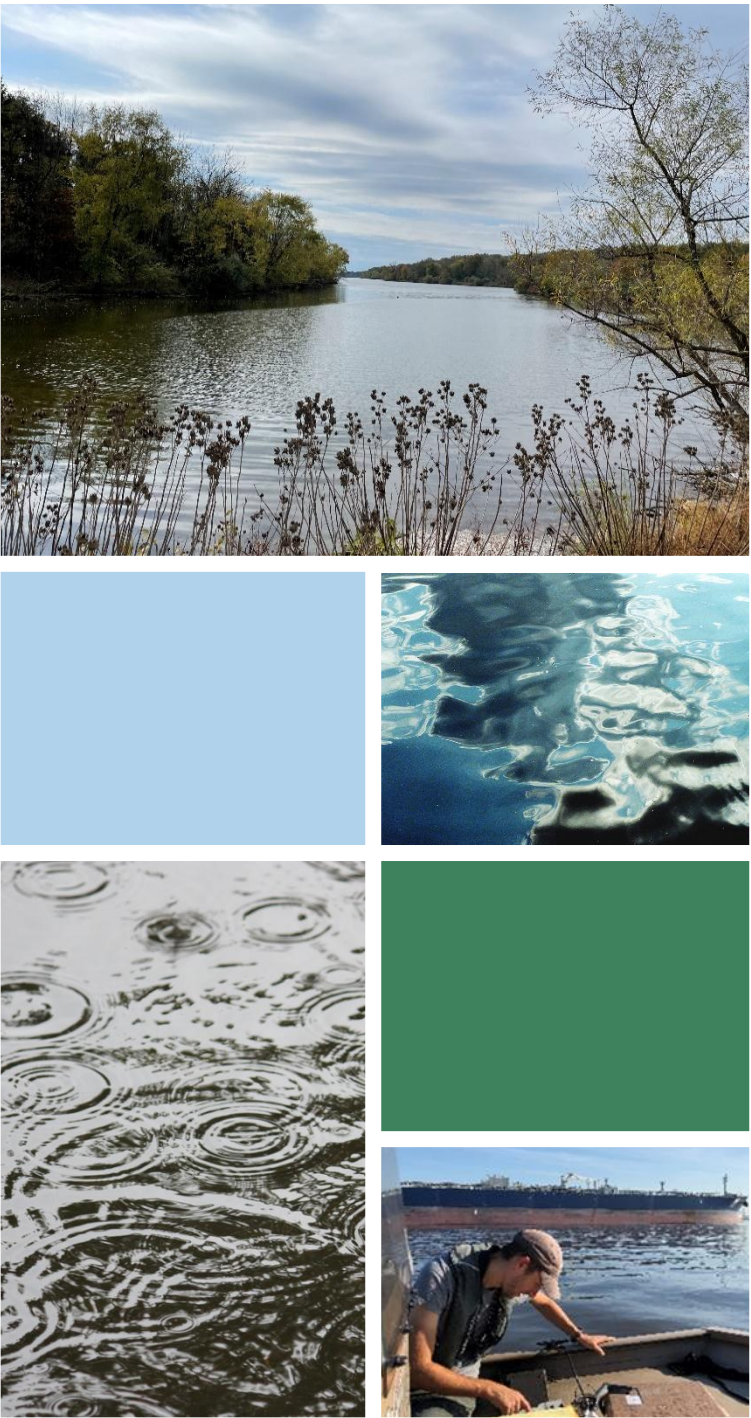




Hydrologic Conditions

Sara Sayed

Water Resource Scientist

Water Resource Operations

September 2nd, 2026,

DRBC 3Q Business Meeting

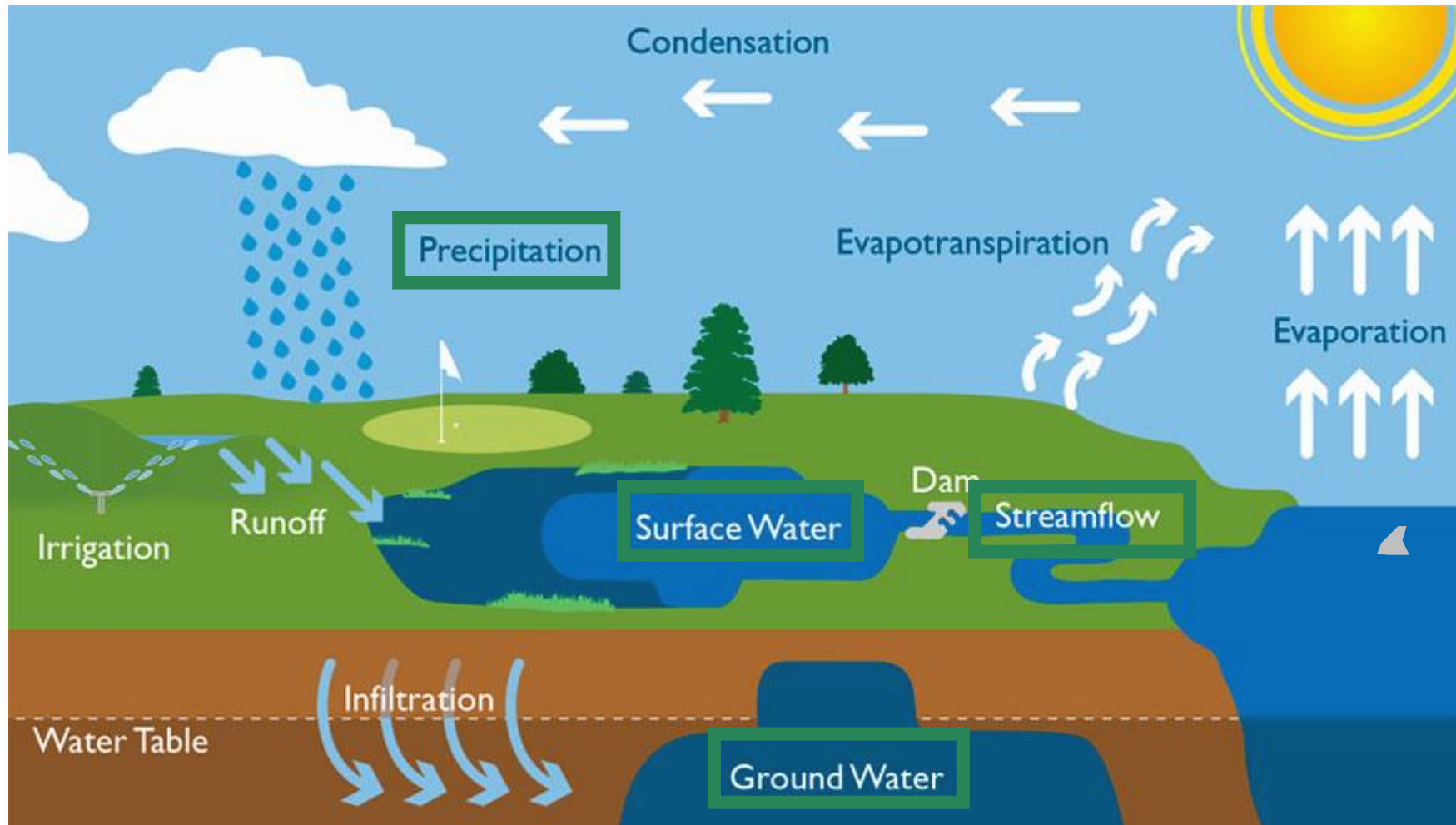


Delaware River Basin Commission

DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Hydrologic Cycle

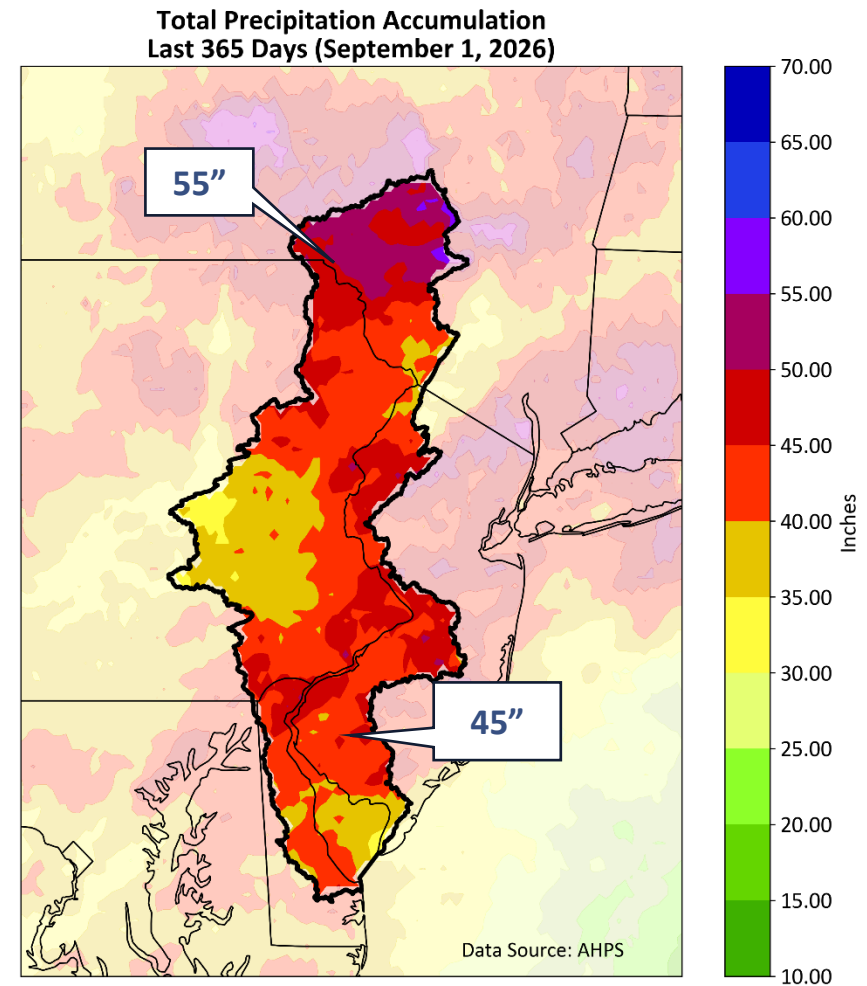
