



**US Army Corps  
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Jacksonville District

# News Release

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **CURRENT LAKE OKEECHOBEE CONDITIONS BODE WELL FOR REMAINDER OF HURRICANE SEASON**

With Lake Okeechobee's water level at 12.12 feet as of June 20, Jacksonville District water managers believe they are in an excellent position to manage the lake and Herbert Hoover Dike for the remainder of the 2006 hurricane season.

"Let's put it this way," said John Zediak, chief of the Jacksonville District Water Management Section, "from this point in time, it would take more than nature dealt us in each of the past two years to give us serious trouble with the lake or Herbert Hoover Dike."

The lake now stands at its lowest point since June 22, 2002. In 2004, when four hurricanes struck Florida, the lake stood at 12.71 feet on the same date. The lake's level on June 20, 2005 was 15.3 feet.

"You'll have to throw more at us than either one of those years," Zediak continued. "Right now, with the current lake level and the other conditions, we could stand a repeat of either 2004 or 2005 and still be in good shape. Also, this hurricane season is forecast to be an active one, but not as active as last year."

Zediak added that the fact that the Kissimmee River basin and the lakes in the basin are not full allows storage of runoff water from any possible rains events before it is released to impact Lake Okeechobee.