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JB Pritzker, Governor
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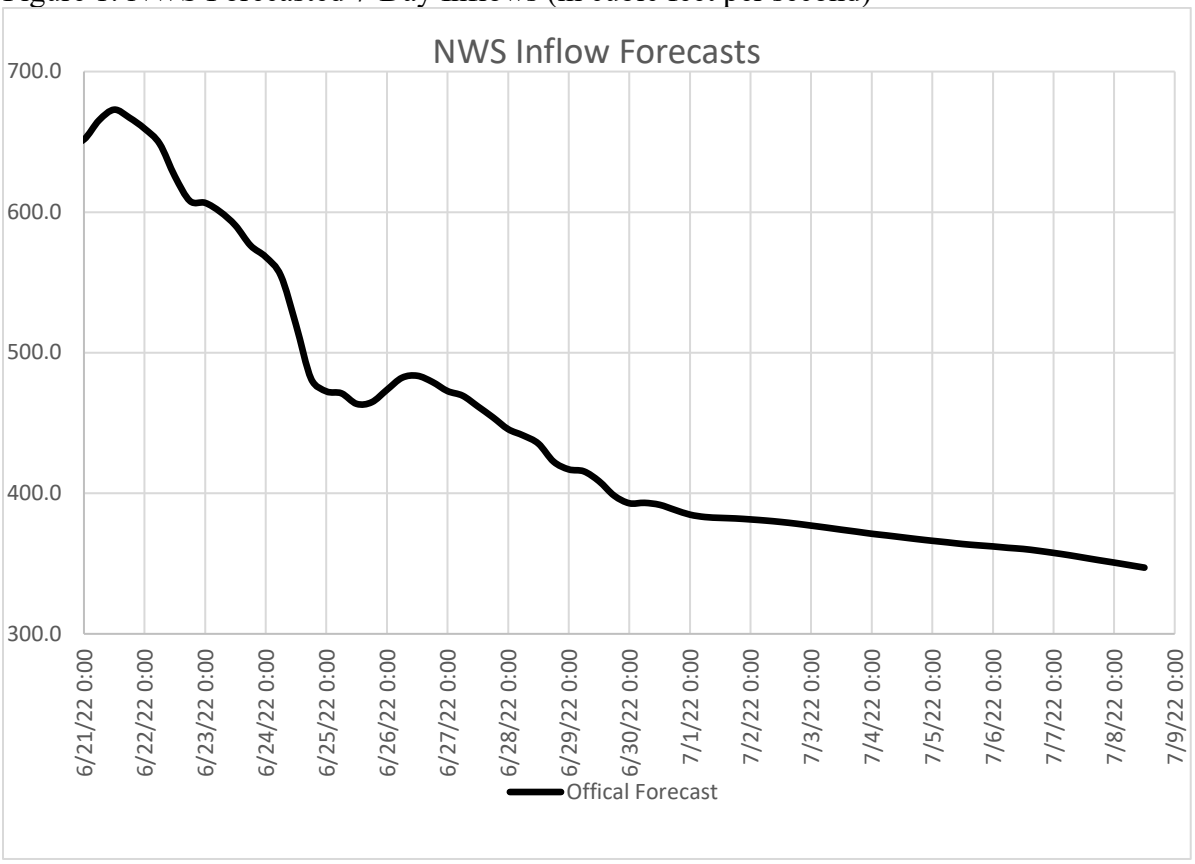
Fox River Status Update
June 30, 2022

This Update is based on the current forecast and will be adjusted based on future forecasts and rainfall.

Summary: The Fox River and Chain of Lakes are currently forecasted to receive approximately 0.75" of much needed rain in the next 7 days. Unfortunately, it is not forecasted to arrive until the beginning of next week. Current total inflows are near 400 cfs with dam outflows near 300 cfs. Water levels are expected to continue to slowly drop for the Chain of Lakes and the Lower River based on the forecast. If the amount of rain predicted arrives, it should help provide some relief from the low water levels for the following week.