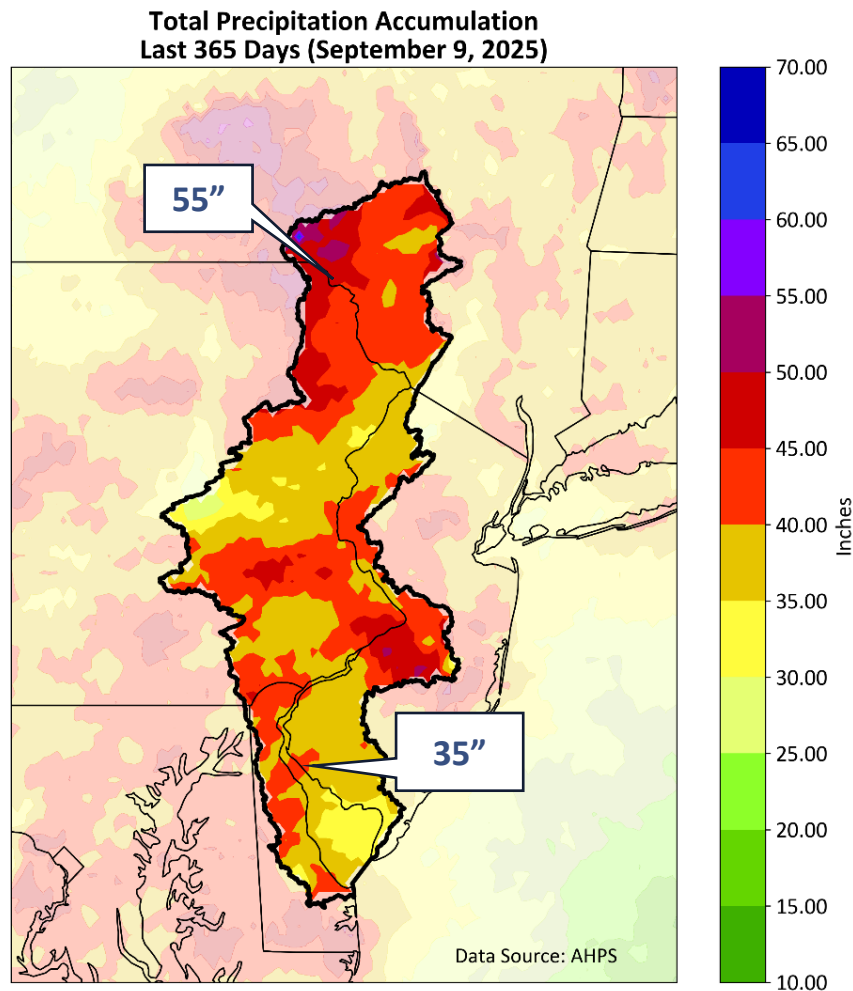
Water moves around the earth through air, soil, and over land.



Graphic courtesy of Pike County Soil Conservation District

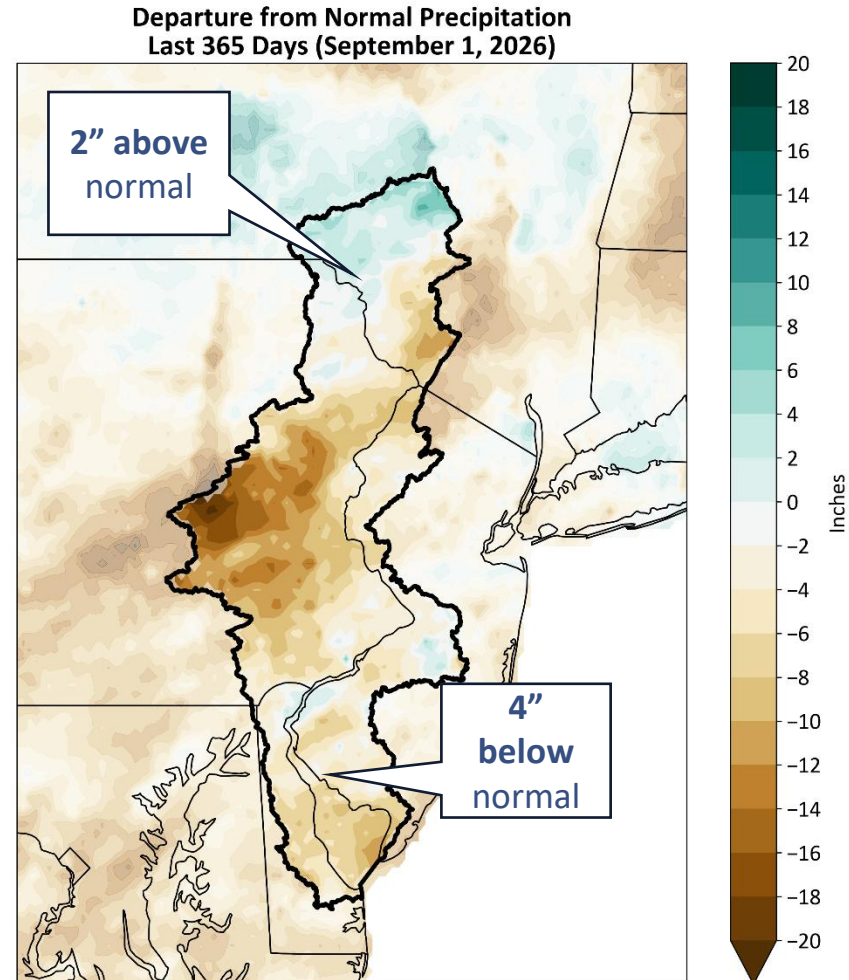
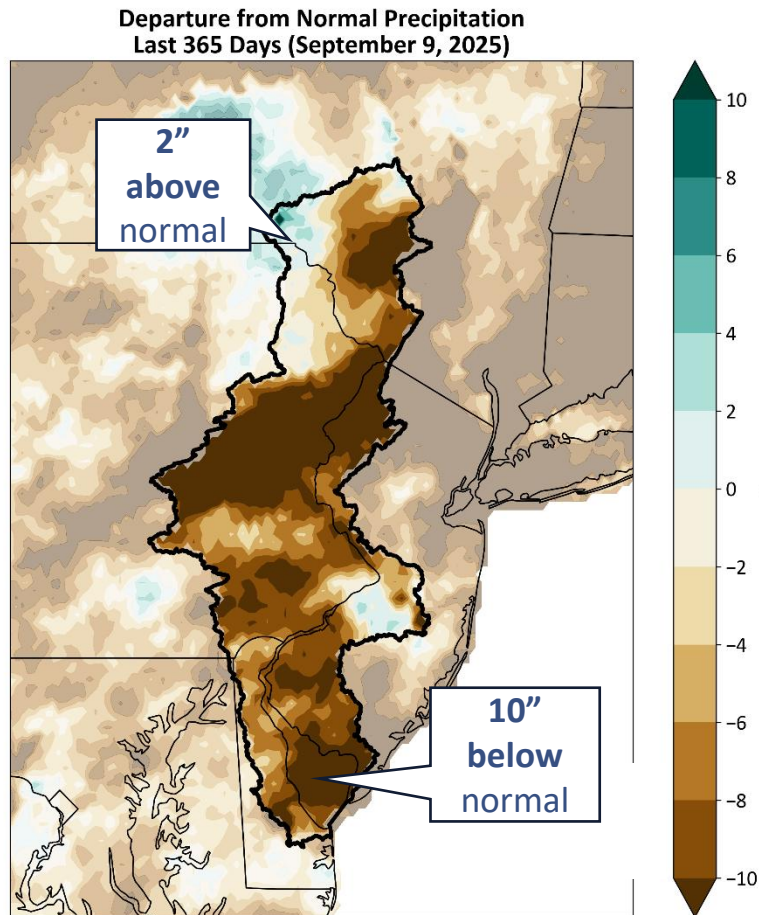
Precipitation September 2025 vs September 2026.

Conditions overall appear similar to the beginning of last Fall.



