

May 2016

just the **FACTs**

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.

Safe and Efficient Lock Operations

The South Florida Water Management District operates and maintains the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project, which includes the water-control structures, navigation locks and canals within the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes. It is our duty to ensure safe passage of all boaters using the navigation locks to access lakes within the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes.

Southport Lock

- Routine operations of the S-61 navigation lock, also known as the Southport Lock, rarely involves more than three pleasure boats at a time.
- The S-61 Lock becomes a critical component of a fishing tournament involving as many as 200 boats for up to 10 days out of the year.
- The maximum efficient capacity of the lock chamber is 12 boats, and each lock-through cycle takes about 13 minutes. If 200 boats need to lock through, the wait time could be more than three hours.
- To ensure safe and efficient operation of the S-61 Lock, boaters can keep the process moving as quickly as possible by following simple rules and common-sense suggestions.

Safety is our first and greatest consideration

- Cooperation is critical. The lock tender has the authority to stop the lock-through process if he does not enjoy the cooperation of the boaters.
- A law enforcement officer and/or tournament official will help move boats efficiently through the lock process. Both the law officer and tournament official will have the authority to disqualify anglers for failing to follow the rules.
- Line up outside the lock in groups of 12 so each group can quickly and safely enter the lock chamber



- Do not block access to the lock chamber. Boaters travelling the opposite direction need to be able to leave the lock chamber before the next lock-through cycle can begin.
- Honor and stay behind the *Red Lines* within the lock chamber, which keep boaters away from the moving and massive lock doors.

(more)



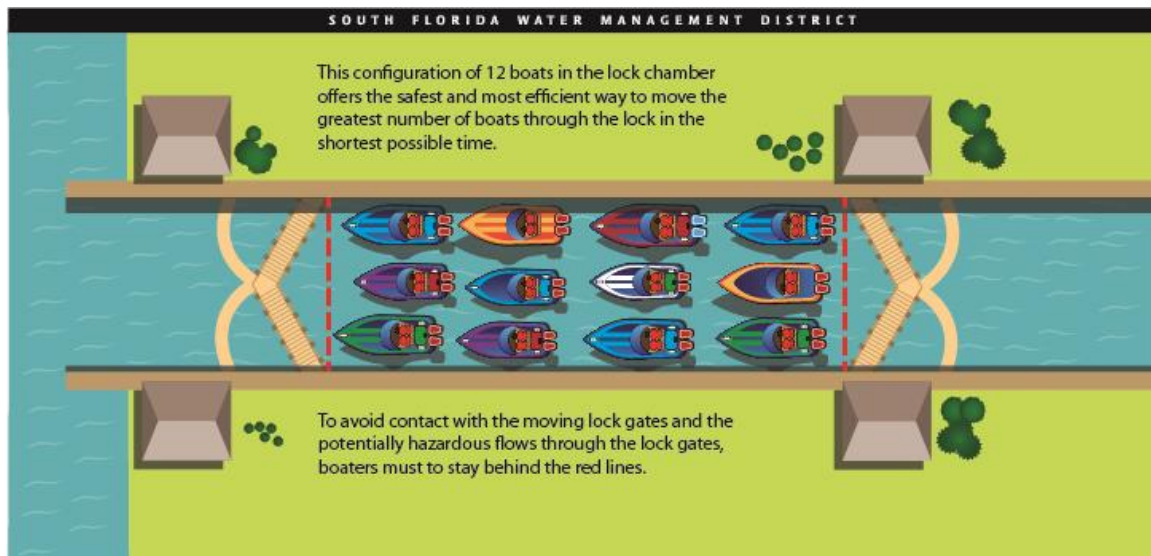
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- The S-61 Lock is most efficiently filled and cycled with four boats along each wall and four boats down the center of the lock chamber. This calculation is based on today's standard 20-foot bass boat. The lock will accommodate fewer longer or larger boats.



This is a photo of what not to do. The two anglers hanging onto the lock door will force the lock tender to stop the process until the boaters back away from the lock doors.

- Tournament organizers can speed up the process by providing a list of boats with their FL numbers. The lock tender is required to list all FL numbers of boats passing through the lock to ensure that all boats make a return trip through locks. By providing all FL numbers, a checklist can be created to expedite the process.
- Encourage tournament organizers to stagger the release time of anglers to shorten the waiting time of boaters who want to lock through.



The Red Lines within the lock chamber are there to allow the greatest number of boats in the lock, while keeping everyone safe from the movement of the lock doors and the strong eddies caused by flows into and out of the chamber.

For information about the lock operations, please contact Bill Graf at the Orlando Service Center of the South Florida Water Management District by phone at (407) 858-6100 Ext. 3837, or by e-mail at wgraf@sfwmd.gov.