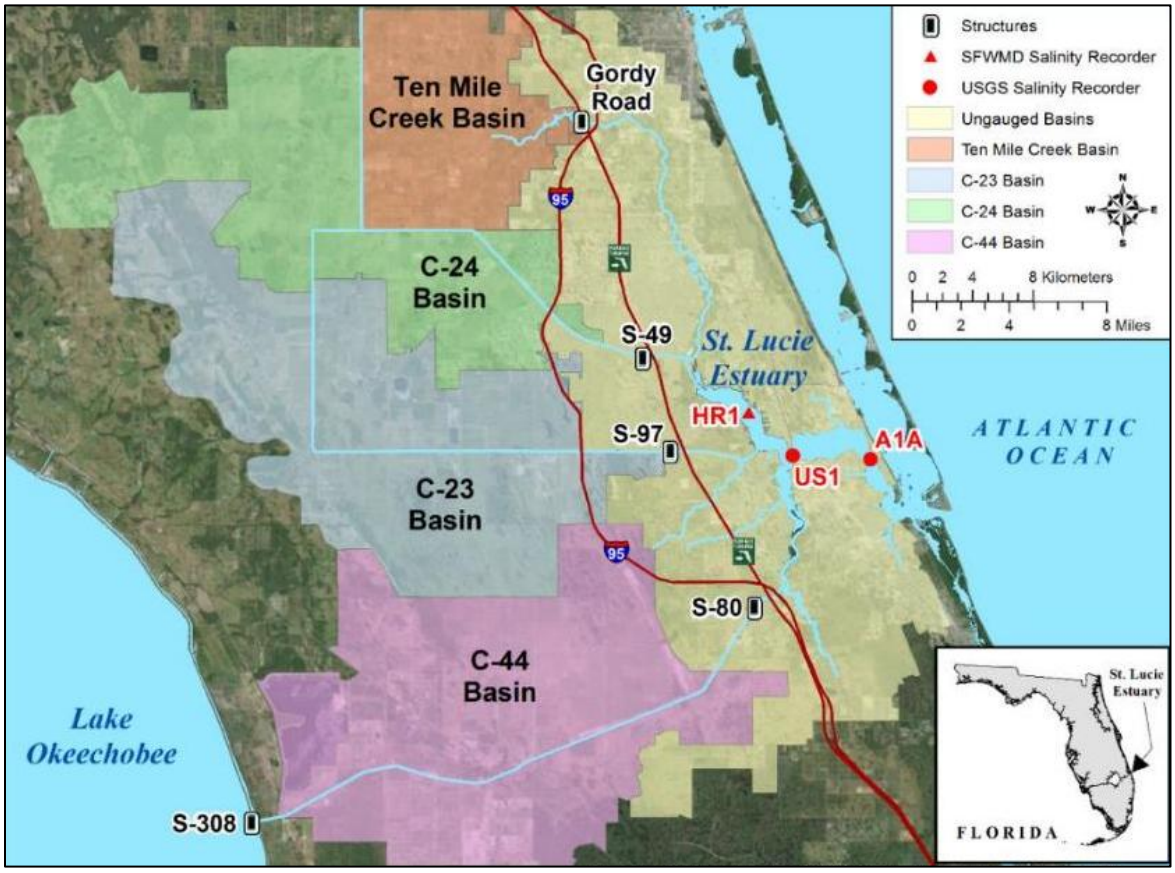

Figure ES-1. Basins, water control structures and salinity monitoring sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

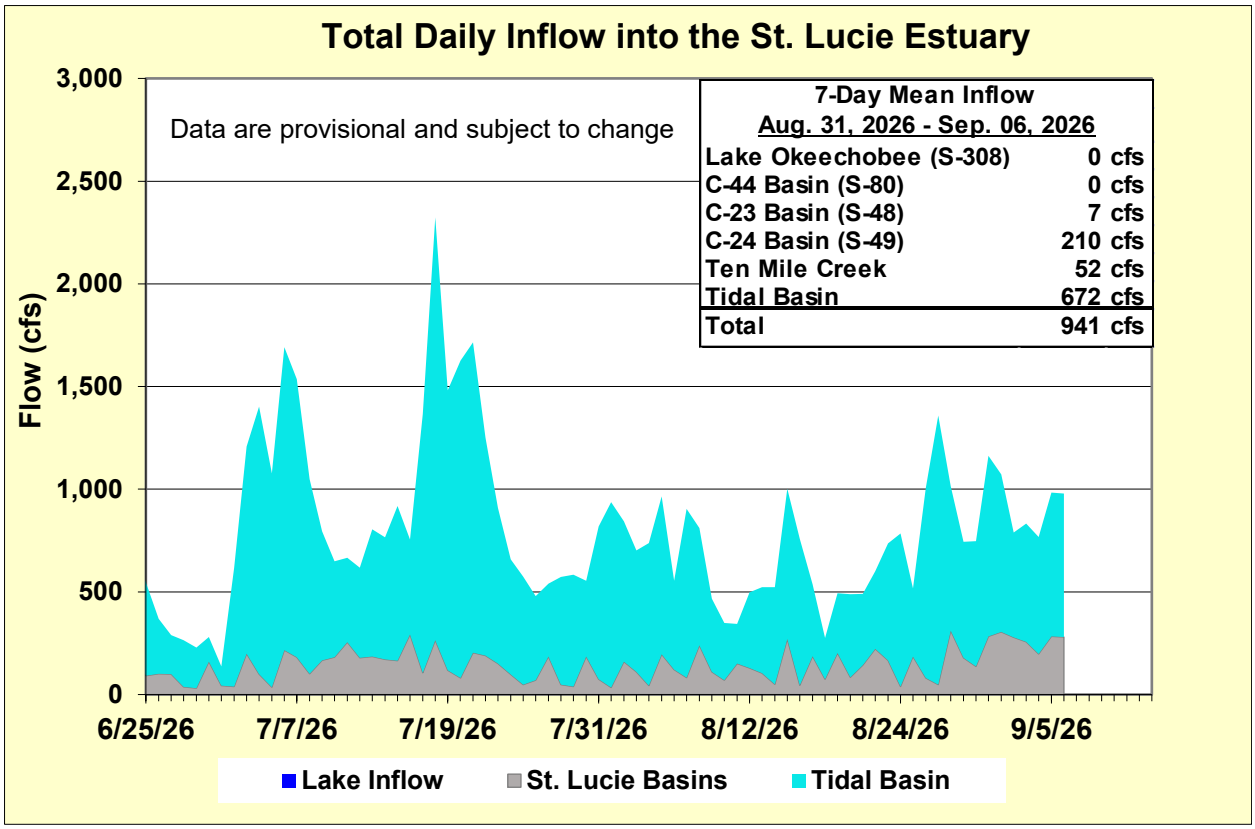

Figure ES-2. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-44, C-23, C-24, Ten Mile Creek, and Tidal Basins into the St. Lucie Estuary.

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)	**9.5** (12.4)	**15.3** (17.8)	10.0 – 25.0
US1 Bridge	**16.1** (18.9)	**17.4** (19.4)	10.0 – 25.0
A1A Bridge	**24.1** (25.7)	**28.1** (28.4)	10.0 – 25.0

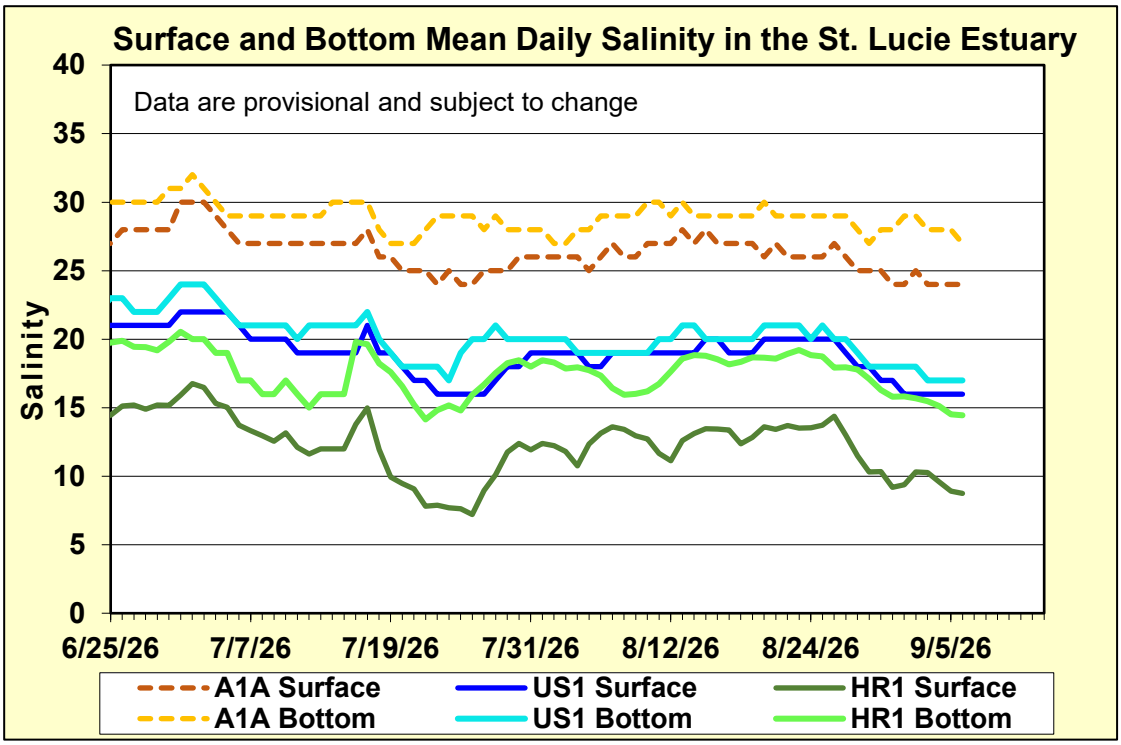

Figure ES-3. Mean daily salinity at the A1A, US1, and HR1 sites in the St. Lucie Estuary.

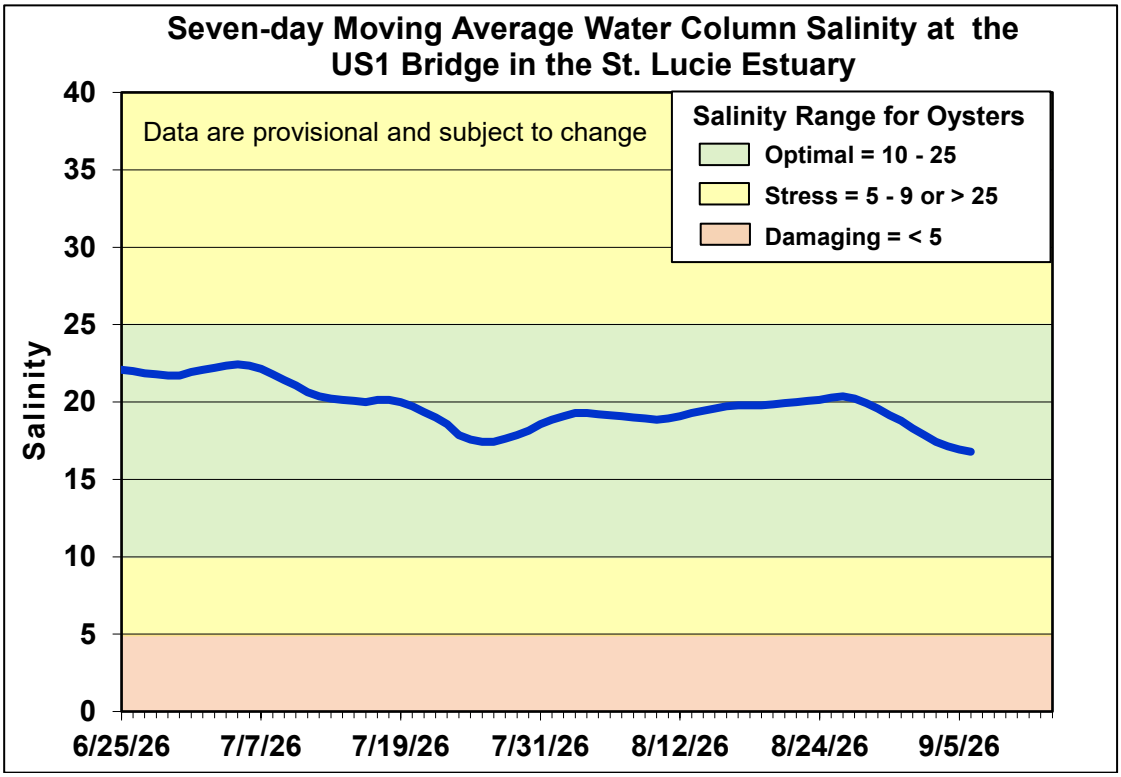

Figure ES-4. Seven-day moving average of the surface and bottom salinities at the US1 Bridge in the St. Lucie Estuary.

