

Caloosahatchee
Estuary in Fort Myers



Near-Real Time Runoff Estimation for Operations and Emergency Modeling

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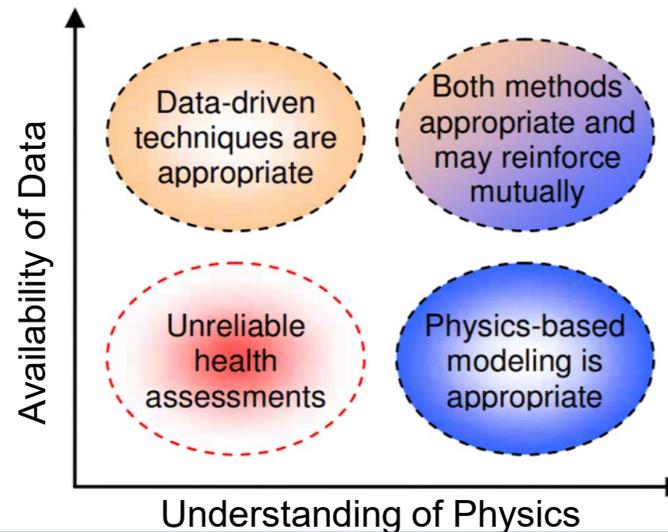
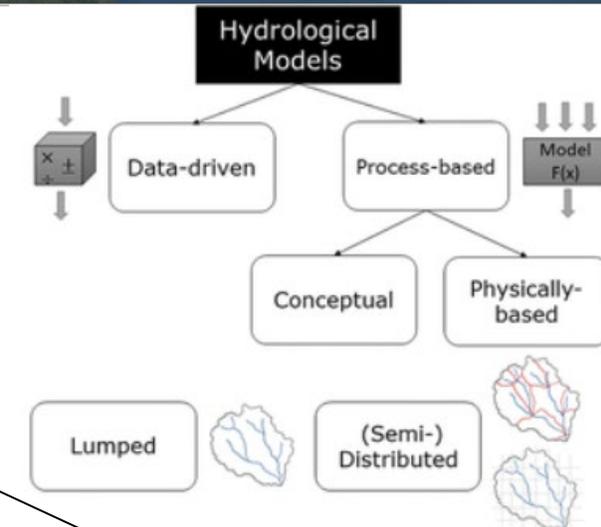
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GEER-2025, April 21-24, Coral Springs, FL

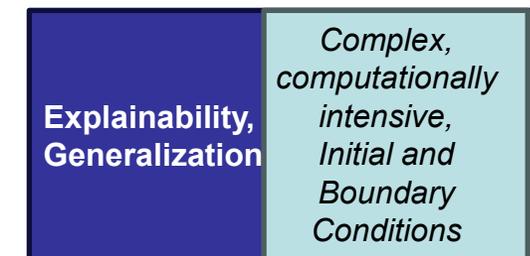
Introduction

- Approaches for hydrologic modeling
 - Physics-based
 - Conceptual
 - Data-driven
 - Hybrid
- South Florida is a data rich environment
- System operation decisions integrate recent data and as well as forecasts

Harvey et al. (2024)

