

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

CURRENT RAINFALL AND CLIMATE OUTLOOK

SFWMD District rainfall for September to date 2023 is near normal at 5.07" (99% of normal); however, the southwest coast region received below normal rainfall of 4.24" (68% of normal).

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

For the rainy season to date (June 2-Sept 22), the SFWMD has received 27.88" of rain, which is 96% of normal. The southwest coast region has been the driest of all regions at 26.93" of rain or 69% of normal.

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

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

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead14/off15_prctp.gif

The three-month outlook for Oct-Nov-Dec 2023 indicates a 40-50% chance of above normal rainfall for Florida.

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead01/off01_prctp.gif

NOAA ENSO Report (updated on 9/18/2023):

- **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 winter (with greater than a 95% chance January-March 2024).
- https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf

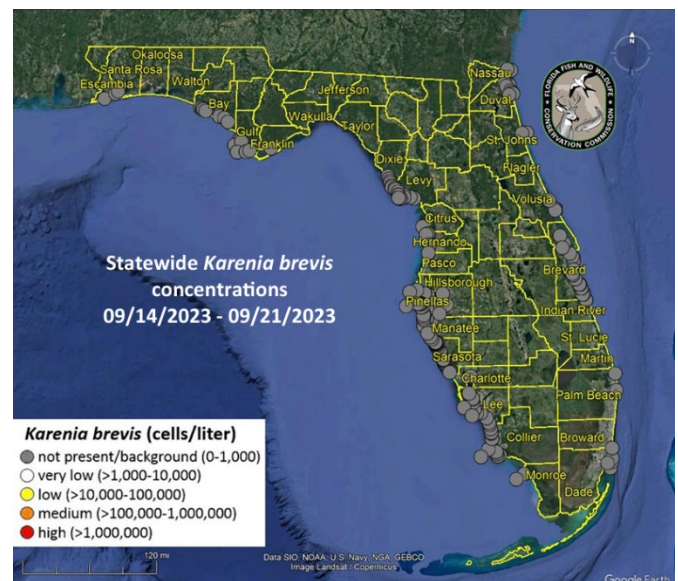
ALGAE BLOOMS

Red Tide: FWC Red Tide Update for Sept 22, 2023

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

The red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was observed at background concentrations in one sample from Southwest Florida (Collier 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 (September 15-21, 2023)
<https://floridadep.gov/AlgalBloomWeeklyUpdate>

There were 53 reported site visits in the past seven days with 53 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by samplers at seven of the sites.

Satellite imagery from 9/21 for Lake Okeechobee shows low to moderate bloom potential on approximately 15% of the lake, primarily in the northwest quadrant. Satellite imagery from 9/21 for the Caloosahatchee Estuary and from 9/20 for the St. Lucie Estuary show no visible bloom potential.

A blue-green algae alert was issued by the Florida Department of Health in Lee County on September 20, 2023 due to the presence of blue-green algae blooms in the Caloosahatchee River – Franklin Lock (C43 Canal - S79, upstream).

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

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Working Group and Science Coordination Group – 2023 Working Draft IDS Update

September 6, 2023

West Palm Beach, FL

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

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Working Group and Science Coordination Group – Joint Meeting

September 6, 2023

West Palm Beach, FL

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

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CHNEP Management Committee

September 8, 2023

9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Punta Gorda, FL

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

- Innovative Nutrient Reduction Projects for Improving Water Quality — Stephen M. Suau, P.E.
- State Funding Opportunities for Green Stormwater Infrastructure – Emily Lang, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Continued Recovery and Federal Funding Opportunities — Rick Durbrow and Drew Parker, US Environmental Protection Agency & Interagency Recovery Coordination Team

SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

September 14, 2023

West Palm Beach, FL

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

- C-43 Reservoir Update
 - Progress is ongoing, under District management
 - Anticipated completion: Prior to rainy season 2025
 - Governing Board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing additional budgetary authority in the amount of \$104,500,000 in furtherance of completing construction of BP4 (Bid Package 4, the last remaining construction package.
 - Powerpoint Presentation
https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/2178042/28_Dadrian_C43_Caloosahatchee_Reservoir_Final.pdf

Blue-Green Algae Task Force

Identifying and Optimizing Projects in Basin Management Action Plan Areas

September 12, 2023

<https://www.protectingfloridatogether.gov/state-action/blue-green-algae-task-force>

- Florida Blue-Green Algae State of the Science (BGASOS) Symposium II
- Task Force Discussion/Recommendations to FDEP on Project Identification and Optimization in BMAPs

SFWMD Progress Update on the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP)

September 22, 2023

https://www.sfwmd.gov/event/progress-update-northern-everglades-and-estuaries-protection-program-neepp?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

- Public workshop to highlight Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) accomplishments and present key information from the agencies' annual progress reports

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Meeting

October 4-5, 2023

Stuart, FL

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

- Proposed Final Rule – Imperiled Beach Nesting Bird Guidelines. Staff requests approval to publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to delay the effective date of the Imperiled beach-nesting bird Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines. Staff are seeking to change the effectiveness date from September 2023 to October 1, 2024. These changes are necessary to allow for additional time for outreach and support to hurricane impacted areas, the private sector, and potential permittees.

SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

October 12, 2023

9:00 AM

West Palm Beach, FL

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

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

November 15, 2023

Washington D.C.

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

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: August 2023
 - DELAYED due to ongoing consultation between the USACE & NMFS
 - NEPA public, agency, and tribal review of Final EIS and SOM: October 2023
 - Record of Decision: December 2023, possible delay

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: N/A

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