

Water Supply Outlook



Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB)

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The ICPRB, through its Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations (CO-OP), coordinates water supply operations during times of drought and recommends releases of stored water. These operations ensure adequate water supplies for the major Washington metropolitan area water users and for environmental flow levels.

Summary/conclusions:

The probability of releases this summer and fall from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs is below normal. Generally, the use of Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs is triggered by low flows brought about by a combination of low summer rainfall, low precipitation in the prior 12 months, and low groundwater levels. Rainfall in August was slightly below normal. Groundwater levels remain normal to above normal throughout most of the basin.

ICPRB outlook:

There is a two- to seven-percent conditional probability that Potomac flow will drop below 600- to 700-million gallons per day (MGD) at Little Falls through December 31 of this year; at these flow levels, water supply releases from Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca Reservoirs may occur. Releases occur when predicted flow is less than demand plus a required flow-by: demand ranges from 400 to 700 MGD during the summer months and the minimum flow-by at Little Falls is 100 MGD.

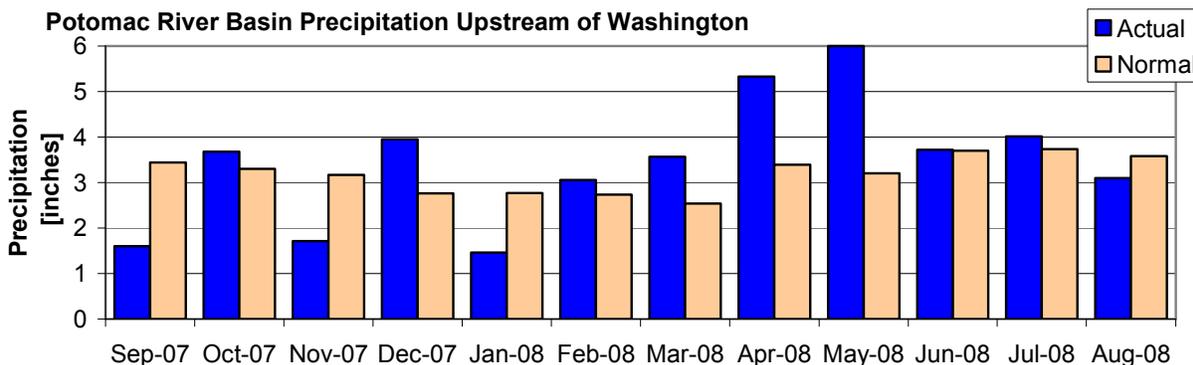
The conditional probability is estimated by analyzing the historical stream flow records and giving consideration to recent stream flow values, precipitation totals for the prior 12 months, current groundwater levels, and the current Palmer Drought Index. Past years in which watershed conditions most closely resemble current conditions are weighted more heavily in the determination of conditional probability. The historical, or unconditional, probability is based on an analysis of the historical stream flow record without weighting for current conditions. The conditional probability of two to seven percent compares to a historical probability of 8 to 13 percent and is considered the more reliable indicator.

Outlook for Potomac River at Little Falls – Watershed conditions as of September 1, 2008

