



*ANJEC – Drinking Water Series
June 9, 2026*

Spruce Run Reservoir May 2026
Courtesy of NJWSA

Hydrologic Conditions & Drought Status



WATER
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

Agenda

- 1. Intro – DEP Drought of Concern and Monitoring Process**
- 2. Current Status, Hydrologic Conditions & DEP Actions**
- 3. Regional Updates**
- 4. Weather Forecasts**
- 5. Status Recap & How You Can Help**

Wanaque Reservoir January 2026



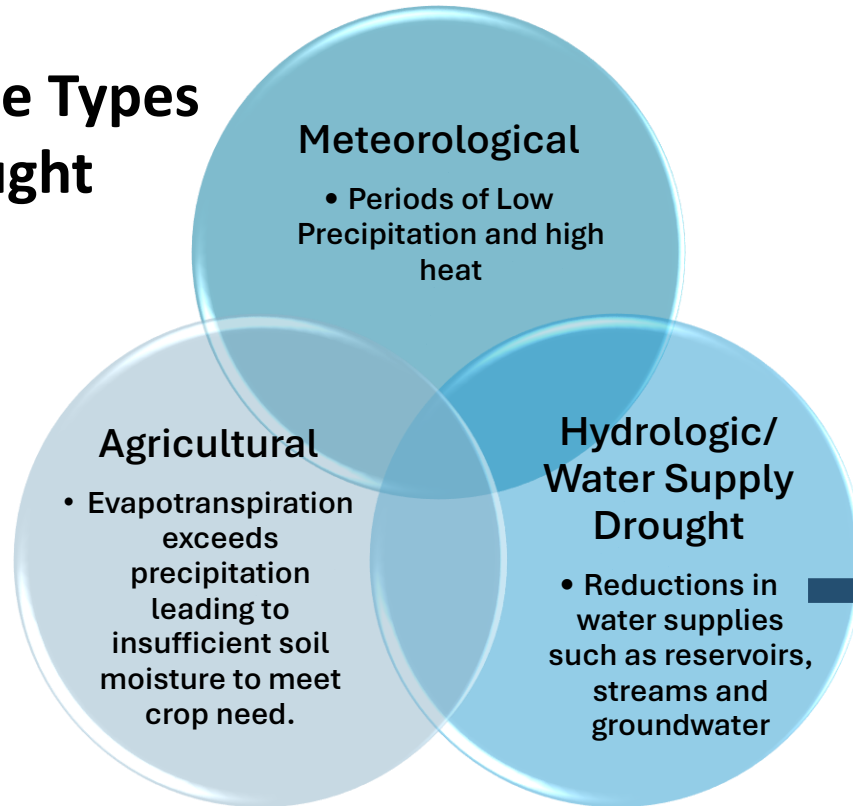
Wanaque Reservoir May 2026





What is a Drought?

Multiple Types of Drought



“... a water supply shortage of a dimension which endangers the public health, safety, or welfare in all or any part of the State...

N.J.S.A. 58:1A-4.a.

NJDEP's Drought of Concern



What we do

The **Drought Monitoring Workgroup** is a cross-program group that regularly monitors water supply conditions and makes recommendations on drinking water supply status as well as ways to manage supplies. Based on the severity of the drinking water supply status (Normal, Watch, Warning or Emergency), the group expands and contracts to incorporate impacted programs.



Collect data about precipitation, streamflow, unconfined groundwater, and reservoir levels



Develop drought indicators on a weekly basis



Once finalized and approved, publish indicators for distribution



Based on severity, meet on set frequencies to deliberate, and advise management on drought status/actions

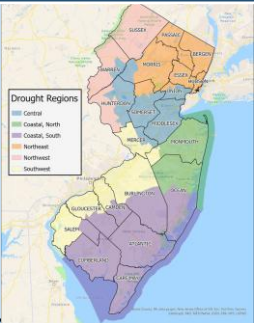
Note: there are different types of droughts which affect sectors differently (e.g. meteorological, agricultural), the DMWG focuses on Water Supply Drought

Indicator Hydrologic Science

Informs

Water Supply Status & Actions

6 Drought Regions



Indicators-specific for each region

Region		Drinking-Water-Supply Indicator					
		Status	90-day precipitation	90-day stream-flow	N.J. reser-voirs	Del. R. reser-voirs	Unconf. ground water
Central		Near or above normal					
		Moderately dry					
		Severely dry					
		Extremely dry					

Decision Making & Recommendations

- Consultation
- No automatic “triggers” like other states/agencies.
- DMWG meets weekly during declining conditions and recommendations to management.