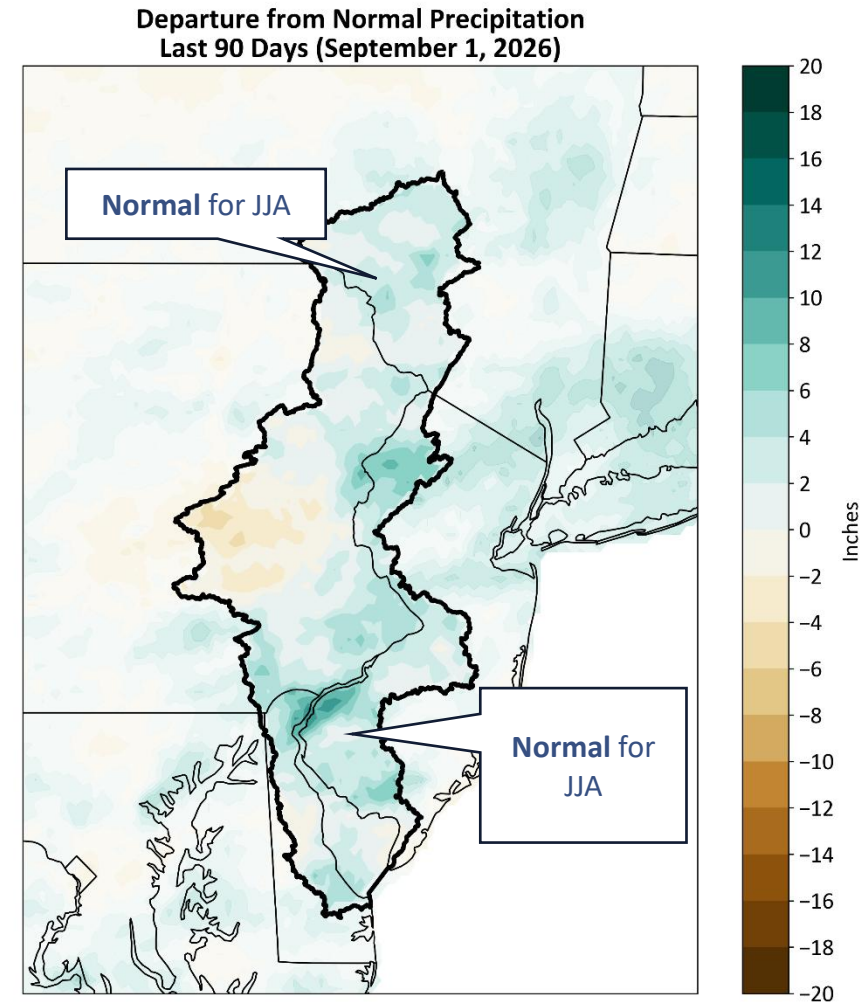
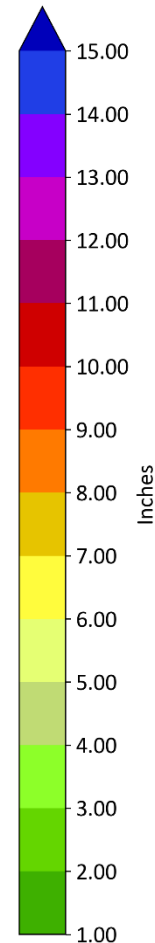
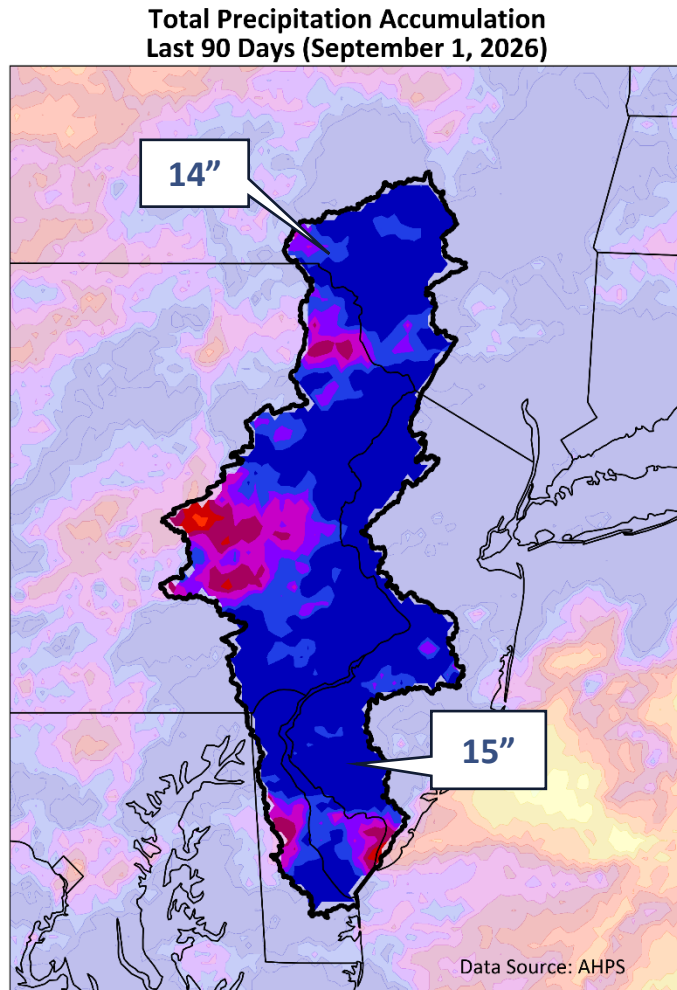
Precipitation September 2025 vs September 2026.

Departures show that we are in better shape this fall.



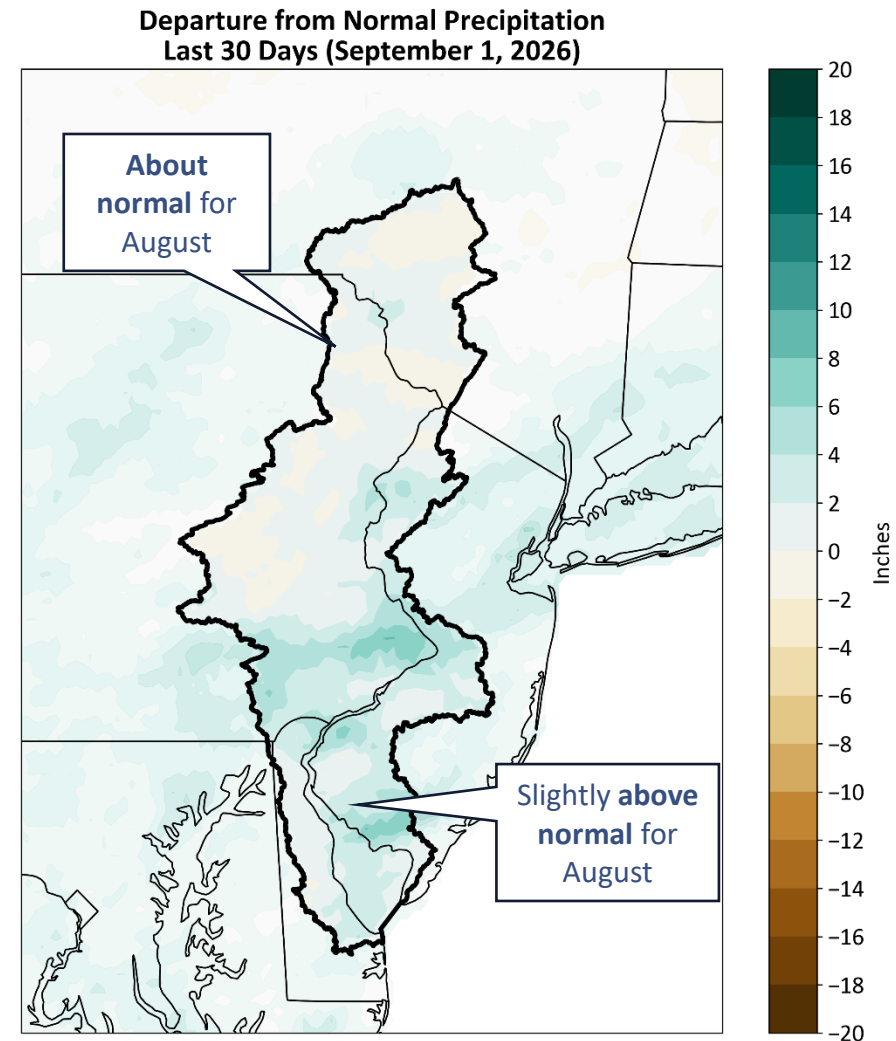
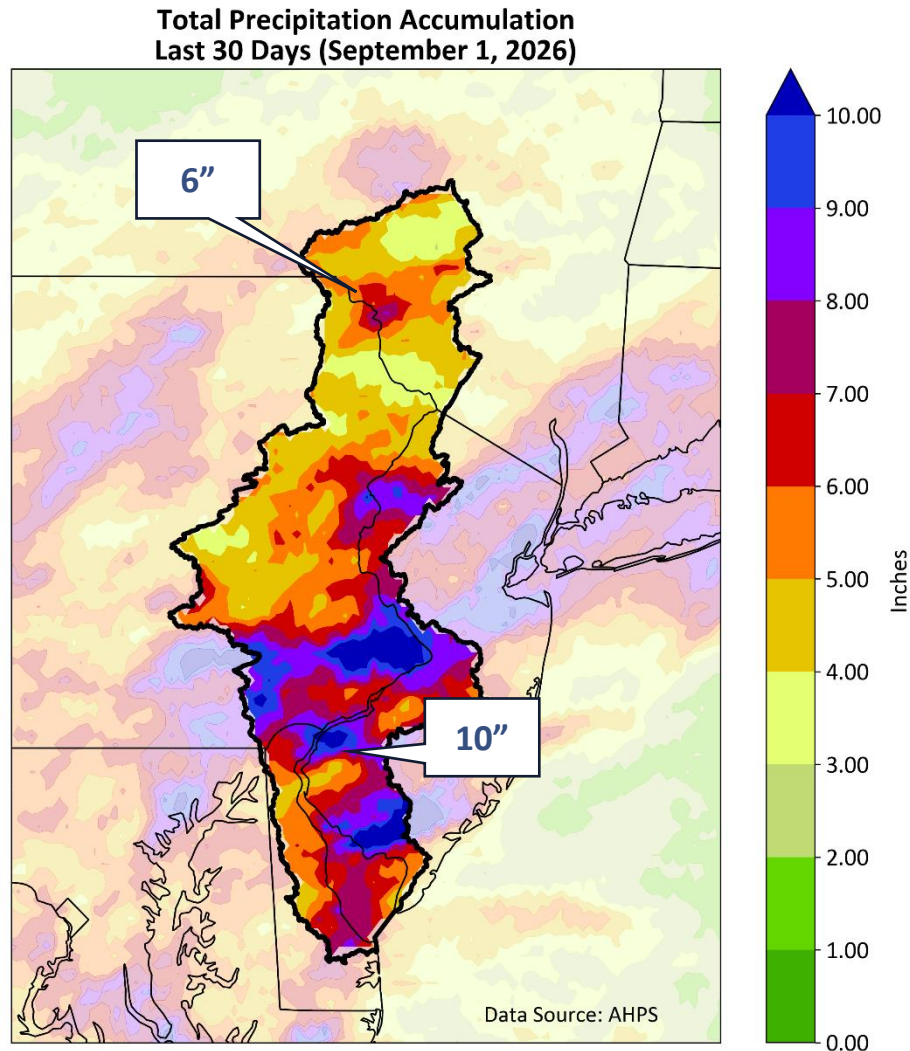
Precipitation – 90 days

