

Weekly Update: June 14, 2006



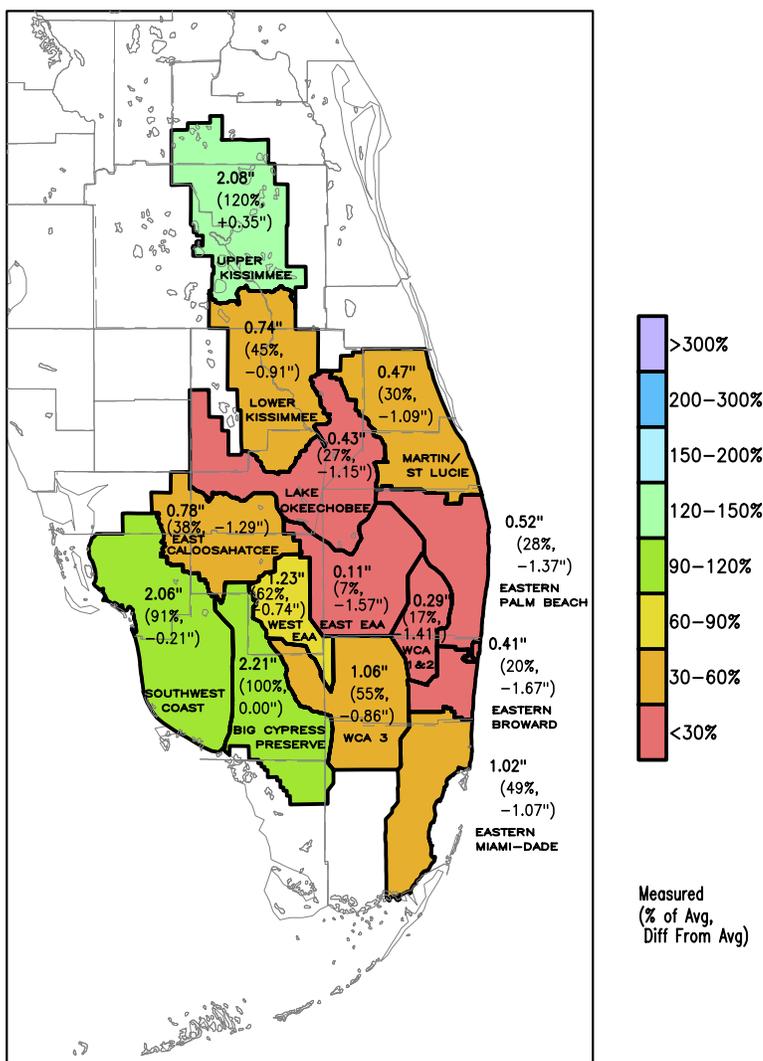
just the
FACTs

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
07-JUN-2006 to 13-JUN-2006



DISTRICT-WIDE: 1.08" (58%, -0.79")

GRADS: COLA/IGES

2006-06-13-19:02

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was approximately 1 inch.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for below average rainfall.



sfwmd.gov
 South Florida Water Management District
 3301 Gun Club Road
 West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
 561-686-8800 FL WATS 1-800-432-2045
www.sfwmd.gov
 MAILING ADDRESS P.O. Box 24680
 West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

State of the Water Management System

Weekly Update: June 14, 2006 (page 2)

System-wide overview:

The monthly total average rainfall through last week was 1.9 inches District-wide. Most of the recent rainfall was received west and north of Lake Okeechobee; however the southeast area of the District received little rain. The outlook for June through August is toward increased chances of being wetter than normal.

Lake Okeechobee — The Lake stage is approximately 12.37 feet NGVD 29 (11.07 feet NAVD 88), down 0.22 feet since this day last week and 2.87 feet lower than on this date last year.* According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, snail kite nesting season is winding down and nest sites on Lake Okeechobee are no longer accessible due to low water levels in the western marsh. Overall, water quality in Lake Okeechobee is improving and light is reaching the bottom at many of the shallower sites in the zone of potential submerged aquatic vegetation growth.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin — In the last seven days, most of the upper basin received .52 inches to bring the 30-day total to 2.08 inches. The lower basin received .32 inches to bring the 30-day total to 1.88 inches. Snail kite nesting continues on Lake Tohopekaliga (Toho) and East Lake Toho. Concentration of dissolved oxygen in the restored river channel remains well above thresholds of concern, which is good for aquatic organisms. Airboat reconnaissance last Thursday noted that water levels in the area of Oak Creek have receded quite a bit and this area may not be accessible by airboat for much longer. Falling water levels on the floodplain are still attracting foraging wading birds including a roseate spoonbill and large flocks of white ibis. Falling water levels are also exposing sandbars in some areas. Signs were placed at boat ramps to warn of navigation hazards at low water.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries — There was no discharge from S-80 during the past week. The modified level-1 pulse release to the Caloosahatchee Estuary that began on June 3 continued this week. The average weekly salinity in the Caloosahatchee Estuary has remained relatively constant since last week. Salinity conditions in both estuaries are good.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) — Rainfall averaged from 0.5 in WCA-1 to 1.5 inches in WCA-3. Water levels are declining or remaining level. Stages are at or near regulation in WCA-1 and WCA-2 and below in WCA-3. The last wading bird survey of the season offered up a promising view of current wading bird nesting and foraging activity. Many large feeding flocks were observed throughout the flight, including southwest WCA-1, southern WCA-3 and west of Hidden colony.

Everglades National Park — Rainfall was patchy in the Park, with some areas receiving nearly 2.5 inches and others receiving well below 1 inch. Water levels across the Park reflected these varying rainfall patterns with Shark River Slough increasing, Taylor Slough Bridge decreasing and the panhandle holding steady.

Note: This rainfall information is based on rain gauges within the Park. The map on page one captures District rain gauge data only.

* 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: June 14, 2006 (page 3)

Florida Bay — Areas in Florida Bay received weekly rainfall accumulations between 1-2 inches. Salinity remained unchanged in the eastern bay, decreased a few miles up into the Taylor River ponds and in the western bay, and increased in the north central bay.

Keetch-Byram drought index — This is used by the Florida Division of Forestry to indicate soil dryness. The scale ranges from zero (no moisture deficit) to 800, which means eight inches of water has been depleted from the soil. It is based on daily rainfall and temperature measurements, and increases for each day without rainfall. High values of the KBDI are an indication that conditions are favorable for the occurrence and spread of wildfires. The index can be viewed at http://www.fl-dof.com/fire_weather/KBDI/. The June 13 KBDI average for the District's 16 counties is 514 – a decrease of 22 points since last week – with a minimum of 50 in Collier and Monroe counties and a maximum of 731 in Highlands County.

Other District News and Happenings —

- The *Acceler8* Acme Basin B Discharge Groundbreaking is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20 at 9 a.m. Confirmed speakers include Senator Aaronberg, Representatives Vana and Machek, and Secretary Castille. Governing Board member Lennart Lindahl will emcee the event.
- *WaterMatters*, the District's external newsletter, was revamped and turned into a newspaper insert. It was inserted in all major newspapers on Saturday, June 10.

Did you know the South Florida Water Management District manages and protects the water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply? Want to hear more? It would be our pleasure to meet with your organization to give a presentation and answer your questions. If interested, please contact Doris Urban at 800-432-2045 or 561-686-8800, ext. 6202.