Water-Supply Status

Normal

Watch

Warning

Emergency

11

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Administrative Actions

Status

Regulatory/Statutory Authorized Actions

Normal

Press Release

Watch

Voluntary
Conservation –
Alert to Systems

Commissioner’s
Administrative Order

Warning

Mandatory
Supply Side
Measures
Voluntary
Conservation

Governor’s
Executive Order
Declares,
Commissioner’s AO
directs

Emergency

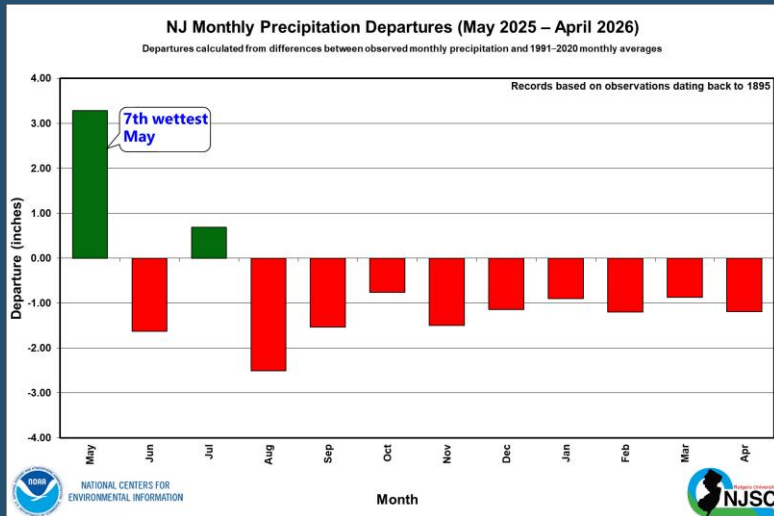
Mandatory
Demand Side
Measures
(Phases 1-4)

Current Status, Hydrologic Conditions & Actions



Current Status

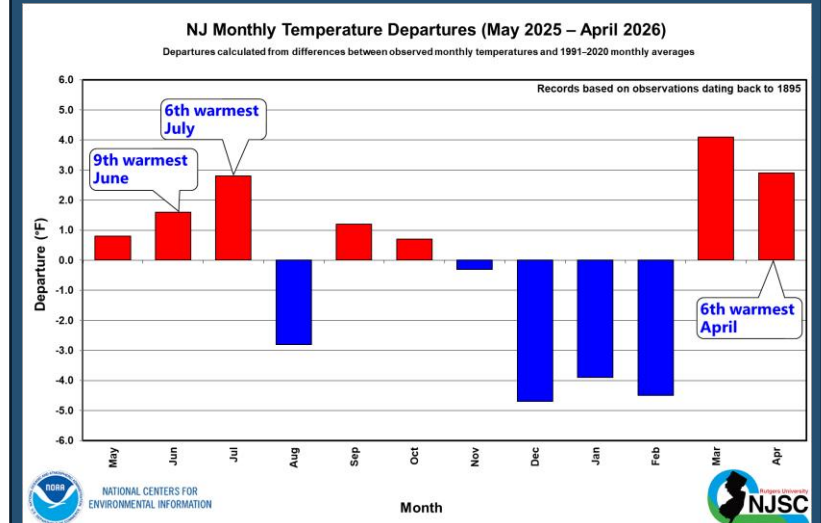
From The Office of the State Climatologist 2026



General Climate Conditions

- Overall, 2025 was significantly drier than typical and trend has continued into 2026.
- Early Summer 2025 had modest rainfall, but since July precipitation has been below average.
- 21 of the last 24 months have seen below average precipitation.

From The Office of the State Climatologist 2026





Current Status

Drought Warning as of 12-5-2025

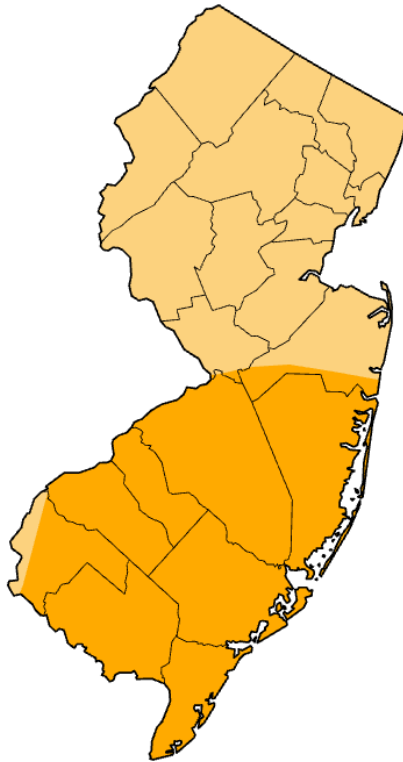
- 2026 has been dry except for the first half of March when several storm systems yielded near average precipitation totals Statewide, above average in the northern NJ.
- April and May were both on the drier side with below normal precipitation totals.
- Reservoir storage levels generally adequate as of June 1.
- Streamflow and groundwater continues to be stressed.

NEW JERSEY Regional Drinking-Water-Supply Indicators & Declared Water-Supply Status							May 31, 2026			
Region		Drinking-Water-Supply Indicator						Water-Supply Status		
		Status	90-day precipitation	90-day stream-flow	N.J. reservoirs	Del. R. reservoirs	Unconf ground water			
North-west		Near or above normal			Not a significant region-wide water resource.			Normal	26	
		Moderately dry	4					Watch		
		Severely dry		11			8	Warning		
		Extremely dry						Emergency		
Central		Near or above normal						Normal	26	
		Moderately dry			6			Watch		
		Severely dry	9	11			7	Warning		
		Extremely dry						Emergency		
North-east		Near or above normal			4	Not a significant region-wide water resource.		Normal	26	
		Moderately dry	1					Watch		
		Severely dry		11			7	Warning		
		Extremely dry						Emergency		
South-west		Near or above normal			Not a significant region-wide water resource.			Normal	26	
		Moderately dry						Watch		
		Severely dry	1					Warning		
		Extremely dry		7			5	Emergency		
Coastal North		Near or above normal			4	Not a significant region-wide water resource.		Normal	26	
		Moderately dry						Watch		
		Severely dry					1	Warning		
		Extremely dry	1	1				Emergency		
Coastal South		Near or above normal			Not a significant region-wide water resource.	Not a significant region-wide water resource.		Normal	26	
		Moderately dry								Watch
		Severely dry								Warning
		Extremely dry	4	7				6		Emergency



