



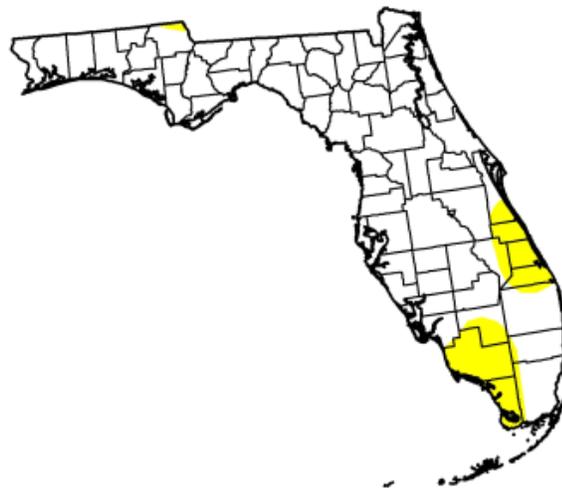
**Drought Status and Climate Outlook for Upcoming 12 Months
FWS SFESO – Vero Beach, FL
August 14, 2012**

Short Term Drought Map:

U.S. Drought Monitor
Florida

August 7, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	88.09	11.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week (07/31/2012 map)	79.16	20.84	6.92	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (05/08/2012 map)	7.09	92.91	89.47	82.09	40.61	12.57
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	38.81	61.19	27.41	12.84	2.61	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	43.12	56.88	28.83	16.85	7.85	0.00
One Year Ago (08/02/2011 map)	11.34	88.66	65.92	47.37	17.72	0.00



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, August 9, 2012
Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

Figure 1 – U.S. Drought Monitor for the State of Florida.

Synopsis: Overall, drought conditions improved across Florida with the onset of the wet season. Over the last two weekends in July, weak tropical waves moved through southern and central Florida. Because the tropical waves were weak, only scattered locations received beneficial rains. Now slightly drier conditions have developed due to the lack of tropical weather and lower than average rainfall rates from the Florida sea breezes. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) have developed during July in southern and northeastern Florida due to sporadic hit and miss afternoon showers and storms.

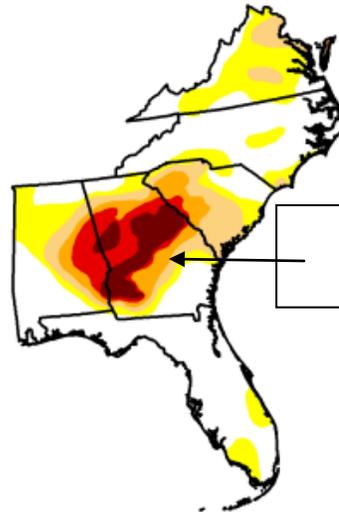
U.S. Drought Monitor

Southeast

August 7, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	49.29	50.71	29.00	17.49	11.18	5.25
Last Week (07/31/2012 map)	41.61	58.39	34.15	18.31	11.38	5.35
3 Months Ago (05/08/2012 map)	12.06	87.94	67.48	46.25	30.38	8.56
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	40.38	59.62	43.05	28.62	18.71	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	42.24	57.76	41.82	31.77	23.48	0.00
One Year Ago (08/02/2011 map)	18.12	81.88	61.00	40.94	22.04	0.93



