

URGENT FISH KILL NOTICE

The current extended cold temperatures will likely result in a temporary change in the canal/lake maintenance routines. Northern Staff and contractors primary responsibility includes keeping Northern's waterways clear of debris and aquatic weeds. As a result of the recent cold temperatures the majority of efforts are likely to temporarily shift to the clearing of debris in the form of dead fish.

Fish Kills typically occur in South Florida when water temperatures drop as a result of extended cold weather. For exotic and non-native fish initially, the cold itself causes the fish to die; second, the protective mucus that coats each fish is weakened by the cold and can totally disappear. This leaves the fish vulnerable to bacteria and other adverse elements in its environment which cause further harm. The longer the cold temperatures remain, the greater the potential for mortality and secondary effects.

Another way fish are killed by cold occurs in deep stratified lakes that have a warm layer of water on top of a colder layer. During a cold snap, the oxygen rich layer on top is replaced by the oxygen poor layer on the bottom in a process which is called "flipping". This occurs when the upper layer is cooled to the point that it becomes denser than the lower layer and the lake "flips". The fish live in the upper layer and die due to low oxygen levels in the lower layer now at the top, a natural phenomenon that usually happens during the first cold snap. The lake in Preston in PGA National flipped in November this year and there was a large fish kill.

Northern is prepared to deal with the results of the current weather pattern and will work to clear any fish kills as quickly as possible. Our constituents are advised to report any new fish kills to Northern's receptionist at 561-624-7830.