

Weekly Update: June 17, 2005



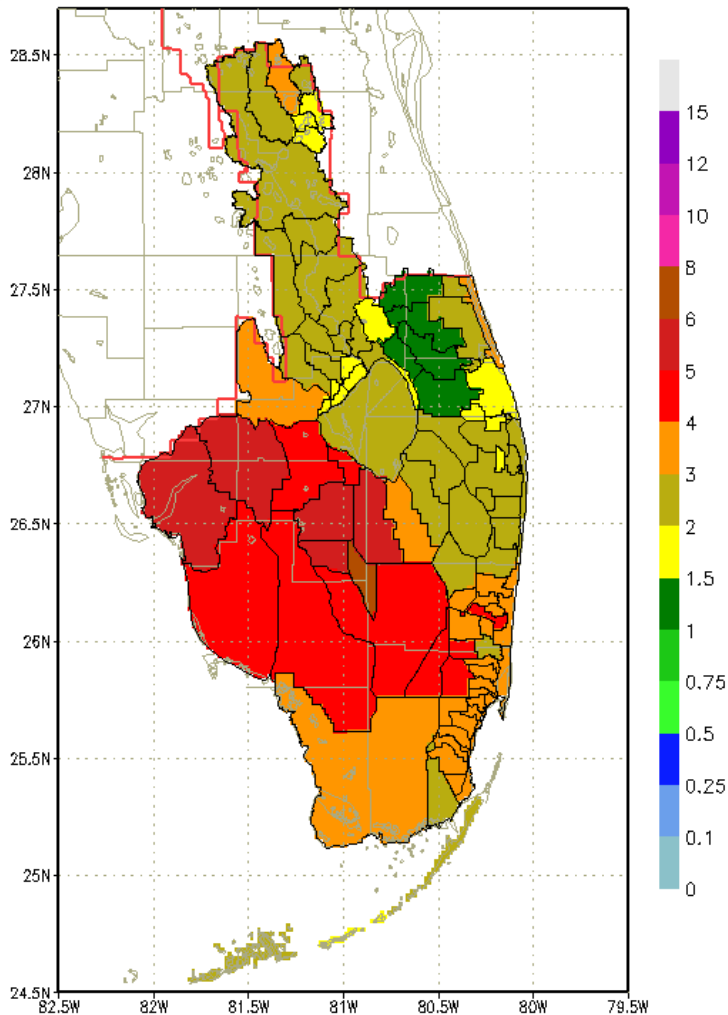
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FACTs

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



SFWMD RAINDAR 7-DAY BASIN RAINFALL ESTIMATES

FROM: 1415 EST, 06/07/2005 THROUGH: 1415 EST, 06/14/2005



GRADS: COLA/ICES DISTRICT-WIDE RAINFALL ESTIMATE: 3.533" 2005-06-14-15:43

Rainfall overview:

- 10.5" of rain fell in the last 30 days, especially heavy on the West Coast (15") and Upper Kissimmee Basin (10")
- 6 days in June have had 1" or greater rainfall
- Ten-day outlook is for average rainfall (2.5")

(more)



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State of the Water Management System

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System-wide overview:

Lake Okeechobee — Level this week was 15.34 ft NGVD, up approx 1.2 ft since late May and 2.5 ft higher than this time last year. Pulse releases are currently at about 1200 cubic feet per second (cfs). Inflows coming from north of the lake and forecasted rain could result in higher discharges east and west and south.

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

Early next week (possibly as early as this weekend), lake levels are expected to reach 15.60 feet. At this level, flood control becomes the primary factor in managing the lake, and the regulation schedule dictates that there is no longer flexibility for environmental releases. 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.

Plants are an ecological indicator of the lake's health. Monthly plant surveys are under way. Three sites in the southwest quadrant were noted with plant growth. However there is no light at the bottom of the lake, and algal blooms were spotted this week.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin – At or slightly above schedule; mean oxygen levels are low.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries – Conditions in both estuaries are poor. No salinity reports available.

Water Conservation Areas – Water levels continue to rise. All available storage is being used, and the Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) are full.

Everglades National Park – Under flood stress conditions.

Florida Bay – Salinity levels have just begun to drop.



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