

Weekly Update: August 10, 2005



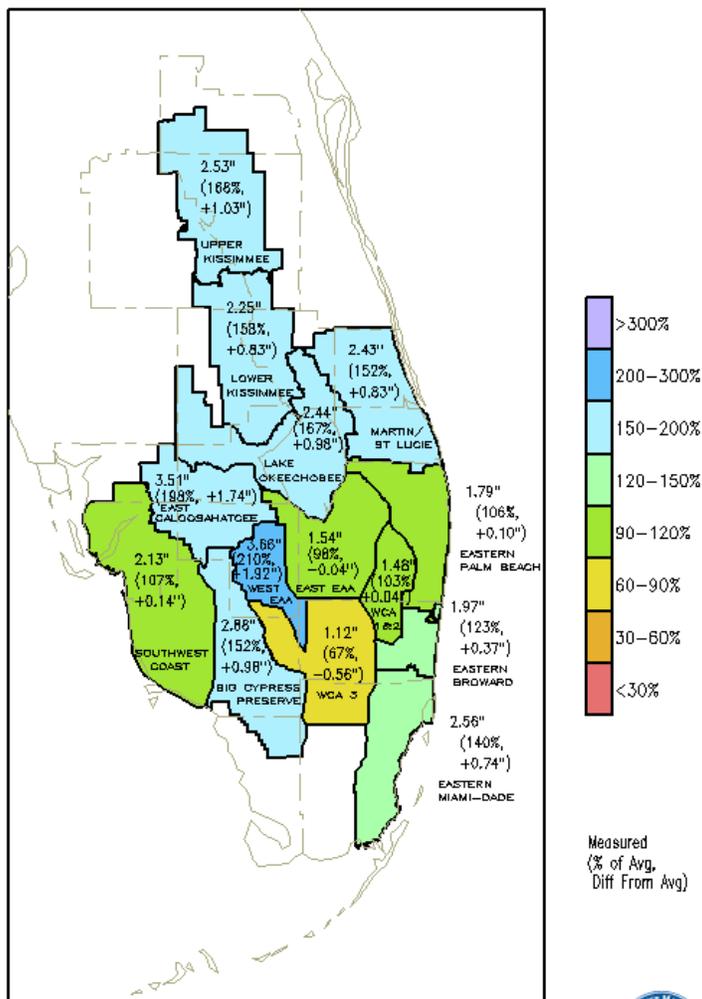
just the
FACTS

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.

SFWMD Rainfall
02-AUG-2005 to 08-AUG-2005



DISTRICT-WIDE: 2.32" (140%, +0.66")

GRADS: COLA/ICES



Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the last week was more than 2"
- Rainfall total for August (to date) is 2.4", which is above average.
- Rainfall for the next 2-3 days will be average to above average.
- Rainfall forecast for the next 4-7 days is questionable, as modeling for Tropical Depression Irene is inconclusive at this time.



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: August 10, 2005 (page 2)

System-wide overview:

Lake Okeechobee levels are still high but are slowly receding. 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 receding slightly and is at 16.17 ft NGVD as of August 9th. This is down 0.01 ft from last week's level.

Widespread algal blooms are reported in the lake. No changes have been noted in water clarity. The southern reaches continue to show some clarity, while the north and west segments remain very turbid.

Mapping of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) shows 7,000 acres of sparse vegetation, compared to 54,000 acres of moderate to dense SAV at this time last year. Additional vegetation data will be forthcoming.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin — Stages for all upper basin lakes are at their regulation schedules. Treatment for invasive plants (hydrilla) continues on some of the lakes.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries — Salinity remains below the preferred range, but is increasing in the St. Lucie. Blue/green algae is present there. Basin runoff is contributing more than half of the flow into the Caloosahatchee. Conditions in both estuaries are poor.

Water Conservation Areas — Water levels continue to be well above regulation schedule in WCA-2 and 3. Depths range from 2-4 ft in these areas. Depths are less than 2 ft in WCA-1.

Everglades National Park — Rainfall averaged 1–2” during the past week. Water depths are less than 2ft and showed no appreciable gains or losses in most locations.

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 is dropping across much of Florida Bay, which is normal for this time of year. Rainfall in the past week ranged from 0.5-2.5” The most interior region of the bay, Whipray Basin, has had only briefly declining salinity concentrations. The basin received plentiful rainfall (almost 5” in July), but evaporation rates are at their highest.

** 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.*