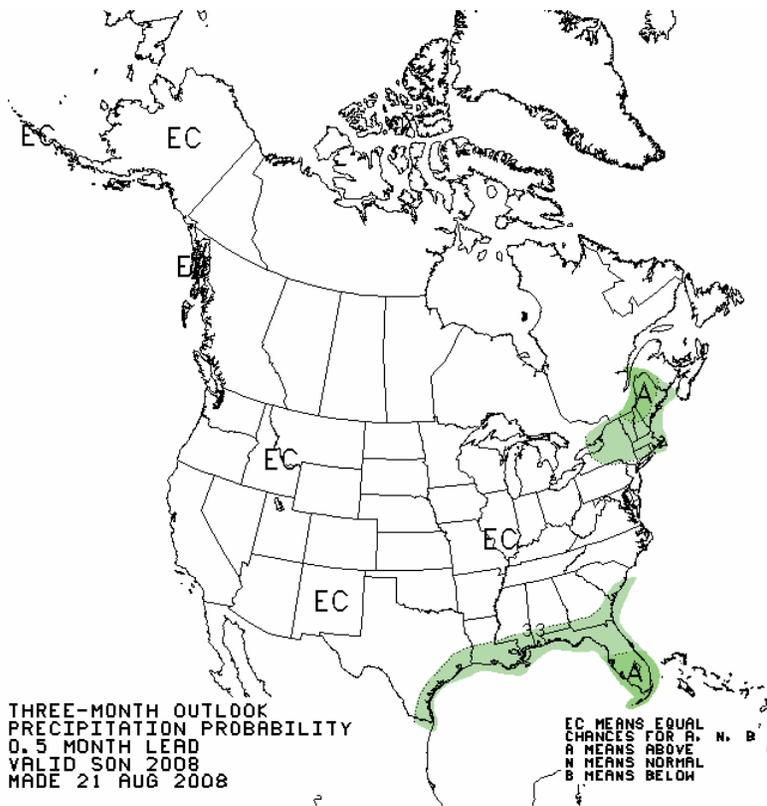
Low flow threshold (MGD)	Historical probability of lower flow September 1 through December 31	Conditional probability of lower flow September 1 through December 31
1200	64%	65%
1000	48%	46%
800	24%	18%
700	13%	7%
600	8%	2%

Precipitation summary for the Potomac basin:

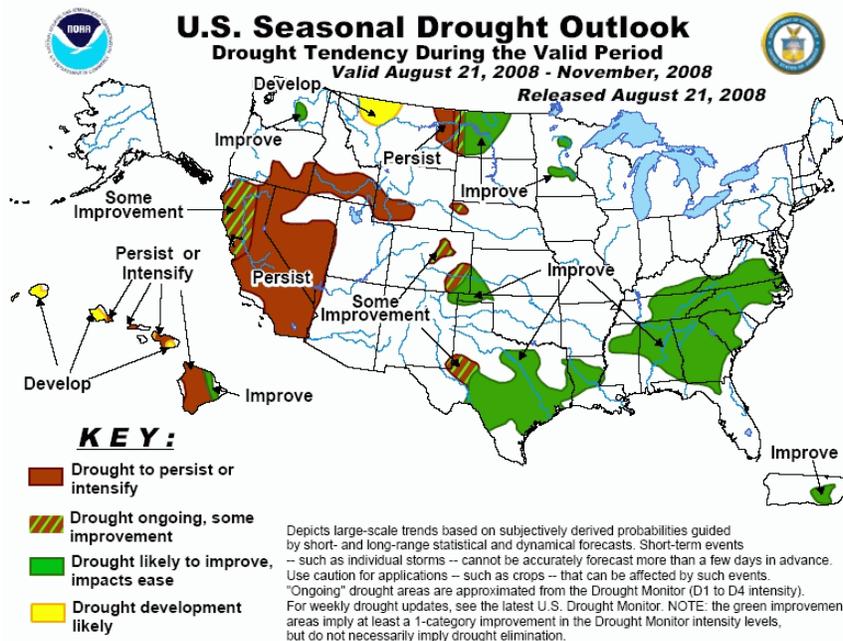
Data from the National Weather Service Mid-Atlantic River Forecast Center shows that rainfall was slightly below normal in the basin in August.



Precipitation and Drought outlook for September, October, and November 2008:



The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts equal chances of Potomac basin precipitation being either above or below normal for September, October, and November. (Image source: CPC). The CPC predicts above normal temperatures for the Potomac basin for September, October, and November (map not shown).