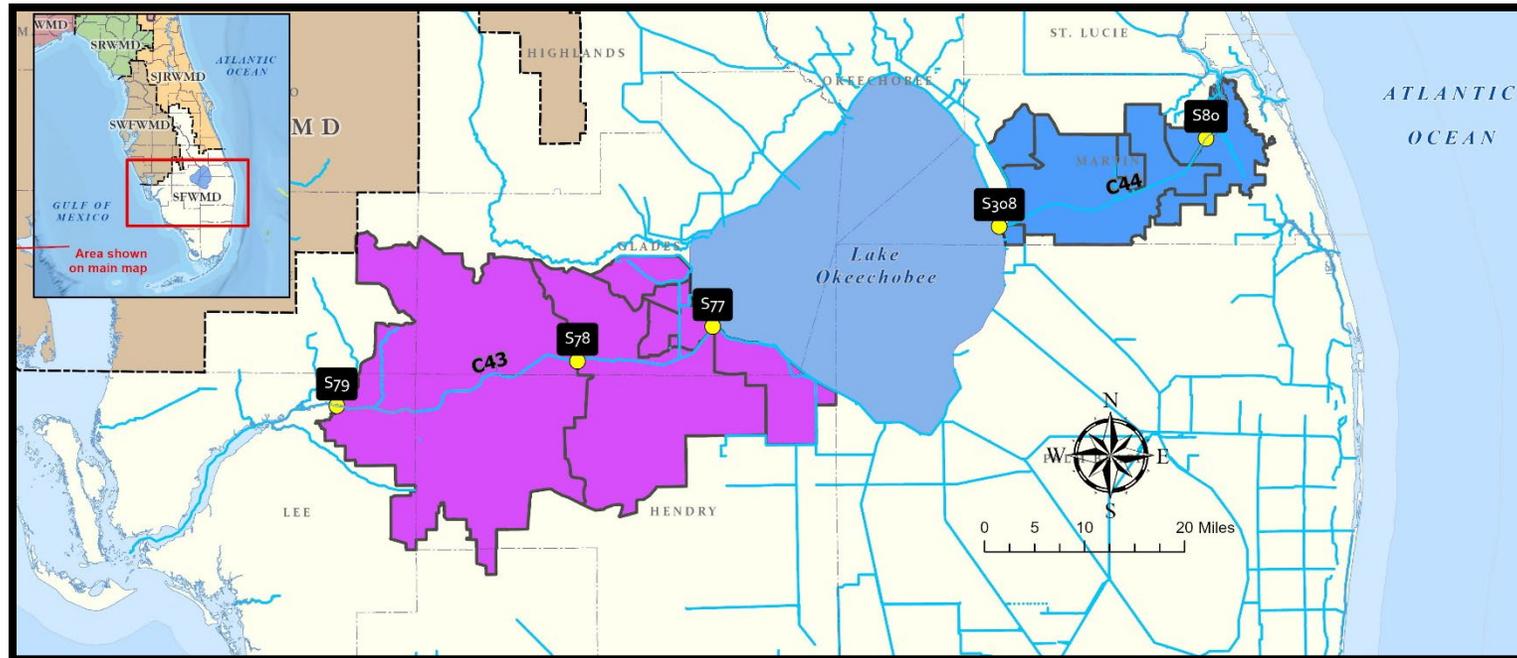


Modified from Aćuna-Ureta (2020)



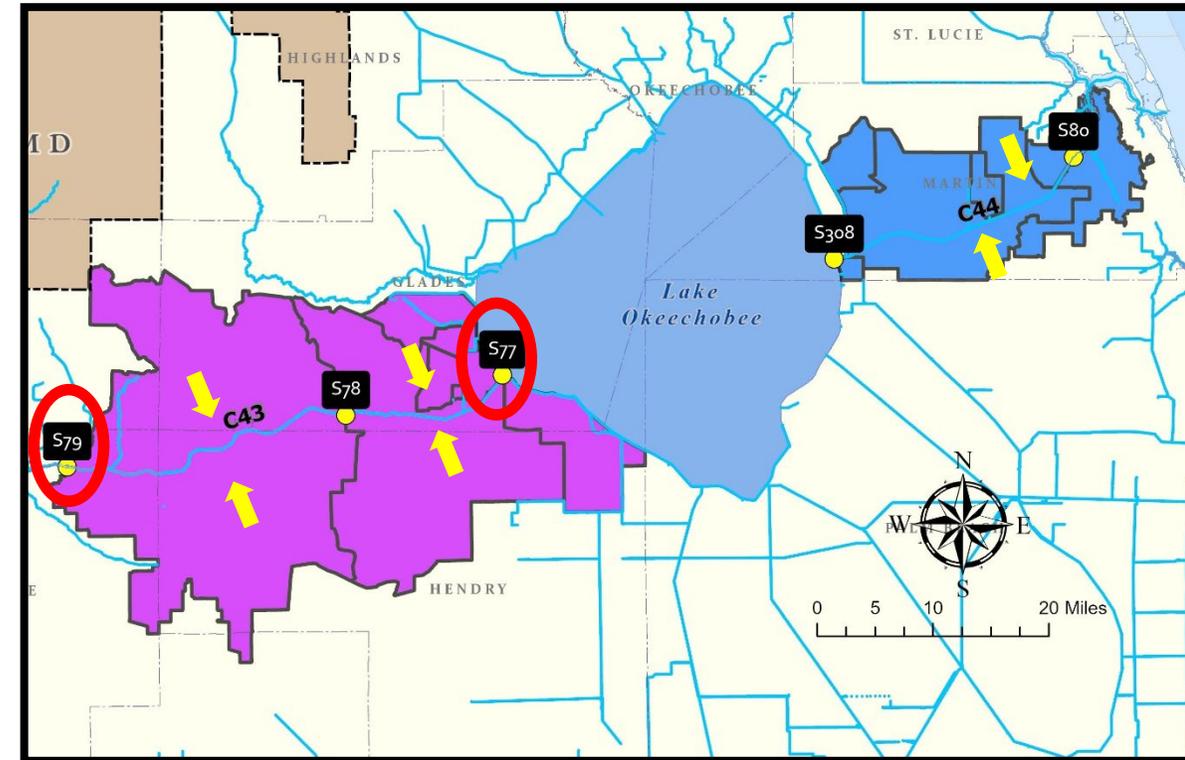
Objective

To develop deep learning-based models to estimate local runoff in the Caloosahatchee (C43) and St. Lucie (C44) basins to support water release decisions with projected rainfall and near-term historical runoff as the only predictive variables.



Methodology: Training Dataset

- Period of Record: 2011-2020 (10 years)
- Data: Daily flows at S77, S79, S308, and S80
- Data Source: USACE
- Equations for local basin runoff:
 - $C43_Runoff_i = \max(0, S79_i - S77_i)$
 - $C44_Runoff_i = \max(0, S80_i - S308_i)$
- Rainfall
 - Daily rainfall volumes for sub-basins
 - SFWMD's Gage-Adjusted Radar Rainfall