The past three-month period was generally normal except for areas of PA.



Precipitation – 30 days

August's precipitation was about normal.



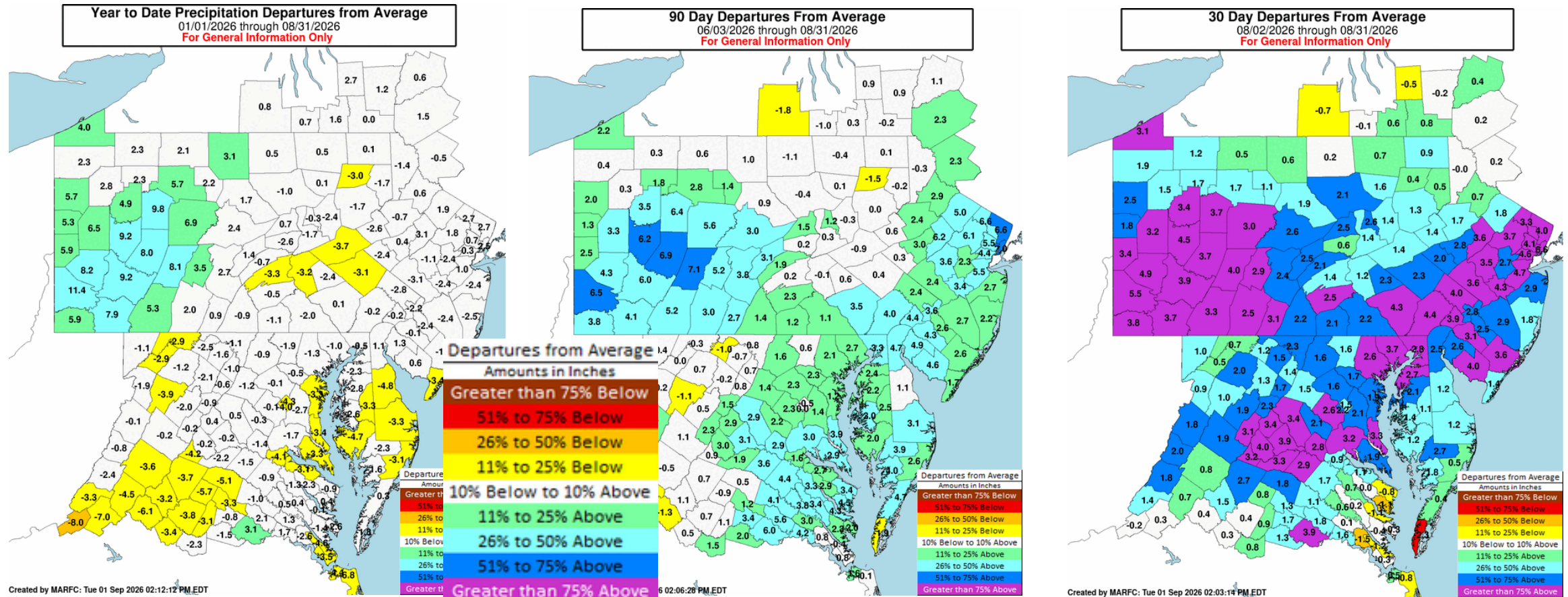
Precipitation Departures

Conditions have generally been very wet over the last 90 days.

Year-to-date

90-day

30-day



Streamflow (instantaneous)

Streamflows have significantly recovered with the rainfall over the past 90 days.

Flow Conditions:

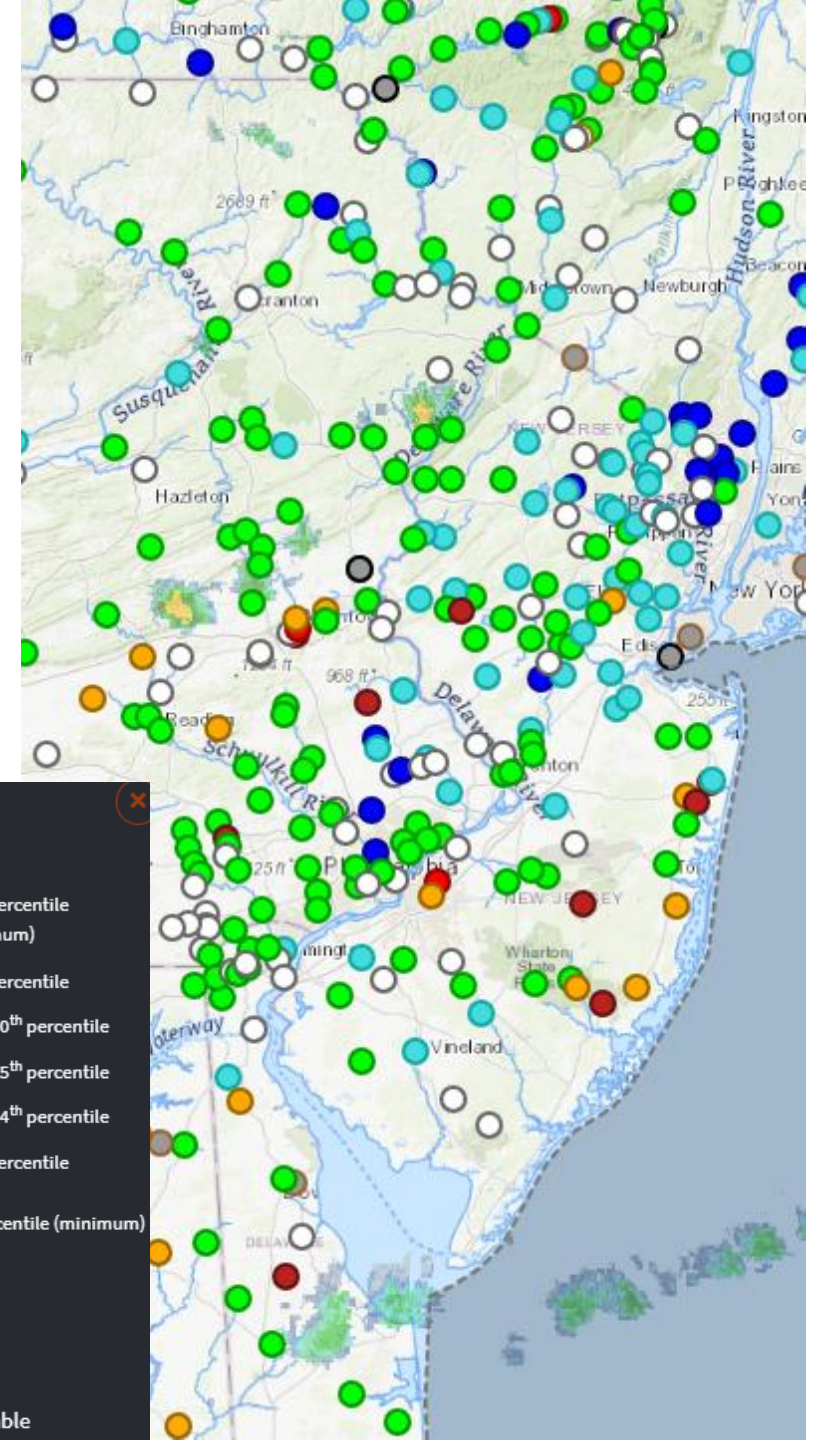
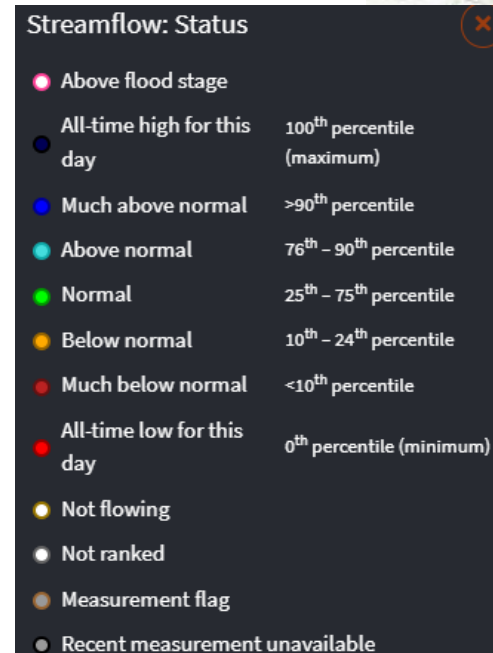
Upper Basin: Normal to above normal

