

2012 WATER WATCH

Keeping an Eye on Water Resources

District-Wide Conditions for September 25, 2012

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

Following a dry period earlier in the rainy season, water levels across South Florida have significantly increased in recent weeks as a result of Tropical Storm Isaac and subsequent summer rains. On Aug. 26-27, Isaac brought an average of 4.76 inches of rain across the District's 16-county region — the third-highest two-day rainfall total for the region in at least 20 years. The heaviest rainfall was concentrated in Palm Beach and Broward counties, with local maximums of nearly 15 inches. Rainfall so far in September has been near or above average throughout the region.

With above average rainfall directly over Lake Okeechobee and in the Kissimmee Basin, the lake level has increased 3 feet in the last month and continues to rise. Water levels in the Everglades Water Conservation Areas also remain at or above their regulation schedules.

The District continues to monitor water levels and operate the system to maintain flood control while capturing as much water as possible for the upcoming dry season. For more information on the rainy season and other water updates, visit:

- [Flood and Rainy Season Readiness](#)
- [SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecast](#)

Lake Okeechobee Levels

Today	15.38 feet
Historical Average for Today	14.75 feet
This Date One Year Ago	11.01 feet
One Month Ago	12.38 feet
One Week Ago	15.11 feet

Water Levels in Key Locations

LOCATION	CURRENT WATER LEVEL	ONE MONTH AGO	HISTORICAL AVERAGE FOR TODAY
Lake Istokpoga	38.88 feet	38.24 feet	39.02 feet
WCA-1	17.09 feet	16.43 feet	16.35 feet
WCA-2	13.97 feet	12.27 feet	13.23 feet
WCA-3	11.32 feet	10.17 feet	10.55 feet
Lake Kissimmee	51.29 feet	50.76 feet	51.07 feet

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

Tropical Storm Isaac Response and Recovery

- The primary SFWMD flood control system, including pump stations, gates and locks, has fully recovered from Tropical Storm Isaac and returned to normal rainy season operations. Groundwater conditions remain seasonally high.
- A post-storm analysis showed the District moved an estimated 105 billion gallons of water away from residents in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties during and immediately following Tropical Storm Isaac.
- To aid in local flooding relief efforts, SFWMD engineers and field staff designed and constructed an emergency weir and flow-way to relieve pressure on a levee separating the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area from a residential area in western Palm Beach County. Water levels in the Corbett Area have declined to an acceptable level.
- More information on the District's storm response is available at www.sfwmd.gov/isaac.

Other Actions

Lake Okeechobee releases

- On Sept. 19, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began releasing water from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers as part of its efforts to manage the rising lake level. The Corps is responsible for managing Lake Okeechobee and makes decisions whether to retain or release water based on its lake regulation schedule, which aims to keep the lake level between 12.5 and 15.5 feet NGVD.
 - District staff recommended last week that the Corps follow the guidance in the regulation schedule. The District's current operational position statement is available [here](#).

Navigation

- All Kissimmee River navigation locks are open.
- 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.
- Due to rising Lake Okeechobee levels, lock operations have resumed at the S-310 Lock, located near Clewiston on the south shore of the lake. Boaters must now "lock through" to navigate between the lake and the Clewiston Canal.

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.
 - To determine watering days and times in your area, contact your local government or visit www.sfwmd.gov/2days.
- Permitted water users such as nurseries, agriculture, golf courses and utilities should continue following the water use conditions in their permits.
 - Permit details can be found in the Application/Permit records search online at www.sfwmd.gov/ePermitting.
- For information about water conservation, visit www.savewaterfl.com.

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