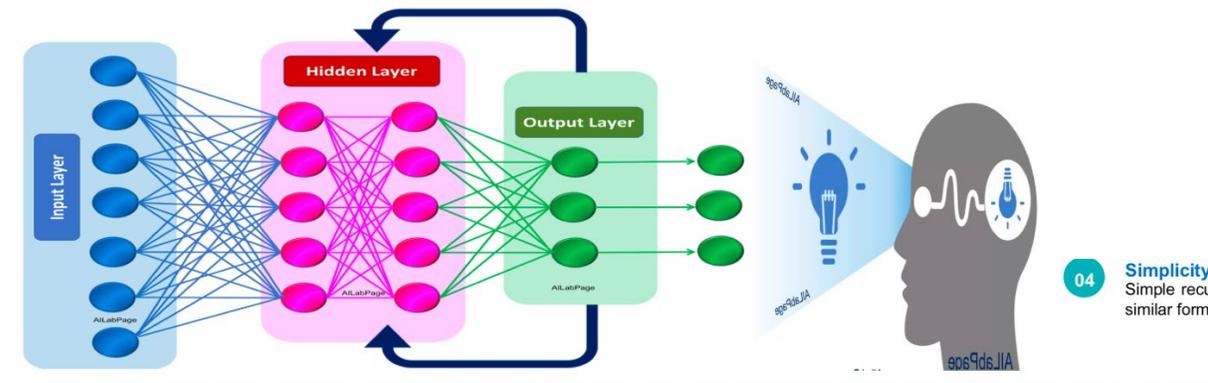


Methodology: Model Development

- Exploratory analysis (three approaches)
- Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)
 - Suitable for timeseries
- Hyperparameter Optimization Framework
- For each model
 - Randomly select 60% of the historical data
 - Partition into
 - 60% training, 20% validation, 20% testing
- 500 candidate models
- Several goodness of fit (GOF) measures
 - R^2 , NSE, PBIAS, RMSE, MAE, RSR

Recurrent Neural Networks

Deep Learning – Introduction to Recurrent Neural Net

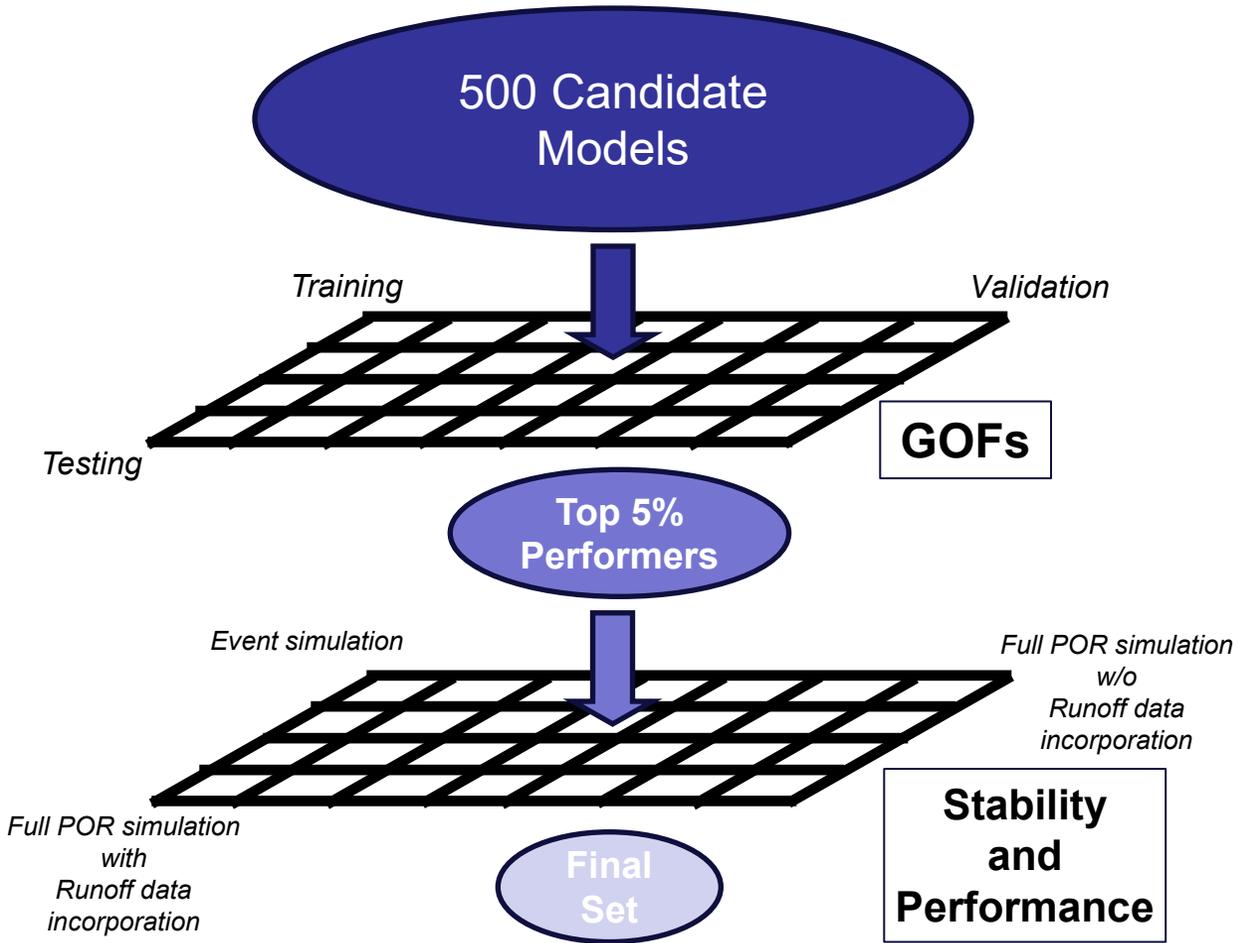


Useful

Useful for tasks that are dependent on a sequence of successive states.