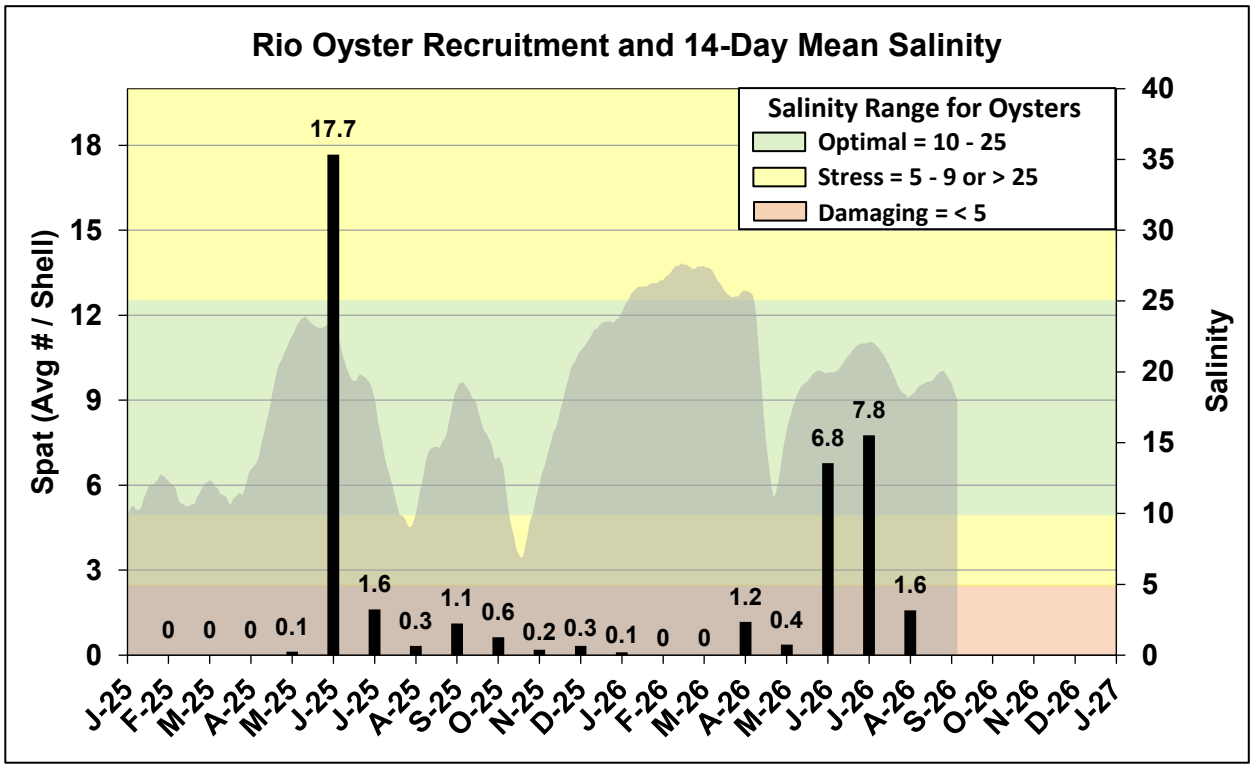

Figure ES-5. Mean oyster recruitment at the Rio oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at US1 Bridge.

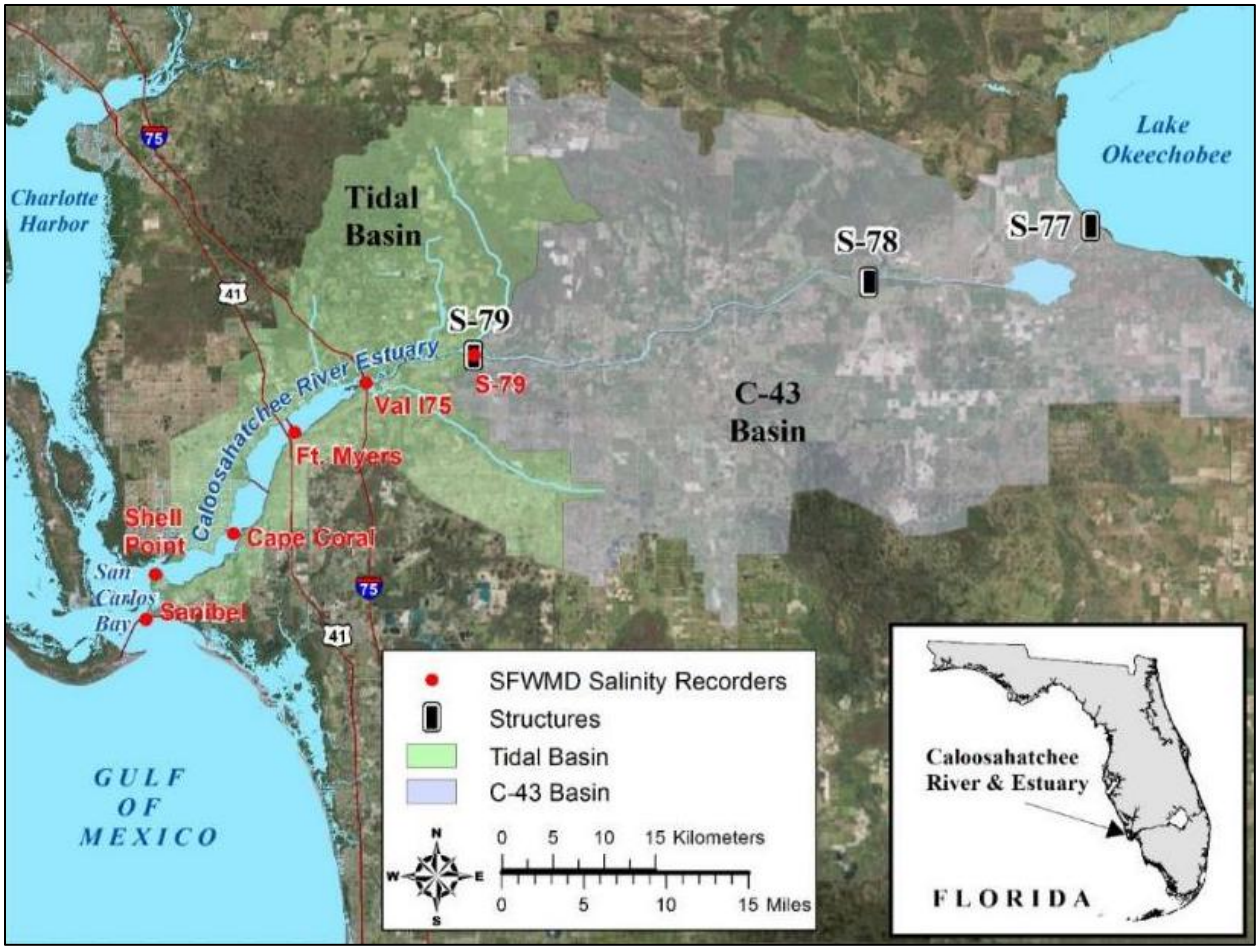

Figure ES-6. Basins, water control structures, and salinity monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

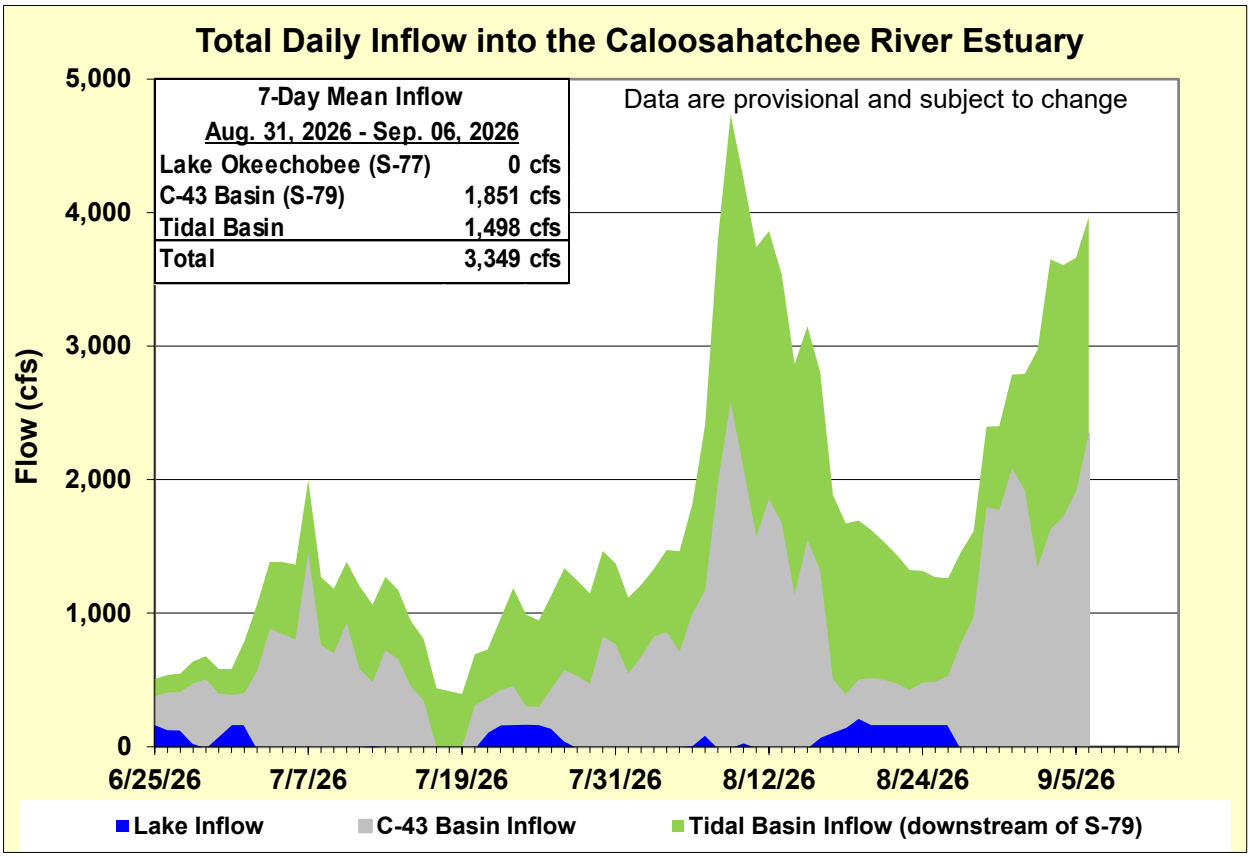

Figure ES-7. Total daily inflows from Lake Okeechobee, and runoff from the C-43 and Tidal basins into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

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)	**0.7** (1.2)	**0.7** (1.2)	0.0 – 10.0
Val I-75	**0.9** (2.0)	**1.8** (2.4)	0.0 – 10.0
Fort Myers Yacht Basin	**6.4** (8.1)	**10.1** (8.8)	0.0 – 10.0
Cape Coral	**14.0** (16.8)	**16.3** (18.4)	10.0 – 25.0
Shell Point	**27.7** (32.0)	**28.0** (30.9)	10.0 – 25.0
Sanibel	**31.1** (33.2)	**35.6** (38.5)	10.0 – 25.0

