

UORB monthly project status report
For February 2011 Board

Shad Harvesting

This year's shad harvesting on Lake Apopka was completed December 31, 2010. The fishermen harvested 625,000 pounds of shad. Toward the end of the season, the fish size declined rapidly and catch rates were much lower. Based on current experimental gill net samples, there are insufficient numbers of shad in Newnans Lake to support harvest activity in the spring. Staff will meet with FWC in April to work out details to shift the harvest on Newnans Lake to the fall of 2011. Staff also contracted to begin experimental gill net sampling on Lake George to determine the shad population on that lake.

Lake Levels and Flows

In December, the District began a temporary reduction in discharge at the Apopka and Burrell structures. Flows were reduced to zero until the end of April 2011. This action has helped prevent water levels on lakes Apopka, Beauclair, Dora, Eustis and Harris from declining as fast as they would with normal minimum flows. As of January 18th, Lake Apopka is up about 3/4 inch. Lake Eustis (also representative of lakes Dora, Beauclair and Harris) rose about 1.2 inches. Lake Griffin declined about 0.8 inch. District staff is also working to reduce minimum discharges at Moss Bluff.