Central Basin: Normal to above normal

Lower Basin: Normal to above normal

Map last updated:
2:41 pm, September 1, 2026

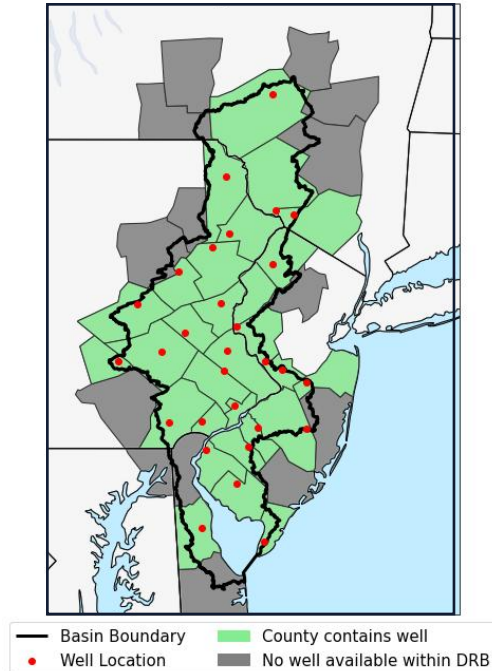
Data Source: USGS



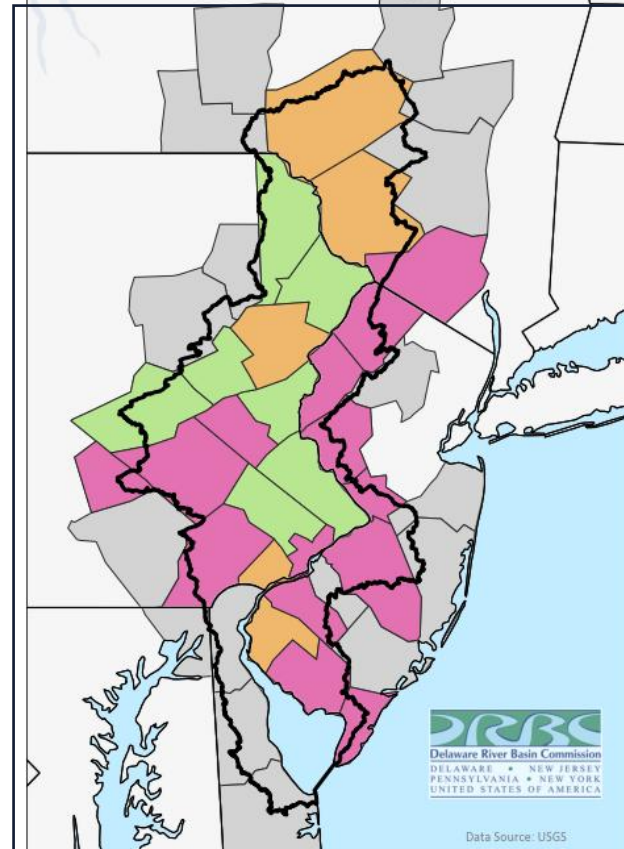
Groundwater Levels

Groundwater levels have returned to normal in many locations with recent rainfall.

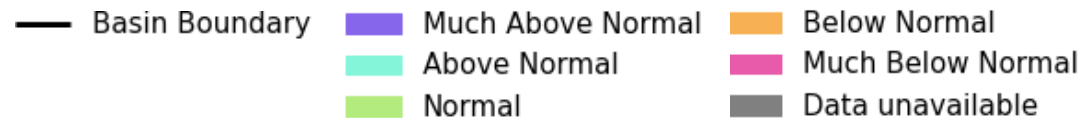
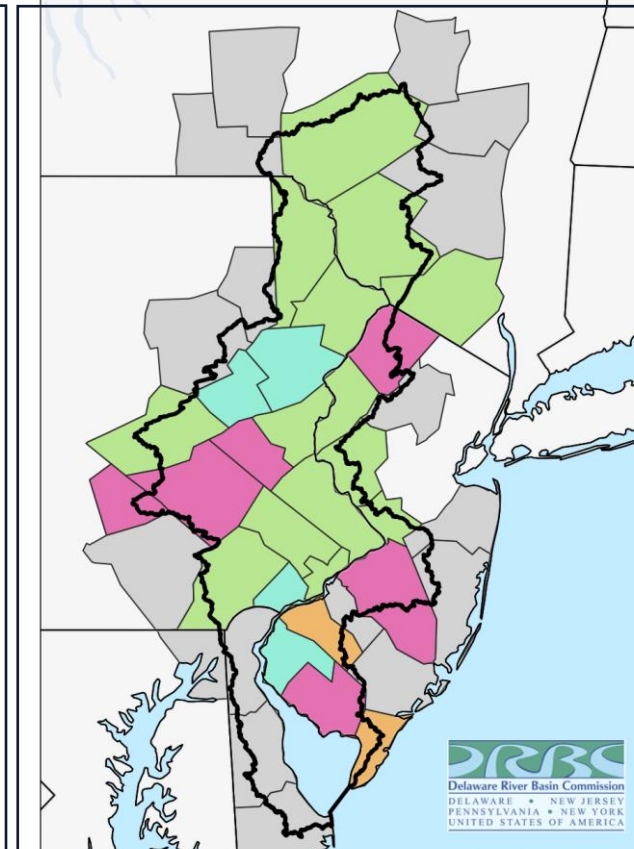
Reference Wells



