

2012 WATER WATCH

Keeping an Eye on Water Resources

District-Wide Conditions for May 7, 2012

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is issuing the following briefing:

The region remains under a water shortage warning.

Significant rainfall in April boosted water supplies in many areas of the 16-county region. This provided helpful short-term recharge for both surface and groundwater supplies at a critical time in the waning weeks of the dry season.

However, some water levels remain below normal due to a below-average dry season. As a result, water conservation remains critical to protect resources. The wet season historically starts by late May or early June, but it will take some time for the seasonal increase in rainfall to replenish supplies across the region.

Lake Okeechobee Levels

Today	11.61 feet
Historical Average for Today	13.46 feet
This Date One Year Ago	10.76 feet
One Month Ago	12.15 feet
One Week Ago	11.68 feet

Water Levels in Key Locations

LOCATION	WATER LEVEL	ONE WEEK AGO	HISTORICAL AVERAGE FOR TODAY
Lake Istokpoga	38.22 feet	38.40 feet	38.25 feet
WCA-1	16.04 feet	16.05 feet	14.50 feet
WCA-2	11.54 feet	11.28 feet	10.95 feet
WCA-3	9.25 feet	9.29 feet	8.79 feet
Lake Kissimmee	49.28 feet	49.41 feet	49.61 feet

For a map of dry season rainfall totals since Nov. 1 in all District basins, [click here](#).

Water Conservation Measures

- South Florida is under the District's Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule that limits residential and business landscape irrigation to two or three days per week based on location.

- Some city and county governments have adopted local ordinances that differ from the District rule and may further limit landscape irrigation. To determine watering days and times in your area, contact your local government or visit www.sfwmd.gov/2days.
- Note: Customers of the West Palm Beach and Lake Worth utilities remain under local orders that limit landscape irrigation to one day per week.
- Permitted water users such as nurseries, agriculture, golf courses and utilities are required to continue following the water use conditions in their permits.
 - Copies of water use permits can be found in the Application/Permit records search online at www.sfwmd.gov/ePermitting.
- For information about water conservation, visit www.savewaterfl.com.
- Information about current weather and water conditions can be found at www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch.

Other Actions

Lake Okeechobee releases

- On April 12, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board provided guidance to recommend a short-duration pulse release from Lake Okeechobee, if conditions warrant, to minimize the potential for algal blooms in the Caloosahatchee River. During the week of April 23, the District recommended a short-term pulse release, which was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Subsequent monitoring has revealed no evidence of blue-green algae blooms, and continued sampling is ongoing this week.

Navigation

- Starting April 16, the following locks on the north shore of Lake Okeechobee were closed due to low lake levels:
 - S-135 at J&S Fish Camp in Martin County
 - G-36 at Henry Creek in Okeechobee County
 - S-127 at Buckhead Ridge in Glades County
 - S-131 at Lakeport in Glades County
- The S-193 Lock, located on Taylor Creek on the north shore of Lake Okeechobee, is closed due to ongoing renovation work to refurbish the lock and ensure decades of reliable service.

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