



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor

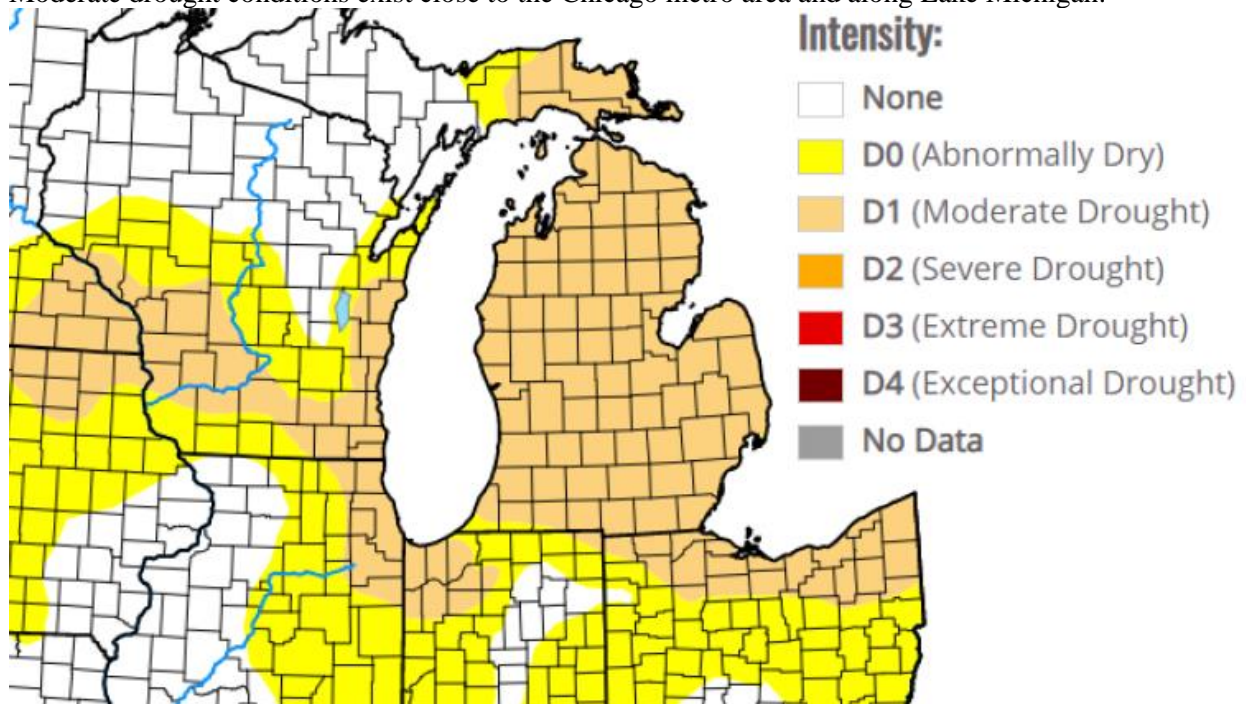
Colleen Callahan, Director

Fox River Status Update
May 5, 2021

National Weather Service (NWS) Spring Drought Outlook

According to the NWS, “Recent dry conditions across northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana have caused significant drop in river elevations and soil moisture. Drought conditions have developed and worsened across the area. The most significant impacts at this time include the near surface soil moisture and the small rivers and streams in the Chicago metro area. Although water levels on large rivers (such as the Fox, Kankakee, and Illinois) are not as significantly below average, they will continue to fall without additional precipitation.”

Moderate drought conditions exist close to the Chicago metro area and along Lake Michigan.



Automation Systems Acceptance Testing at Stratton/Algonquin Dams

The testing of the dam gate control system at the McHenry and Algonquin facilities to be performed by the IDNR/OWR this week has been canceled. The IDNR will provide an update regarding the revised testing schedule as it becomes available.

