

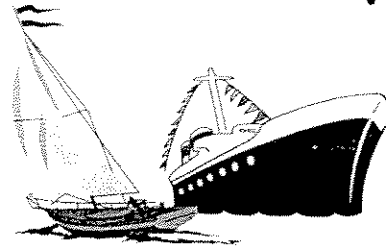
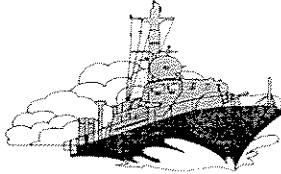


**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Jacksonville District

NOTICE TO NAVIGATION INTERESTS



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



904-232-3974

CESAJ-CO-OP (1130)

16 July 2007

NOTICE TO NAVIGATION INTERESTS

OKEECHOBEE WATERWAY, FLORIDA

1. Due to extremely restricted channel depths in Lake Okeechobee, mariners are strongly advised that the following should be taken into consideration whether transiting the Lake or stopping for recreational activities such as fishing. Lake elevations have been averaging 9.10 feet and below. Therefore:

a. **Route 1:** A lake elevation of 9.10 feet translates to a channel depth of 3.04 feet. Based on the 2001 Channel Condition Survey the maximum allowable draft of vessels is therefore only 1.94 ft. **Mariners are advised that if they transit Route 1, they are doing so at their own risk and should observe the following:**

- (1) Exercise precautions according to prevailing weather;
- (2) Adhere strictly to the Route 1 marked channel and avoid uncharted waters; and
- (3) Be aware depths could drop at any time.

b. **Route 2 (the Rim Canal): is closed with navigation depths of 0.44 feet and less.**

2. The following table gives lake conditions at a glance for Route 1 if lake levels continue to drop and the outlook for rain is below normal.

Route 1		
Lake Level feet, NGVD 1929	Available Depth, feet	Maximum Recommended Draft, feet
9.1	3.04	*1.44
8.6	2.54	*1.44
8.1	2.04	*0.94
7.6	1.54	*0.44

*NOTE: Available depth can be temporarily reduced by up to 1.1 feet by strong winds.

3. Localized Information on Route 1:

a. Based on recent reports, restricted depths occur along Lake Okeechobee Route 1 at the Route 2 split just west of Port Mayaca Lock; and,

b. Landowners are experiencing pump cavitation localized to an area two miles west and one mile east of the bridge which crosses the C-44 Canal at Highway 710 just south of Indiantown. It is requested that mariners reduce wakes in this reach of the river.

4. Additional information concerning Lake Okeechobee and the adjoining waterway may be obtained by accessing the Jacksonville District web site at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil> and linking to the NAVIGATION and/or WATER MANAGEMENT selections from the menu.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



Jim W. Jeffords, Jr.
Acting Chief, Construction-Operations
Division