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Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERWAY LOCK SCHEDULE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, will begin a new lock schedule on the St. Lucie Lock on the Okeechobee Waterway on May 9, due to the continued decline in water levels on Lake Okeechobee.

The St. Lucie and Franklin Locks on the Okeechobee Waterway will lock boats through only at 9 a.m., noon and 4 p.m., with one lockage in each direction. The lock schedule change will remain in effect as long as needed. Conditions will be re-evaluated on a weekly basis.

“We are doing our part to conserve water during this critical time,” said Jim Jeffords, Jr., acting chief of the Construction-Operations Division. “Our lock operators will make locking decisions on-site, with a goal to safely lock through as many boats as possible at one time.”

Additional information concerning Lake Okeechobee, the Okeechobee Waterway and related Navigation Bulletins can be viewed by accessing the Jacksonville District website at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil> and linking to the Navigation selection from the menu, or by calling 904-232-2236.

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