



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

MEDIA ADVISORY

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CONTACT:

Bill Graf

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (407) 858-6100, ext. 3837 or Cellular: (352) 516-5436

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Taylor Creek Boat Ramp Scheduled to Close

Lock refurbishment planned; Boat ramp closed for equipment staging area

Okeechobee, FL – The S-193 Navigation Lock, which allows boaters to travel directly between Lake Okeechobee and Taylor Creek on the north shore of the lake, will be 40 years old soon, making it time for the lock to undergo a complete renovation to ensure decades of continued reliable service.

The lock renovation is scheduled to begin April 1, 2012. To prepare for the work, the contractor will stage materials and equipment at the boat ramp on Taylor Creek immediately upstream of the navigation lock. The boat ramp is scheduled to be closed on December 1 and will remain closed throughout the refurbishment project, which is scheduled to be complete by October 2012.

While the boat ramp is closed, boaters can use the ramp in the Rim Canal about two miles south of Taylor Creek. After the lock is taken out of service on April 1, boaters can launch into Lake Okeechobee at Jaycee Park near the intersection of U.S. Highway 441 and State Road 78.

Leading up to April 1, boaters are asked to use caution when navigating near the lock due to ongoing construction and preparation for the full-scale renovation of the Taylor Creek Lock.

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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.