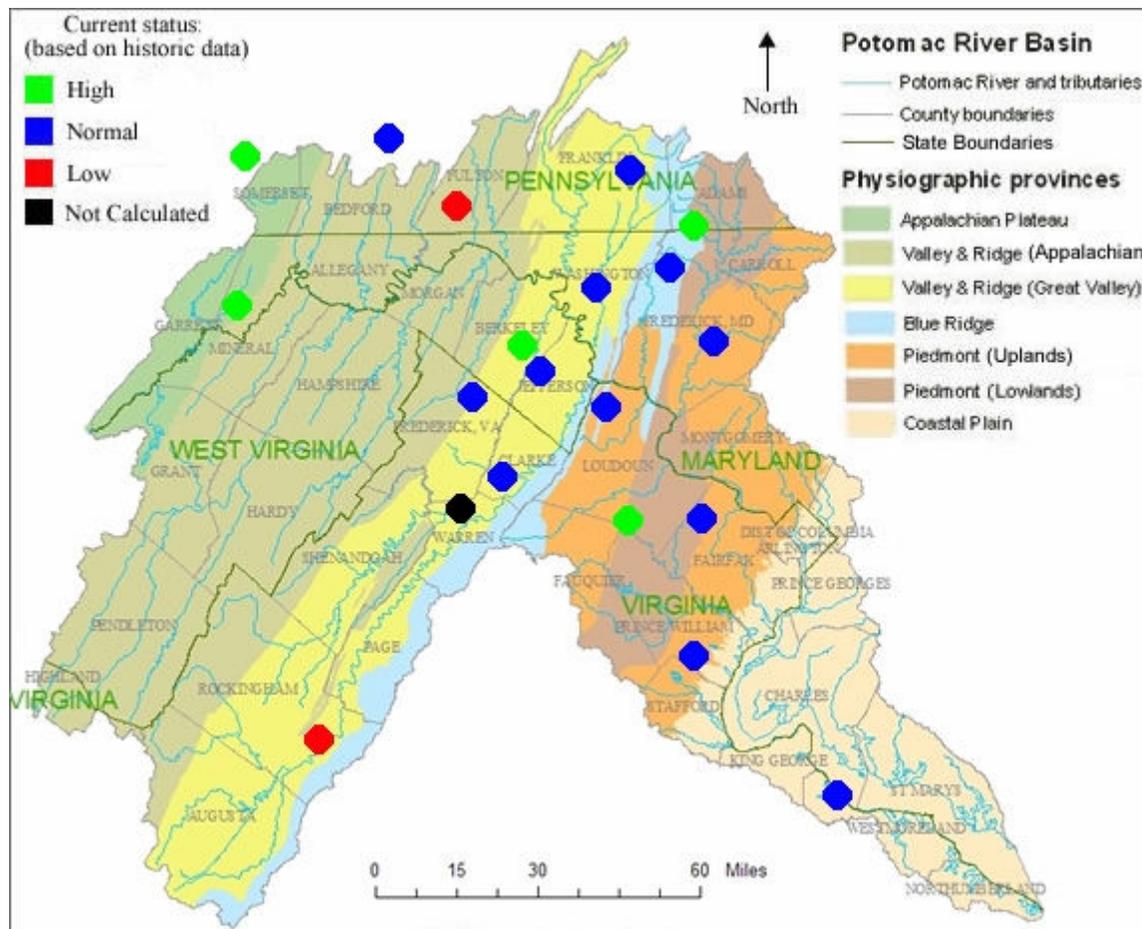
As of August 21, the CPC's Drought Outlook projects no drought conditions for the Potomac Basin. (Image source: CPC)

Reservoir Storage:

Facility	Percent Full	Current usable storage, bg	Total usable capacity, bg
WSSC's Patuxent reservoirs	72	7.3	10.2
Fairfax Water's Occoquan Reservoir	89	7.1	8.0
Little Seneca Reservoir	97	3.7	3.8
Jennings Randolph water supply	100	13.3	13.3
Jennings Randolph water quality	70	10.4	15.0
Savage Reservoir	82	5.1	6.2

Groundwater:

Most groundwater levels throughout the Potomac Basin are in the normal to above normal range (Image source: USGS, updated on August 15, 2008), with the exception of two wells, one in the southern Shenandoah region which has been low since the drought last Fall.