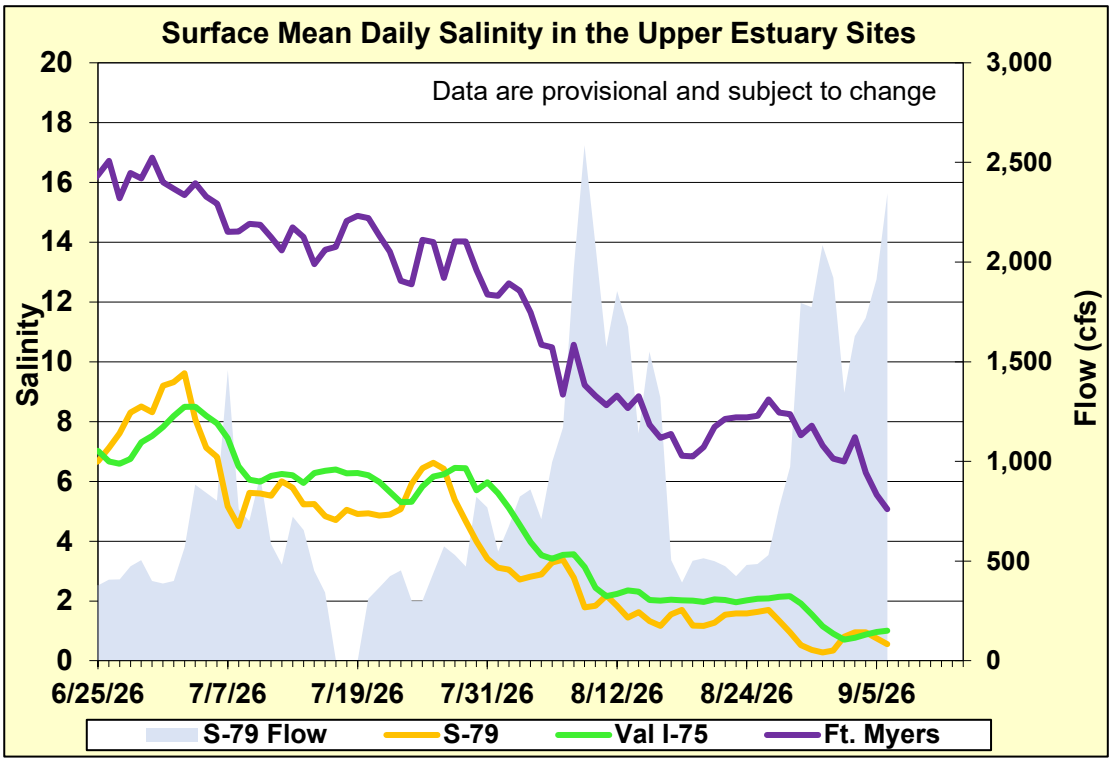

Figure ES-8. Mean daily salinity at upper Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

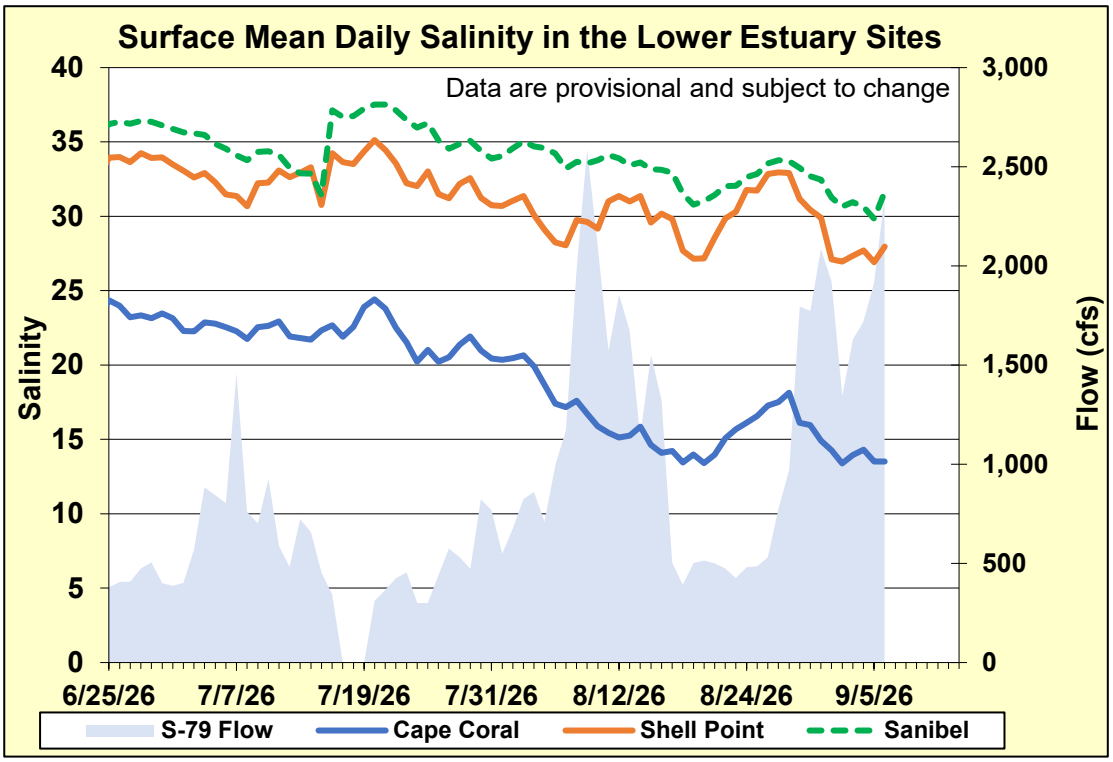

Figure ES-9. Mean daily surface salinity at lower Caloosahatchee River Estuary monitoring sites and mean daily flow at S-79.

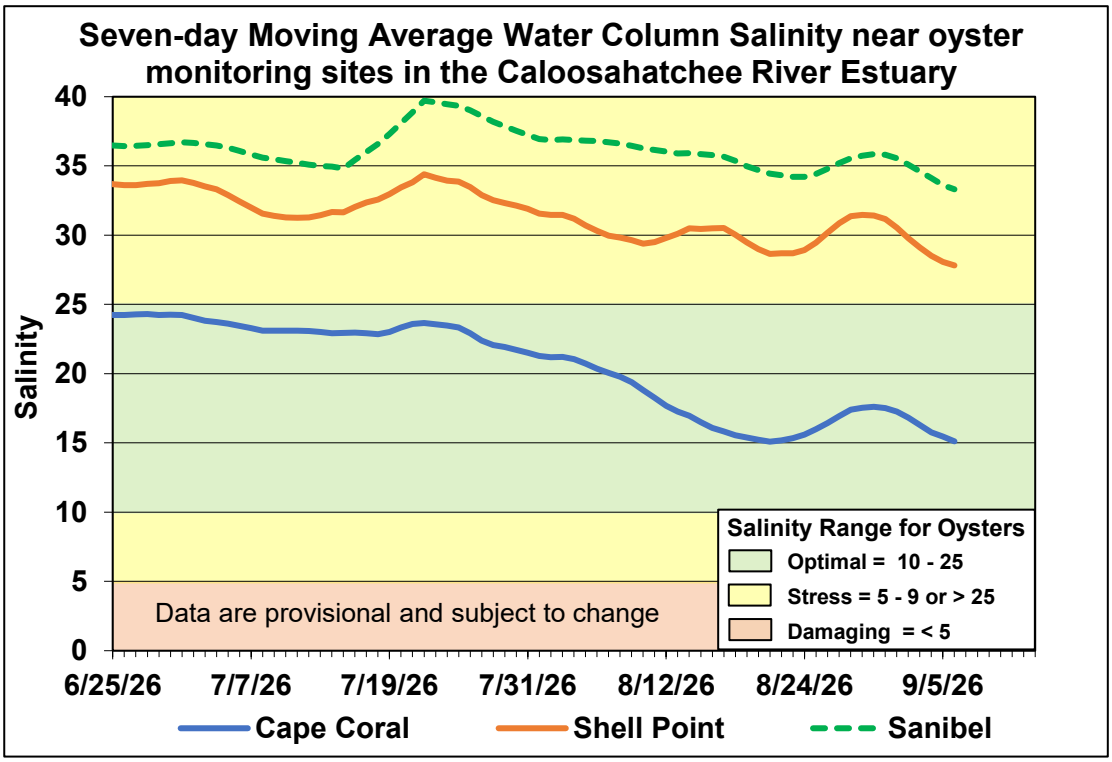

Figure ES-10. Seven-day moving average of surface and bottom salinities at Cape Coral, Shell Point, and Sanibel monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

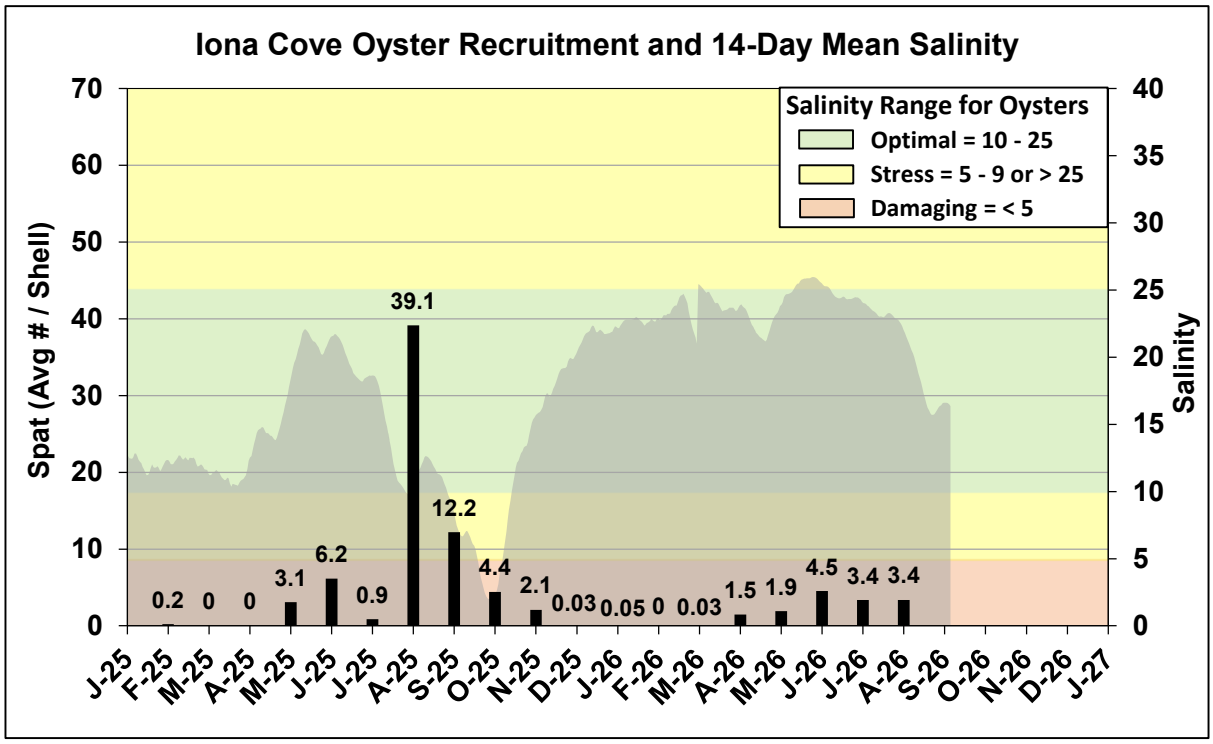

Figure ES-11. Mean oyster recruitment at the Iona Cove oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Cape Coral.