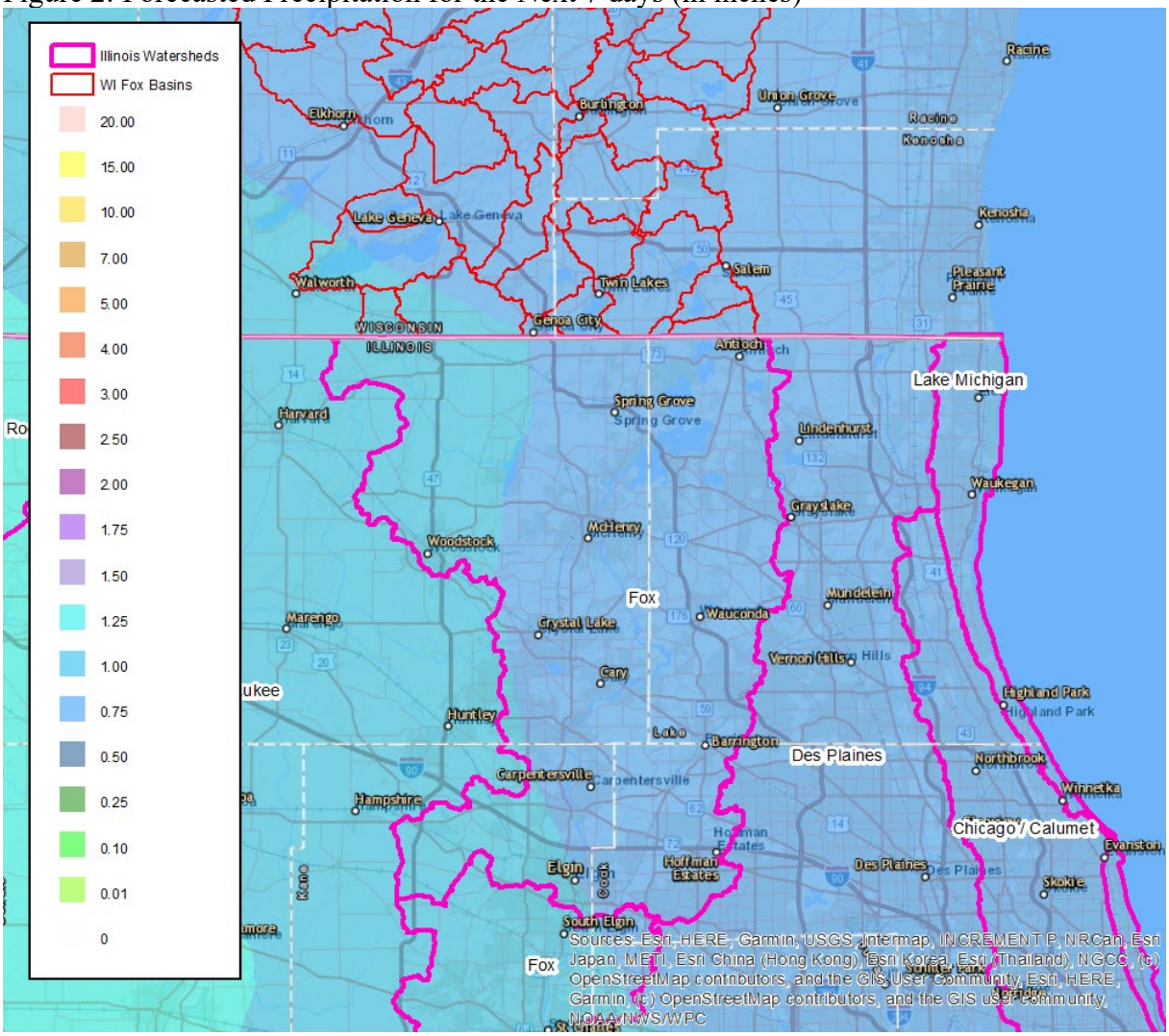
Figure 1: NWS Forecasted 7-Day Inflows (in cubic feet per second)



Current Conditions
Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 251 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 68 cfs. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates local tributary inflows of 75 cfs. The total system inflows are 395 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 242 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.05 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.74 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 4.57 ft.