Short and Long
Term Deficits

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

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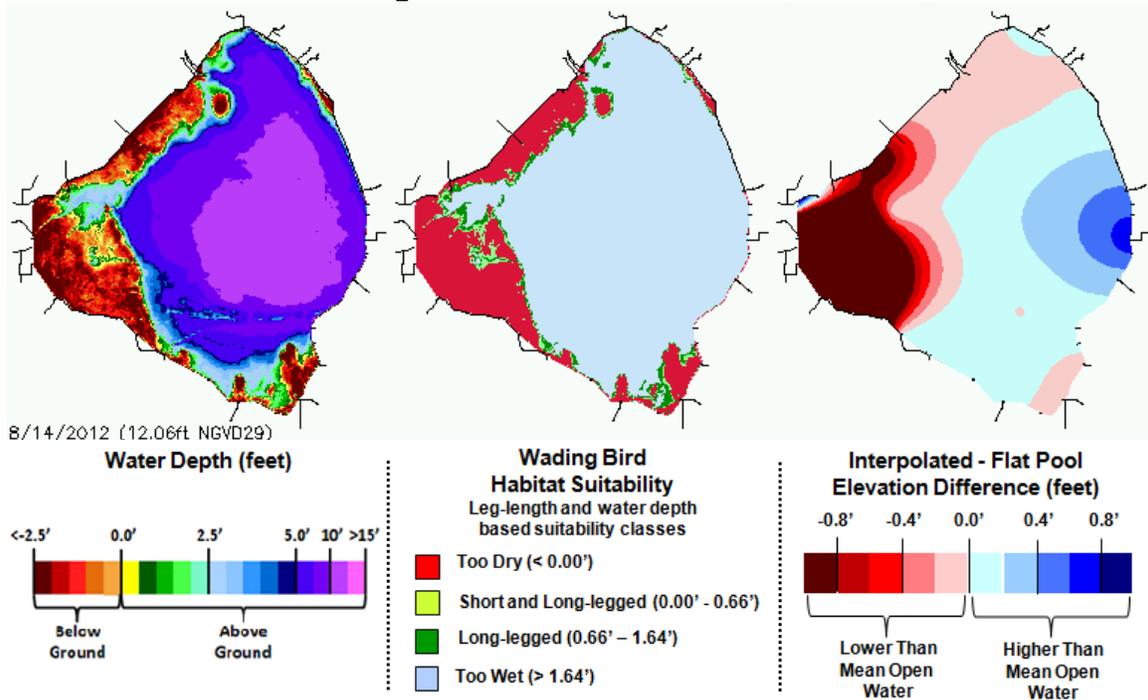
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Figure 2 – U.S. Drought Monitor for the Southeast Region.

Lake Okeechobee Water Depth Assessment Tool (WDAT)



Everglades South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT)

