



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Natural Resources Department

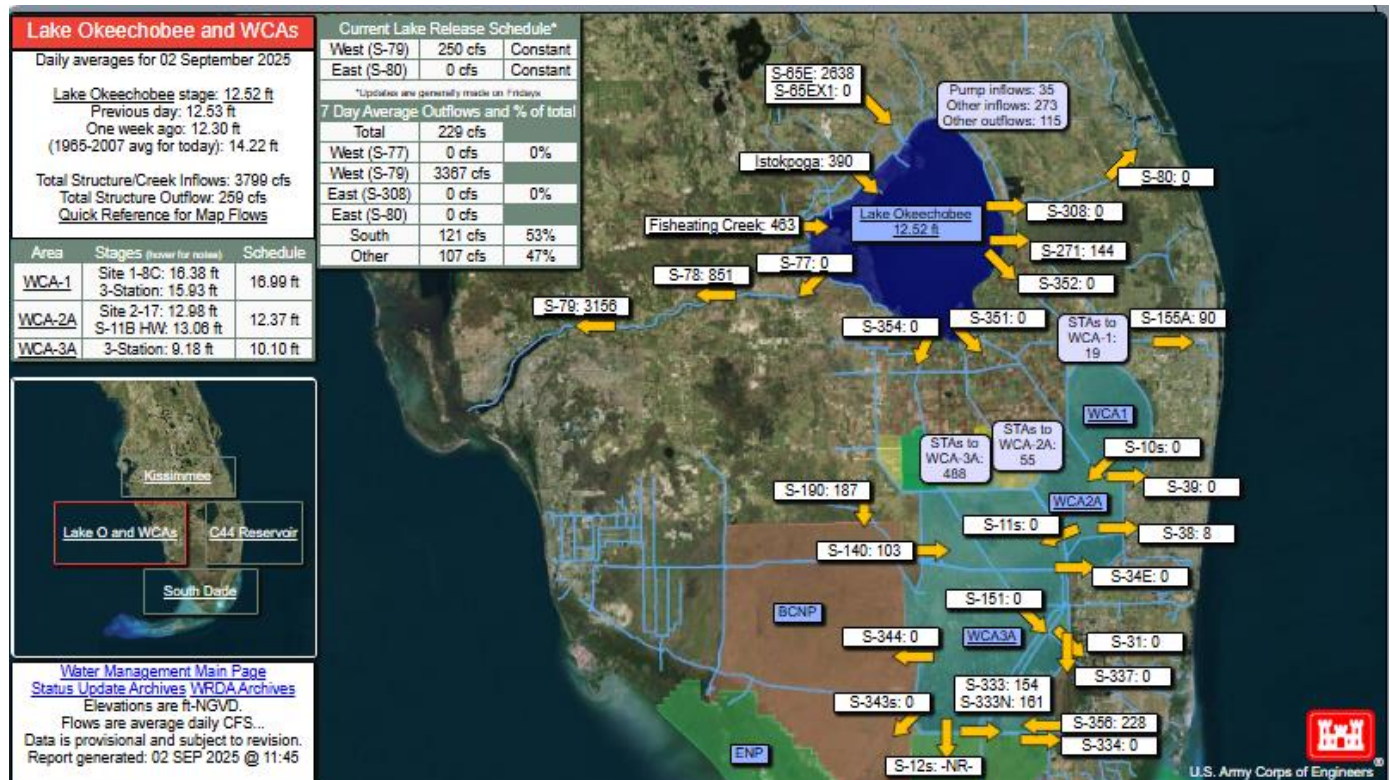
City Council Regular Meeting Date: September 8, 2025

To: City Council
From: Holly Milbrandt, Natural Resources Director
Date: September 2, 2025

SUBJECT: Natural Resources Water Quality Updates

BACKGROUND:

CALOOSAHAATCHEE RIVER & ESTUARY CONDITIONS REPORT



Click to view: [August 26, 2025 Caloosahatchee Conditions Report](#)

CURRENT RAINFALL AND CLIMATE OUTLOOK

SFWMD rainfall for August was near normal at 7.87" (98% of normal). However, there was a high degree of variability across the District, with below average rainfall to the south and east of Lake Okeechobee.

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/weather-radar/rainboard>

For the 2025 wet season to date (May 22, 2025-September 1, 2025), the SFWMD has received 24.46" of rain (96% of normal). However, there was a high degree of variability across the District, with the eastern portions of the District much below normal (69-81% of normal).

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/weather-radar/rainboard>

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center one-month Probability Outlook for September 2025 indicates a 50-60% chance above normal rainfall for south Florida.

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead14/

The three-month outlook for Sep-Oct-Nov 2025 indicates a 40-50% chance of above normal rainfall Florida.