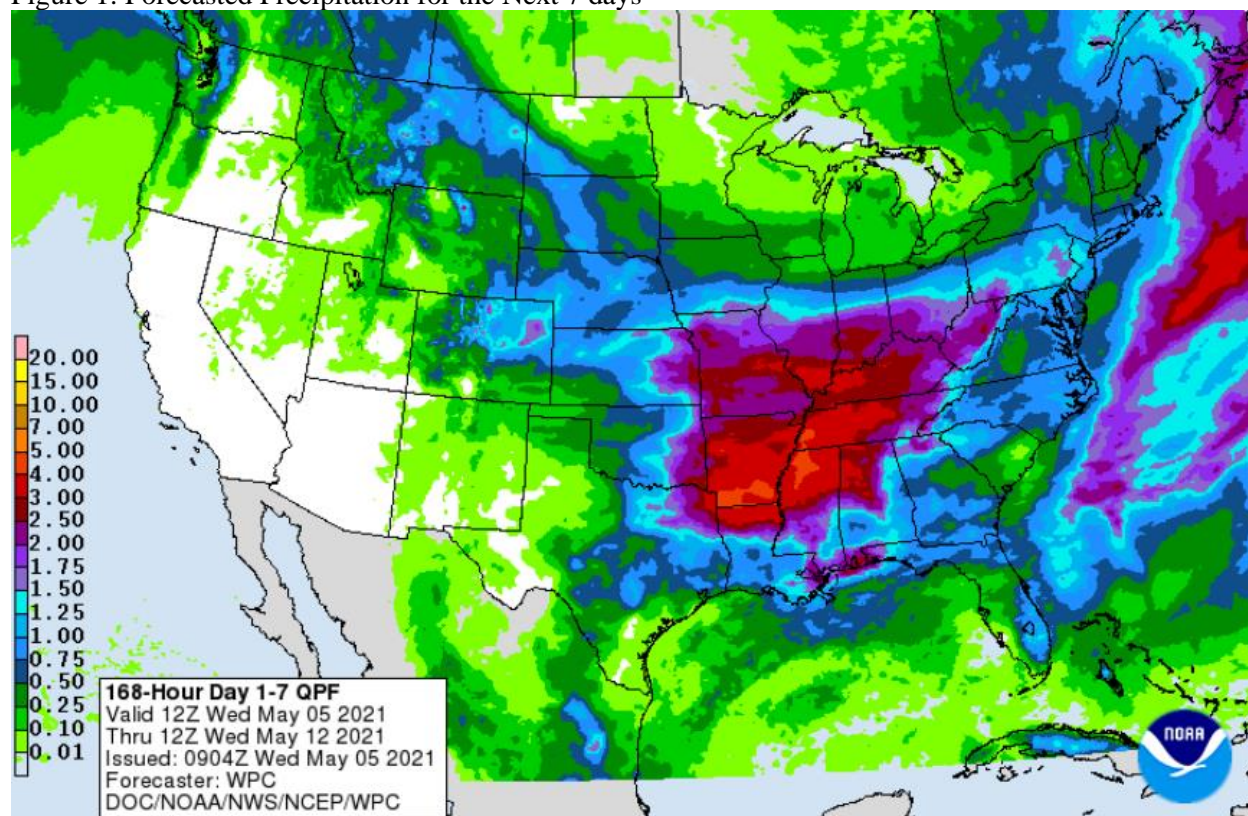
Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 500 cfs; flows on Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 117 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.04 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.45 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 5.69 ft.

Forecast

The National Weather Service (NWS) is predicting 0.1” to ¼” of precipitation for the next 7 days in the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 1.

Figure 1: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days



Summer Pool/Boating Outlook

The IDNR/OWR goal is to maintain the normal summer pool of 4.0 ft at the Fox Lake. The current stage is 4.04 ft. The boating outlook in the Chain of Lakes is looking good for the remainder of the week as well as for the weekend. The IDNR/OWR will closely monitor the precipitation forecasts by the NWS and will make gate setting changes, as necessary, to minimize potential rainfall impacts.

Munib Ahmad, P.E.

Office of Water Resources

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<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Pages/StrattonLockandDam.aspx>