

Weekly Update: August 17, 2005



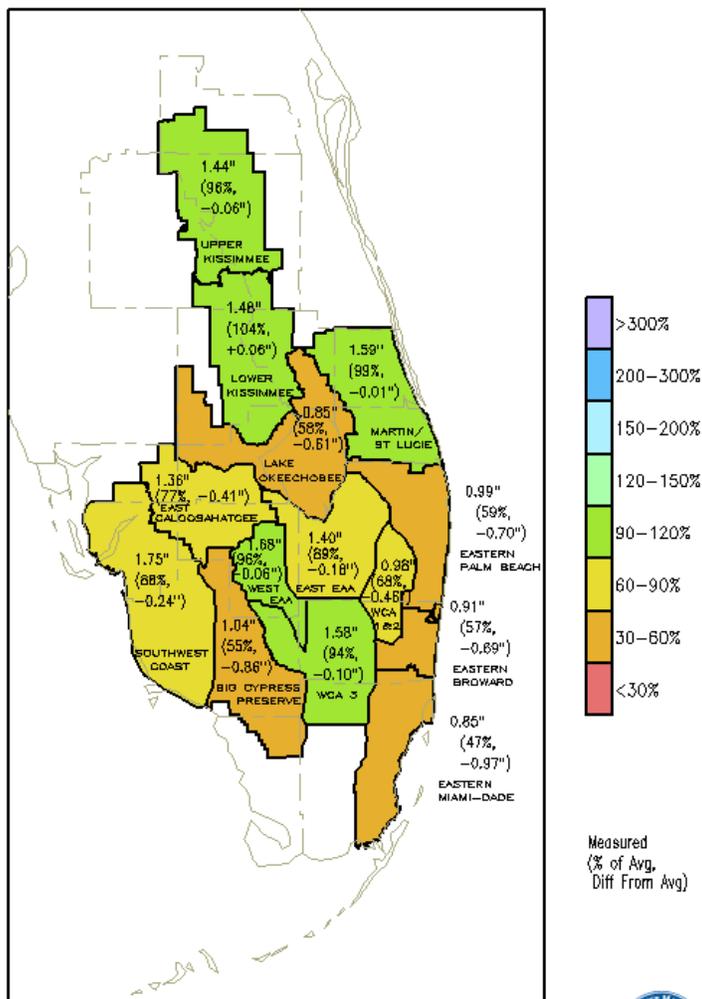
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**FACTS**

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  
09-AUG-2005 to 15-AUG-2005



DISTRICT-WIDE: 1.33" (80%, -0.33")

GRADS: COLA/IGES



**Rainfall overview:**

- District-wide rainfall for the last week was 1 1/3"
- Rainfall total for August (to date) is 3.63", which is about average.
- Below average rainfall is expected over the next 7 days.
- Rainfall outlook for the remainder of the wet season is for an increased likelihood of above-average rainfall.



[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)

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## State of the Water Management System

Weekly Update: August 17, 2005 (page 2)

### System-wide overview:

Lake Okeechobee levels continue to decline slowly. Blue-green algae continues to be an issue in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries. The upper Kissimmee Basin lakes are at their normal regulation levels, and releases to the Atlantic Ocean continue to be made from WCA-2A and 3A and from most coastal structures.

**Lake Okeechobee** — The lake level is on a slow downward trend, measuring 16.04 ft NGVD as of August 16<sup>th</sup>. This is down 0.13 ft from last week's level.\*

Widespread surface algal blooms continue to be reported from a variety of locations around the lake. Water clarity remains substantially improved in the southern reaches of the lake, while clarity in the north and west segments remains low.

Annual mapping of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is complete. Preliminary analysis shows slightly more than 11,000 acres of mostly sparse or very sparse vegetation, compared to 54,000+ acres of mostly moderate to dense SAV in the lake at the same time last year. Final values and species-specific totals will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

**Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin** — Stages for all upper basin lakes are at their regulation schedules. River temperature is high (30° C, or 86° F), per seasonal expectations.

**St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries** — Salinity remains below the preferred range. It increased in the past week at the A1A Bridge in the St. Lucie. Basin runoff is contributing about half of the flow into the Caloosahatchee. Blue-green algae continue to bloom in both estuaries. Conditions are poor.

**Water Conservation Areas** — Water levels continue to be above regulation schedule in WCA-2A and 3 and slightly below schedule in WCA-1.

**Everglades National Park** — Rainfall was patchy during the past week, ranging from 0.5" to 4.0" and averaging about 1". Water depths increased in Shark River Slough by 0.1 ft, with no changes noted in depth in the panhandle section.

*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 include rainfall information for the park.*

**Florida Bay** — Salinity continues to drop across much of Florida Bay. Whipray Basin, the most interior region of the bay, is experiencing an increase in salinity concentrations. Rainfall in the past week was fairly light.

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\* 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.