Forecast
Inflows are forecasted to continue to drop as shown above in Figure 1. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting up to 0.75 inches of precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 2. The heaviest rain is currently forecasted to be Tuesday (~0.35"). The Chain O'Lakes is expected to hold to near 4.0'.

Figure 2: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days (in inches)



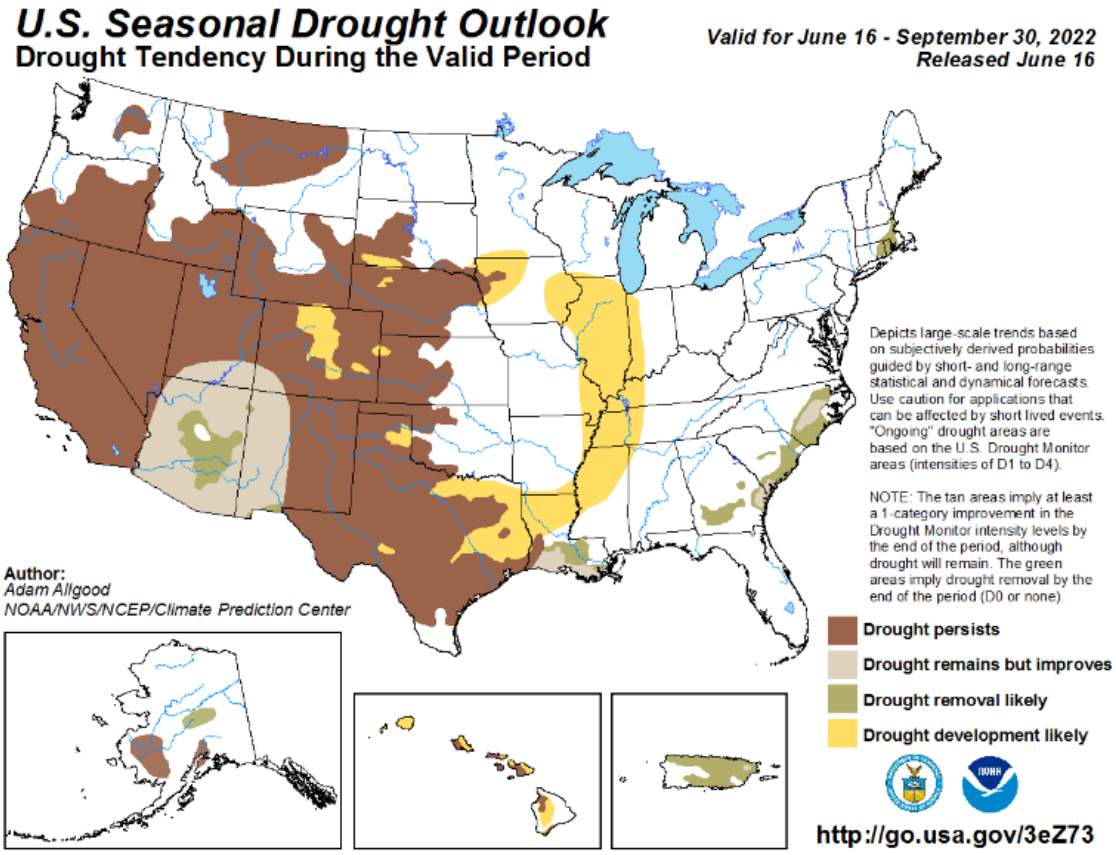
Source:
https://viewer.geospatial.weather.gov/general#/layers=35225+40090+40146+40091+42149+42377&x=-88.41196&y=42.20301&z=8.6&panel=layer

Chain O' Lakes Outlook
Water levels are expected to continue to drop at Lake Villa, particularly once the wind dies down and shifts to a more northerly direction. Pending significant increase in future rainfall forecasts, the lakes are forecasted to minimally increase in water level for the upcoming week. Regardless of rainfall amount, the goal is to retain as much water as possible while attempting to maintain minimum outflows.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook
The Upper River near the McHenry Pool will encounter the same scenario as the lakes but with slightly lower levels.

