

Weekly Update: August 3, 2005



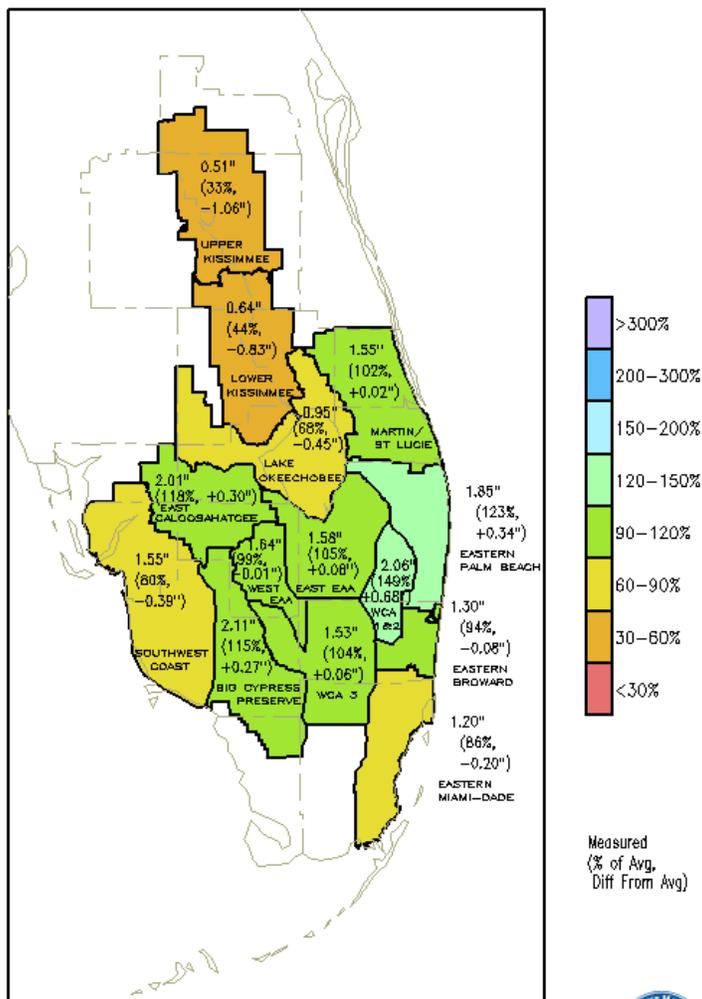
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FACTs

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.

SFWMD Rainfall
26-JUL-2005 to 01-AUG-2005



DISTRICT-WIDE: 1.39" (88%, -0.19")

GRADS: COLA/ICES

Measured
(% of Avg,
Diff From Avg)



Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the last week was approximately 1.4"
- Monthly rainfall total for July was 6.46", which is 93% of average.
- Wet season rainfall (since June 1st) is currently 20.86", mostly from a very wet June. This is 139% of average.

(more)



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State of the Water Management System

Weekly Update: August 3, 2005 (page 2)

System-wide overview:

Lake Okeechobee releases were reduced beginning on Tuesday, August 2nd. Lake levels are still extremely high but have continued a slight downward trend. The stages in the upper Kissimmee Basin lakes are near their normal regulation levels, and releases to the Atlantic Ocean continue to be made from WCA-2A and 3A and from most coastal structures.

The long-term forecast for the next three months continues to be for an increased chance of above average rainfall. Updated hurricane forecasting from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) calls for an increased number of tropical storms in the Atlantic this season (total of 18-21, versus an average of 10.)

Lake Okeechobee — The lake level continued to decline slightly and as of August 2nd is 16.18 ft NGVD. This is down 0.28 ft from last week's level. Lake level is still high—currently 3.87 ft higher than this time last year. Inflows to the lake were roughly half of the outflows.

The temporary deviation from the regulation schedule issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which began on July 14th, was terminated on August 2nd. Water releases authorized by this temporary deviation successfully brought the lake level below 16.25 ft. Releases from the lake continue, and the lake level continues to show a downward trend.*

Algal blooms continue to persist along the western shore of the lake and in Fisheating Bay. Bloom conditions were also reported in parts of Pelican Bay. Water clarity has improved substantially in the southern reaches of the lake. This is an area well protected by islands and emergent vegetation and therefore less susceptible to wind disturbance. Clarity remains poor in the western and northern near-shore zones. Preliminary results from this year's mapping of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) show a significant drop in coverage and density of these plants. Further data will be forthcoming.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin — Rainfall in the basin was slightly below normal for the month of July. Stages for all upper basin lakes are at their regulation schedules. Treatment for invasive plants (hydrilla) is taking place in the upper basin.

Flows from the Kissimmee River into Lake Okeechobee continue to decline gradually. Water temperature is warm, with a low concentration of dissolved oxygen, which is normal for the summer season.

Snail kites continue to nest on Lake Toho. An aerial survey conducted on July 28th along the Kissimmee River detected relatively high numbers of wading birds, including snowy egrets, little blue herons, white ibis and great egrets. These birds were observed along the entire river but were especially abundant in the restored section of the river.

* *SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage Lake Okeechobee. Water releases from the lake are made in accordance with a federally authorized regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and lake level.*

State of the Water Management System

Weekly Update: August 3, 2005 (page 3)

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries — Freshwater continues to flow into the estuaries from basin runoff and Lake Okeechobee releases. Salinity remains below the preferred range. Basin runoff is contributing approximately 40% of the flow into the Caloosahatchee. Conditions in both estuaries are poor but may start to improve due to the reduction in releases from the lake, which began this week.

Water Conservation Areas — Water levels continue to be high for this time of year, except in WCA 1. Depths in some locations are almost 4 ft higher than in July 2004. Most monitoring sites showed no appreciable change in water level from last week. WCAs 2B and 3 remain closed to the public, per the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Everglades National Park — Rainfall was patchy and averaged 1–2” during the past week. Close to 4.5” of rain fell in Shark River Slough. Water levels in various sections of the park increased, decreased or remained the same, depending on local rainfall.

Note: Rainfall information in the park is based on radar estimates, not rain gauge data. As a result, the map on page one does not always include rainfall information for the park.

Florida Bay — Salinity is gradually decreasing across Florida Bay, which is normal for this time of year. The central bay received the least rainfall for the region in the past week, accumulating less than 1”.

