



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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South Florida Water Management District

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Two Lake Okeechobee Navigation Locks Reopen

Okeechobee, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) this week opened the navigation locks at J&S Fish Camp (S-135) and Henry Creek (G-36) on the northern edge of Lake Okeechobee.

The locks, which allow boaters to navigate through the Herbert Hoover Dike into the lake, were closed to boat traffic in order to maintain canal water levels during the recent record-breaking dry season.

Lake Okeechobee's elevation stood at 13.27 feet NGVD on July 15. The two locks will remain in the open position with no lock tender until the lake elevation reaches 13.75 feet NGVD, at which time normal operations with a lock tender will resume on the following schedule:

- **J&S Fish Camp (S-135), Henry Creek (G-36):** 5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

On the west shore, the S-131 navigation lock at Lakeport resumed normal operations June 10 on the following schedule:

- **Lakeport (S-131):** 5:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Two other lake locks will remain closed. The Taylor Creek structure (S-193) will remain closed until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completes an upgrade of the manatee protection system. The Buckhead Ridge (S-127) will remain closed until dredging work on the Pearce Canal and hydraulic repairs to the gate mechanism are completed and water levels remain optimum.

For more information, please contact the SFWMD Okeechobee Service Center at (863) 462-5260 or (800) 250-4200 or the SFWMD Orlando Service Center at (407) 858-6100 or (800) 250-4250.

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About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.