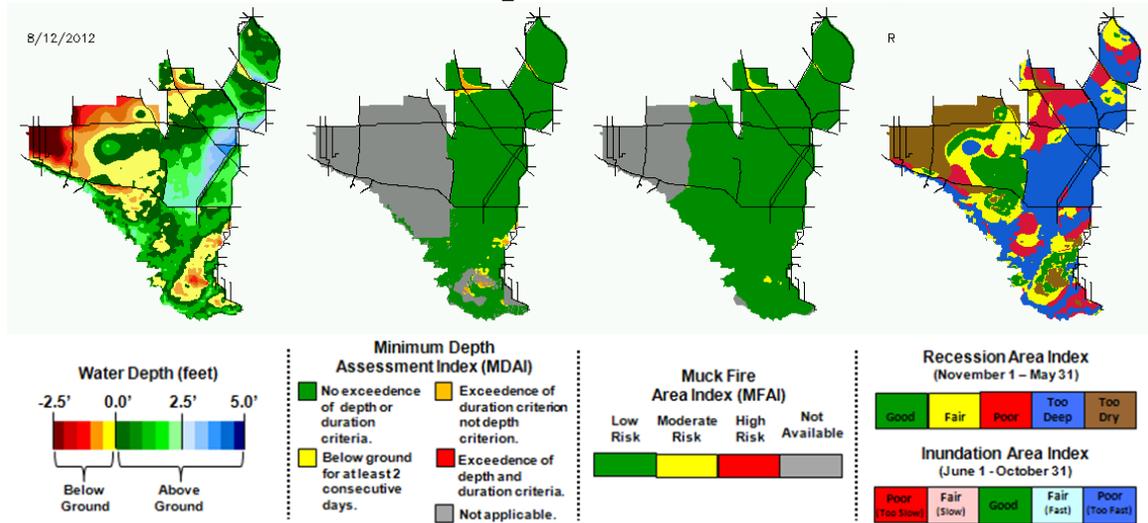
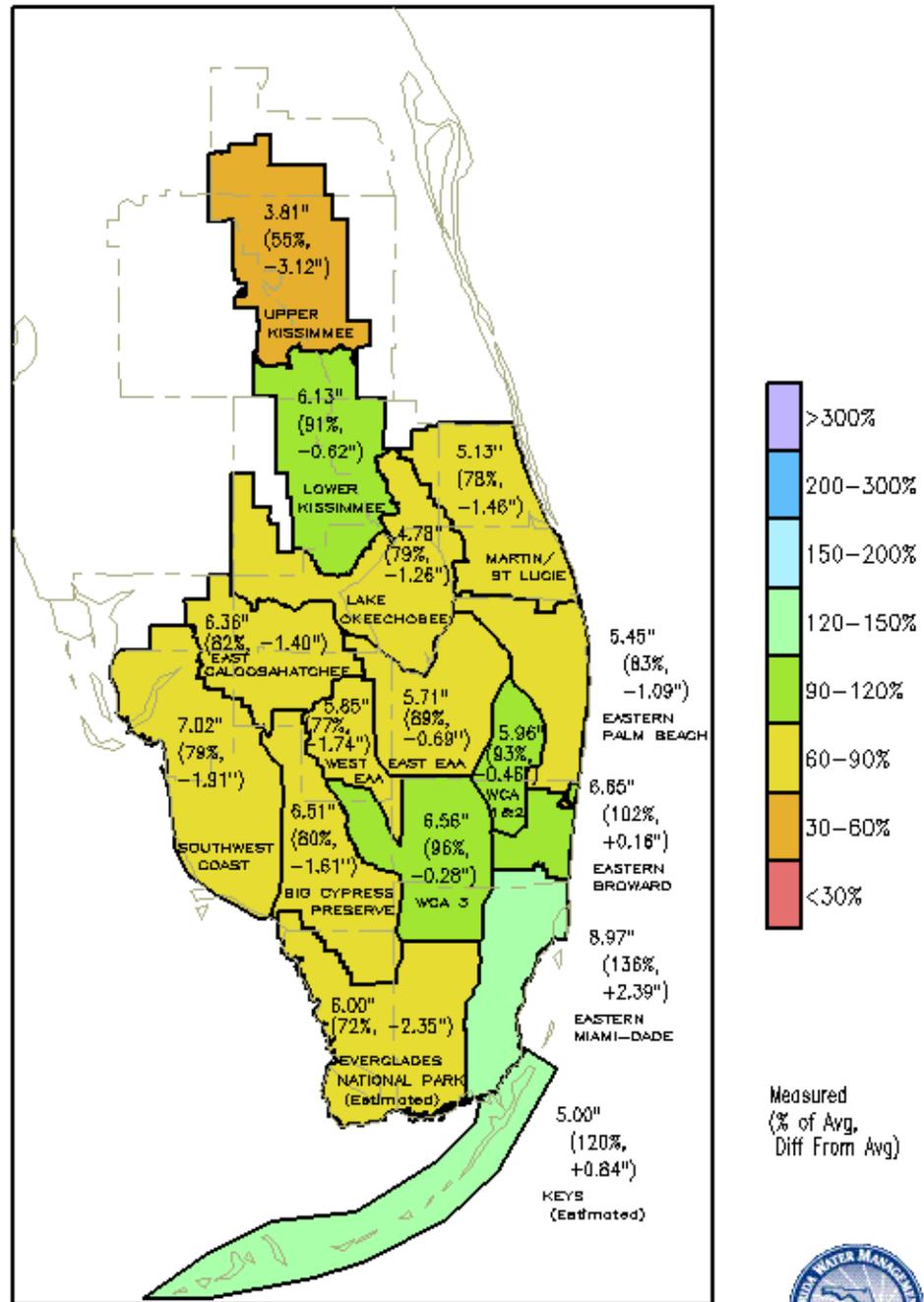


Figure 3 – SFWMD South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT) current water depths and wading bird habitat suitability for Lake Okeechobee. Current water depths, muck fire hazards and wading bird recession rates for the South Florida Everglades.