June 8, 2026

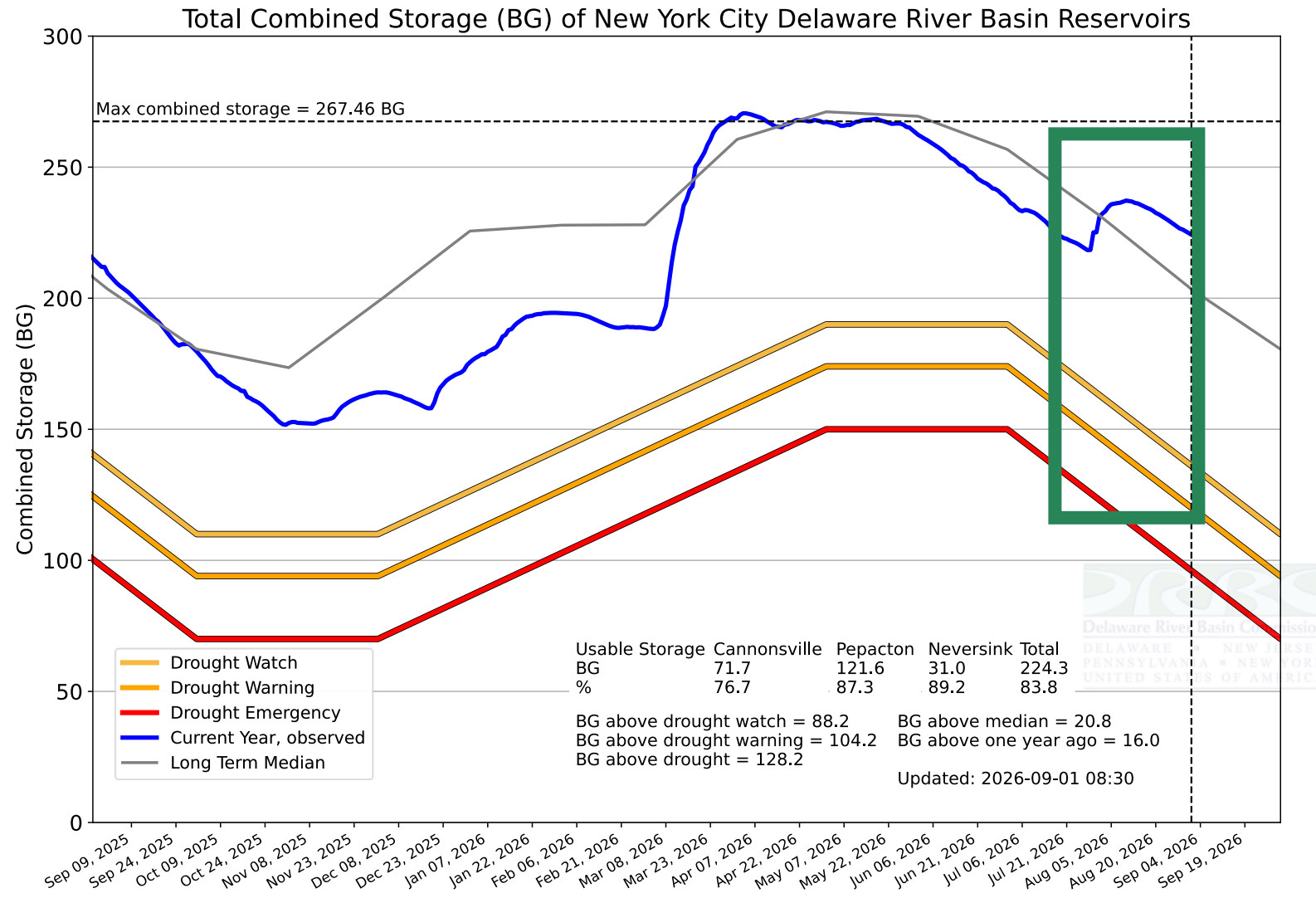


September 1, 2026



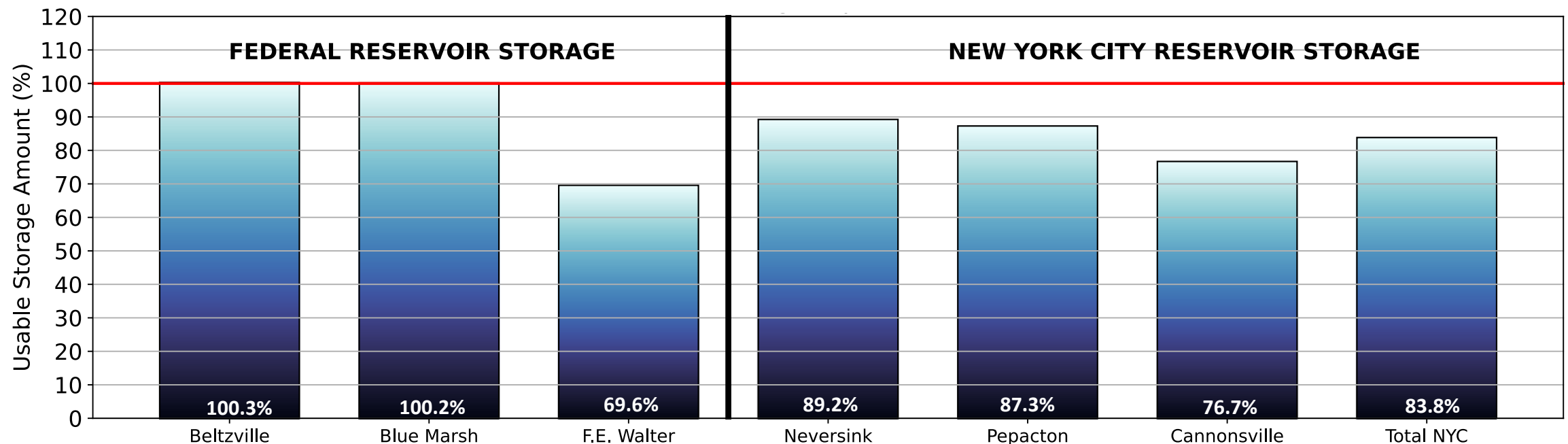
New York City Reservoir Storage

Combined storage above long-term median and 88.2 BG above drought watch.



Reservoir Storage for Flow Management

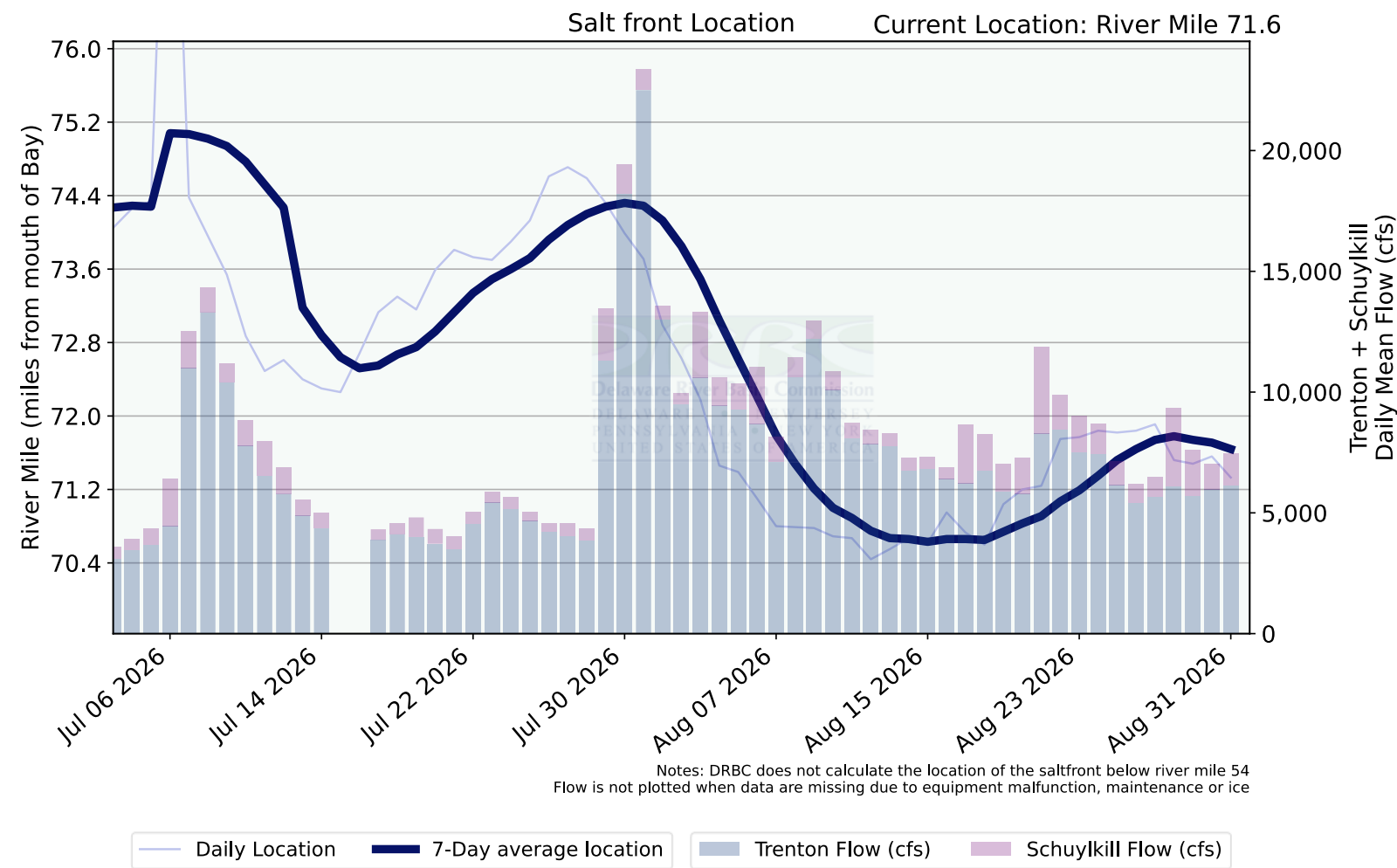
NYC and lower basin reservoirs are about 80-90% full.



Releases from Lower and Upper Basin Reservoirs are used to meet flow objectives.

Salt Front Location

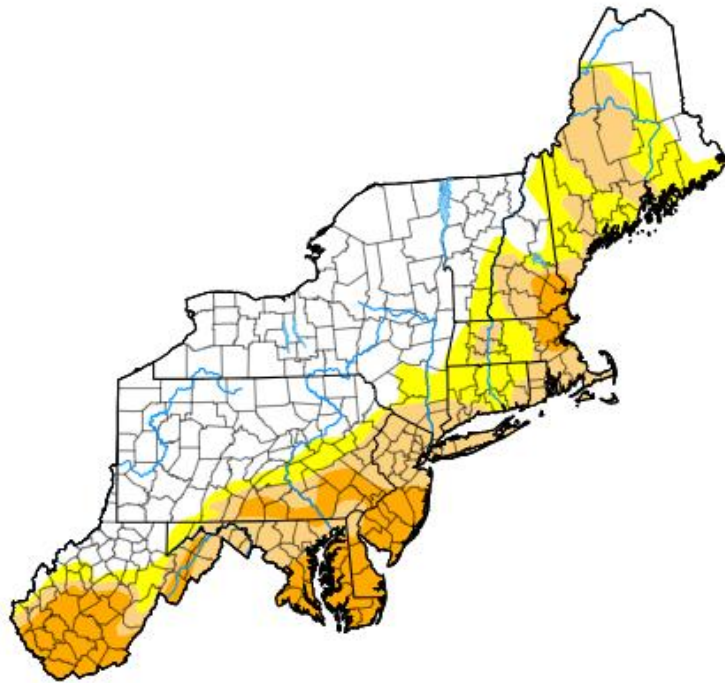
Salt front is currently at RM71.6 which is above the monthly average of RM76.