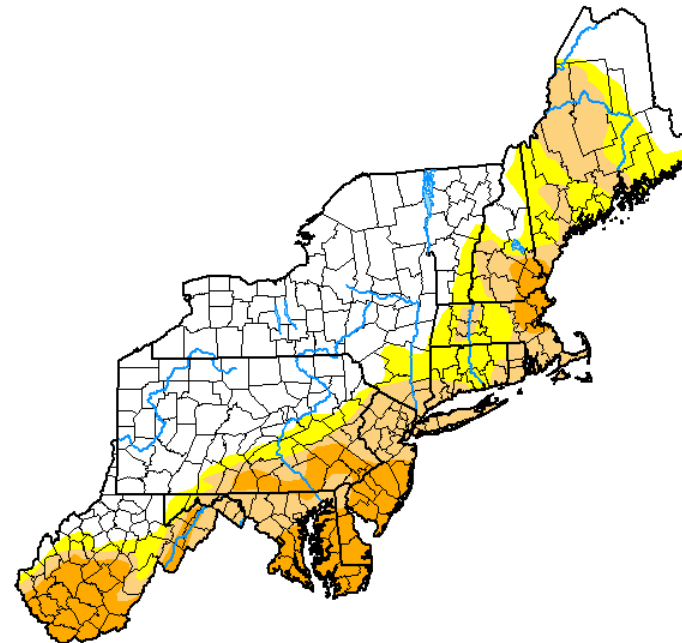
Current Status- Regional Impacts (U.S. Drought Monitor)

June 2, 2026
(Released Thursday, June 4, 2026)



Current U.S. Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Northeast



June 2, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jun. 4, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	49.64	16.45	20.09	13.82	0.00	0.00
Last Week 05-26-2026	47.01	16.11	22.70	14.16	0.02	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-03-2026	27.50	25.62	32.83	13.62	0.42	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	24.63	28.38	28.46	18.33	0.20	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	7.86	42.89	23.79	18.78	6.67	0.00
One Year Ago 06-03-2025	93.53	5.63	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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>

Author:

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NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

