

NOW IS THE TIME TO SPEAK UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

Right now, the St. Lucie Estuary receives all harm and no benefit from the current management of Lake Okeechobee. The number one goal should be zero discharges to the St. Lucie Estuary.

WHY YOU'RE HERE

The Army Corps is reviewing its rules for managing Lake Okeechobee.

They want to hear how discharges have impacted your health, your business, your livelihood, and the reasons that you believe these waters are worth fighting for.

We need to make sure we are not ignored as we were in LORS 2008, or with the planning of the inadequate EAA reservoir.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

You're at the public scoping, you've taken a great first step! THANK YOU. Now let's keep the momentum going! Share this with others who couldn't attend.

Those who can't attend a meeting in person, can SEND AN EMAIL.

Comments can be sent directly to the Corps, addressed to Dr. Ann Hodgson, USACE, Jacksonville District at LakeOComments@usace.army.mil

Comments can also be sent BY MAIL.

Address your letter to Dr. Ann Hodgson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Jacksonville District, PO Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

TELL YOUR STORY

You'll have about 2 minutes to deliver an honest, brief comment on your experience.

The Army Corps begins this process with no assumptions. If they don't hear about a wide range of problems due to Lake O discharges, your concerns won't be considered in the new system management.

Focus on whatever means the most to you: concerns about your family's health, worries about links to live failure and neurological diseases, financial stress from lost business or dropping home values, losing access to the water or the fishery or the activities that you love... anything that affects you.

BONUS TIP You don't have to be a Florida resident to participate! If you've seen the toxic blooms, discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee, or the collapse of Florida Bay and the health of the Everglades, the Corps needs to hear from you.

Harmful Affects from Toxic Discharges:

A list to remind you of things to talk about.

1. Human Health & Safety Impacts

- Drinking Water
- Neurological diseases - ALS, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's
- Liver cancer
- Respiratory problems
- Immediate symptoms - Headaches, nausea
- Bacterial infections
- Skin rashes
- Can't eat local seafood
- Rising heart attack rates
- Mental health
- Overwhelming stench
- Pregnancy risk
- Long-term health effects
- Unknown consequences

2. Community & Recreation Impacts

- Closed Beaches
- Closed Parks near/close to the water
- No Fishing
- No Boating
- No Kayaking/Paddleboarding
- No Surfing
- No Swimming
- No Kitesurfing
- No Summer Camps
- No Sailing
- No Rowing
- No Baptisms
- No Waterfront Weddings
- Relocation
- Misinformation campaigns by Sugar Corp
- Pitting communities against each other

3. Environmental Impacts

- Toxic algae
- Red tide
- Climate change
- Lake ecology
- State of Emergency
- Loss of Seagrass - food chain - loss of critical habitats
- Salinity imbalance
- Caloosahatchee - Too much freshwater
- Indian River Lagoon - Too much freshwater
- Florida Bay - Too much salt water
- Everglades - Lack of freshwater
- Water Conservation Area levels
- Legacy muck
- Flocculent ooze - Overwhelming stench

4. Economic Impacts

- Closed Beaches = Surf, Paddle, Bait & Tackle, and Gift shops closed
- Real Estate values
- Fishing charters
- Boat sales
- Marina fees
- Restaurants on the water
- New taxes
- Taxes regulating the clean up of water
- Development
- Diving
- Healthcare
- Hotels & Resorts

5. Sealife & Animal Impacts

- Dogs
- Manatees
- Dolphins
- Oysters
- Otters
- Sportfish
- Coral
- Fish spawning
- Baitfish
- Sea turtles
- Endangered species
- Seagrass
- Whale sharks
- Sea birds
- Gators
- Swordspine Snook
- Largescale Fat Snook
- Smallscale Fat Snook
- Tarpon Snook
- Burro Grunt
- White mouth Croaker
- Bigmouth Sleeper
- River Goby
- Blotch cheek Goby
- Blacker Goby
- Crested Goby
- Violet Goby
- Mountain Mullet
- Opossum Pipefish

6. Indirect Impacts

- Lifestyle
- Mental and Financial instability
- Foreclosure
- Alcoholism/Drug abuse
- Homelessness
- Relocation
- Loss of fitness due to inability to use Parks and Rec in the community