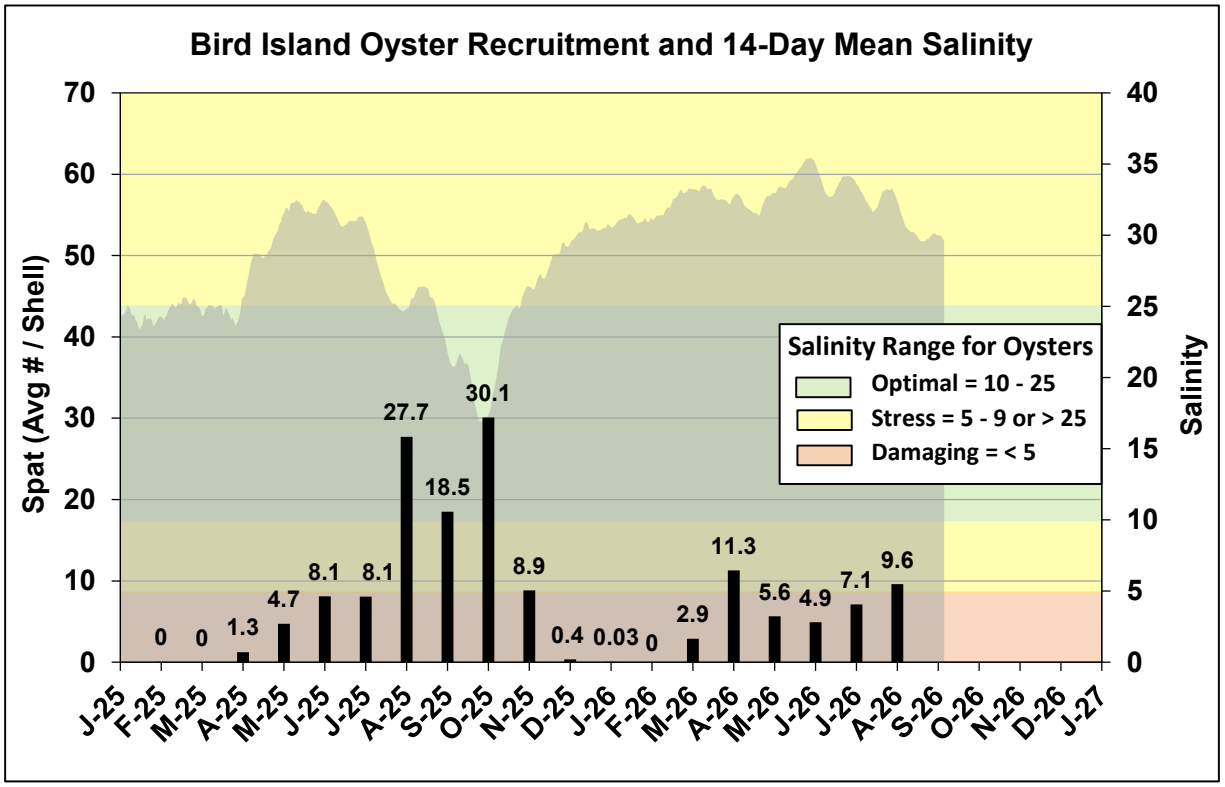

Figure ES-12. Mean oyster recruitment at the Bird Island oyster monitoring station and 14-day mean salinity at Shell Point.

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	284	5.2	2.3
B	750	284	2.6	1.8
C	1,000	284	2.1	1.6
D	1,500	284	1.3	1.4
E	2,000	284	0.6	1.2

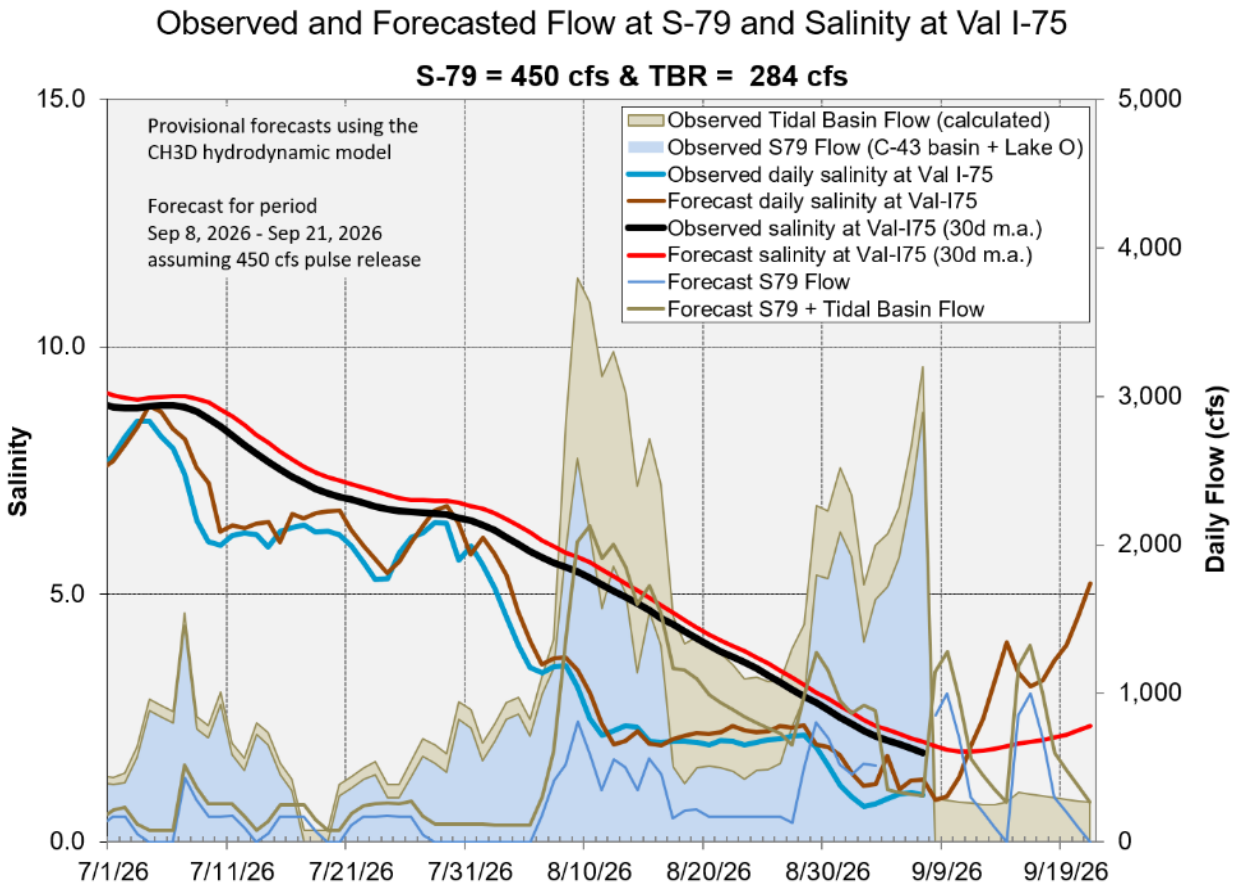

Figure ES-13. Surface salinity forecast at the Val I-75 site assuming a 450 cfs pulse release at S-79.

Stormwater Treatment Areas

STA-1E: STA-1E Central Flow-way is offline for construction activities. An operational restriction is in place in the Western Flow-way for post-construction vegetation grow-in. Online treatment cells are at or near target stage. The 365-day PLRs for the Western and Eastern Flow-way are below 1.0 g/m^2/year (**Figure S-2**).

STA-1W: STA-1W Eastern Flow-way is offline for vegetation management activities. Treatment cells are at or slightly above target stage. Vegetation in the Western and Eastern Flow-ways is highly stressed. The 365-day PLRs for the Northern and Western Flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m^2/year (**Figure S-2**).

STA-2: Treatment cells are at or slightly above target stage. An operational restriction is in place in Flow-way 2 for vegetation management activities. The 365-day PLRs for all Flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m^2/year (**Figure S-3).**

STA-3/4: An operational restriction is in place in the Eastern Flow-way for vegetation management activities. Most treatment cells are at or slightly above target stage. Vegetation in the Central Flow-way is highly stressed. The 365-day PLRs for the Eastern, Central, and Western Flow-ways are below 1.0 g/m^2/year (**Figure S-3**).

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

For definitions on STA operational language see glossary following figures.

Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas - STAs

- Total WY2027 inflows to STAs (5/1/2026 to 9/6/2026): ~159,000 ac-ft
- Lake Okeechobee releases to FEBs/STAs
  - 8/31/2026 to 9/6/2026: 0 ac-ft
  - WY 2027: ~ 9,500 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. 31st, 2026 - Sep. 6th, 2026 *Includes preliminary dat*

	Total Inflow (acre-feet)	Total Outflow (acre-feet)
STA-1E	2,100	2,800
STA-1W	7,100	5,400
STA-2	23,000	18,000
STA-3/4	26,000	10,000
STA-5/6	2,200	300

