

Lake Okeechobee Nearshore Region Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Coverage Performance Measure Comment Response Matrix for the public review period from August 18 – 31, 2016.

Public Review Comments	Lake Okeechobee Nearshore Region Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Coverage Performance Measure Comments From The Public Review Period	Lake Okeechobee Regional Coordinator Responses
Glenn Landers Comment 1	Both of these PMs relate to Interim Targets. Do we need to indicate the future conditions that could or will trigger an update in the Interim Targets and/or PMs?	Targets and Interim Goals for this PM is based on lake operating schedules and the availability of recoverable Lake Okeechobee watershed storage. Neither of these parameters are well defined at present time, it is difficult to establish future targets. As additional watershed storage comes on line and/or the operational schedule changes, the Interim goals will be periodically re-evaluated.
Glenn Landers Comment 2	Both PMs need to address Climate Preparedness and Resilience as it relates to Lake Okeechobee water levels, operating rules and restoration goals for the lake and downstream areas which are impacted by or benefit from Lake O discharges. It is anticipated that climate change impacts will include higher temperatures (w/ increased evapotranspiration losses) and potentially longer dry periods (droughts) between significant rainfall events. The advantages of increased water storage in Lake O and the benefits to overall Everglades Restoration goals should be considered in addition to the benefits to the Lake Okeechobee ecosystem of the narrow operating range currently proposed.	The Nearshore SAV PM score is based on data collected during the annual nearshore mapping project, so lake stages cannot be used to evaluate scoring based on changes in hydrologic model output or climate change scenarios. However, in this case, assessment scoring is flexible enough to accommodate a wide range of varying lake stages.
Glenn Landers Comment 3	Opportunities to expand the available littoral zone to make possible a wider range of Lake O water levels needs to be considered as it relates to achieving a healthy Lake O ecosystem and increasing the resiliency of the Lake and the downstream areas to changing historic rainfall and evaporation patterns.	The response is the same as in Comment 2.