

Kissimmee Interagency Meeting – Aquatic Plant Management

October 9, 2007

Keshav Setaram (SFWMD) gave an update on SFWMD's plant management activities throughout the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (KCOL). Water levels in the lake are close to the regulation schedule. Floating plants are under control in most areas of the chain. Approximately 200 acres of torpedograss adjacent to Brown's Point were treated on September 18 with a mixture of imazapyr and glyphosate. Cuban bulrush and torpedograss are also being targeted in Alligator Lake. There are almost 50 acres of frog's bit in Lake Kissimmee and Toho that are causing navigation problems and should be controlled. There is a tussock on Lake Mary Jane that is threatening the Moss Park bridge. The park has agreed to dispose of the harvested material. The harvesting on Lake Hatchineha is nearly completed with just a few willow islands remaining in the target area.

Ed Harris and Jeff Schardt (FDEP) gave an update on the tussock harvesting on Lake Runnymede. The current work is likely to be the last round of harvesting funded by FDEP due to the logistics of plant disposal. SFWMD and Osceola County will need to address future problems related to floating islands and flood control on this lake.

Mike Netherland (UF/USACE) presented his data analysis of endothall fate from the applications done earlier this year. The data indicates that endothall was able to penetrate the dense hydrilla to a depth of at least 5 feet immediately following the treatment. Within 7 days, the herbicide was found at a depth of 8 feet. It may be possible to achieve up to 18 weeks of control in shallow water (3' - 4' deep). However, regrowth in these areas is likely to be much faster than in deeper areas. There appears to have been a strong vertical gradient during the June treatments that may have contributed to reduced hydrilla impact in the deeper areas of Toho. Dense hydrilla volume may also have impacted endothall distribution. Also, it appears that water quality impacts were greater and sustained longer during warm weather treatments. More complete control might have been achieved using endothall granules, but the cost would have been increased by nearly 50%. It appears that large block treatments may be more effective than strip treatments under these conditions.

There was discussion about the possibilities for using penoxsulam to manage hydrilla in early 2008. It was agreed that large treatments in Toho were not appropriate at this time but that Lakes Cypress and Jackson would be likely candidates. FWC staff will investigate the possibility of a treatment on Lake Jackson. It was generally agreed that FDEP and SFWMD should move ahead with plans for a treatment on Lake Cypress. Approximately 1000 gallons of Galleon will be required. SePro staff will work with agency staff to develop a treatment and monitoring prescription.

ReMetrix is planning to start the next round of bathymetric and vegetation mapping within a few weeks and should have a set of maps by mid-November. Agency staff were invited to accompany ReMetrix staff in the field and Ryan Moore (ReMetrix) will provide us with a field schedule. It was agreed that a low resolution map was appropriate for planning aquatic plant management activities and that higher resolution maps were more useful for archival purposes.

There was considerable discussion of extending the research on tuber suppression in the north end of Lake Toho. It was agreed that SFWMD and FDEP staff would coordinate a series of treatments using endothall and diquat and Mike Netherland would monitor and analyze the treatment results. These treatments need to begin PDQ in order to impact the plants prior to tuber production. A small group will create a treatment plan within the next week and implement as soon as herbicide can be delivered.

The next group meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 18, 2007, in this same location.