<https://vinodsblog.com/2019/01/07/deep-learning-introduction-to-recurrent-neural-networks/>

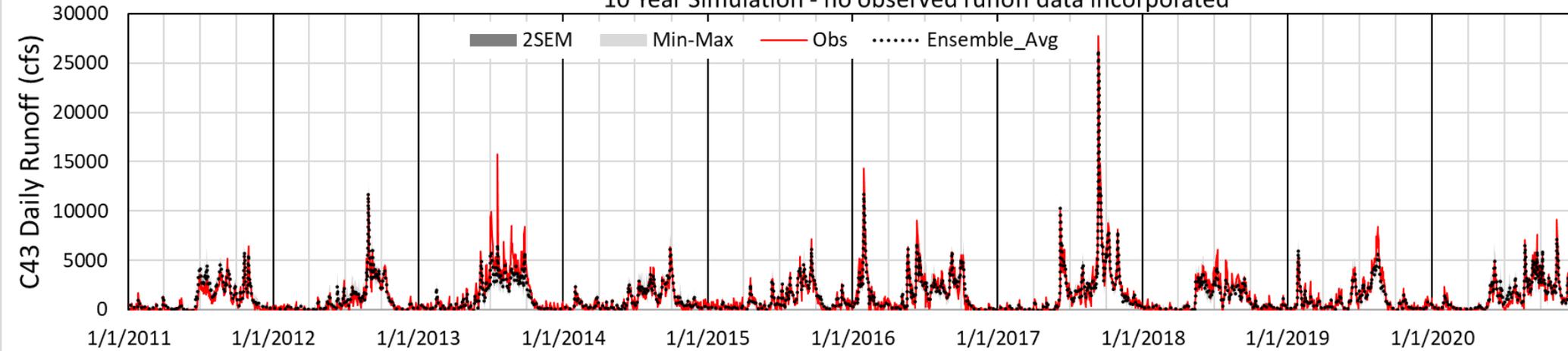
Methodology: Model Selection



- Two phase selection
 - Phase 1: Based on GOFs for training, validation and testing sub-sets
 - Phase 2: Model stability and performance over long term simulation as well as storm events
- C43: Ensemble of 8 models
- C44: Ensemble of 6 models

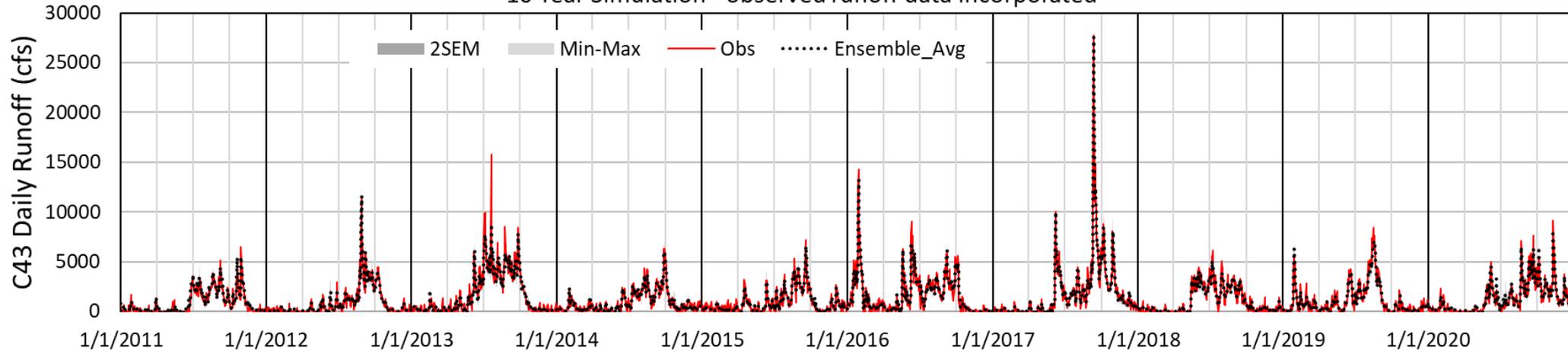
Results: C43 Runoff Long Term Simulation

