



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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**CONTACT:**

**Missie Barletto**

[Okeechobee Service Center](#)

South Florida Water Management District  
Office: (800) 250-4200 ext. 3006

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### **Taylor Creek Navigation Lock on Lake Okeechobee to be closed;** *Two other navigation locks to resume normal operations*

**Okeechobee, FL** – Beginning at 5 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18, boaters will not be allowed to navigate through the S-193 navigation lock at Taylor Creek into Lake Okeechobee. Also on Tuesday, navigation locks on Lake Okeechobee at J&S Fish Camp and at Henry Creek that have been secured in the open position for the past month will be placed back into operation, requiring boaters to lock through to enter and leave Lake Okeechobee.

This action is being taken as the lake level in this area is expected to be at or above 14 feet NGVD next week. This lake level requires that navigation lock gates be closed or placed into operation to provide flood protection for homeowners upstream of the navigation lock. Required repairs to the manatee protection device on the gates at the Taylor Creek navigation lock prevent this lock from being placed into operation until those repairs are completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This work is projected to be finished by September 25.

The navigation locks, which allow boaters to navigate around flood-control structures, have been secured in the open position allowing boaters free access to and from Lake Okeechobee since July 14. As of Tuesday, lock tenders will be on site at the S-135 navigation lock at J&S Fish Camp and at the G-36 navigation lock at Henry Creek to operate the navigation locks until further notice. At Taylor Creek no lock tender will be on duty and no boaters will be allowed through the Taylor Creek navigation lock after 5 a.m. on Tuesday.

On the west shore S-131 (Lakeport) resumed normal operations on June 10. The S-127 (Buckhead Ridge) will remain closed to navigation until work on the hydraulic lift mechanism on the gates is completed and dredging work on the Pearce Canal is completed in October.

## Summer Hours of Operation

LOCATION	TIME
G-36 (Henry Creek) and S-135 (J&S Fish Camp):	5:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. until Oct. 1
S-131 (Lakeport):	5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. until Sept. 30

Radio frequency 13 is monitored for boaters on Lake Okeechobee. For more information, please contact the SFWMD Okeechobee Service Center at (863) 462-5260.

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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.*