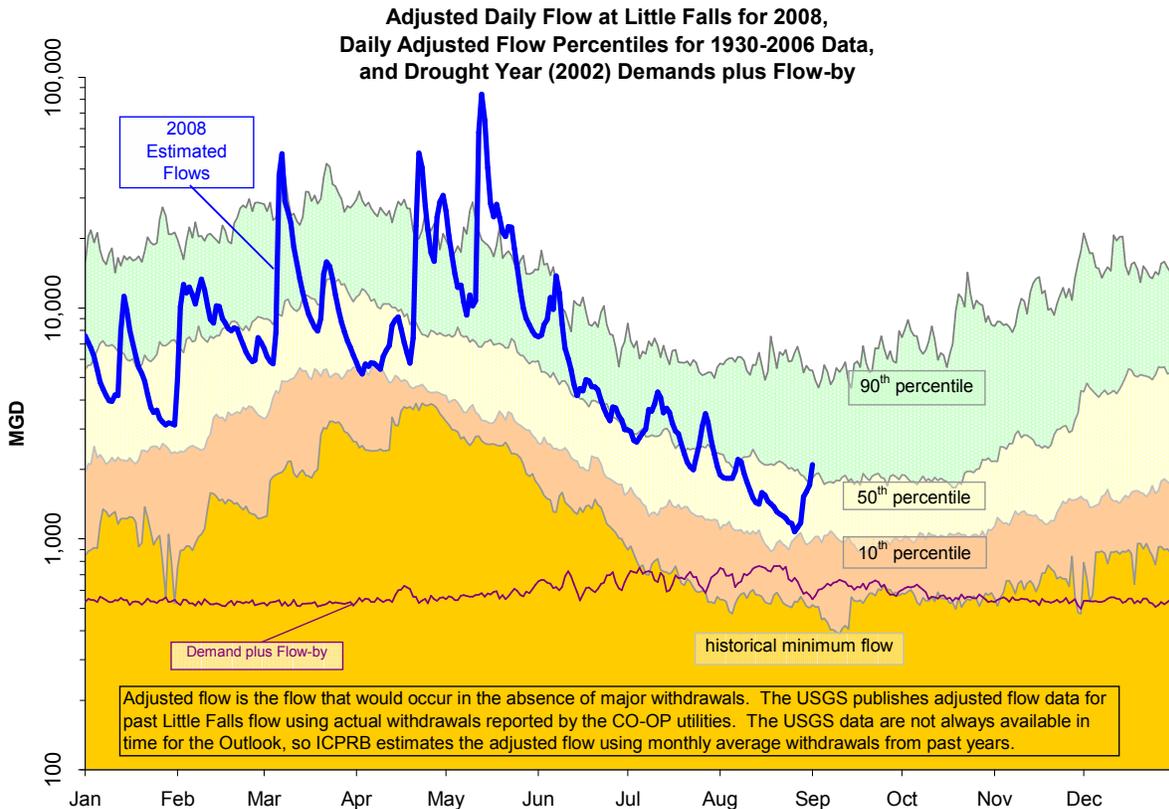


Adjusted Potomac River flow

The adjusted Potomac flow at Little Falls averaged 1.6 billion gallons per day (2,400 cubic feet per second) in August (see chart below). Adjusted flow is the flow that would have occurred before water supply withdrawals, and is based on estimated withdrawal data and on provisional Little Falls gage data.

Environmental Flow-by

Average gage flow on the Potomac River at Little Falls in August was well above the minimum flow recommendation of 100 MGD.



Little Falls flow percentiles are based on 1930 through 2006 USGS published record, "USGS 01646502 POTOMAC RIVER (ADJUSTED) NEAR WASH, DC" To create this flow record, the USGS has added historical water supply withdrawals from the Potomac as reported by FW, WSSC, the Aqueduct, and Rockville to the Little Falls gage flow record.

Drought Status:

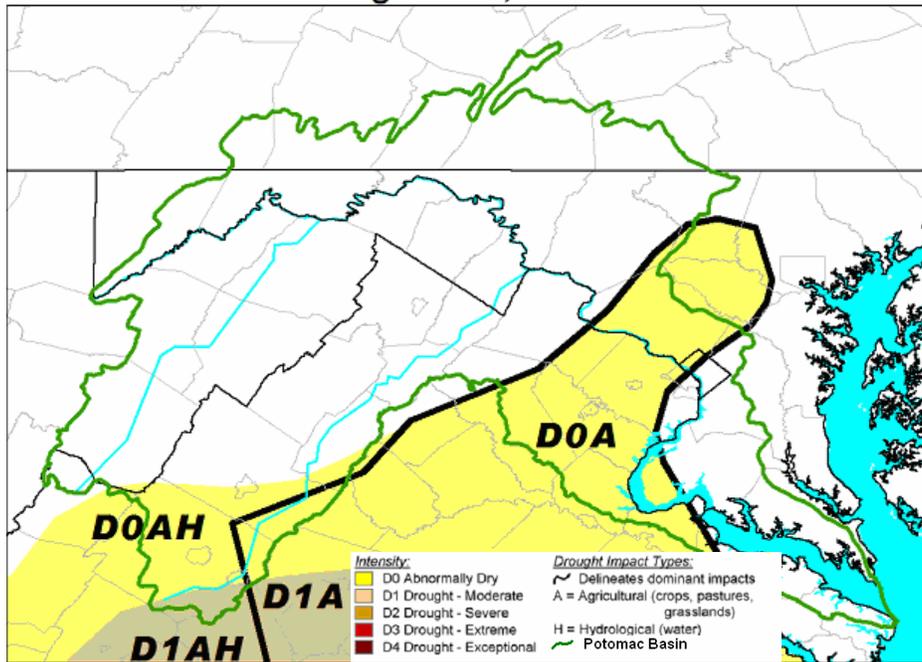
The Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Drought Awareness Response Plan status is "Normal."

Drought Monitor and Soil Moisture

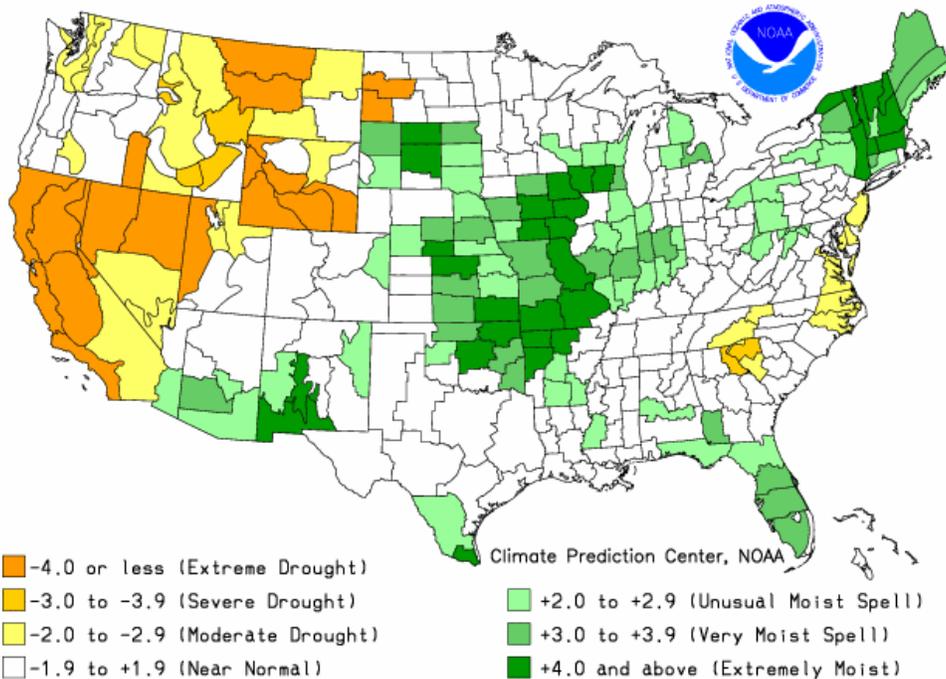
The latest Potomac Basin Drought Monitor (see graphic on following page, Potomac Basin outlined in green) from the National Drought Mitigation Center indicates abnormally dry conditions for a small portion of the Potomac Basin. The Palmer Drought Severity Index shows normal and above normal soil moisture conditions in the basin (see bottom graphic on the next page).

Potomac Basin Drought Monitor

August 19, 2008



Drought Severity Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending AUG 30, 2008
Long Term Palmer



Information provided by the USGS, the Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center, and the National Weather Service.