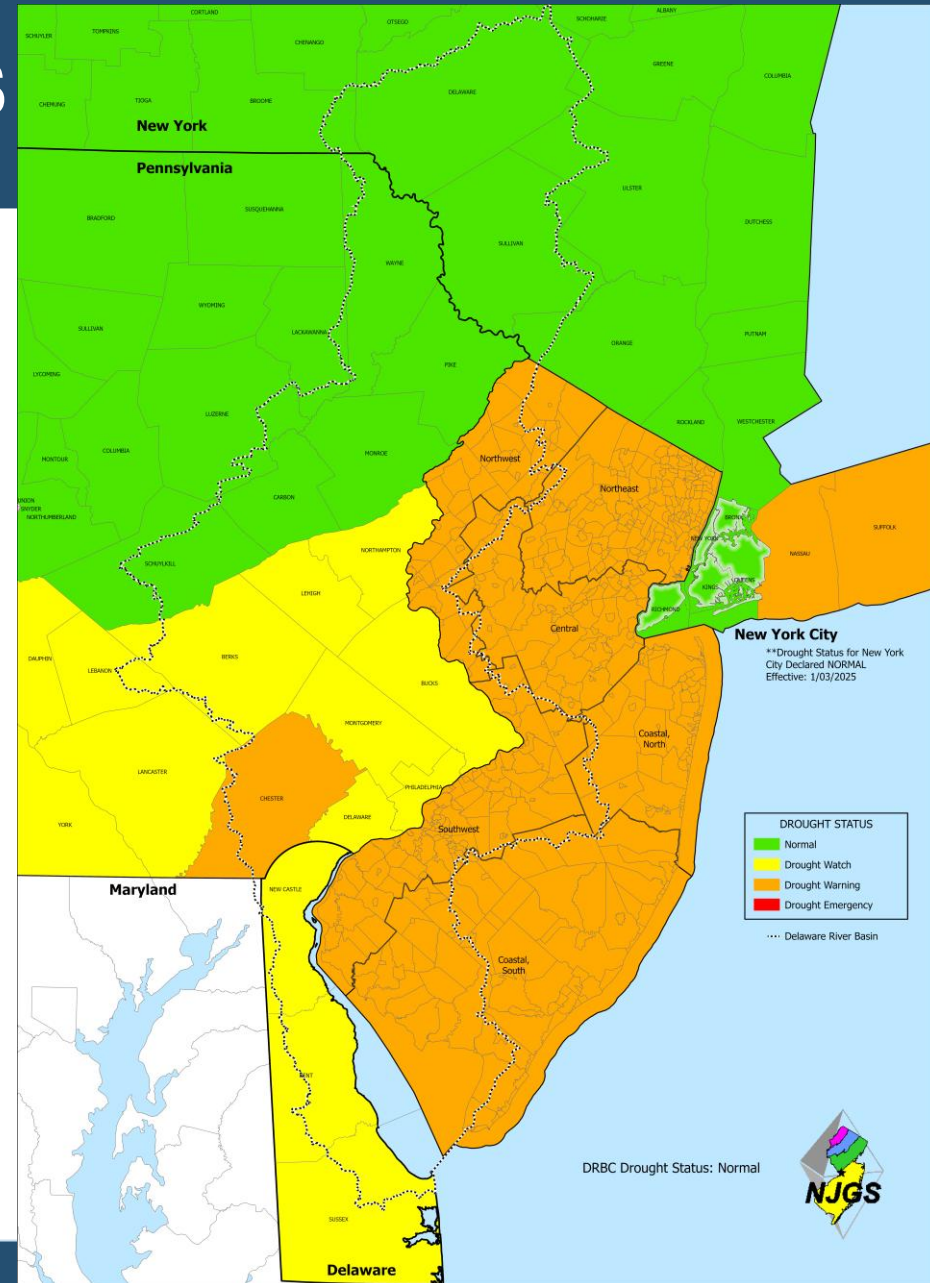


droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Current Status- Neighbors

- Delaware – Statewide Watch
- Pennsylvania –Adjacent areas Watch/Normal
- New York State – Normal Statewide except Long Island region
- New York City – Normal
- DRBC – Normal (based on reservoir storages)

