



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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# MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **Kissimmee Navigation Lock Returns to Service on Thursday**

*Recent rains allow for navigation through the S-65E*

**Okeechobee, FL** – Rising water levels will allow the S-65E navigation lock, the southern-most navigation lock on the Kissimmee River, to be placed back in service Thursday, August 25. The lock permits boaters to navigate between the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee.

Weekday hours of operation will be from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Weekend hours of operation at this time of year will be from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The lock was closed to boat traffic June 6 as Lake Okeechobee's water level fell below 10 feet NGVD because of shoaling on the lake side of the lock and low water levels inside the lock chamber. The lake level today is 10.57 feet NGVD, which is still more than three feet below average for this time of year.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) operates navigation locks to provide the greatest access possible for the boating public while maintaining flood control and water supply for the region.

North shore Lake Okeechobee navigation locks at J&S Fish Camp, Henry Creek, Taylor Creek, Buckhead Ridge and Lakeport all are closed with no locktender on duty at this time because of low water levels. The S-310 navigation lock at Clewiston is secured in the open position to allow boat traffic to pass.

Navigation locks on the Okeechobee Waterway, which includes the Caloosahatchee River and St. Lucie Canal, are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Information for those navigation locks may be obtained by calling the USACE South Florida Operations Office at 863-983-8101.

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**About the South Florida Water Management District**

*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.*