



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Jacksonville District



NOTICE TO NAVIGATION INTERESTS



In reply refer to:
CESAJ-CO-OM
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019



CESAJ-CO-OM (1130)

24 June 2005

NOTICE TO NAVIGATION INTERESTS

NAVIGATION LOCK CLOSURE

KISSIMMEE RIVER, FL

1. This Notice is in reference to a News Release from the South Florida Water Management District dated 23 June 2005. (Enclosure 1)
2. The following navigation locks will be closed at 7 A.M. Friday, 24 June 2004: S-65, S-65A, and S-65C. Barriers will restrict access to the boat ramps at S-65 and S-65C.
3. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Florida Operations Office, 525 Ridgelawn Road, Clewiston, Florida 33440 or call 863-983-8101.

ROBERT A. BUGG, P.E.
Chief, Construction-Operations
Division

Encl



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

NEWS RELEASE

June 23, 2005

CONTACTS:

Missie Barletto

Okeechobee Service Center

(863) 462-5260 or (800) 250-4200, ext. 3006

Bill Graf

Orlando Service Center

(407) 858-6100 (800) or 250-4250, ext. 3837

HIGH FLOWS AND DANGEROUS CURRENTS RESTRICT BOATER ACCESS TO THE KISSIMMEE RIVER

The navigation locks and boat ramps in the northern half of the Kissimmee River will be closed at 7 a.m. Friday, June 24.

High flows and dangerous currents exist in the river, prompting the closure of navigation locks at structures S-65, S-65A and S-65C. The S-65 navigation lock is located at the southern tip of Lake Kissimmee, where it flows to the Kissimmee River. S-65A is about 11 miles to the south, and S-65 C is roughly 40 miles south of Lake Kissimmee by water (or 28 miles as the crow flies).

Furthermore, barriers will restrict access to the boat ramps at S-65 and S-65C. Operators of privately owned boat ramps in the northern half of the Kissimmee are also being asked to restrict access to the river.

Water flows continued at 5,300 cubic feet per second, which equals about 40,000 gallons a second, or 2.4 million gallons a minute. Put another way, the flow through the S-65 dam equals the volume of nearly 3 family-sized swimming pools a second.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will re-evaluate conditions early next week based on rainfall and weather predictions.

The high flows along the Kissimmee River were brought about by several days of heavy rainfall over the headwaters of the Kissimmee Basin. Many lakes within the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes are at or above the normal summer levels, creating a potentially dangerous situation if the weather remains abnormally wet or tropical systems develop.

For up-to-date information about navigation in the Kissimmee River, contact Bill Graf at the SFWMD Orlando Service Center, (407) 858-6100; or Missie Barletto at the SFWMD Okeechobee Service Center, (863) 462-5260.

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The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.