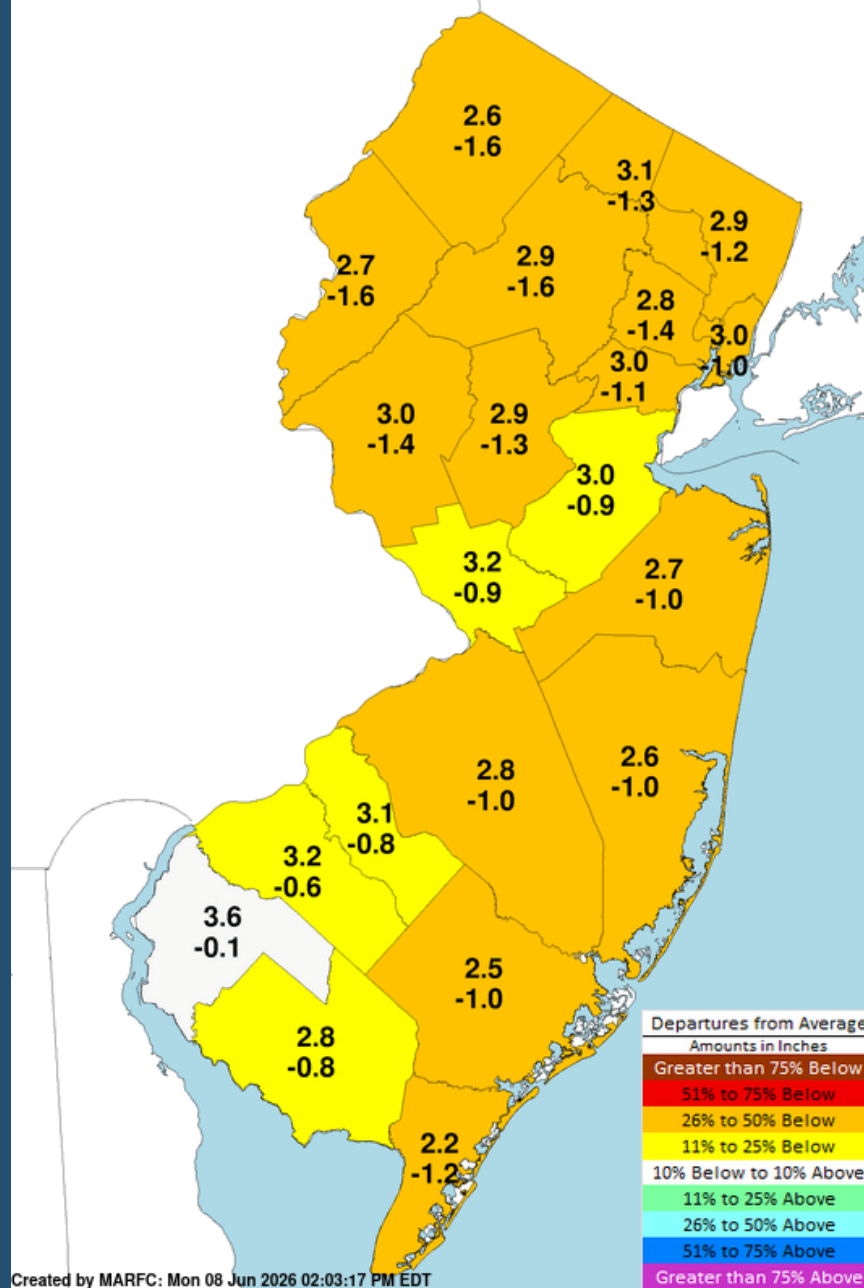




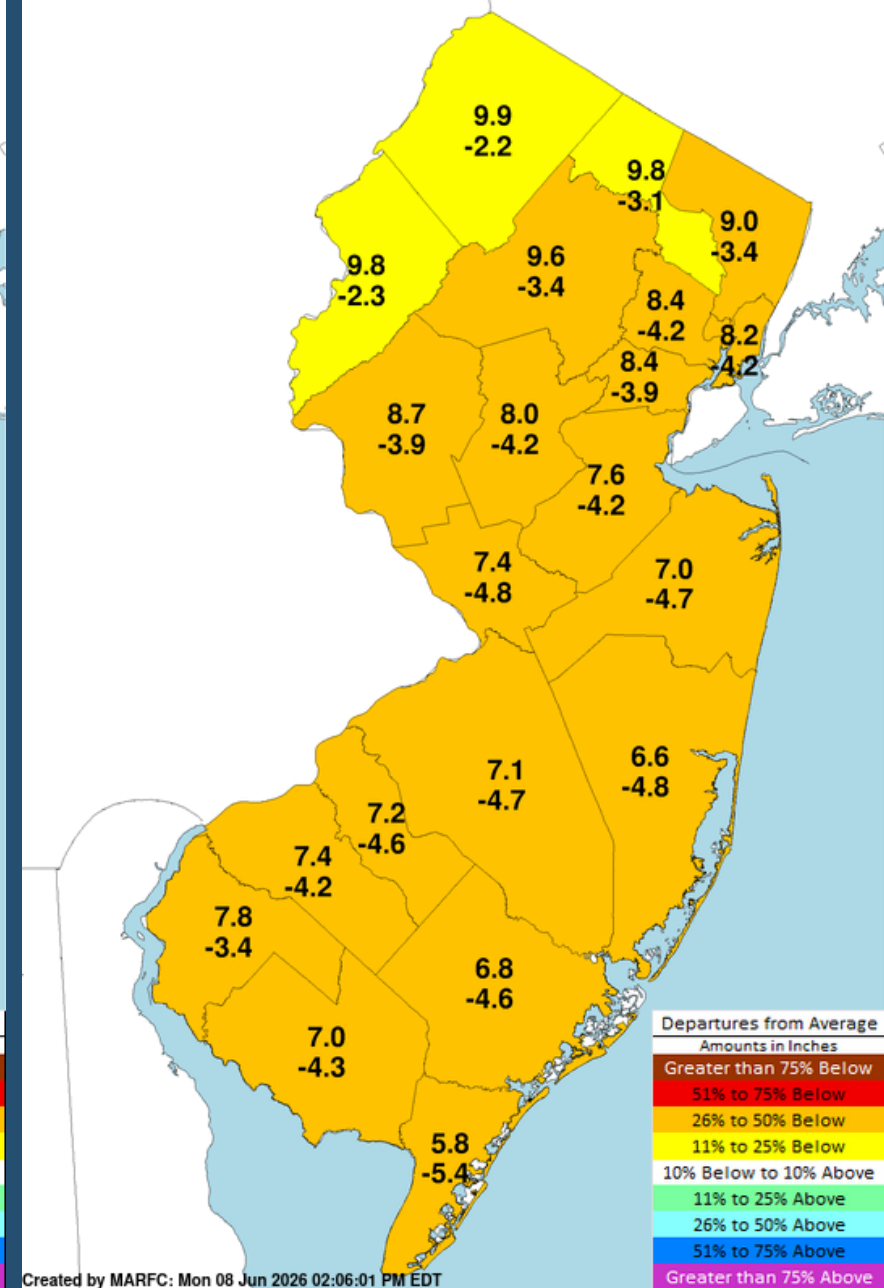
Precipitation

30 day and 90 day

30 Day Mean Areal Precipitation (top) and
Departure from Average (bottom)
05/09/2026 through 06/07/2026
For General Information Only



90 Day Mean Areal Precipitation (top) and
Departure from Average (bottom)
03/10/2026 through 06/07/2026
For General Information Only

