



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor

Colleen Callahan, Director

Fox River Status Update July 28, 2021

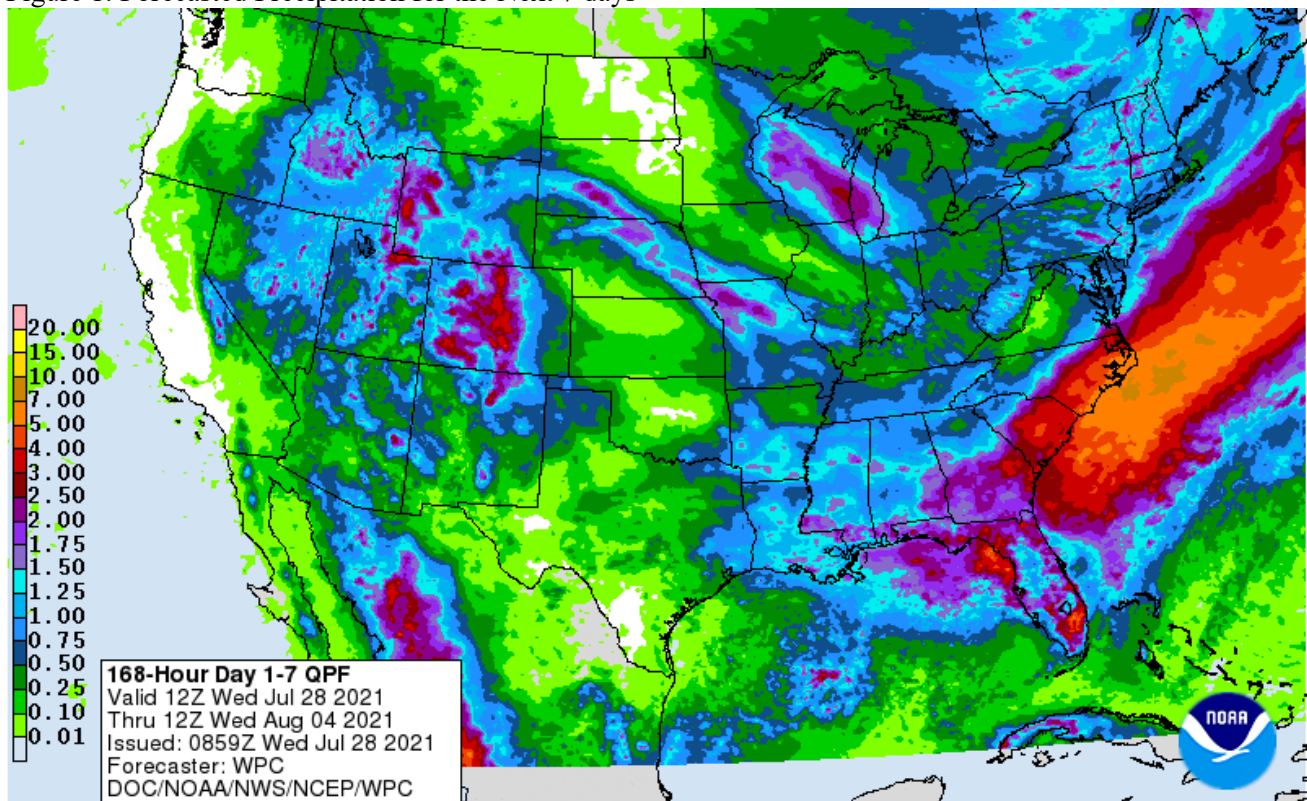
Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 149 cfs; flows on Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 41 cfs. These inflows are below half their average values for this time of year. The Fox Lake stage is 4.16 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.67 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 4.76 ft.

Forecast

The National Weather Service (NWS) 7-day forecast is predicting 1.5” to 2.5” of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 1. Nearly all this rain is expected overnight tonight. Due to the highly dry conditions, much of this rainfall will soak into the ground and not produce inflows that have been seen in wetter years of the past for similar events. Forecasted inflows show an increase to more normal levels over the weekend. Dry conditions are expected to persist following this event as no significant rainfall is expected following this event for the next 7 days.

Figure 1: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days



Summer Pool/Boating Outlook

The IDNR/OWR goal is to maintain the Fox Lake stage within the normal summer pool of 4.0-4.2 ft. Gates have been opened more at Stratton today to make room for the increased inflow. Algonquin gates remain fully closed due to low water levels on the Lower River. IDNR/OWR will be closely monitoring this system and will make adjustments to gates as needed Thursday morning and throughout. The boating outlook in the Chain of Lakes and Upper River are looking good for the remainder of the week & weekend as stages hold steady on the lakes or may have a slight increase. Boating conditions on the lower river may see improvements if the forecast holds but will return to low conditions early next week as the drought continues in the region. Caution should be used when navigating low water level areas. The IDNR/OWR continues to closely monitor the precipitation forecasts by the NWS.

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Office of Water Resources

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