10 Year Simulation - no observed runoff data incorporated



GOF	Value	Classification*
NSE	0.91	Very Good
PBIAS	1.9%	Very Good

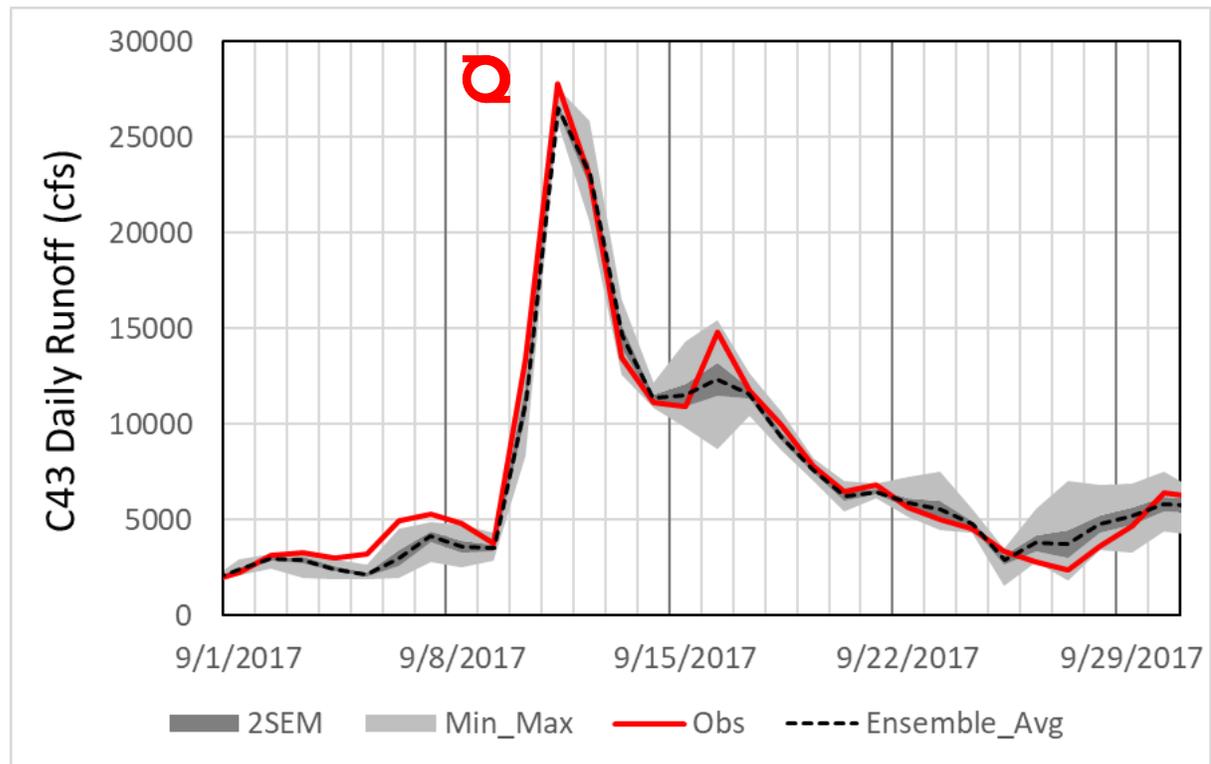
10 Year Simulation - observed runoff data incorporated



GOF	Value	Classification*
NSE	0.95	Very Good
PBIAS	0.3%	Very Good

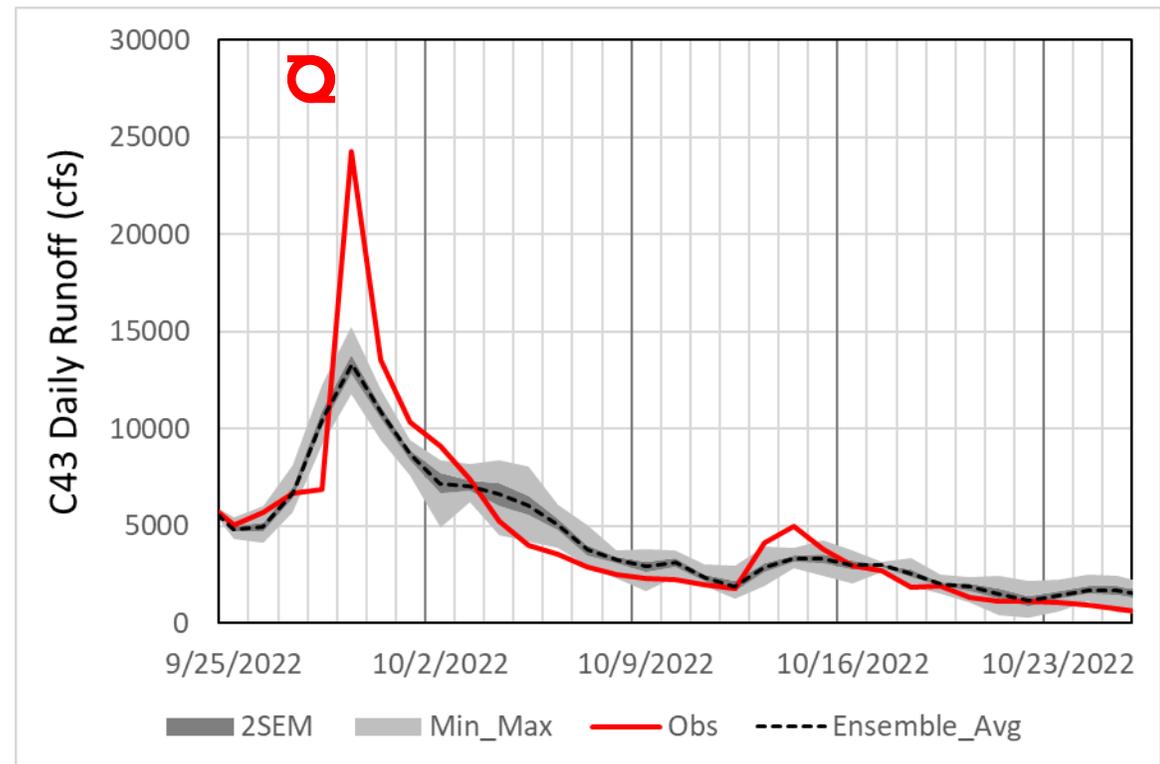
Results: C43 Runoff for Large Storm Event