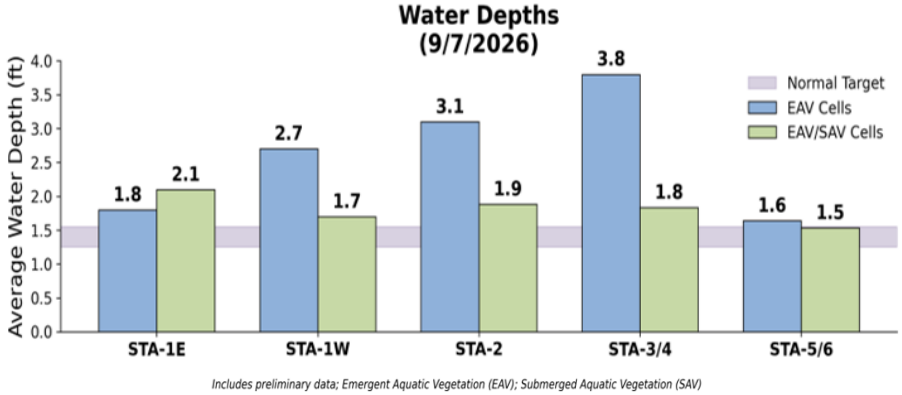

Figure S-1. STA depths and flow volumes

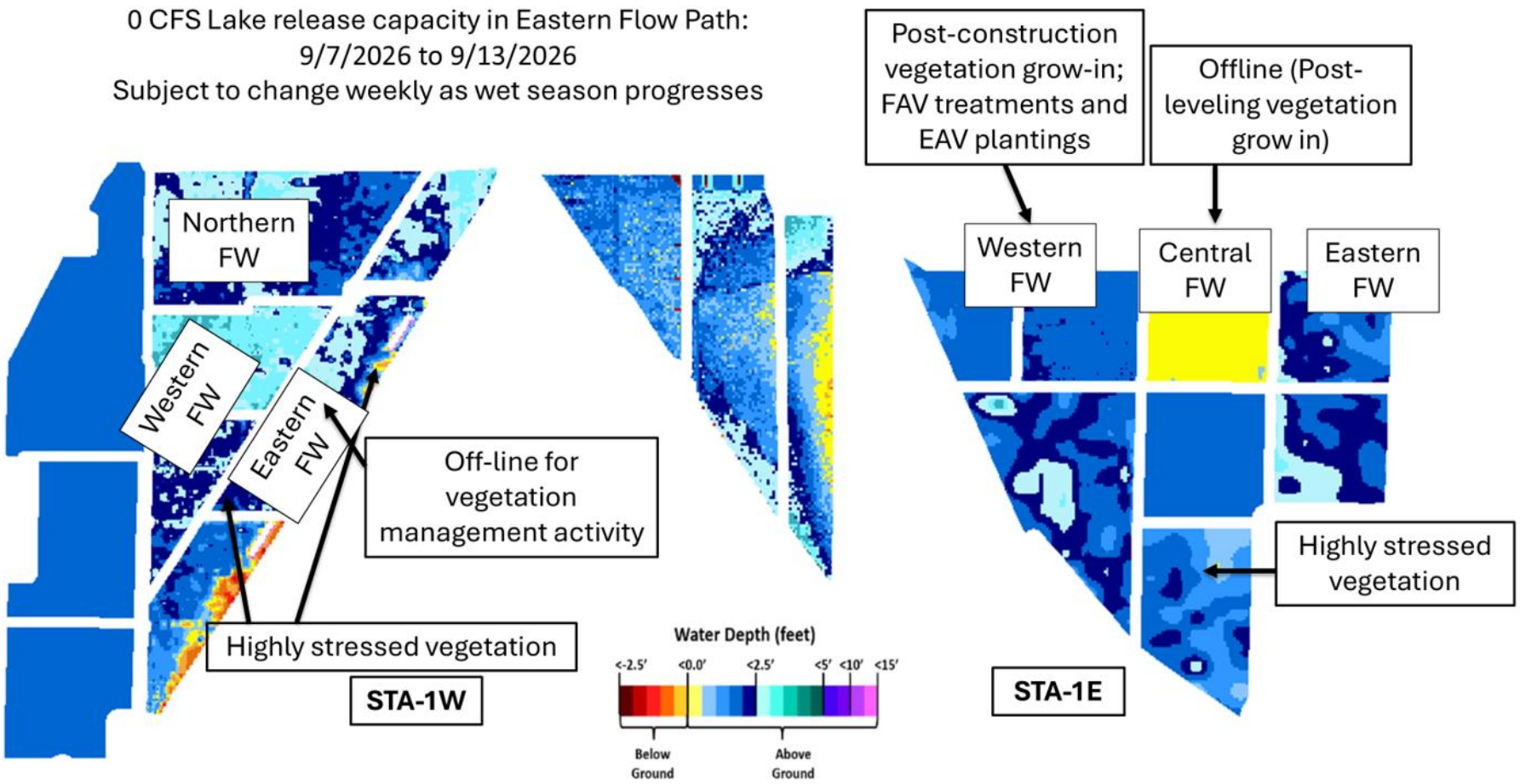

Figure S-2. Eastern Flow Path Weekly Status Report

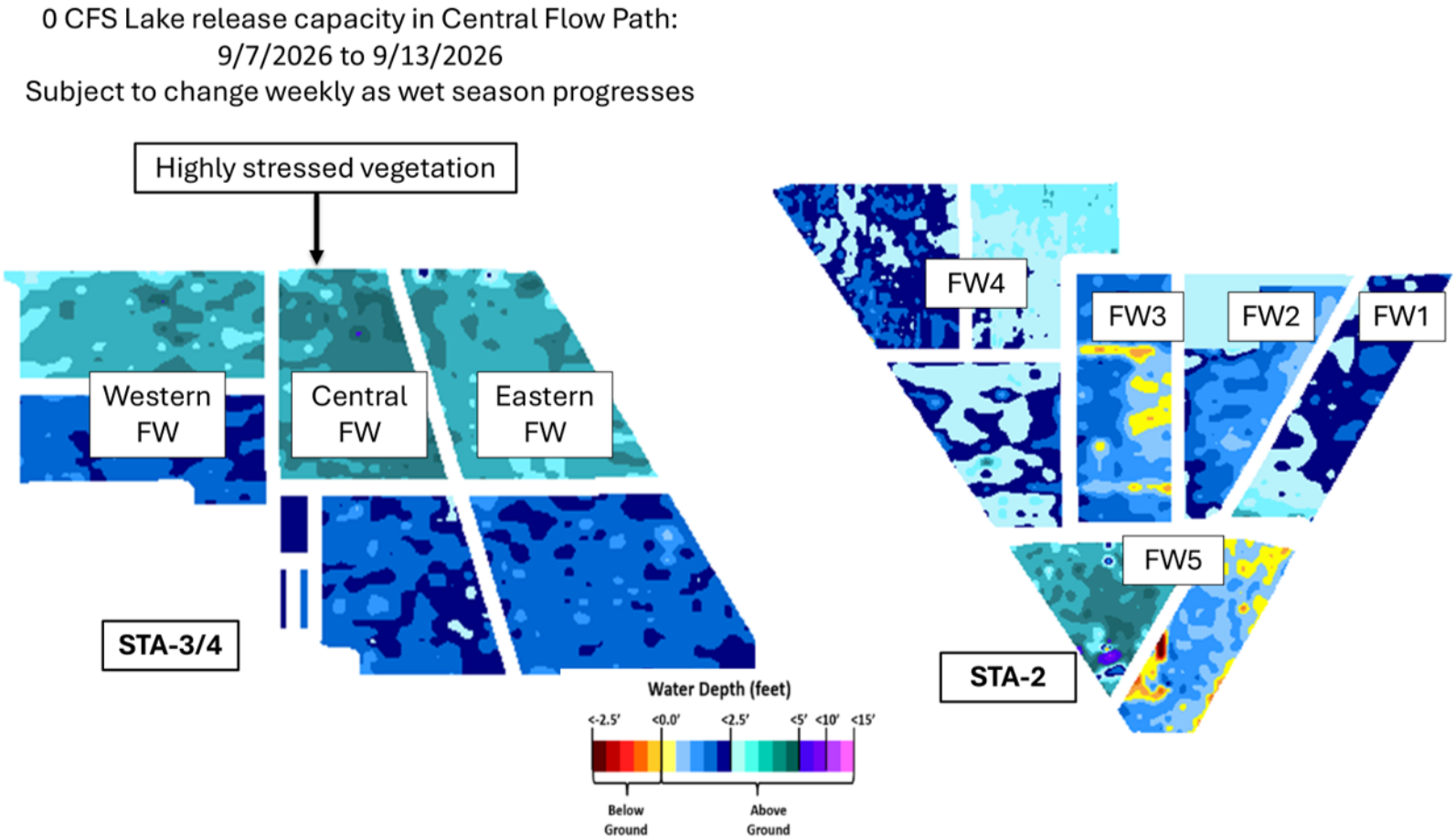

Figure S-3. Central Flow Path Weekly Status Report

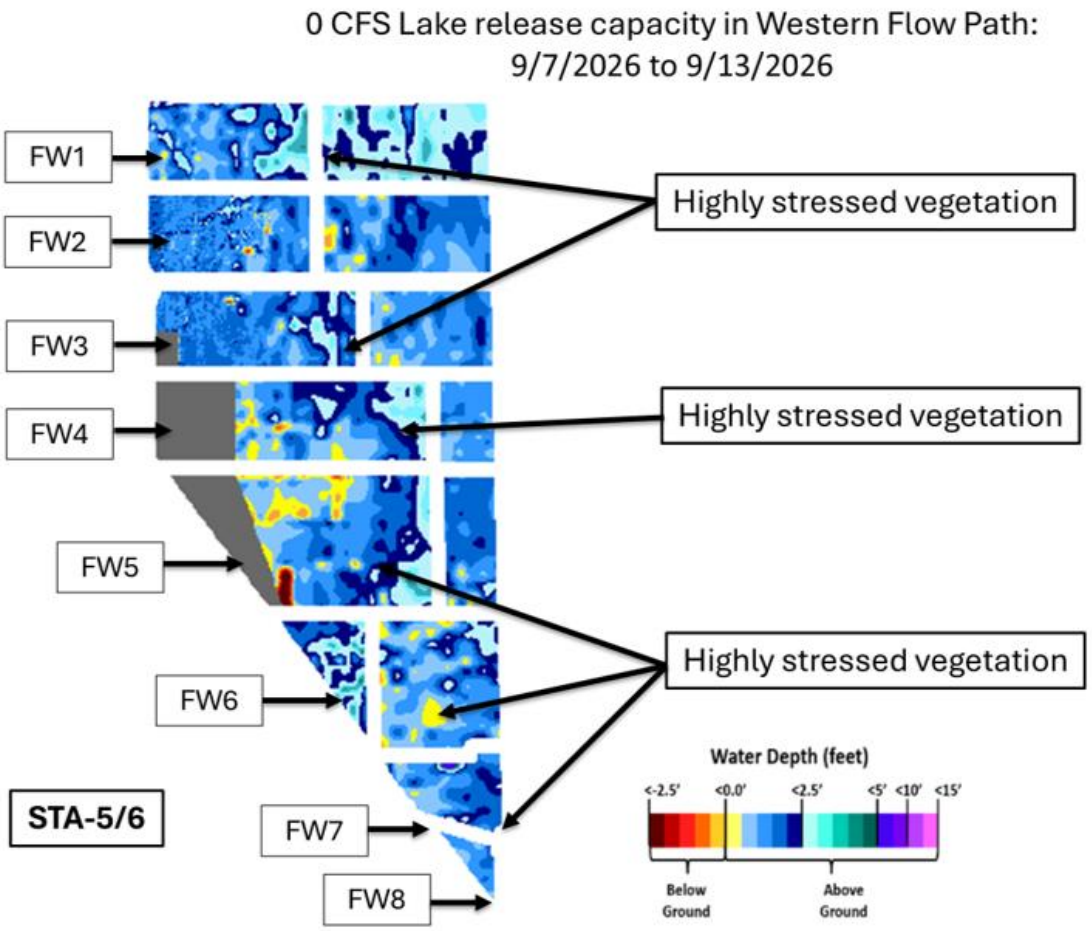

Figure S-4. Western Flow Path Weekly Status Report

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 rose slightly at the 1-8C gauge last week but remained below the A-1 regulation line by 0.76 feet on Sunday, September 6, 2026 (**Figure EV-1**).

WCA-2A: Water depth at the 2-17 gauge increased over the last week. Stage was 0.11 feet below the regulation line on Sunday (**Figure EV-2**).

WCA-3A: The 3-gauge average stage remains well within Zone B, remaining steady with a slight incline over the week. On Sunday, stages were 1.17 feet below the Zone A regulation line. Stage at Gauge 62 (NW corner) increased slightly last week and was below the Upper Schedule line by 0.86 feet on Sunday (**Figures EV-3** and **EV-4)**.

Water Depths

The SFWDAT model output for September 6, 2026, illustrates a drying trend over the last month in WCA-1. Depths in WCA-2A over the last two months remain between 0.5 feet and 1.3 feet, which is low for this time of year. Water levels are now increasing in NE WCA-3A and remain stable in southern and central WCA-3A; water levels are low in the 10^{th} percentile across the entirety of the basin. Satellite imagery is detecting very dry soil in the NE WCA-3A region, suggesting the potential for damaging peat fires if dry conditions persist. The Big Cypress basin is also showing a stable wetting trend, although there are issues with the WDAT output in this region. Everglades National Park (ENP) experienced several significant wildfires two weeks ago, but connectivity in both Taylor Slough (TS) and Shark River Slough (SRS) remained relatively steady over the last month. Water depths remain in the 10^{th} – 30^{th} percentile for this time of year across the Everglades Protection Area (EPA) impacting soil, flora, and fauna. (**Figures EV-5** and **EV-6)**. 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.

Taylor Slough and Florida Bay

All stages increased across Taylor Slough over the past week, with an average increase of 0.45 feet for the week. Changes ranged from +0.24 feet at EPSW in the C-111 area to +0.99 feet at Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB) in the northern slough (**Figure EV-7 and Figure EV-8**). Taylor Slough water levels are now just above the recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 0.7 inches compared to before the Florida Bay Initiative (starting in 2017), an increase of 6.0 inches relative to last week. Stages at Craighead Pond (CP) and TSB are below the estimated historical average of 1.06 and 1.22 feet, respectively.

Average salinity in Florida Bay was 41.5, a decrease of 2.4 from last week. Salinity changes ranged from −7.2 at Joe Bay (JB) in the eastern nearshore region to +0.1 at Duck Key (DK) in the eastern 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**). Salinity in the eastern region is at the hypersalinity threshold,

while the central and western regions are above it. Bay-wide salinity is above its recent average (WY1993-2016) for this time of year by 13.8, a decrease of 1.2 from last week.

Salinity at the Taylor River (TR) station in the mangrove zone (tracked for the Florida Bay MFL) was 27.6, a decrease of 4.2 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 3.20 inches for the week, based on the 18 gauges used for this report. Rainfall ranged from 1.26 inches at Whipray Basin (WB) in the central bay region to 8.70 inches at TSB in the northern slough (**Figure EV-11**). Wind directions and speeds in Florida Bay ranged from 0.2 mph S on September 1st to 14.0 mph NW on September 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 350 ac-feet, with net positive flows for the week. Total daily creek flow ranged from −385 ac-feet on September 3rd to 1,035 ac-feet on September 6th (**Figure EV-13**). Average daily flow from Alligator Creek was −18 ac-feet, with net negative flows for the week (**Figure EV-13**).

Implications/considerations for water management

- Due to current drought conditions, slow or no 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.
    - Hypersaline conditions in the north-central region of Florida Bay tied with elevated temperatures could lead to seagrass die-off conditions if freshwater input is not increased.

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

Table EV-1. Previous week's rainfall and water depth changes in Everglades basins.

