

## Kissimmee Interagency Meeting – Aquatic Plant Management

November 14, 2006

Keshav Setaram (SFWMD) gave an update on floating plant management throughout the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (KCOL). An endothal treatment is planned for November 15, 2006, to open an access area in the eastern part of Lake Hatchineha. Also, he reported on the ground support given by SFWMD during the recent fluridone applications in Lake Toho. Keshav also reported that representatives from Valent Corporation had approached SFWMD about using bispyribac 80 SP under the EPA's experimental use permit. Bispyribac is an ALS inhibitor and may show promise for large-scale hydrilla management.

Ed Harris (FDEP) gave an update on the harvesting project at Lake Runnymede. Work will continue as long as funds remain intact and spoil dumping sites are available.

FDEP plant surveys were completed in late October for the KCOL lakes. Hydrilla levels are at near record levels in some lakes and very low levels in other lakes. Lake Hatchineha and Lake Kissimmee have scattered hydrilla populations while Lakes Toho and Cypress have large infestations throughout the lakes.

Mike Netherland (USACE and UF) gave an update on the suppression of hydrilla tuber formation in the north end of Lake Toho. Fluridone has been applied at sub-lethal doses to keep the plants from forming new tubers. Treatments began prior to September 21, the date when daylight conditions caused production of underground rhizomes and subsequent tuber formation. Formation of rhizomes was observed in October but there was no tuber formation. Tuber formation was observed in November in the areas where fluridone levels had dropped below the minimum concentration. Tuber formation is occurring south of Grassy Island; root crowns are showing fluridone symptoms even though fluridone dissipated from the area. Dr. Netherland feels that further applications of fluridone are not warranted in this area but should continue in the area north of Grassy Island that is still holding a good concentration. He recommends another application of Sonar AS, to be followed by a treatment with Sonar PR or Sonar Q that will hold concentrations until mid-December. Chuck Secrist (SePro) said he would contact David Tarver and Dan Bergeson ASAP to get a plan for the next treatment. Keshav said that SFWMD had everything in place for a helicopter and/or airboat application. Matt Phillips (FDEP) will check herbicide availability and order the necessary material.

Kimberly Lawrence (Osceola County) reported that the County has \$300,000 for herbicide purchases to facilitate shallow water hydrilla treatments. Staff from SFWMD, FDEP, FWC, and the County will survey the lakes in December and make recommendations at the next meeting for priority treatment areas.

Bob Yuskaitis reported that imazamox was applied to the canal in his neighborhood in October. Plant growth had stopped within 30 days and plants were beginning to die. Bill Haller (UF) will continue to monitor herbicide activity related to this treatment.

Questions were raised about the possible use of penoxsulam for hydrilla management in the KCOL lakes in 2007. It was generally agreed that there was not enough field information to feel comfortable about applying this herbicide in any of the large lakes. Matt Phillips said that Lake Tracy in Haines City would be receiving a penoxsulam treatment and would be a good candidate for monitoring. It appears unlikely that either penoxsulam or imazamox will be utilized for large-scale KCOL hydrilla treatments in 2007.

Adriene Landrum (FWC) reported that harvesting of smartweed would take place on Lake Toho between Makinson Island and Lanier Point. Harvested material will be placed on existing spoil islands. It was also reported that harvesting activities were taking place in Lake Kissimmee south of Brahma Island. The Lightsey family has agreed to allow spoil deposition on the island.

Mention was made of purple swamphens causing problems in south Florida, although they have not been identified in this area.

The next meeting date was set for Tuesday, January 9, 2007.