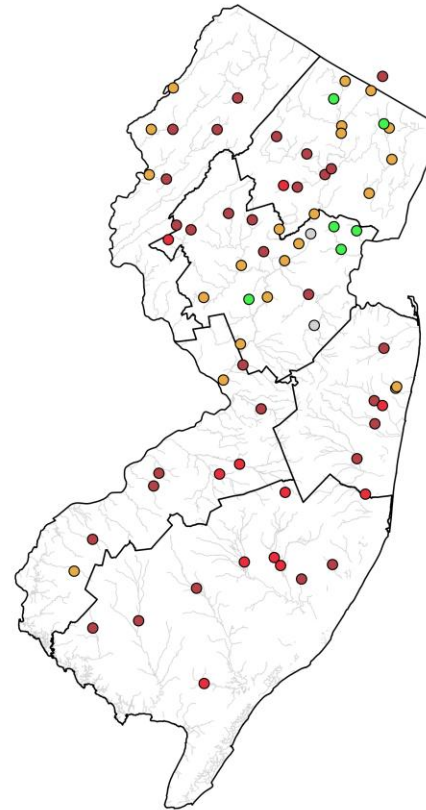




Streamflow 30 day and 90 day

Average streamflow percentiles for past 30 days

May 09, 2026 to Jun 07, 2026



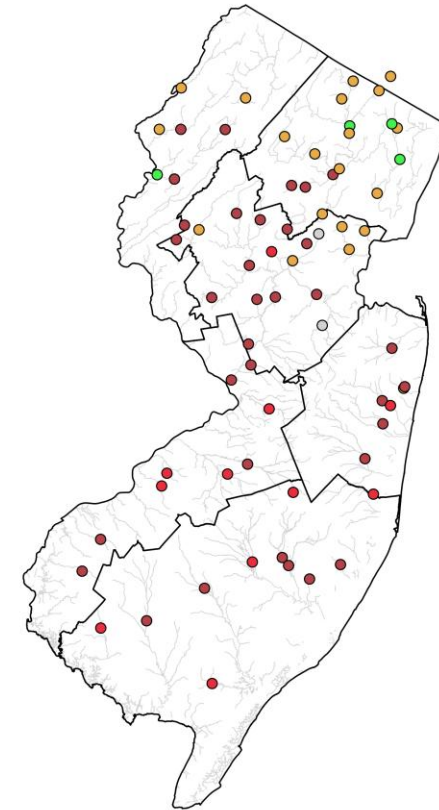
Flow percentile categories

- All time low for date (n=11)
- < 10th
Much below normal (n=30)
- 10th - 24th
Below normal (n=22)
- 25th - 75th
Normal (n=6)
- 76th - 90th
Above normal
- > 90th
Much above normal
- All time high for date
- Insufficient data (n=2)

Data Source: USGS WDFN
Generated: 2026-06-08
Total of 69 active streamflow gages with sufficient data for calculation.
Calculations are based on provisional data and are subject to change.

Average streamflow percentiles for past 90 days

Mar 10, 2026 to Jun 07, 2026



Flow percentile categories

- All time low for date (n=11)
- < 10th
Much below normal (n=34)
- 10th - 24th
Below normal (n=20)
- 25th - 75th
Normal (n=4)
- 76th - 90th
Above normal
- > 90th
Much above normal
- All time high for date
- Insufficient data (n=2)

Data Source: USGS WDFN
Generated: 2026-06-08
Total of 69 active streamflow gages with sufficient data for calculation.
Calculations are based on provisional data and are subject to change.



Drought Warning Actions

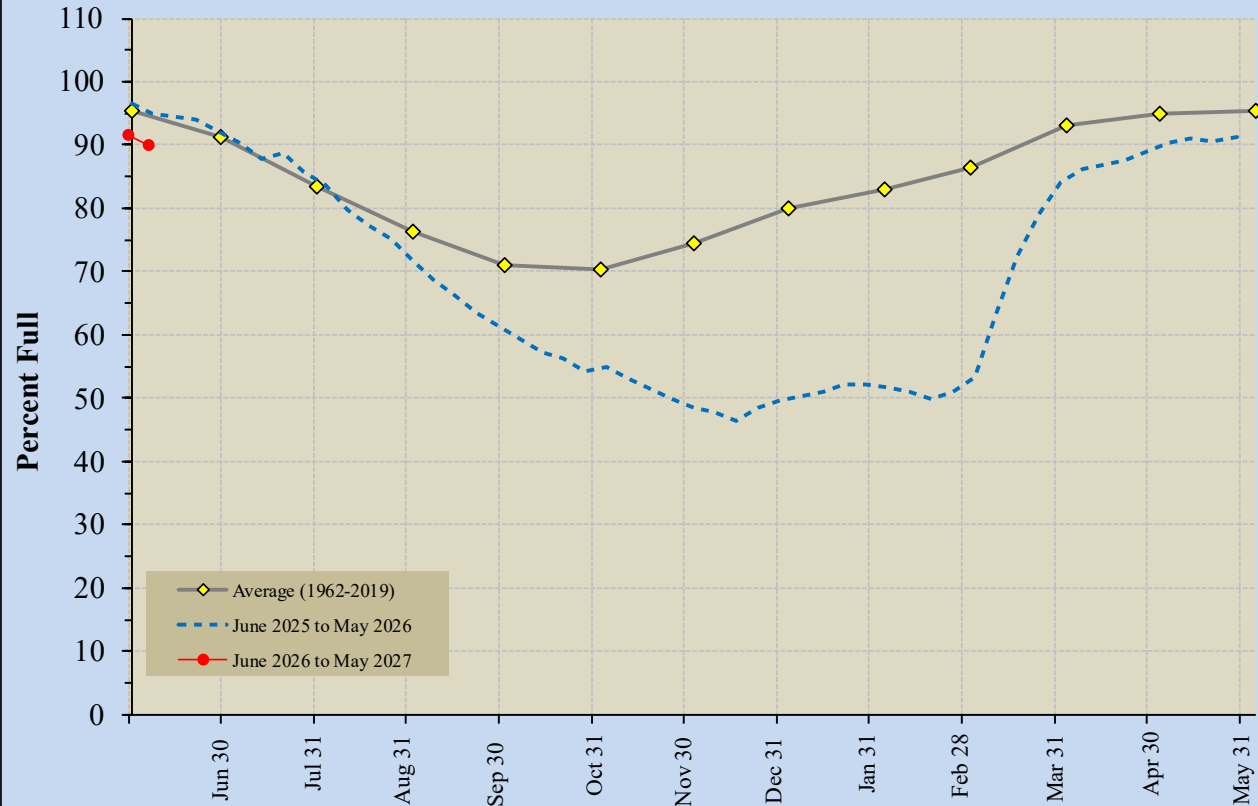
- **Reductions to (4) reservoir releases and (14) passing flows to allow for the opportunity to increase storage.**
- **Increased communication/outreach with Purveyors**
- **Updating Public Education/Communication**
 - Ensuring seasonally appropriate conservation tips are available
 - Website “Weekly Update”
- **Leak Detection and Interconnection Test Directive**
- **Continue to Monitor/Assess Weekly**

