

HYDROLOGIC AND WATER-QUALITY CONDITIONS IN THE LOWER APALACHICOLA-CHATTAHOOCHEE-FLINT AND PARTS OF THE AUCILLA-SUWANNEE-OCHLOCKONEE RIVER BASINS GEORGIA, FLORIDA AND ALABAMA, DURING DROUGHT CONDITIONS, JULY 2011

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Abstract. As part of the U.S. Department of the Interior sustainable water strategy, WaterSMART, the U.S. Geological Survey documented hydrologic and water-quality conditions in the lower Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint and western and central Aucilla-Suwanee-Ochlockonee River basins in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia during low-flow conditions in July 2011. Moderate-drought conditions prevailed in this area during early 2011 and worsened to exceptional by June, with cumulative rainfall departures from the 1981-2010 climate normals registering deficits ranging from 17 to 27 inches. As a result, groundwater levels and stream discharges measured below median daily levels throughout most of 2011. Water-quality field properties including temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, and pH were measured at surface-water sites.