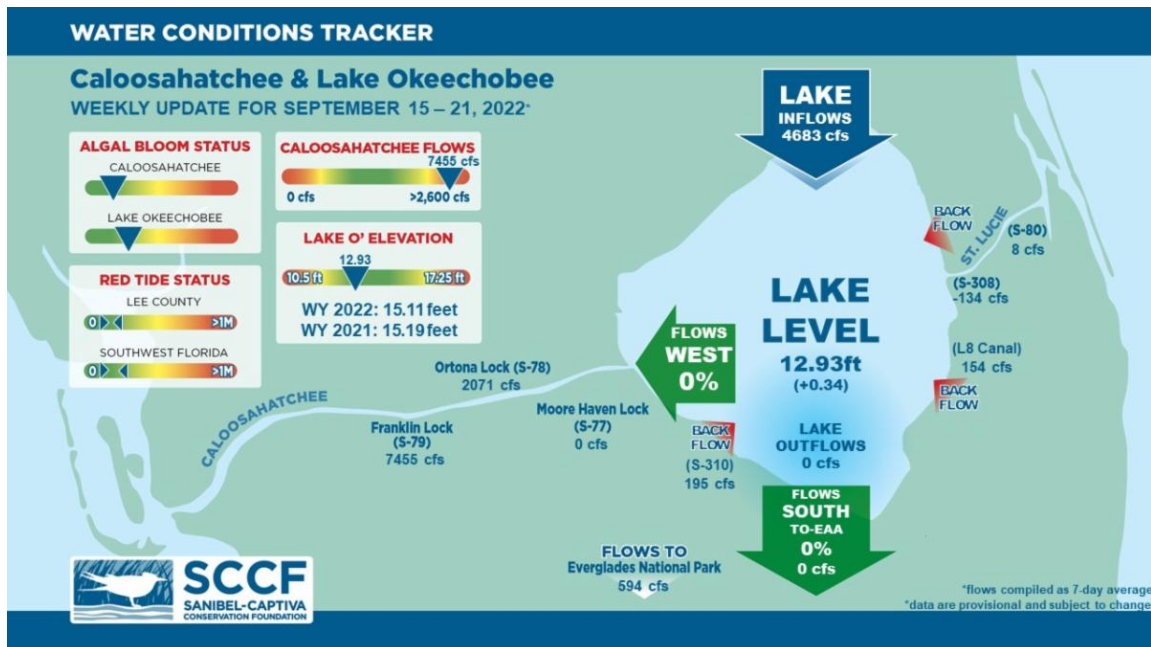




This Week's Water Conditions Update

September 23, 2022

Water Conditions Tracker



Lake Okeechobee Levels & Caloosahatchee Flow Impacts

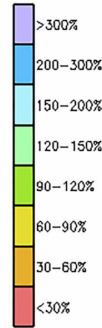
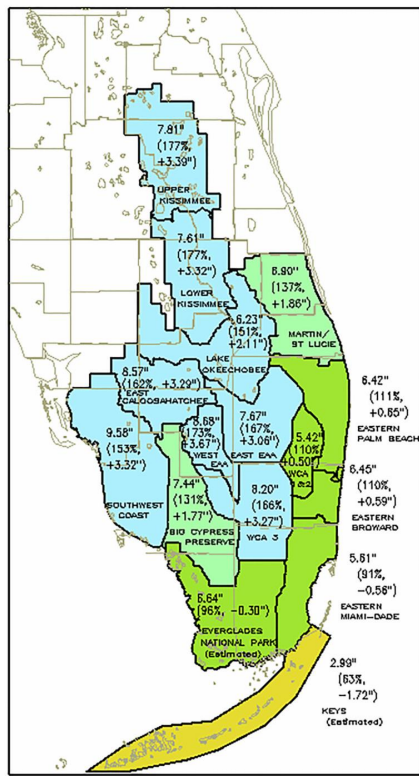
On 9/21/22 Lake Okeechobee was at 12.93 feet, increasing by 0.34 feet in the past week. The weekly average flow at S-79 was 7,455 cfs (cubic feet per second) and flow from the Lake at S-77 was an average of 0 cfs. The 14-day average flow at S-79 was **5,138 cfs** and has been in the **damaging** flow envelope (>2,600 cfs) for 15 days.

