



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Natural Resources Department

City Council Regular Meeting Date: December 5, 2023

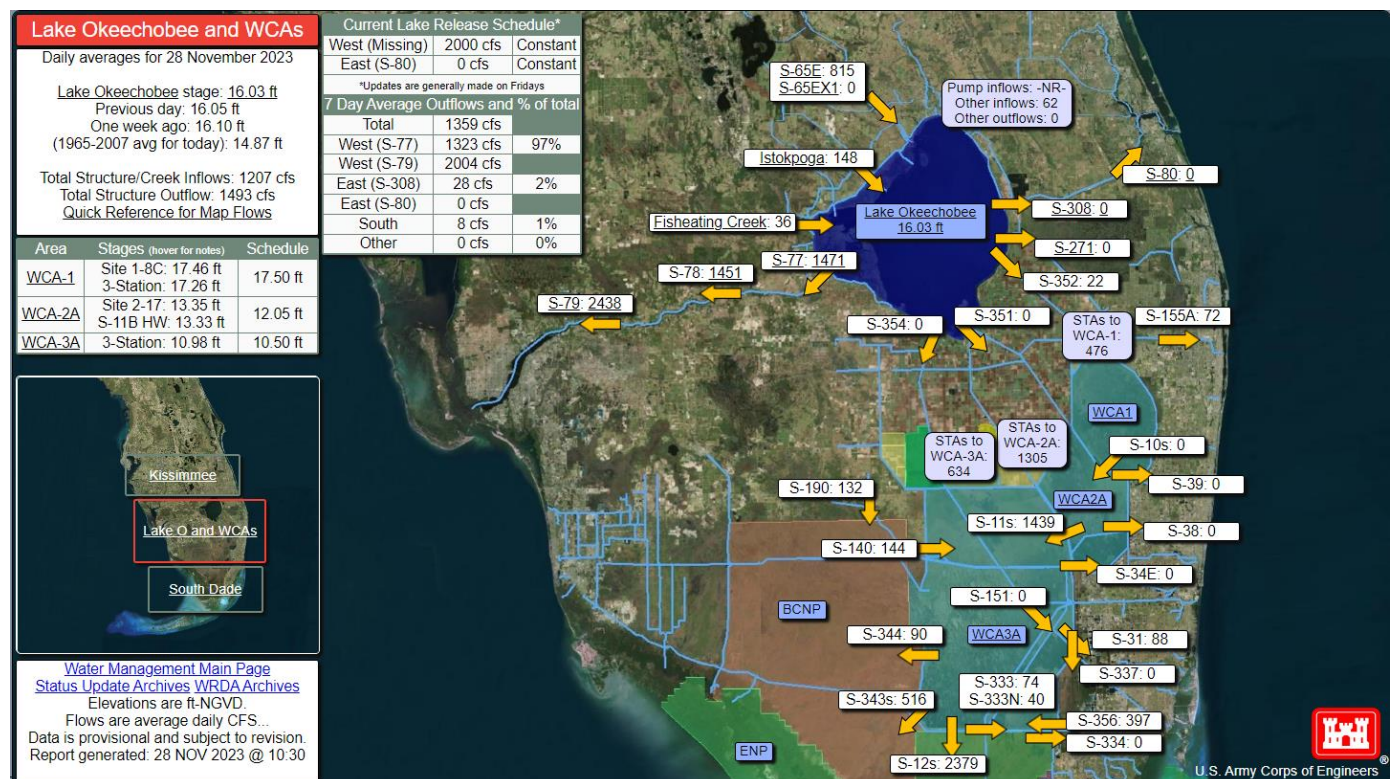
To: City Council
From: Holly Milbrandt, Natural Resources Director
Date: November 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Natural Resources Water Quality Updates

BACKGROUND:

CALOOSA HATCHEE RIVER & ESTUARY CONDITIONS REPORT

Click to view: [November 21, 2023 Caloosahatchee Conditions Report](#)



Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

CURRENT RAINFALL AND CLIMATE OUTLOOK

SFWMD District rainfall for November 2023 is above normal at 3.88" (205% of normal). This was due primarily to rainfall on November 15, which varied widely across the district from the Lower Kissimmee at 88% of normal to Everglades National Park at 537% of normal.

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

For the 2023 rainy season (June 2-Nov 1), the SFWMD received 33.3" of rain, which is 94% of normal. The Southwest Coast, Everglades National Park, and the Upper Kissimmee were the driest regions at 71%, 76%, and 83% of normal, respectively.

<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 December indicates a 40-50% chance of above normal rainfall for south Florida.

