



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

*Natural Resources
Department*

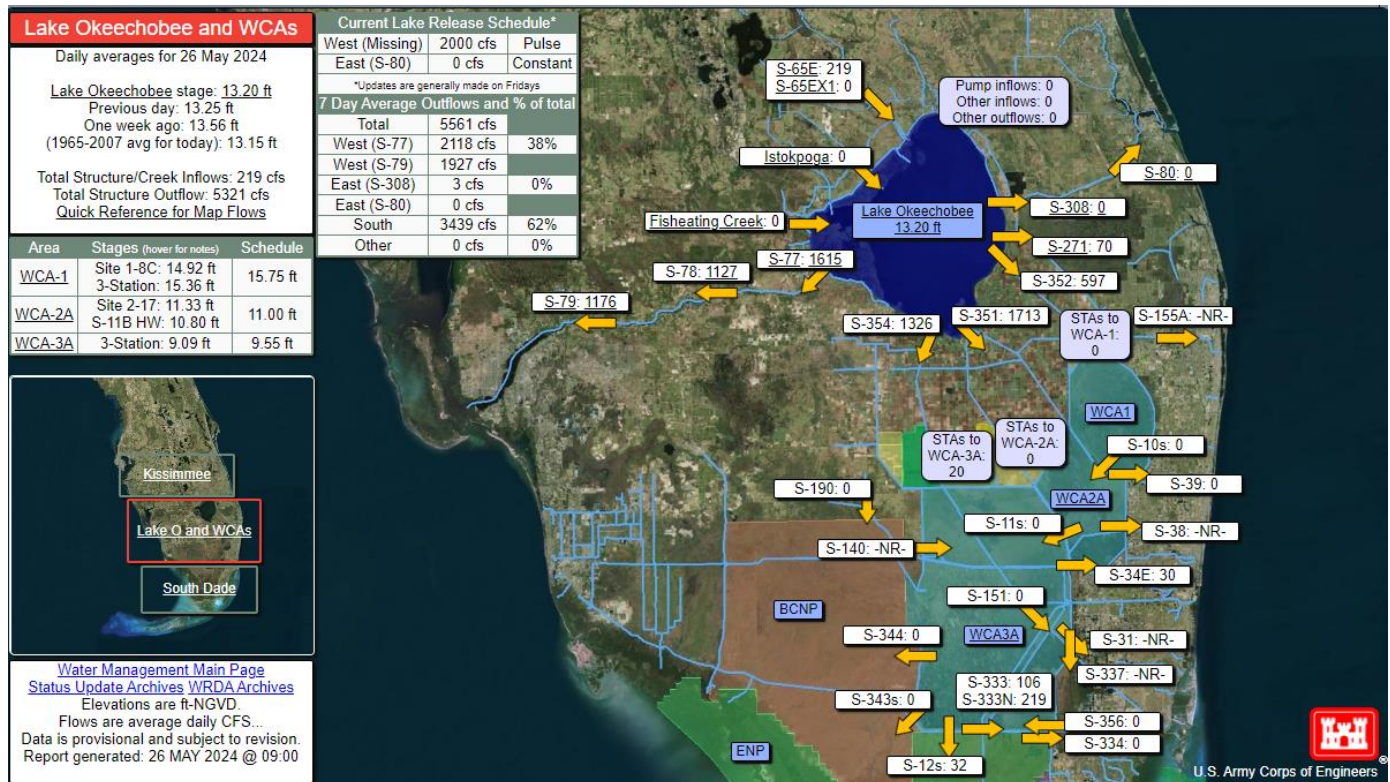
City Council Regular Meeting Date: June 4, 2024

To: City Council
From: Holly Milbrandt, Natural Resources Director
Date: May 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Natural Resources Water Quality Updates

BACKGROUND:

CALOOSA HATCHEE RIVER & ESTUARY CONDITIONS REPORT



Click to view: [May 21, 2024 Caloosahatchee Conditions Report](#)

CURRENT RAINFALL AND CLIMATE OUTLOOK

SFWMD rainfall for May 2-May 23, 2024 is below normal at 1.17" (38% of normal).

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/weather-radar/rainfall-historical/monthly>

For the 2024 dry season to date (Nov 2-May 23), the SFWMD has received 17.77" of rain, 107% of normal.

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/weather-radar/rainfall-historical/seasonal>

The SFWMD issued a water shortage warning for Collier & Lee Counties on November 21, 2023.

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/news-events/news/sfwmd-issues-water-shortage-warning-collier-and-lee-counties>

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center one-month Probability Outlook for June 2024 indicates equal chances of above and below normal rainfall for Florida.

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/off14_prpcp.gif

The three-month outlook for Jun-July-Aug 2024 indicates a 33-40% chance of above normal rainfall for south Florida.