Hurricane Irma



GOF	Value	Classification*
NSE	0.97	Very Good
PBIAS	3.5%	Very Good

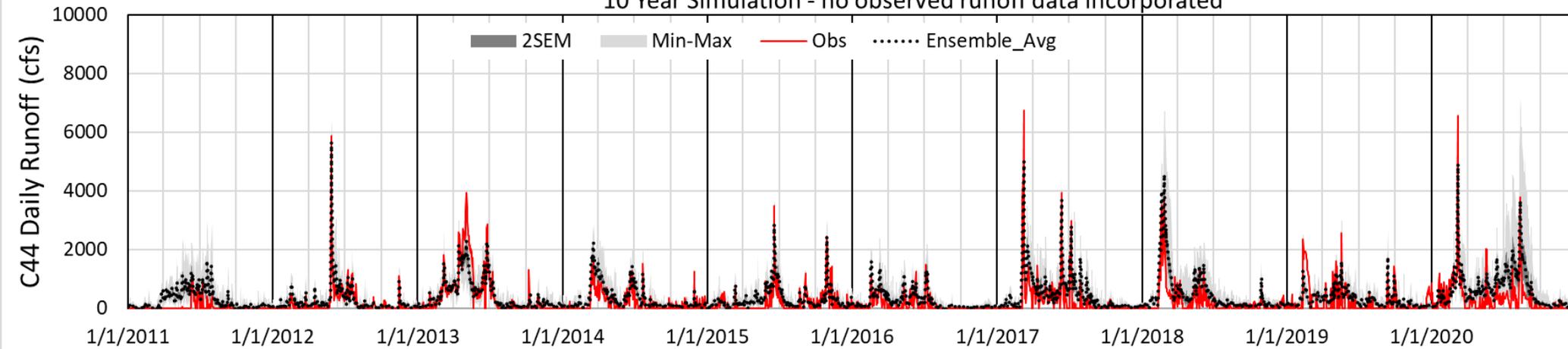
Hurricane Ian



GOF	Value	Classification*
NSE	0.75	Very Good
PBIAS	3.9%	Very Good

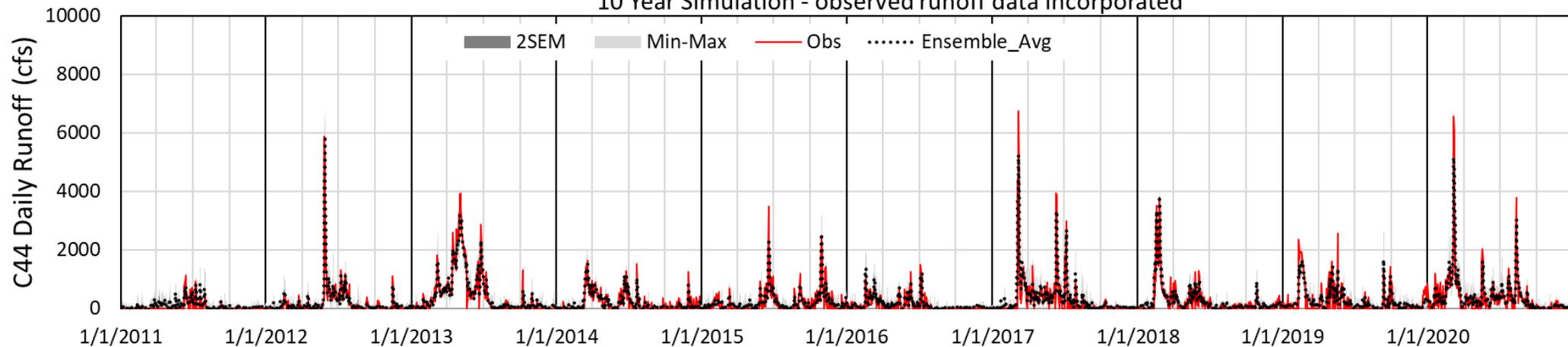
Results: C44 Runoff Long Term Simulation