Regional Updates



Northeast Water Supply Reservoirs

Combined Northeast Reservoir Storage as of
6/8/2026



This graph depicts the combined storage of reservoirs operated by City of Jersey City (Boonton & Split Rock), City of Newark (Charlotteburg, Oak Ridge, Canistear, & Echo Lake), North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (Wanaque & Monksville), and Veolia Water New Jersey (Oradell, Woodcliff Lake, & Lake Tappan)

Combined System Status as of 6/8/26

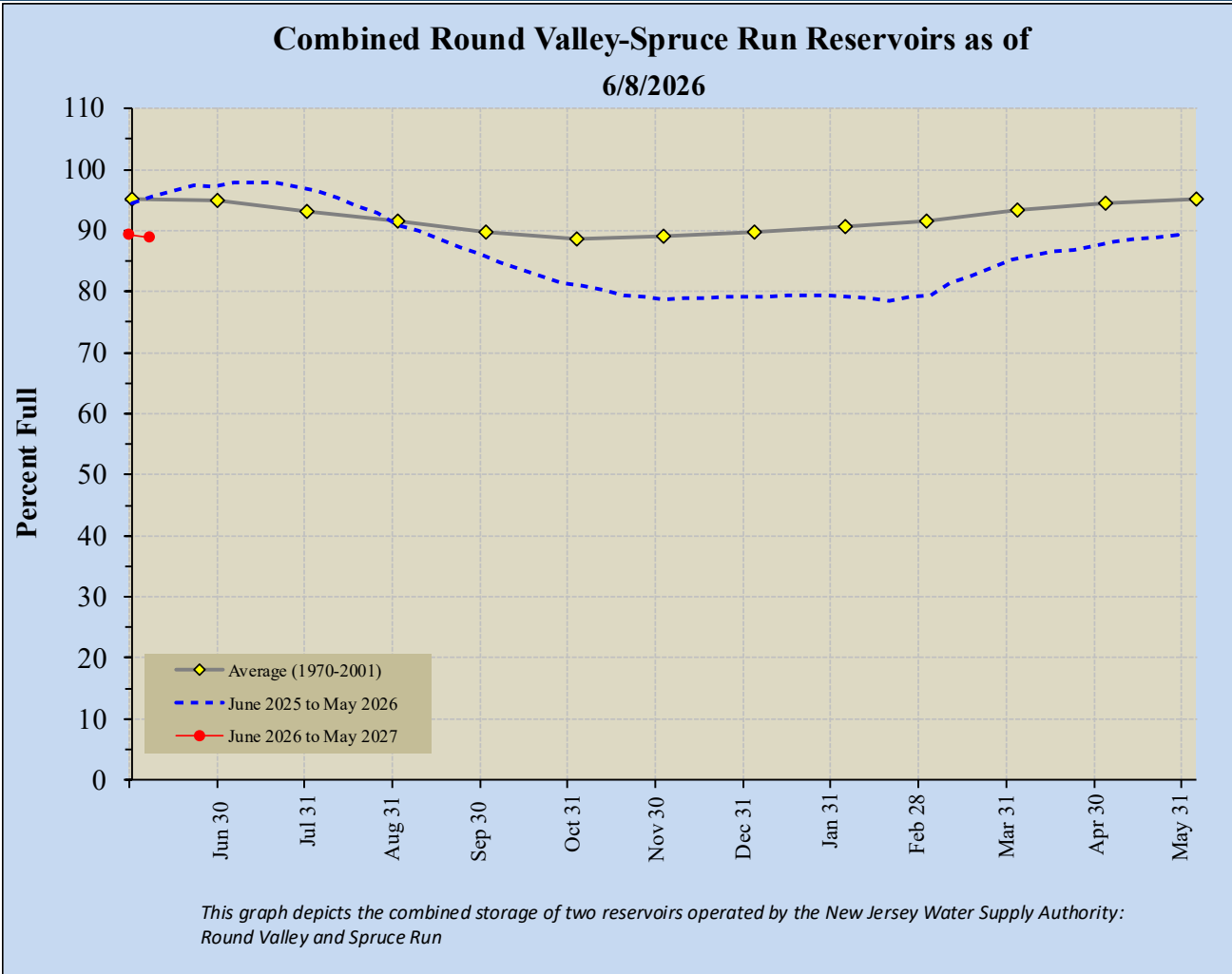
Depicted Reservoir Systems

- Jersey City – 96%
- Newark – 93%
- Veolia – 87%
- NJDWSC – 90%
- Combined – 90%