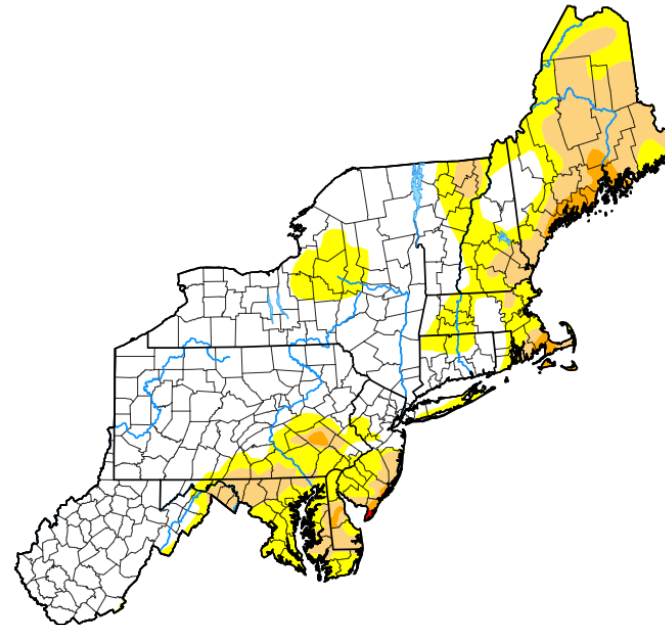
Drought Monitor

Rainfall over the past 5 weeks has significantly improved conditions throughout the region.

June 2, 2026



August 27, 2026



Map released: Thurs. August 27, 2026

Data valid: August 25, 2026 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

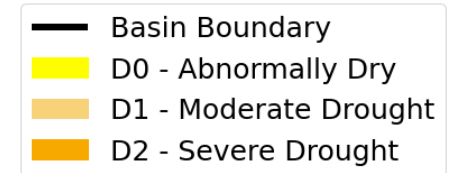
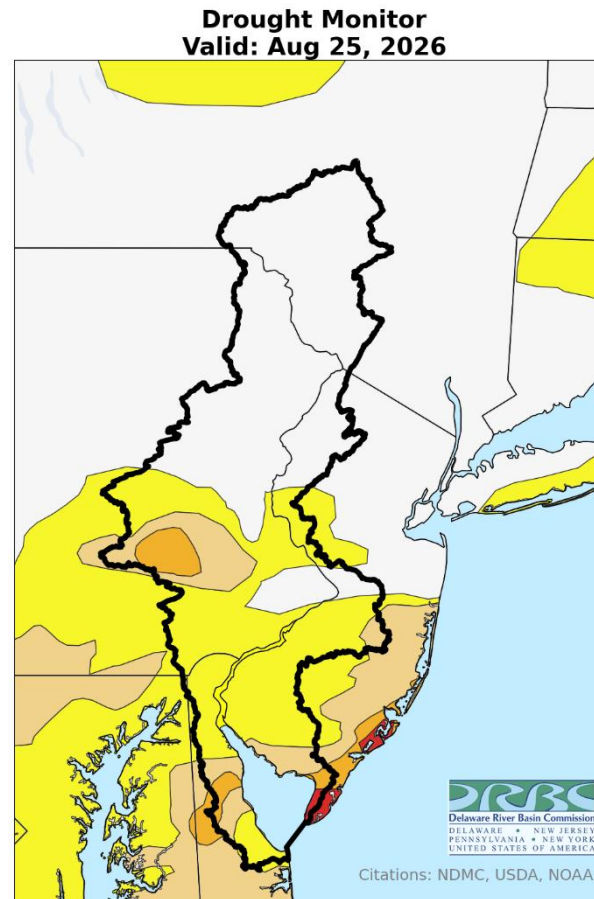
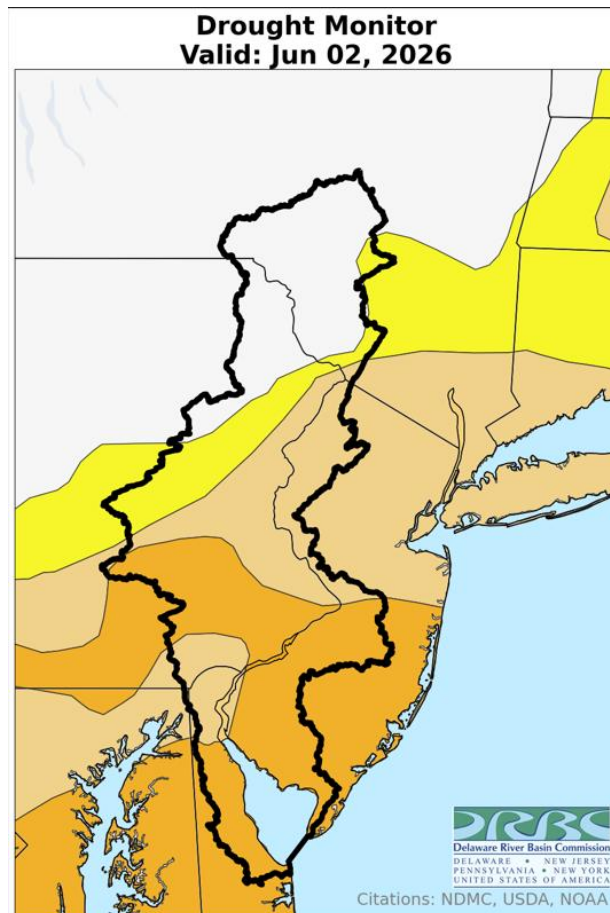
[Adam Allgood](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Curtis Riganti](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

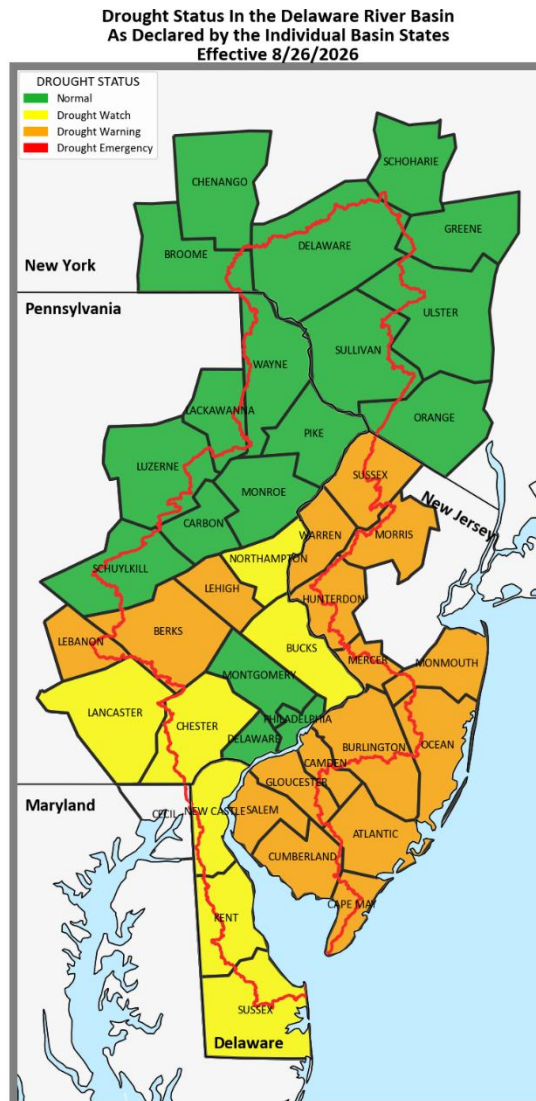
Drought Monitor

Rainfall over the past 5 weeks has significantly improved conditions throughout the Basin.



Current Drought Status

Delaware, New Jersey and portions of Pennsylvania remain under either drought watch or warning.



