

2012 WATER WATCH

Keeping an Eye on Water Resources

District-Wide Conditions for October 15, 2012

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

Following mostly average September rainfall, the entire region has experienced above average rainfall through the first 15 days of October. Water levels in key areas remain above historic averages for this time of year.

After Lake Okeechobee rose about 3.7 feet since Tropical Storm Isaac, inflows have declined, and there has been no significant direct rainfall over the lake during the past week. Water levels remain high in the Everglades Water Conservation Area 3 and are near their regulation schedules in Water Conservation Areas 1 and 2.

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	15.86 feet
Historical Average for Today	15.04 feet
This Date One Year Ago	11.79 feet
One Month Ago	14.96 feet
One Week Ago	15.84 feet

Water Levels in Key Locations

LOCATION	CURRENT WATER LEVEL	ONE MONTH AGO	HISTORICAL AVERAGE FOR TODAY
Lake Istokpoga	39.24 feet	38.24 feet	39.27 feet
WCA-1	17.17 feet	16.43 feet	16.50 feet
WCA-2	13.48 feet	12.27 feet	13.35 feet
WCA-3	11.57 feet	10.17 feet	10.65 feet
Lake Kissimmee	51.53 feet	50.76 feet	51.37 feet
For a map of wet season rainfall totals in all District basins, click here .			

Other Actions

Lake Okeechobee releases

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues releasing water from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers as part of its efforts to manage the lake level. The Corps is responsible for decisions whether to retain or release water based on its lake regulation schedule, which aims to balance regional flood and environmental protection with public health and safety. As the local sponsor of the Central and Southern Florida Project, the District provides information on local and regional water condition to the Corps for their consideration in managing water levels in the lake.
 - 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

- With the S-65D Navigation Lock expected to be back in operation this week, all Kissimmee River navigation locks will be 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.
- 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.

#

Media inquiries can be directed to:

Randy Smith

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386