10 Year Simulation - no observed runoff data incorporated



GOF	Value	Classification*
NSE	0.57	Satisfactory
PBIAS	-67%	Not Satisfactory

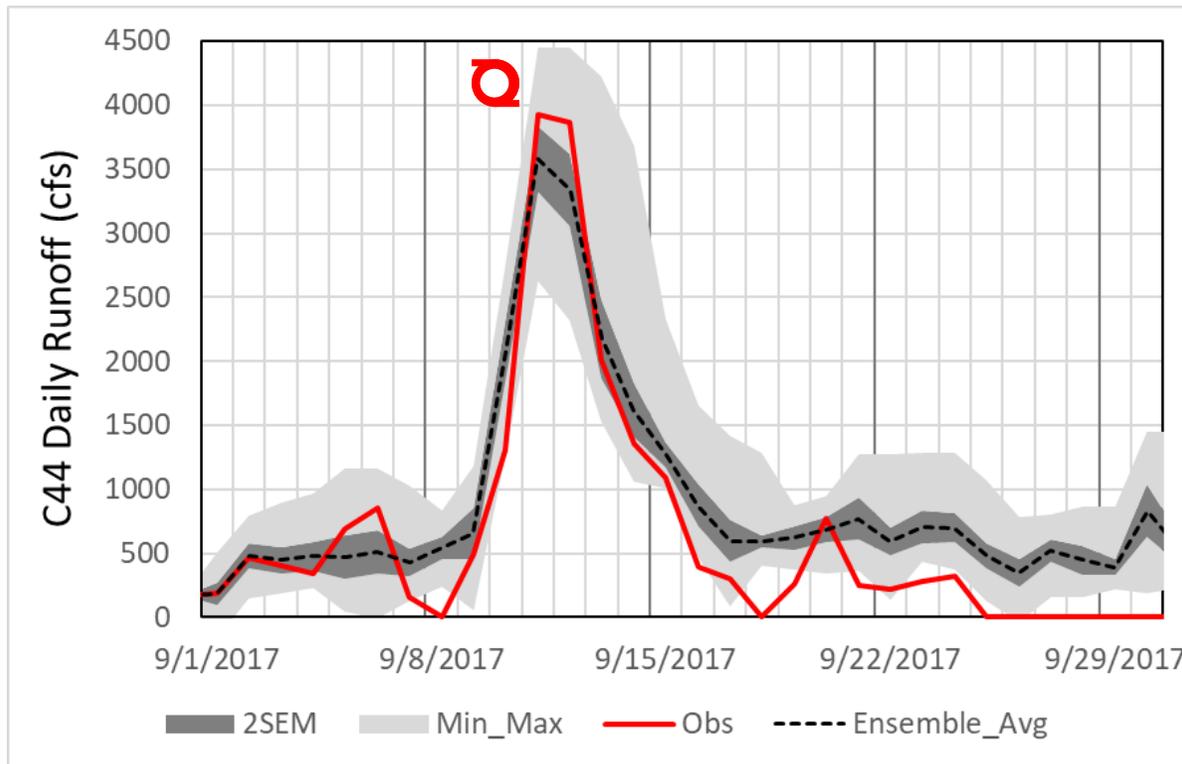
10 Year Simulation - observed runoff data incorporated



GOF	Value	Classification*
NSE	0.88	Very Good
PBIAS	-14%	Satisfactory

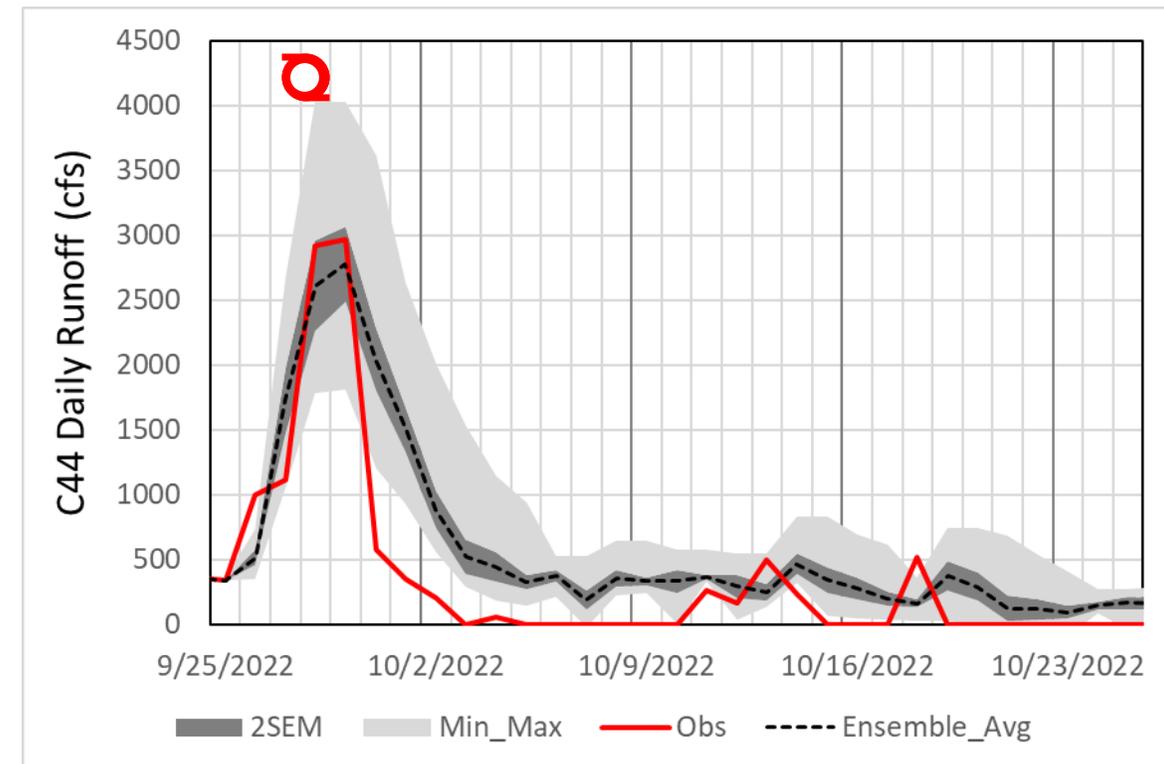
Results: C44 Runoff for Large Storm Event