- DRB drought status is normal
- NJ: Statewide drought warning as of December 2025
- DE: Drought watch as of June 2026
- NY: drought status is normal
- PA: Drought watches and warnings in 7 DRB counties

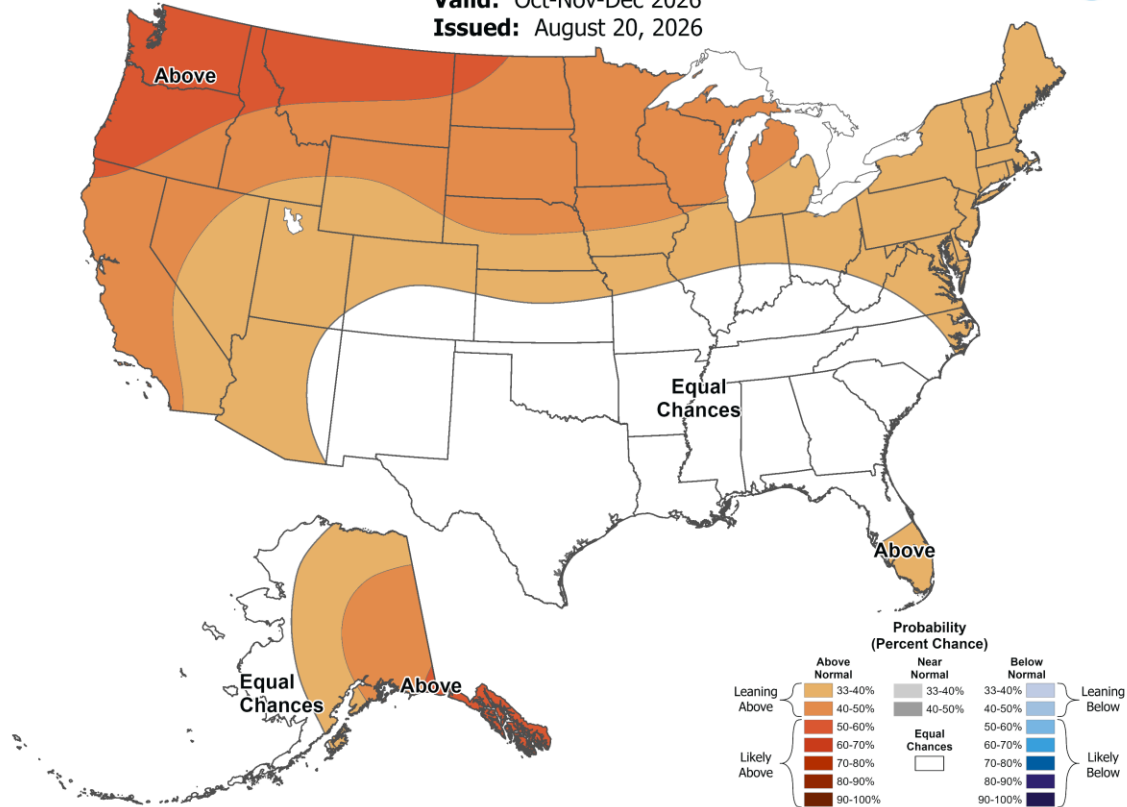
NOAA Seasonal Outlook

Warm fall expected with either dry or wet conditions.



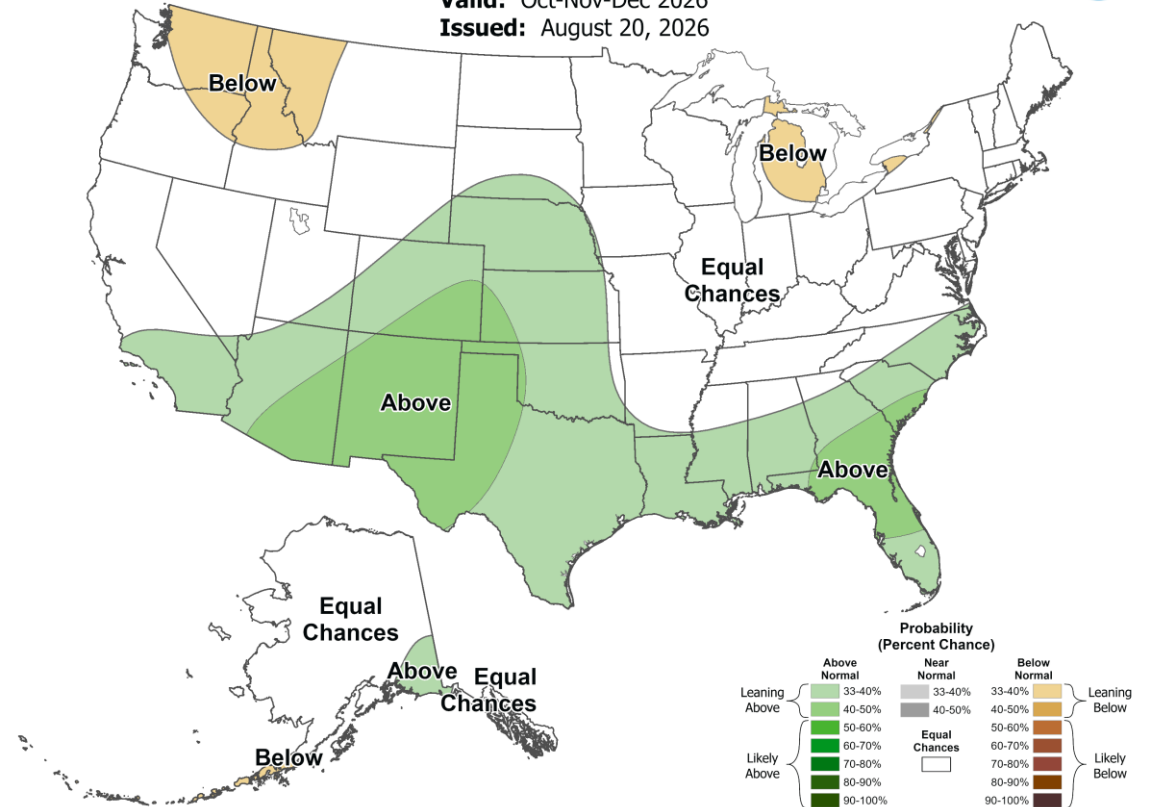
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026



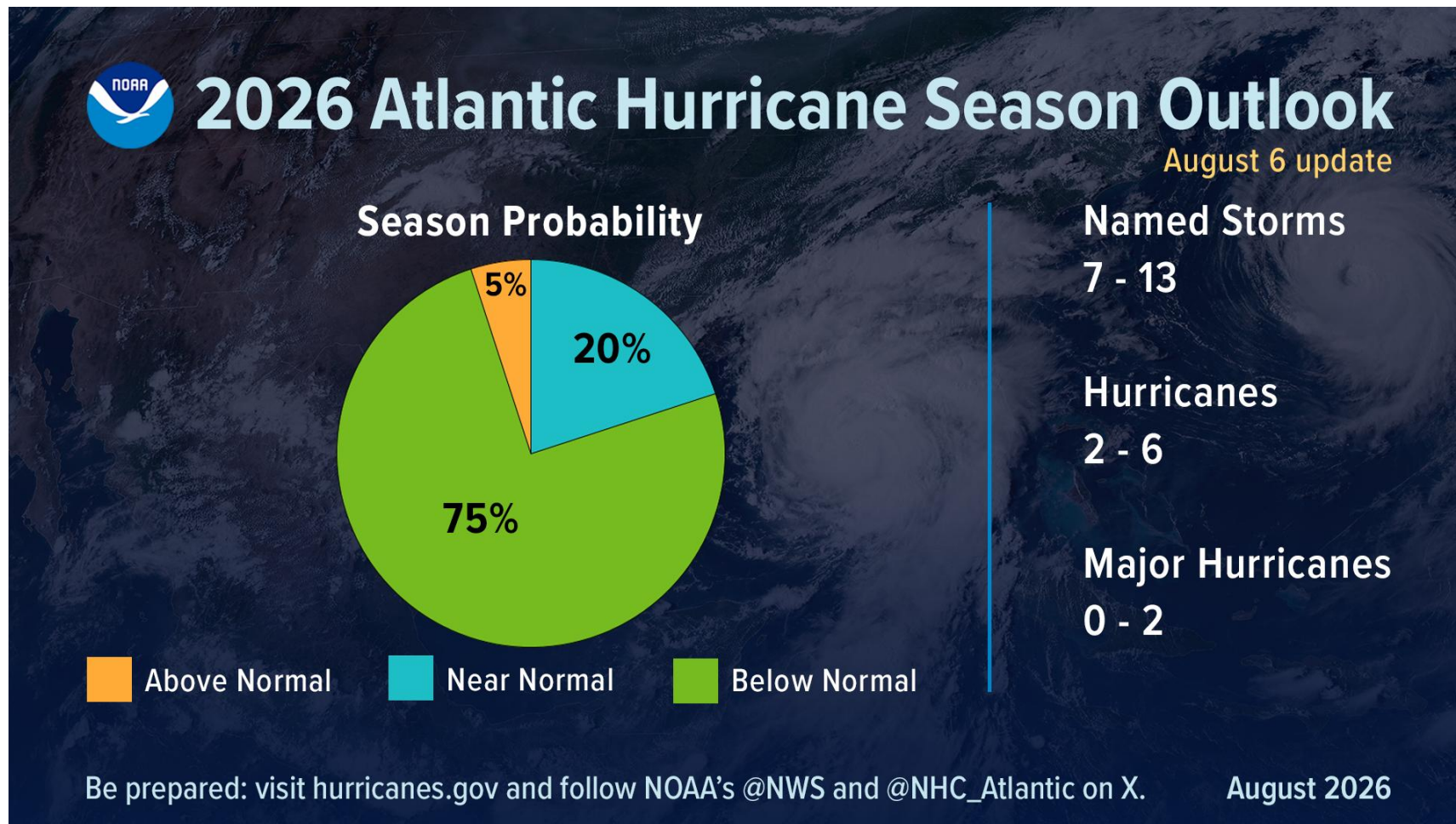
Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026



NOAA Hurricane Outlook – Summer/Fall 2026

A below normal hurricane season is predicted.





Hydrologic conditions summary

- 
- 
- Surface water and groundwater conditions have begun to recover, and many locations have returned to normal
 - Drought status has begun to improve across all Basin counties
 - Three-month outlook – Warm fall expected with either dry or wet conditions.



Enjoy the Fall!