For more information on Lake Okeechobee and estuary conditions go to the latest [Caloosahatchee Conditions Report](#)

Wet season rainfall patterns bring water throughout the District

Rainfall has increased to 147% of normal across the

SFWMD Rainfall
02-SEP-2022 to 22-SEP-2022



Measured
(% of Avg.
Diff From Avg)



DISTRICT-WIDE: 7.51" (147%, +2.39")

GADS: COLA/ICES

2022-08-22-15:22

South Florida Water Management District in September. Increased lake levels have put us back into the **Base Flow Sub-band** of the [Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule](#) from the Water Shortage Management Band. There have been no flows from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee. Increased flows to the Caloosahatchee have come from runoff in the watershed resulting in reduced water clarity.



Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation

9/19/22

Virtual Water Quality Tour from Lighthouse Beach

[Click here](#) or on the image above to take a virtual tour from above Lighthouse Beach Park to see how the water looked this week.

Photo was taken on 9/19/22 at 1:56 PM on a falling tide (Low tide @ 4:11 PM (0.51 ft)).

Red Tide

[Satellite imagery](#) over the past week has not detected any blooms off the coast of

Southwest Florida.

On 9/16/22, the FWC reported that the red tide organism, *Karenia brevis* was observed at background concentrations in a sample collected 15 miles offshore of Collier County.

The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) on Sanibel received 1 birds with toxicosis symptoms (from red tide or blue-green algae) from 9/13/22 - 9/19/22.

Blue-Green Algae

On 9/19/22 sampling for cyanobacteria by the Lee County Environmental Lab reported the presence of *Microcystis* at the **Davis Boat Ramp** as sparse specks.

Data from the [FDEP blue-green algae dashboard](#) reported 84 samples collected over the past 30 days for the 10 county area. No samples had toxins present.

On 9/21/22, [satellite imagery](#) from Lake Okeechobee showed low bloom potential in the western area of the lake. Overall, algal blooms covered about 104 square miles (15%) of the Lake.



Red algae (*Hypnea*) accumulation on Bunche Beach on 9/17/22. SCCF.

Become a Citizen Scientist and Get the Algae Reporting App Today!

SCCF wants to know when and where all types of algae sightings occur to monitor conditions around the islands and to investigate algae bloom occurrence with patterns in seasonal weather changes and Lake Okeechobee water management practices.

Download the algae reporting app on your phone by [clicking here](#) or by searching for the ArcGIS Survey123 app in the app store. Once installed, give the app permission to access your phone's location to receive GPS coordinates of your sighting and camera/media to capture and attach pictures. When you open the app, click "Continue Without Signing In."



Next, download the algae reporting survey by scanning the QR code above or [clicking](#)

[here](#) on your phone. Once the survey is downloaded, fill out the required fields and click the check mark in the lower right corner to submit your sighting. Note: If you do not have cellular coverage, you can still fill out the survey and save it in the outbox to be sent later. [Click here](#) to download instructions.

Resources To Follow:

To learn more about our current water conditions, click on the following links:

[Caloosahatchee Conditions Report](#)

A collaborative, weekly analysis, including recommendations for water managers regarding Lake Okeechobee flows.

[RECON](#)

SCCF's River, Estuary, and Coastal Observing Network is a network of eight optical water quality sensors deployed throughout the Caloosahatchee and the Pine Island Sound estuary to provide real-time water quality data.

[Caloosahatchee River Virtual Tour](#)

[Red Tide Resources](#)

[NOAA HAB Monitoring System - Lake Okeechobee](#)

[Algae Reporting App.](#)

[Click here](#) to subscribe to *Connecting You to SCCF* and other SCCF mailing lists.

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