Hurricane Irma



GOF	Value	Classification*
NSE	0.83	Very Good
PBIAS	-39%	Not Satisfactory

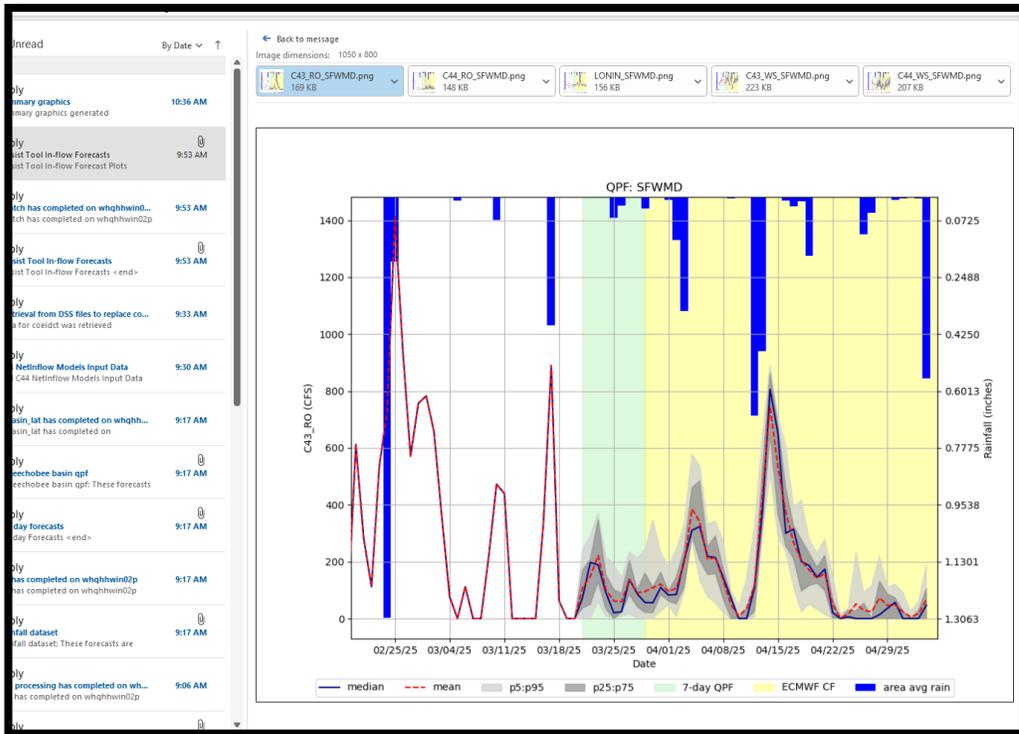
Hurricane Ian



GOF	Value	Classification*
NSE	0.62	Satisfactory
PBIAS	-51%	Not Satisfactory

Applications

➤ Automated daily model runs

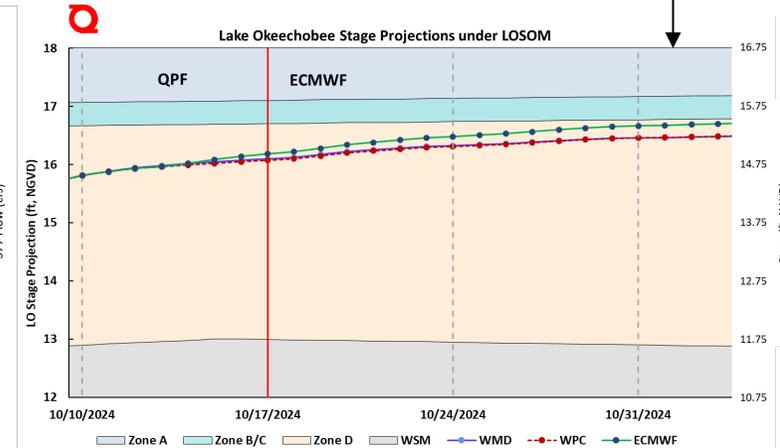
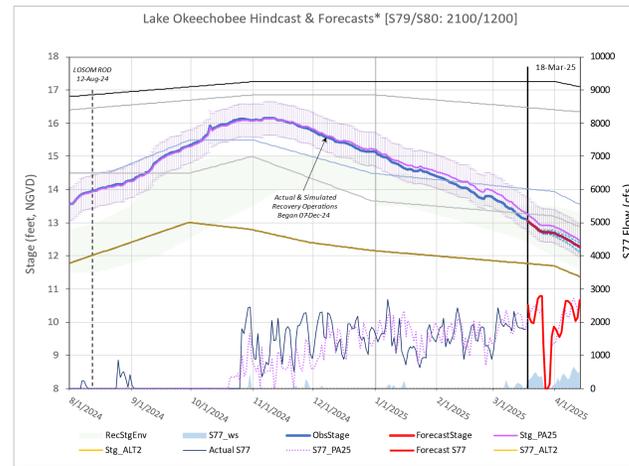


➤ Two applications

- Weekly LOSOM regulatory release decision support.
- Lake Okeechobee stage projection during storm events.

➤ Up to 3 sources rainfall forecasts

- WMD, WPC, ECMWF



Conclusions

- Runoff estimation models were successfully developed using deep learning technique (Recurrent Neural Network).
- Model for C43 local basin runoff estimation showed very good performance.
- Model for C44 local basin runoff estimation is able to capture the runoff dynamics but overestimates the flows. Further improvements are warranted.
- Models were deemed to be useful for near real-time applications, incorporating quantitative precipitation forecasts to provide perspective on operations for Lake Okeechobee.
- Retrain models once substantial data becomes available after C43 and C44 reservoir operations start



Questions