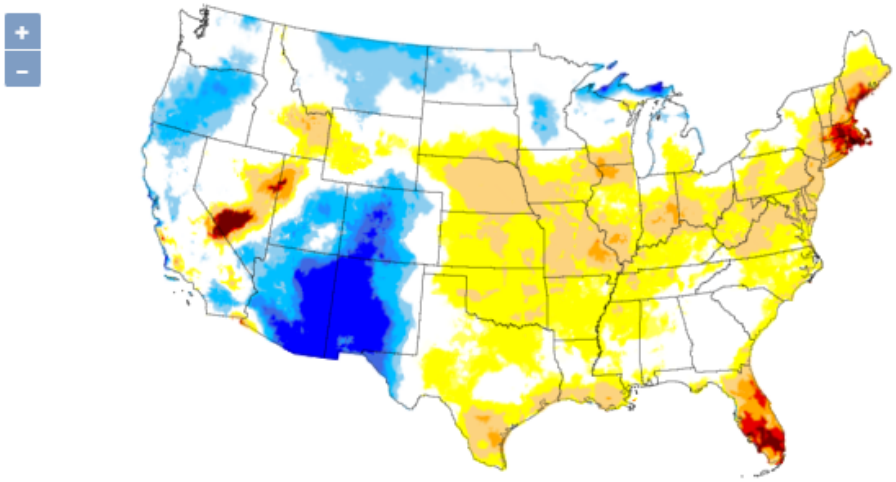
Lower River Outlook
Due to the lack of inflow and precipitation, outflows are approaching minimum levels. This will continue to keep water levels low. The gates will be continuously monitored and adjusted to provide the Lower River maximum available flow.

Drought Forecast
The seasonal drought outlook predicts drought likely to develop for nearly all of Illinois. This will most significantly impact users on the lower river as flows into and out of the system will likely be much lower than normal. The watershed has received less than 25% of the normal rainfall amount in the last two weeks. The Evaporative Demand Drought Index 2 week forecast shows the area in dryer than normal conditions.



INTERACTIVE MAP: EVAPORATIVE DEMAND DROUGHT INDEX (EDDI) FORECASTS

2 Week **4 Week** EXPERIMENTAL

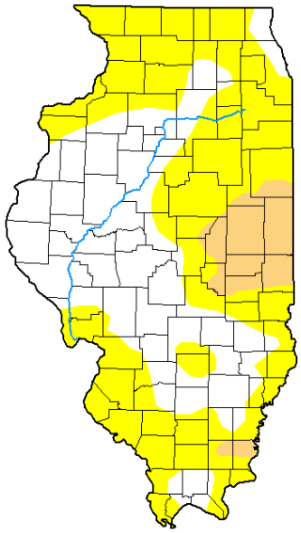


The Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) is an experimental drought monitoring and early warning guidance tool. It examines how anomalous the atmospheric evaporative demand (E0; also known as "the thirst of the atmosphere") is for a given location and across a time period of interest. This experimental subseasonal EDDI forecast shows projected evaporative demand for the next 14 days from the CFS-gridMET dataset at 4-km gridded resolution.

Dry Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor

Illinois



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

IDNR-OWR will continue to monitor conditions and will make changes as necessary pending future forecasts and conditions.

Thank you,

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Office of Water Resources
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Pages/StrattonLockandDam.aspx

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