SFWMD Rainfall 02-jul-2012 to 01-aug_2012

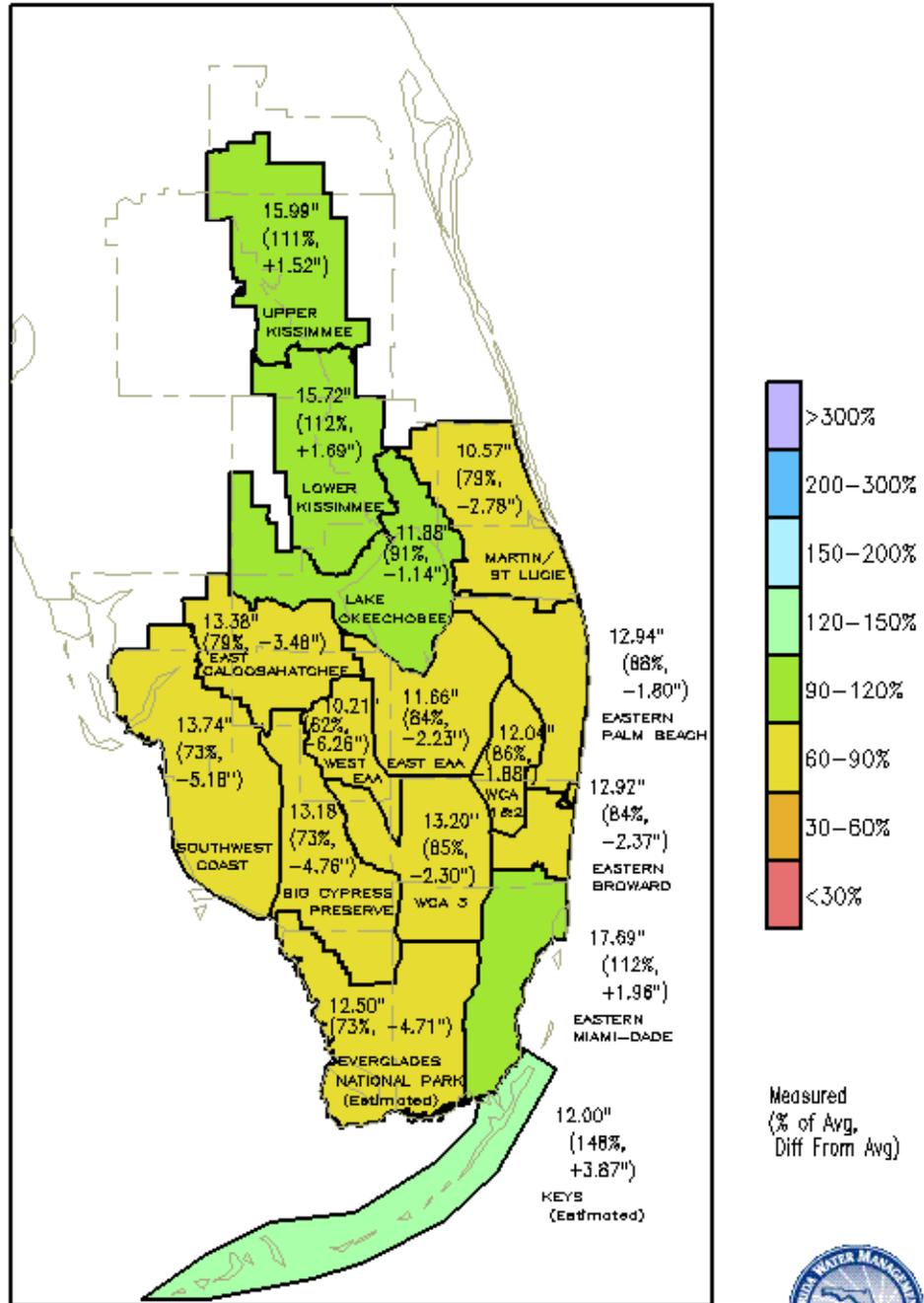


GrADS: COLA/IGES

Figure 4 – South Florida Water Management District rain totals for the month of July 2012. Most of the Greater Everglades is only 60-90% of average rainfall this month.



SFWMD Rainfall 02-jun-2012 to 01-aug-2012



DISTRICT-WIDE: 13.42" (88%, -1.87")

GrADS: COLA/IGES

Figure 5 – South Florida Water Management District Wet Season rainfall totals from July 2012. Rainfall of 90-120% of or over average has fallen over the Kissimmee basin and Lake O. Whereas, only 60-90% of average has fallen over the remainder of the Greater Everglades.



Drought Outlook for the Next 3 Months:

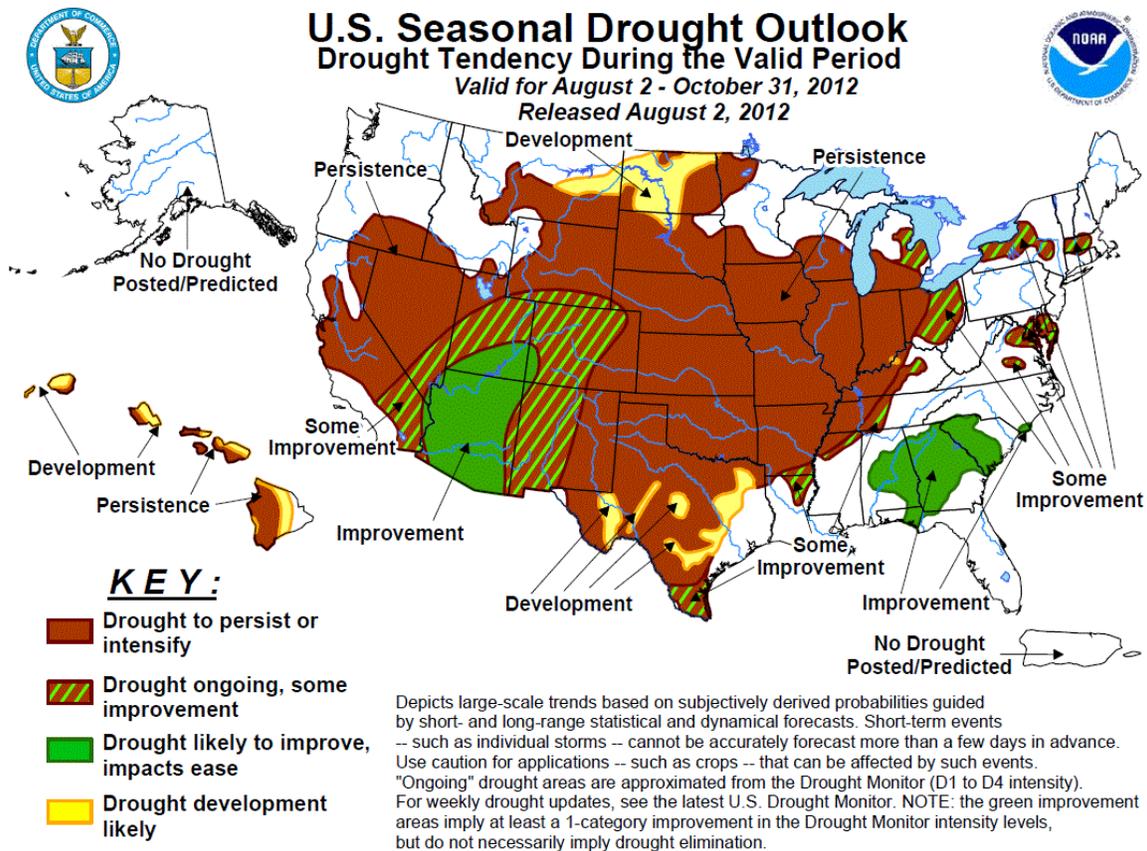


Figure 6 – Drought Outlook for the next 3 months.

El Nino / La Nina (ENSO) Status – **El Nino Watch is in effect for remainder of 2012.** (Climate Prediction Center)

ENSO-neutral conditions continued during July 2012 despite above-average sea surface temperatures (SST) across the eastern Pacific Ocean. The oceanic heat content anomalies (average temperature in the upper 300m of the ocean) also remained elevated during the month. Although sea surface temperatures were above average, many aspects of the tropical atmosphere were inconsistent with El Niño conditions. One aspect is the upper-level and low-level trade winds are near average along the Pacific Ocean equator. Thus, the lack of a clear atmospheric response to the warm oceanic temperatures indicates ongoing ENSO-neutral conditions.

Nearly all of the dynamical models favor the onset of El Niño beginning in July- September 2012. As in previous months, several statistical models predict ENSO-neutral conditions through the remainder of the year. Supported by model forecasts and the continued warmth across the Pacific Ocean, there is increased confidence for a weak-to-moderate El Niño during the fall and winter months of 2012-13.

Atlantic that is less favorable than in the past two years. They expect a slightly below-average probability of United States and Caribbean major hurricane landfall.

Tropical Storms = 14

Hurricanes = 6

Major Hurricanes = 2

Hurricane Strike on eastern Florida = 28% chance

Central & South Florida Temperature Outlook:

August thru October –Warmer than Average

November – Average

December thru January 2013 – Cooler than Average

February thru March 2013 – Much Cooler than Average

April 2013 – Cooler than Average

May 2013 – Average

June 2013 – Warmer than Average

July 2013 – Much Warmer than Average

Central & South Florida Rainfall Outlook:

August thru September – Average

October thru November – Wetter than Average

December thru March 2013 - Much Wetter than Average

April 2013 – Wetter than Average

May thru July 2013 - Average

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