



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor

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Fox River Status Update August 11, 2021

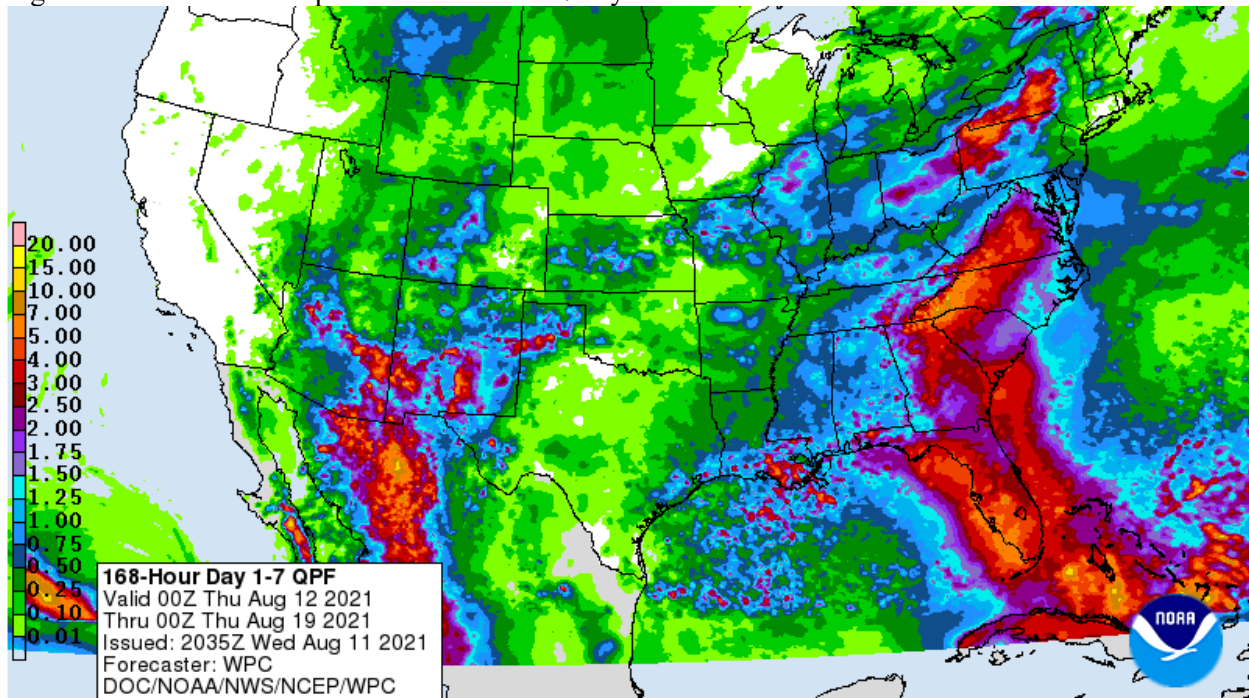
Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 355 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 140 cfs. Local tributary inflows are 101 cfs. These inflows are slightly above normal for this time of year due to the recent 3-inch rainfall that came locally. The Fox Lake stage is 4.27 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.79 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 5.98 ft.

Forecast

The National Weather Service (NWS) 7-day forecast is predicting 0.75” of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 1. The rainfall will mostly come this evening with a little more tomorrow. The following five days are forecasted to have little to no rainfall. Conditions are expected to see levels drop this weekend and start moving back to the previous dry conditions by late next week. Additional rainfall is needed to see significant long term improvements to the dry system conditions.

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. The Stratton pool is slightly elevated as the region received higher rainfall than initially forecasted. This high inflow will be a short-term relief to the system as the Wisconsin watershed did not receive as significant of a rainfall. Algonquin gates are fully closed to keep water levels on the Lower River as high as possible. 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 and will slowly drop on the lower river. Boating conditions on the lower river have improved but are anticipate receding back to low levels starting this weekend and into next week. Caution should be used when navigating low water level areas. The IDNR/OWR continues to closely monitor the system levels and 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>