Everglades Region	Rainfall (Inches)	Stage Change (feet)
WCA-1	3.09	+0.26
WCA-2A	3.14	+0.35
WCA-2B	3.45	+0.56
WCA-3A	2.16	+0.14
WCA-3B	2.08	−0.08
ENP	2.63	+0.23

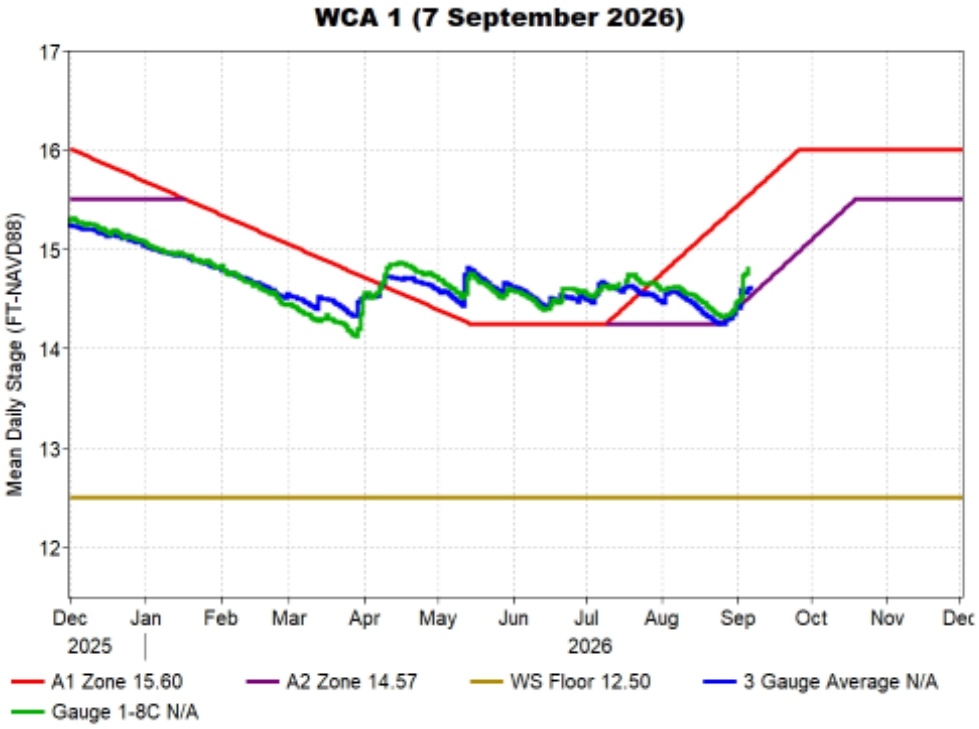

Figure EV-1. WCA-1 stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

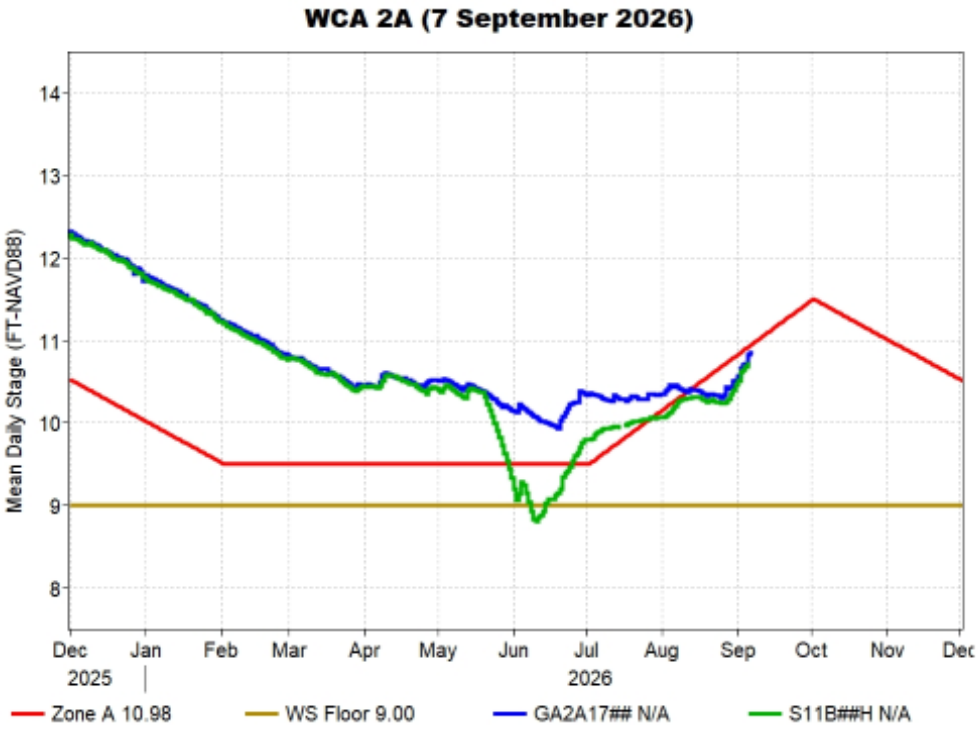

Figure EV-2. WCA-2A stage hydrographs and regulation schedule.

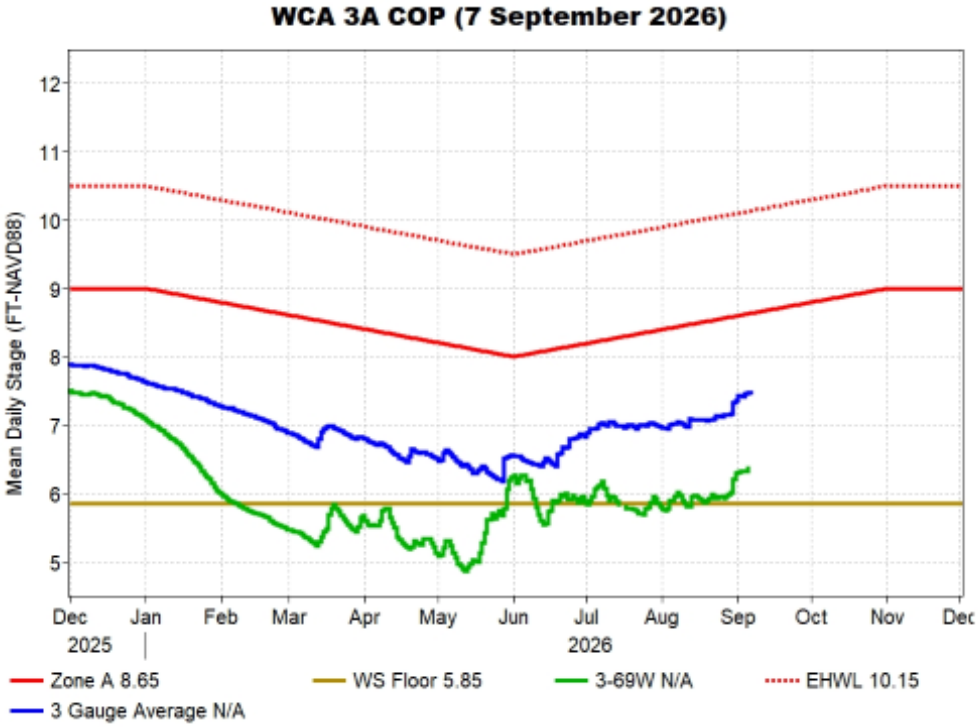

Figure EV-3. WCA-3A stage hydrographs (three-gauge average, 3-69W) and regulation schedule.

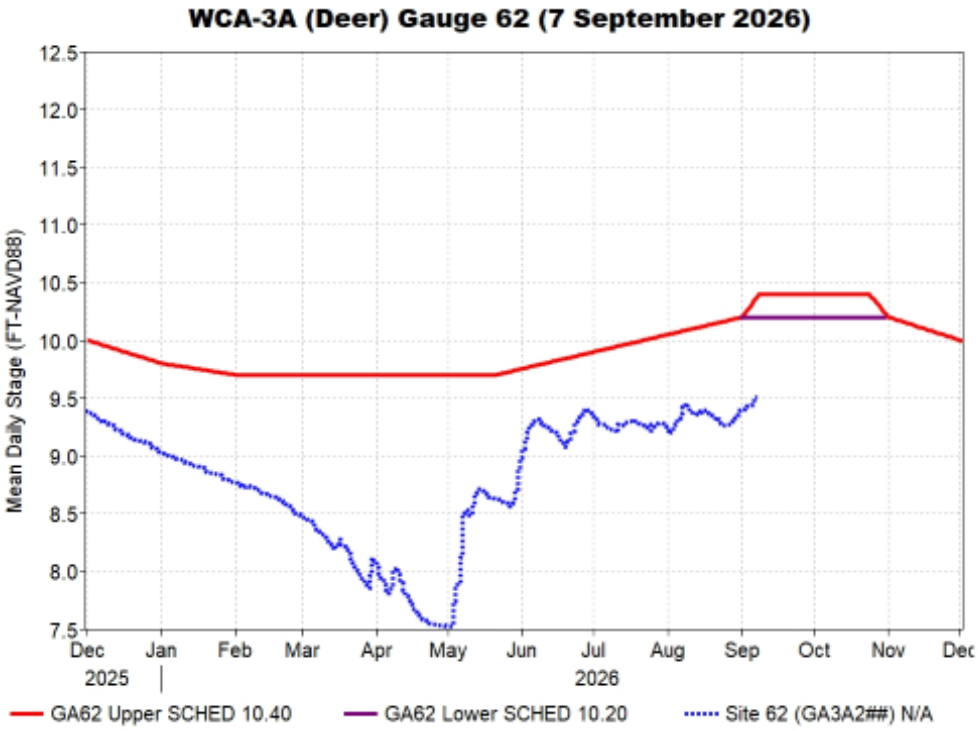

Figure EV-4. WCA-3A stage hydrograph (Deer gauge; Site 62) and regulation schedule.

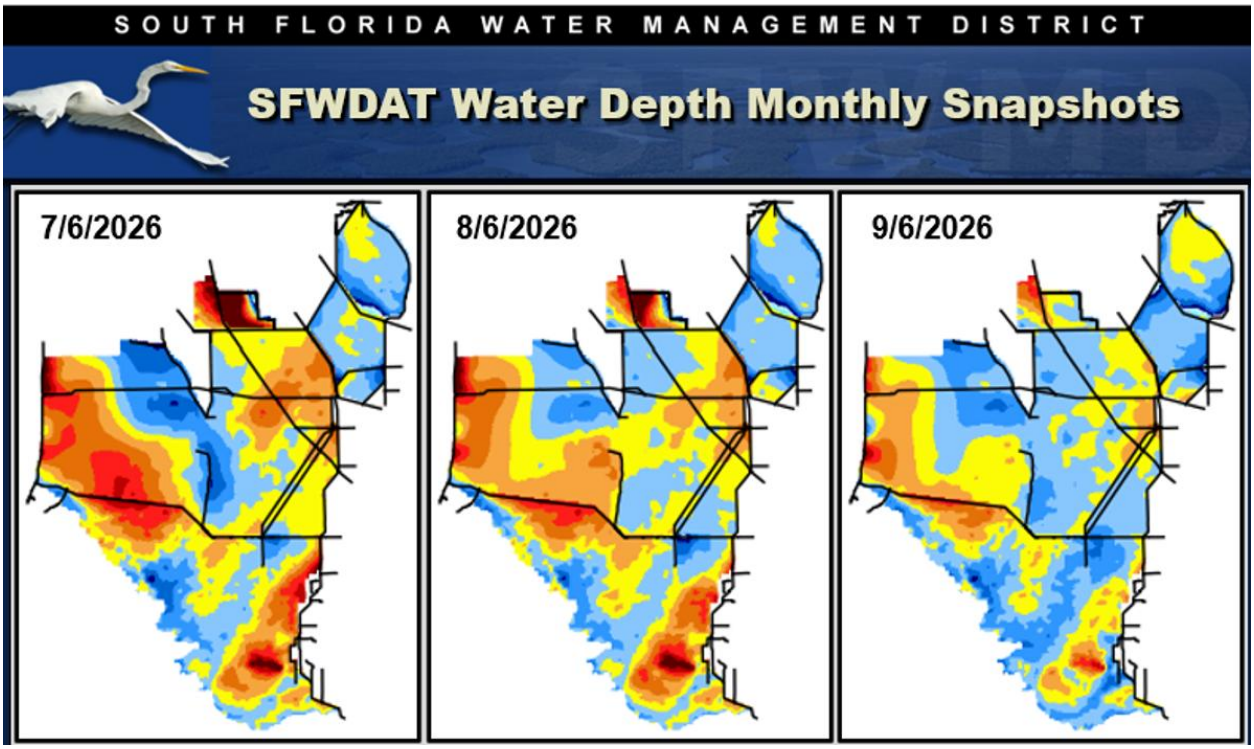

Figure EV-5. Everglades water depths from two months ago (left), one month ago (center) and present (right), based on SFWDAT.

