

Weekly Update: June 29, 2005



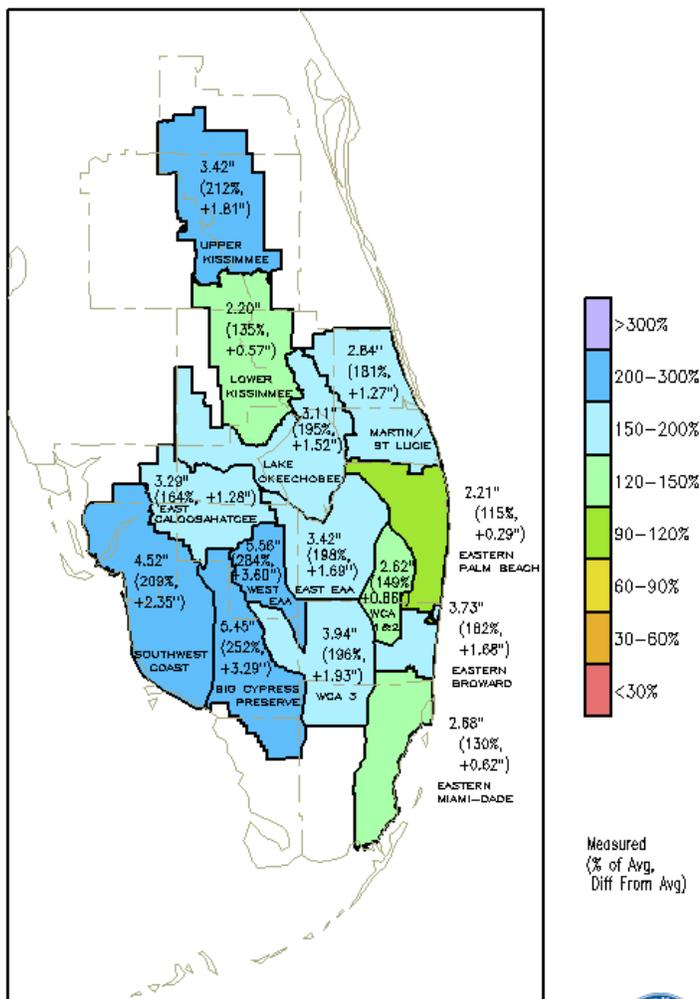
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**FACTs**

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in south Florida.

## State of the Water Management System

*To underscore our commitment to keep you informed, we will send this update weekly. We encourage you to share this water resources information with your constituents.*

SFWM District Rainfall  
23-JUN-2005 to 29-JUN-2005



DISTRICT-WIDE: 3.49" (188%, +1.64")

GrADS: COLA/ICES



### Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the last 30 days is 14.49".
- Monthly total for June is 12.89". Average for June is 7.16". All basins have received over 10" for the month.
- Above-average rainfall is expected in the next 3-4 days; average rainfall in the next 5-7 days.

(more)



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## State of the Water Management System

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### System-wide overview:

With the forecast of continued heavy rains this week, the District is operating under flood control protocols. District-wide operations will maintain low-range configuration in the canal system, meaning all coastal structures are open, and water levels are being adjusted to accommodate large amounts of stormwater runoff.

**Lake Okeechobee** — Lake level this week was 15.69 ft NGVD, which is 0.27 ft higher than last week and 3.05 ft higher than this time last year. Lake level continues to rise, as inflows are greatly exceeding outflows.

Note: SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage the lake. Water releases from the lake are based on a fixed regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and inflows, and lake level.

With rising levels, the lake's regulation schedule triggered large and constant releases to the east and west, which will begin June 30. Net rainfall is monitored on a daily basis. At high lake levels, flood control becomes the primary factor in managing the lake, and environmental considerations become a lower priority. Unlike pulse releases, the discharges are higher and are continuous. These larger releases now may prevent more serious damage from even higher releases later this summer.

Conditions in the lake are still poor.

**Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin** – All Upper Chain of Lakes and most lakes in Kissimmee Basin are above regulation schedule. Significant discharges are being made. The S65 structure is releasing at 6500 cubic feet per second (cfs) and expected to increase this week to 8300 cfs. The S65E is releasing 7500 cfs, increasing to 9000 cfs by the end of the week. Locks and boat ramps have been closed for recreational use.

**St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries** – Outflows through both estuaries are relatively high, with significant amounts of flow coming from basin runoff due to heavy rainfall. Conditions in both estuaries are poor, and an algae bloom has been reported in the St. Lucie.

**Water Conservation Areas** – All water conservation areas are above their regulation schedules. However under certain conditions, releases may be made to the conservation areas, unless water levels exceed the maximum of the regulation schedule plus 0.25 ft. Only Water Conservation Area 2A is above that level at this time. For the first time, the C-4 Emergency Detention Basin flood-control project in Miami-Dade County was used to move water from the C-4 canal west and detain it until levels in the canal subsided.

**Everglades National Park** – Significant rainfall in all areas, ranging from 2-5" in the past week. Water levels are increasing; average depth is above 1 ft.

**Florida Bay** – Salinity levels are decreasing.