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead01/off01_prpcp.gif

NOAA ENSO Report (updated on 9/2/2025):

- ENSO-neutral is present.
- Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are near-to-below average across most of the Pacific Ocean.
- ENSO-neutral is most likely through the late Northern Hemisphere summer 2025 (56% chance in August-October). Thereafter, a brief period of La Niña conditions is favored in the fall and early winter 2025-26 before reverting to ENSO-neutral.
- https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf

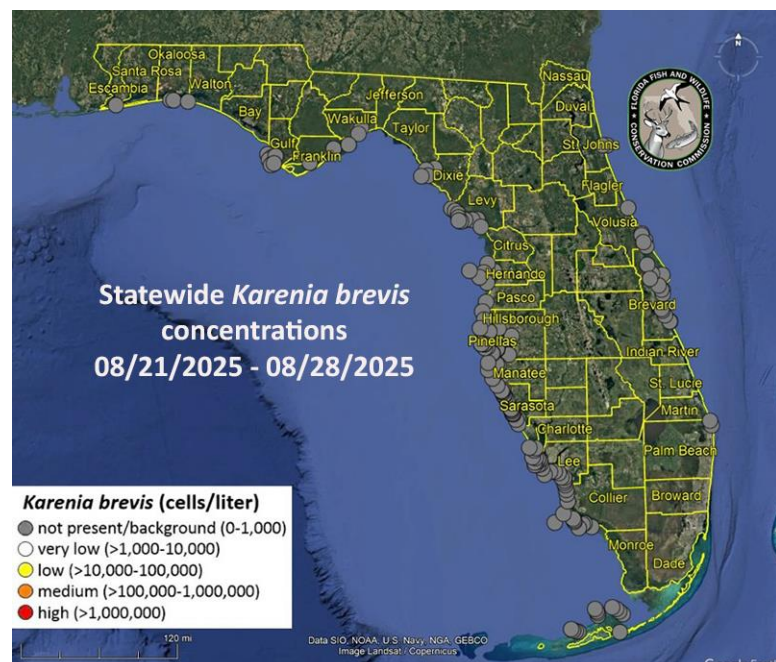
ALGAE BLOOMS

Red Tide: FWC Update for August 29, 2025

<https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/statewide/>

Over the past week, the red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was observed in one sample collected from Northwest Florida.

Fish kills or respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide were not reported over the past week in Florida.



Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

Blue-Green Algae: DEP Weekly Update (August 22-28)

<https://floridadep.gov/AlgalBloomWeeklyUpdate>

There were 22 reported site visits in the past seven days with 22 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by samplers at 13 of the sites.

The best available satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee from 8/28 is partially obscured by cloud cover and shows low to high bloom potential on approximately 85% of the lake, with the largest area of high bloom potential in the northeast quadrant of the lake.

The satellite imagery for the Caloosahatchee Estuary from 8/28 is partially obscured by cloud cover and shows only one small area of low bloom potential in Matlacha Pass.

The satellite imagery for the St. Lucie Estuary from 8/28 is partially obscured by cloud cover and shows no significant bloom potential on visible portions of the estuary.

Red Drift Algae: No reports

Trichodesmium: No reports

Sargassum: No reports

Florida Healthy Beaches Reports: During the month of August, two beach locations tested in the "poor" range for enterococcus. On Monday (8/4/2025), Bowman's Beach tested in the "poor" range and Blind Pass/Turner Beach tested in the 'moderate' range for enterococcus. This was most likely a result of the significant rainfall event (8-12") the day prior. By mid-week, samples from Bowman's beach collected for re-testing had returned to the "good" range. (Sites testing "moderate" do not get retested until the following week, at which point Blind Pass/Turner tested "good"). On Monday 8/18/2025, Lighthouse Beach tested in the "poor" range for enterococcus, but samples collected mid-week for re-testing had returned to the "good" range.

PAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

August 14, 2025

9:00 AM

West Palm Beach, FL

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/event/governing-board-meeting-32>

- Briefing: New Landmark Agreement between the State of Florida and the U.S. Department of the Army to Accelerate Everglades Restoration (Staff contact, Drew Bartlett)
 - The new agreement will accelerate the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir's construction timeline, allow Florida to assume responsibility for the Blue Shanty Flow Way, enable Florida to manage future CERP projects through expedited permitting and an updated federal memorandum of understanding, and redirect resources to fast-track critical restoration.
- Dan Delisi provided public comment on behalf of Lee County to thank the Governing Board for their commitment to the completion of the 170,000 acre-foot C43 Reservoir and to request additional storage projects for the Caloosahatchee to achieve the 400,000 acre-feet of needed storage identified in the Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

CHNEP Management Committee Meeting

September 4, 2025

9:30 AM-2:00 PM

Port Charlotte, FL

<https://www.chnep.org/management-committee>

Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force

September 10, 2025

9:00 AM

FWRI St. Petersburg, FL

<https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/taskforce/meeting/>

SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

September 11, 2025

2:00 PM

West Palm Beach, FL

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/event/governing-board-meeting-32>

2025 Southwest Florida Resiliency Summit & the Florida Resilience Conference

September 16-19, 2025

Sunseeker Resort, Charlotte Harbor, FL

<https://www.chnep.org/swfl-resiliency-summit>

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

Joint Working Group/Science Coordination Group Meeting

September 25, 2025

2:00 PM

Delray Beach, FL

<https://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/working-group/sep252025wgscg>

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: N/A

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