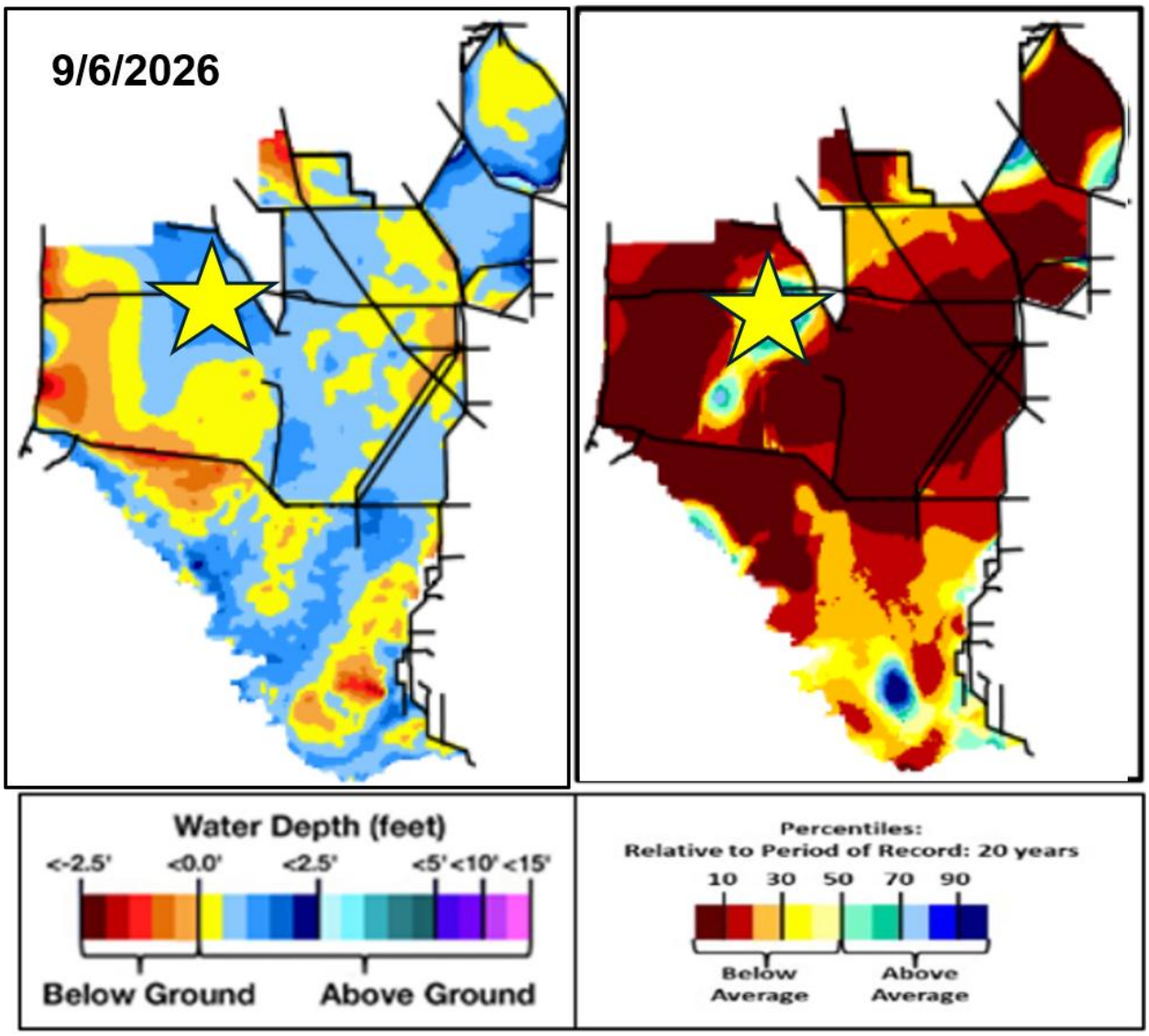

Figure EV-6. Present water depths (September 6, 2026) compared to the day of year relative to average (percentile) over the previous 20 years. Yellow star indicates an error in the model.

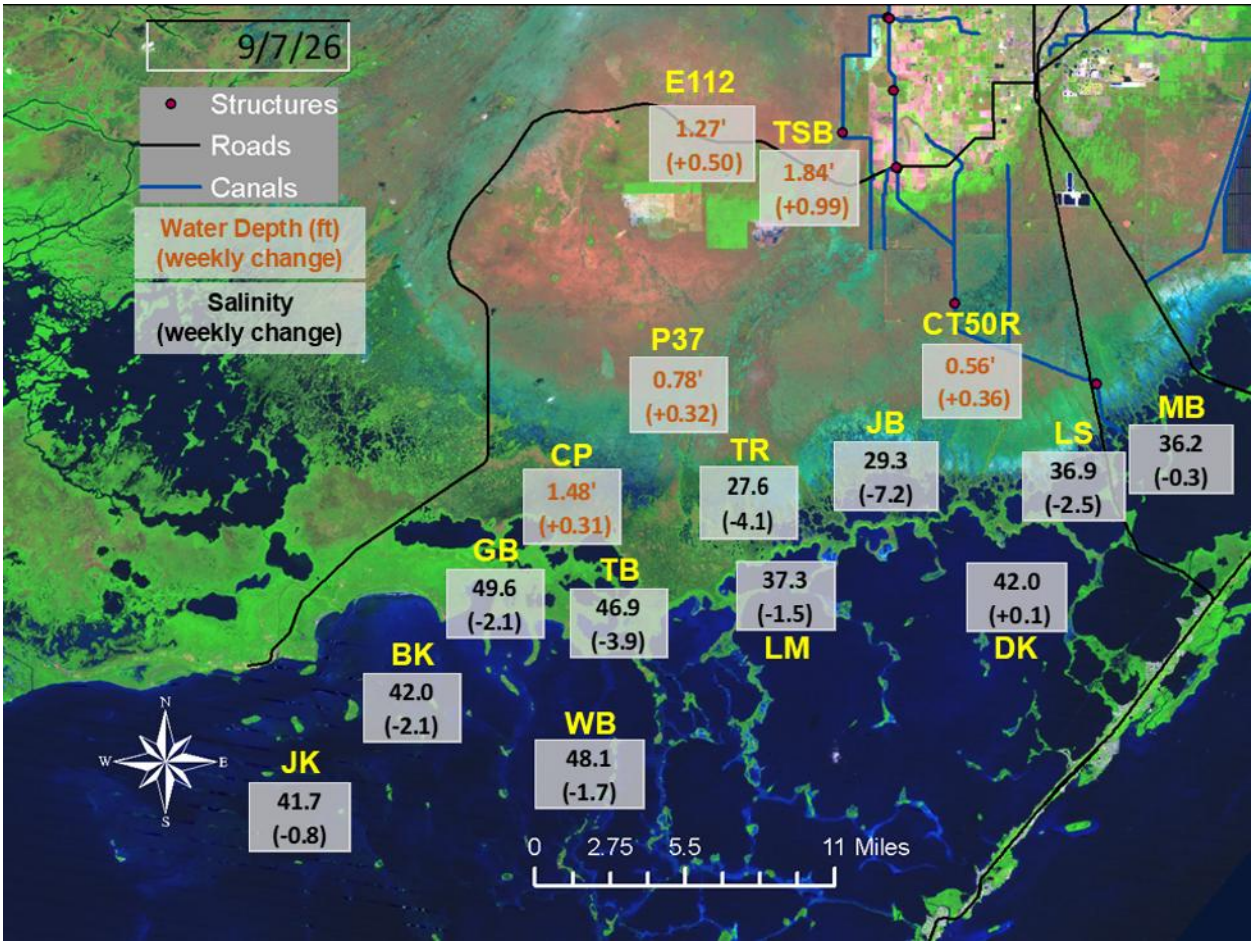

Figure EV-7. Taylor Slough water depths and Florida Bay salinities with changes since a week ago.

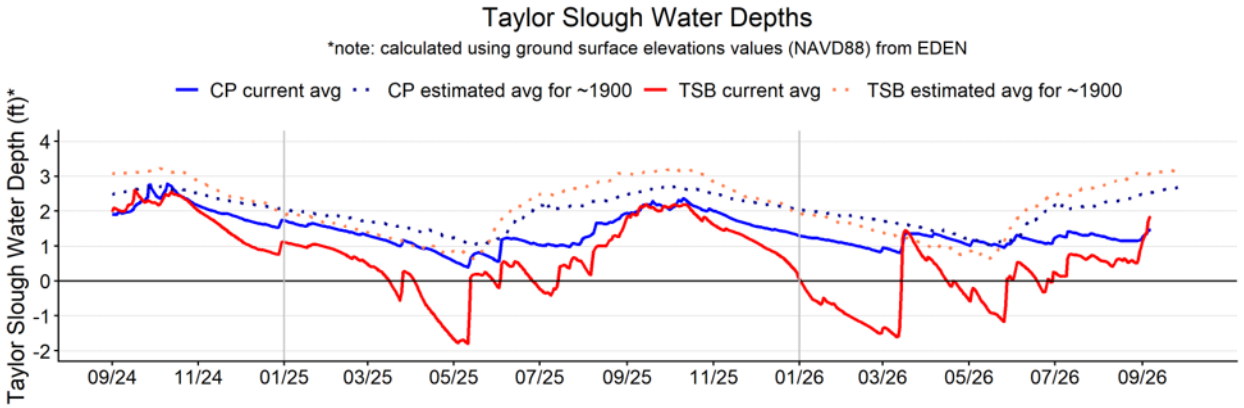

Figure EV-8. Taylor Slough water depth time series for Taylor Slough Bridge (TSB; northern slough) and Craighead Pond (CP; southern slough).

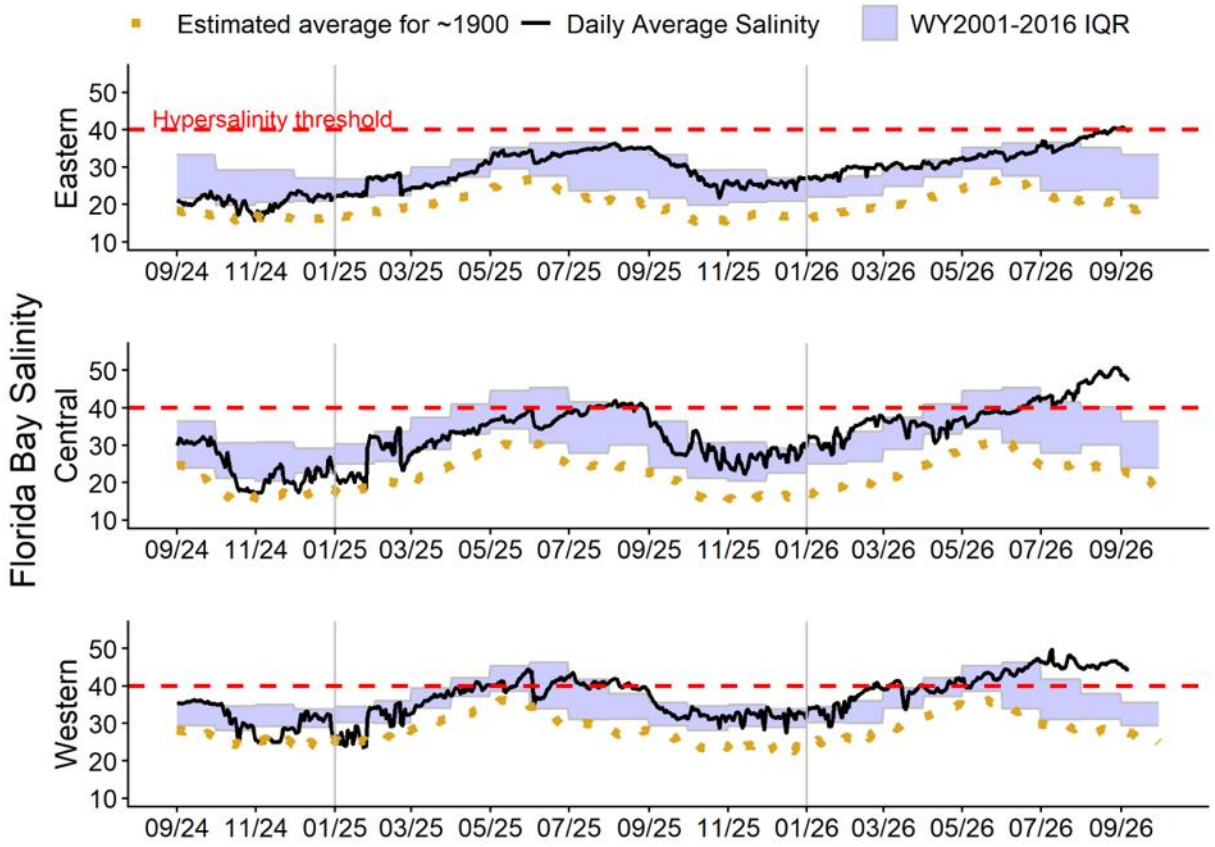

Figure EV-9. Eastern (top panel), Central (middle panel) and Western (bottom panel) Florida Bay daily average salinities with WY2001-2016 interquartile (25-75 percentile) ranges (IQR) and estimated historical daily average salinities. The hypersalinity threshold indicates the level at which salinities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

