



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor

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Fox River Status Update August 4, 2021

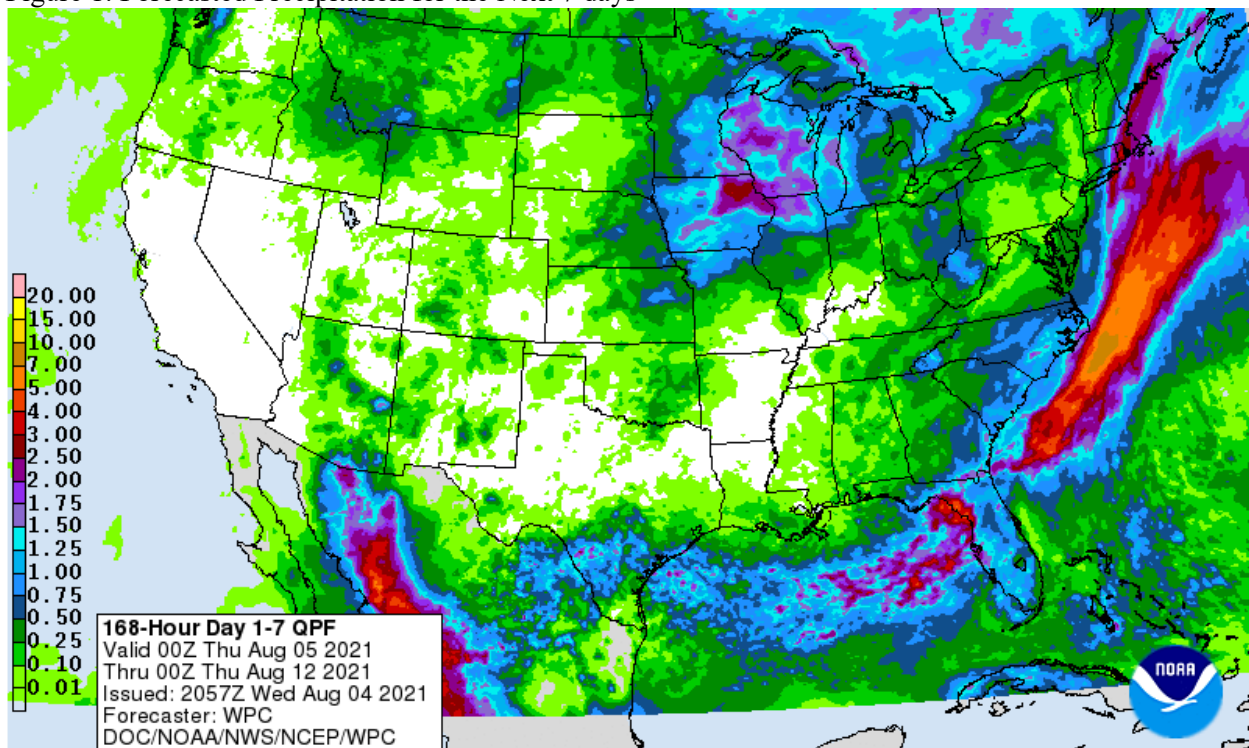
Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 159 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 34 cfs. Local tributary inflows are 55 cfs. These inflows are well below normal for this time of year. The Fox Lake stage is 4.10 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.61 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 4.38 ft.

Forecast

The National Weather Service (NWS) 7-day forecast is predicting 1.0” to 2.0” of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 1. The rainfall will occur on most of the seven days. Due to the highly dry conditions, much of this rainfall will soak into the ground and not produce significant inflows that have been seen in wetter years of the past for similar events. Dry conditions are expected to persist through this week as the rainfall is not sufficient to pull the region out of the severe dry conditions that are currently being experienced.

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. Unfortunately, last week's NWS rainfall forecast did not produce to the level expected and low water levels persisted. Algonquin gates remain fully closed due to low water levels on the Lower River. The forecasted rain is small quantities over a six-day period. This produces less runoff than a single large event since more water soaks into the ground. 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. Boating conditions on the lower river may see limited improvements if the forecast holds but will return relatively low compared to previous years. 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>