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

NOAA ENSO Report (updated on 5/20/2024):

- El Niño is transitioning toward ENSO-neutral.
- Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are above average in the western and central Pacific Ocean, and below-average SSTs are emerging in the east-central and eastern Pacific Ocean.
- A transition from El Niño to ENSO-neutral is likely in in the next month. La Niña may develop in June-August 2024 (49% chance) or July-September (69% chance).
- https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf

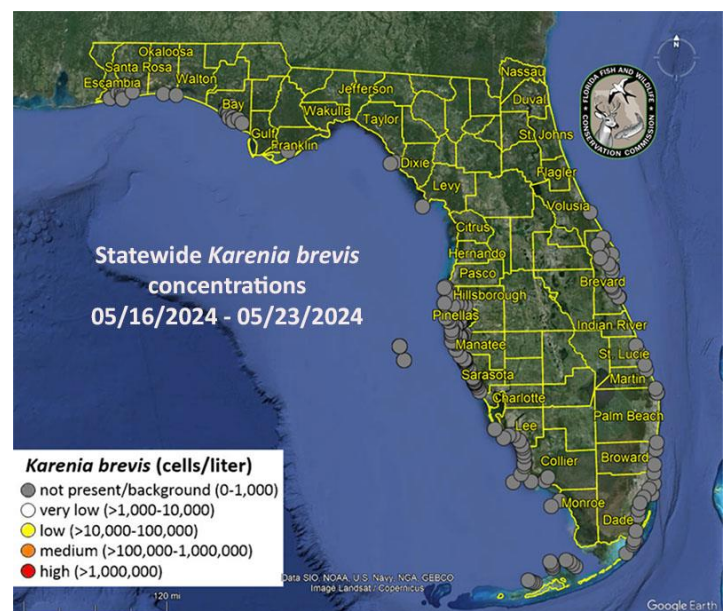
ALGAE BLOOMS

Red Tide: FWC Red Tide Update for May 24, 2024

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

The red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was not observed in samples collected statewide over the past week.

There were no reports of fish kills or respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide received in Florida over the previous week.



Blue-Green Algae: DEP Weekly Update (May 17-23, 2024)

<https://floridadep.gov/AlgalBloomWeeklyUpdate>

There were 70 reported site visits in the past 7 days with 70 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by samplers at 34 of the sites.

The satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee from 5/23 shows moderate bloom potential on approximately 20% of the lake, along all shorelines.

The satellite imagery for the Caloosahatchee Estuary from 5/23 shows no bloom potential in the estuary and scattered low bloom potential in the upper river to the east of I-75. The satellite imagery for the St. Lucie Estuary from 5/23 is partially obscured by cloud cover and shows no visible bloom potential.

DOH-Lee blue-green algae bloom alerts:

- 5/24/24 Hancock Creek — Seaside Key Court Canal (Caution)
- 5/17/24 C43 Canal — S79 (upstream)
- 5/8/24 Caloosahatchee River – Sebastian Court (Caution)
- 5/8/24 C43 Canal — S79 (upstream) (Caution)
- 4/12/24 Caloosahatchee River — Alva Boat Ramp **LIFTED 5/17/24**

Red Drift Algae: No reports

Trichodesmium: No reports

Sargassum: No reports

- USF Satellite-based Sargassum Watch System (SaWS) & Monthly Bulletins
<https://optics.marine.usf.edu/projects/saws.html>

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Meeting

May 1-2, 2024

Daytona, FL

<https://myfwc.com/about/commission/commission-meetings/may-2024/>

- Update on Wildlife Assistance Program. Staff will present an update on the agency's Wildlife Assistance Program. The Wildlife Assistance Program provides support to individuals and local communities to address concerns with wildlife. Assistance is provided through education and outreach materials, site visits and innovative strategies such as equipment loans.

SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

May 9, 2024

St. Lucie, FL

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/news-events/meetings>

- Approved Resolution authorizing the Water School at Florida Gulf Coast University to conduct a study of the health and ecosystem of Lake Okeechobee; in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.
- Approved Resolution to enter a 5-year contract with University of South Florida to develop modeling tools, including machine learning, to assist restoration of oyster habitat in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary (CRE); in the amount of \$315,384.
- Approved the final project list for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Alternative Water Supply Funding Program (Program) to be submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

June 6, 2024

9:00 AM

West Palm Beach, FL

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/news-events/meetings>

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

Joint Working Group/Science Coordination Group Meeting

July 23, 2024

<https://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/working-group/jul-23-2024-wgscg>

LOSOM (Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual)

<https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/LOSOM/>

- Consultation with NOAA-NMFS is complete. Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published on May 24, 2024.
- The proposed LOSOM plan remains the same as documented in the Draft EIS and Water Control Plan (WCP) released in July 2022.
- The review period of the Final EIS is 30 days beginning on May 24, 2024.
- Final Corps South Atlantic Division (SAD) Review & Record of Decision: Anticipated July 2024

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: N/A