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

The three-month outlook for Dec-Jan-Feb 2023-24 indicates a 60-70% 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 11/27/2023):

- **El Niño** conditions are observed.
- Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are above average across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean.
- El Niño is anticipated to continue through the Northern Hemisphere spring (with an 62% chance during April-June 2024).
- https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf

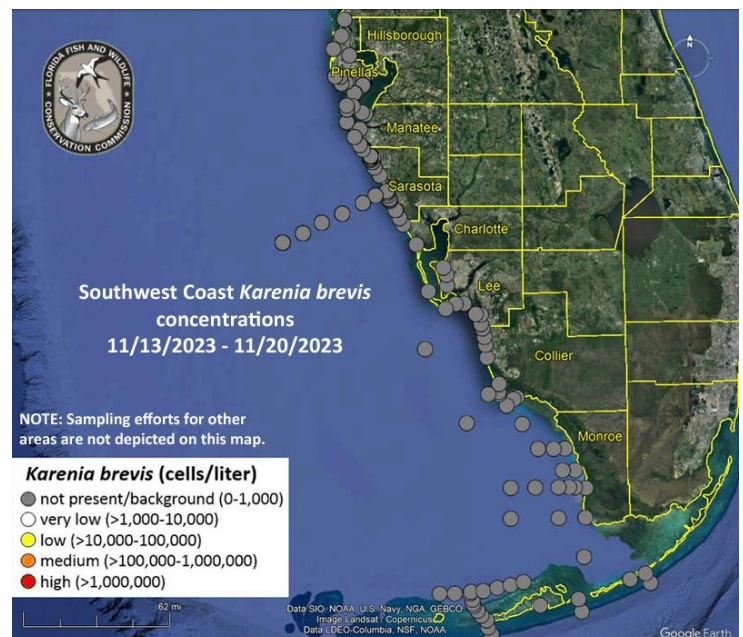
ALGAE BLOOMS

Red Tide: FWC Red Tide Update for November 21, 2023

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

The red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was observed at background concentrations in one sample collected offshore of Southwest Florida (Monroe County) over the past week. Other samples collected statewide did not contain *K. brevis*.

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



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Blue-Green Algae: DEP Weekly Update (November 9-16, 2023)
<https://floridadep.gov/AlgalBloomWeeklyUpdate>

There were 15 reported site visits in the past seven days with 15 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by samplers at three of the sites.

Satellite imagery from 11/11 shows low to moderate bloom potential on approximately 10% of Lake Okeechobee, primarily in the southwestern portion of the lake. Satellite imagery from 11/11 for the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries shows no bloom potential on visible portions of either estuary.

Red Drift Algae: Light to moderate amounts reported by Officer Royka: 11/1-11/3; 11/9, 11/10, 11/15-11/17, 11/21-11/23

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

SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

November 9, 2023

Kissimmee, FL

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

- FY2024-2025 Alternative Water Supply Funding Program
 - Application period: December 4, 2023-February 26, 2024
 - Informational webinars in January 2024
 - Recurring funding source established by EO 23-06 for alternative water supply and water conservation projects
- [CERP Progress Report](#)

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

November 15, 2023

Washington D.C.

<https://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/>

- [USACE Program & Project Update](#)
- [SFWMD Program & Project Update](#)
- [Integrated Delivery Schedule \(IDS\) Placemat](#)

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

CHNEP Technical Advisory Committee

November 30, 2023
9:30 AM-2:00 /PM
Punta Gorda, FL
<https://www.chnep.org/technical-advisory-committee>

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Meeting

December 5-6, 2023
Orlando, FL
<https://myfwc.com/about/commission/commission-meetings/>

SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

December 14, 2023
9:00 AM
West Palm Beach, FL
<https://www.sfwmd.gov/news-events/meetings>

CHNEP Management Committee

January 12, 2024
9:00 AM-1:00 /PM
Punta Gorda, FL
<https://www.chnep.org/management-committee>

39th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference

January 25-27, 2024
Bonita Springs, FL
<https://www.evergladescoalition.org/>
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION - CLOSING 12/8/23 @ 11:30 PM

Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force

January 30, 2024
9:00 AM
<https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/taskforce/meeting/>

CHNEP Southwest Florida Climate Summit

February 28 & 29, 2024
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, Punta Gorda, FL
<https://www.chnep.org/climate-summit>

LOSOM (Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual)

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

- July 2023: USACE releases the Final Draft LOSOM Water Control Plan, consistent with expectations based on previous versions & modelling
- Next steps:
 - Final NMFS Biological Opinion: Submitted to the Corps on Sept 29, 2023
 - No change to the Water Control Plan; but policy considerations still be discussed between USACE and NMFS and elevated to senior leadership for resolution
 - Record of Decision: TBD, 2024

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: N/A