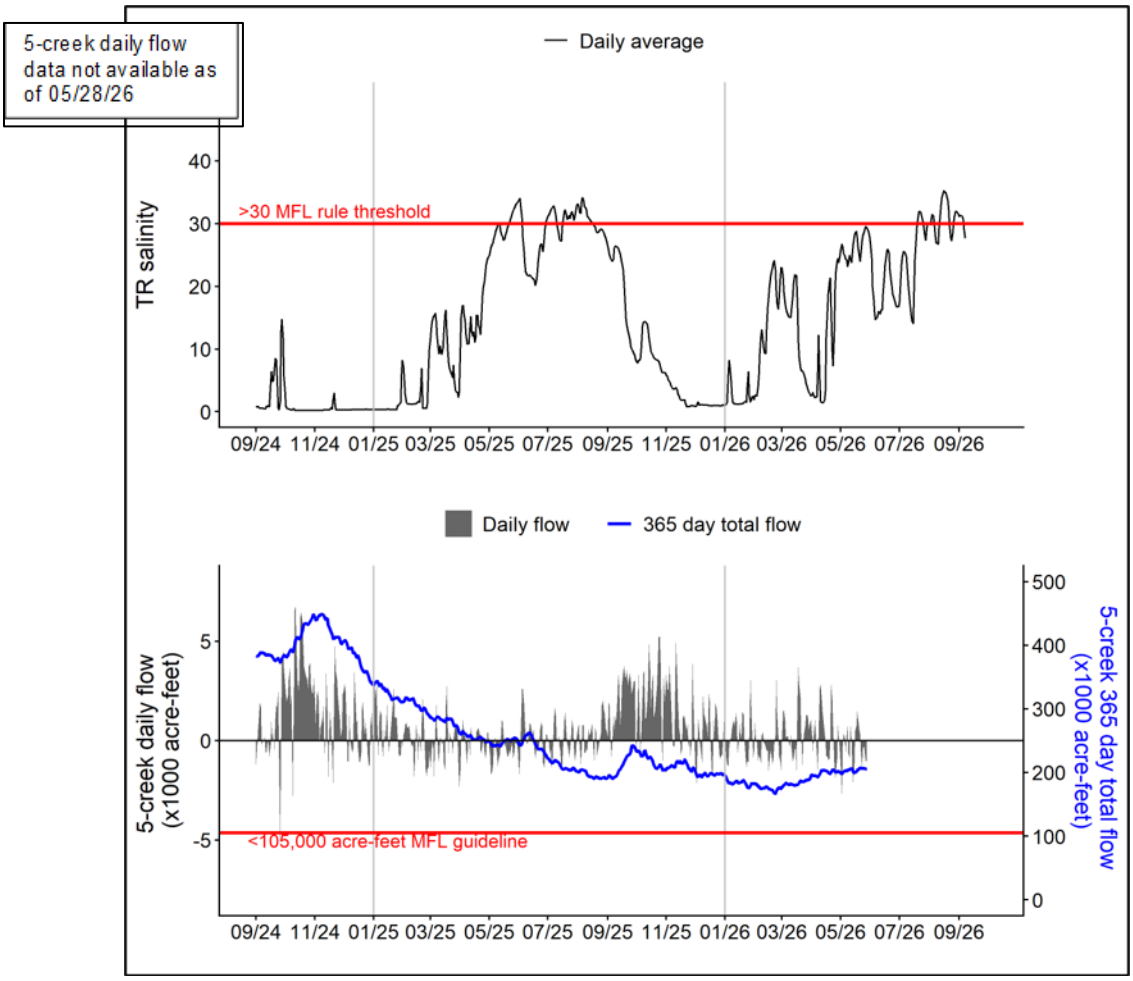

Figure EV-10. Daily average salinity at Taylor River (TR) tracked for the Florida Bay MFL criteria. The 365-day total creek flow MFL metric is not currently available due to missing creek flow data.

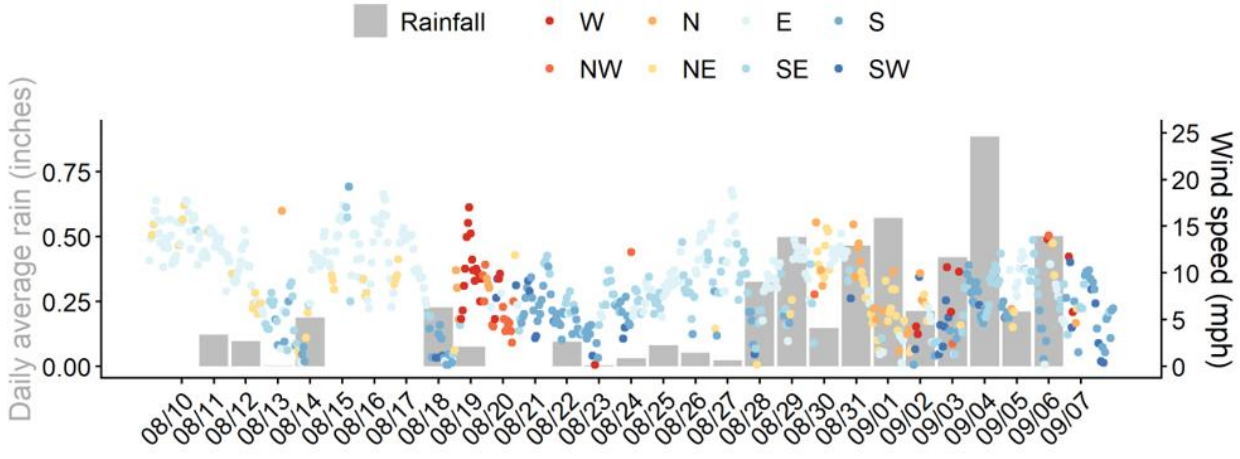

Figure EV-11. Daily average rain across Taylor Slough and Florida Bay, along with hourly average wind speed and direction (measured at Long Key) in Florida Bay over the past four weeks.

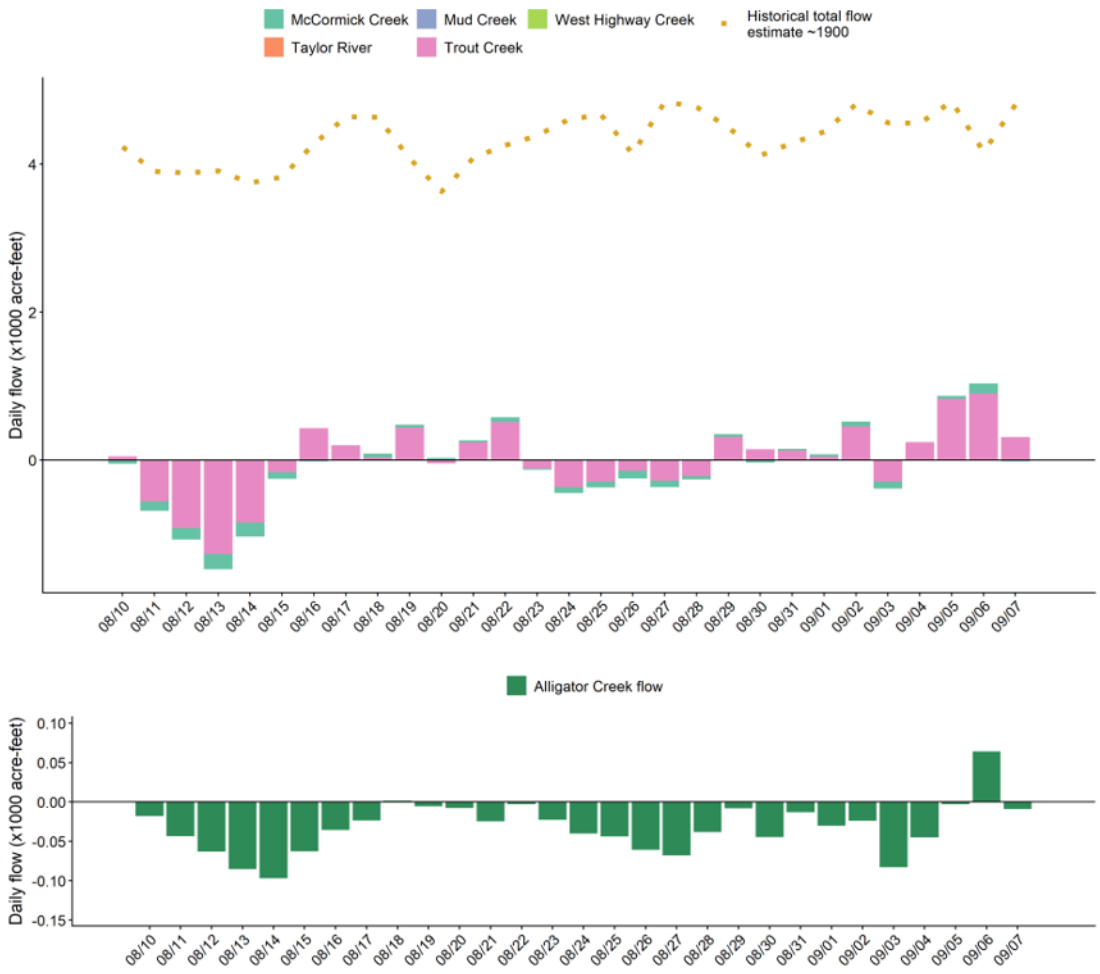

Figure EV-12. Top: daily average creek flow summed between the five major creeks with estimated historical daily flow over the past four weeks (**note**: data from Taylor River, Mud Creek and West Highway Creek are currently unavailable since May 28th, 2026). Bottom: Daily average Alligator Creek flow data.

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

SFWMD Everglades Ecological Recommendations, September 7, 2026 (red is new)			
	Weekly change	Recommendation	Reasons
WCA-1	Stage increased by 0.26 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.18 feet per week	Conserve water, maintain within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife. Maintain maintenance access for vegetation management.
WCA-2A	Stage increased by 0.35 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.18 feet per week	Conserve water, maintain within basin (north versus south) and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-2B	Stage increased by 0.56 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.18 feet per week	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
WCA-3A NE	Stage increased by 0.24 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.18 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 0.13 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.18 feet per week	
Central WCA-3A S	Stage increased by 0.06 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.18 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 decreased by 0.08 feet	An ascension of no faster than 0.18 feet per week	Protect within basin and downstream habitat and wildlife.
ENP-SRS	Stage increased by 0.23 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 +0.24 feet to +0.99 feet	Move water southward as possible	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.
FB- Salinity	Salinity changes ranged from –7.2 to +0.1	Move water southward as possible	When available, provide freshwater to promote water movement.