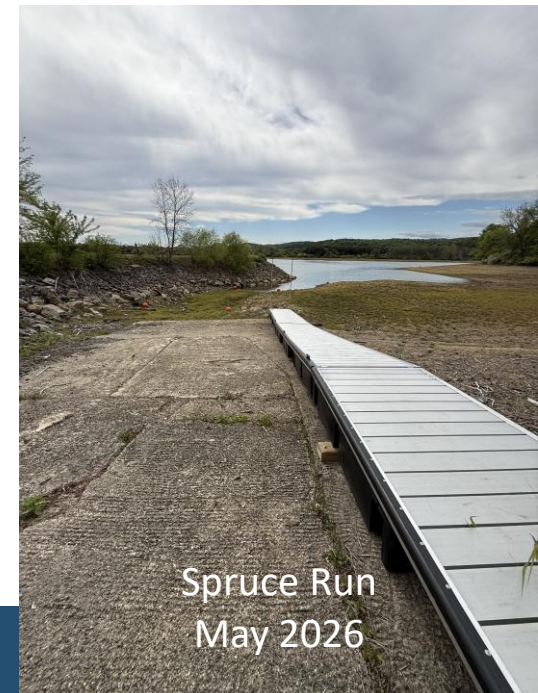


Central Water Supply Reservoirs



NJWSA – Round Valley and Spruce Run as of 6/8/26

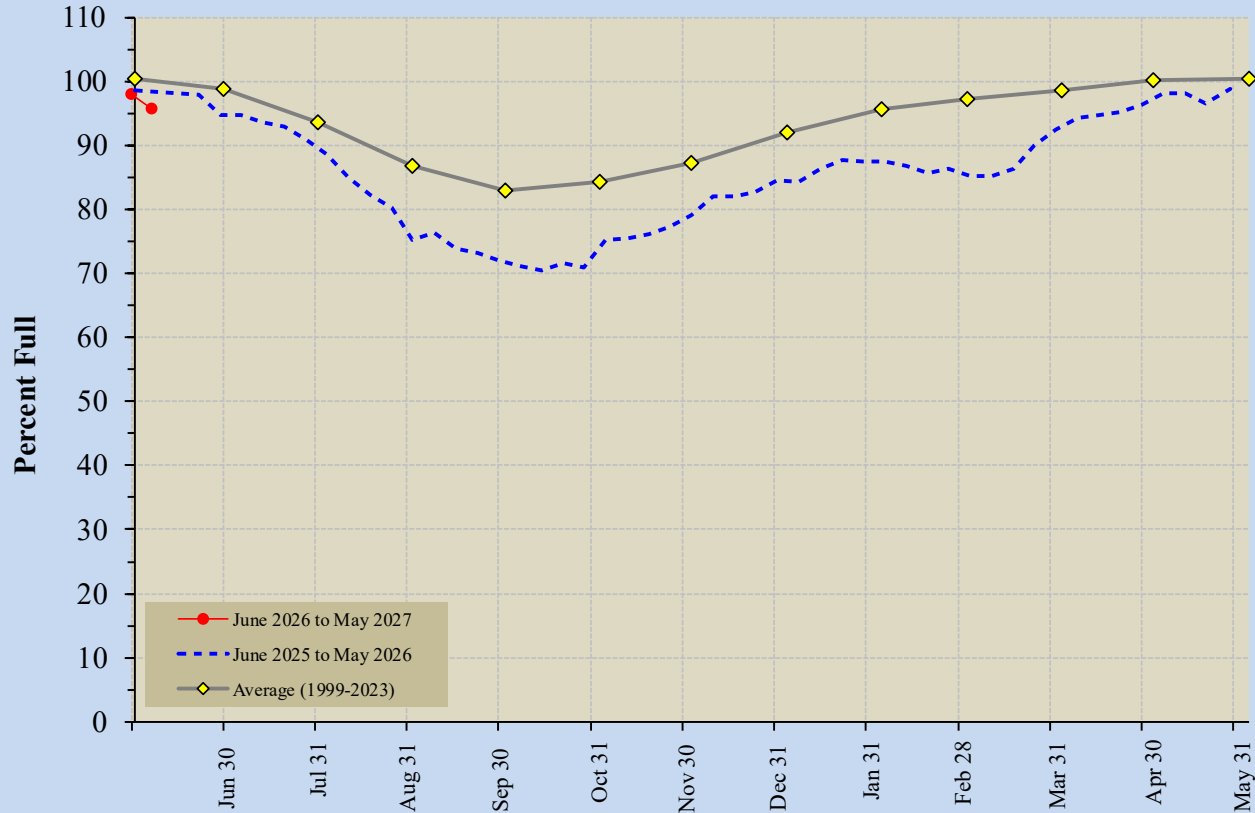
- Round Valley Reservoir – 94%
- Spruce Run – 64%
 - Due to large watershed can refill steadily with average rains
- Combined – 89%





Coastal North Water Supply Reservoirs

Combined Coastal North Reservoir Storage as of
6/8/2026



This graph depicts the combined storage of reservoirs operated by New Jersey American Water (Swimming River & Glendola) and New Jersey Water Supply Authority (Manasquan)

Combined System Status as of 6/8/26

Depicted Reservoir Systems

- NJWSA Manasquan – 96%
- NJAW - Swimming River - 95%
- NJAW - Glendola 94%
- Combined - 96%

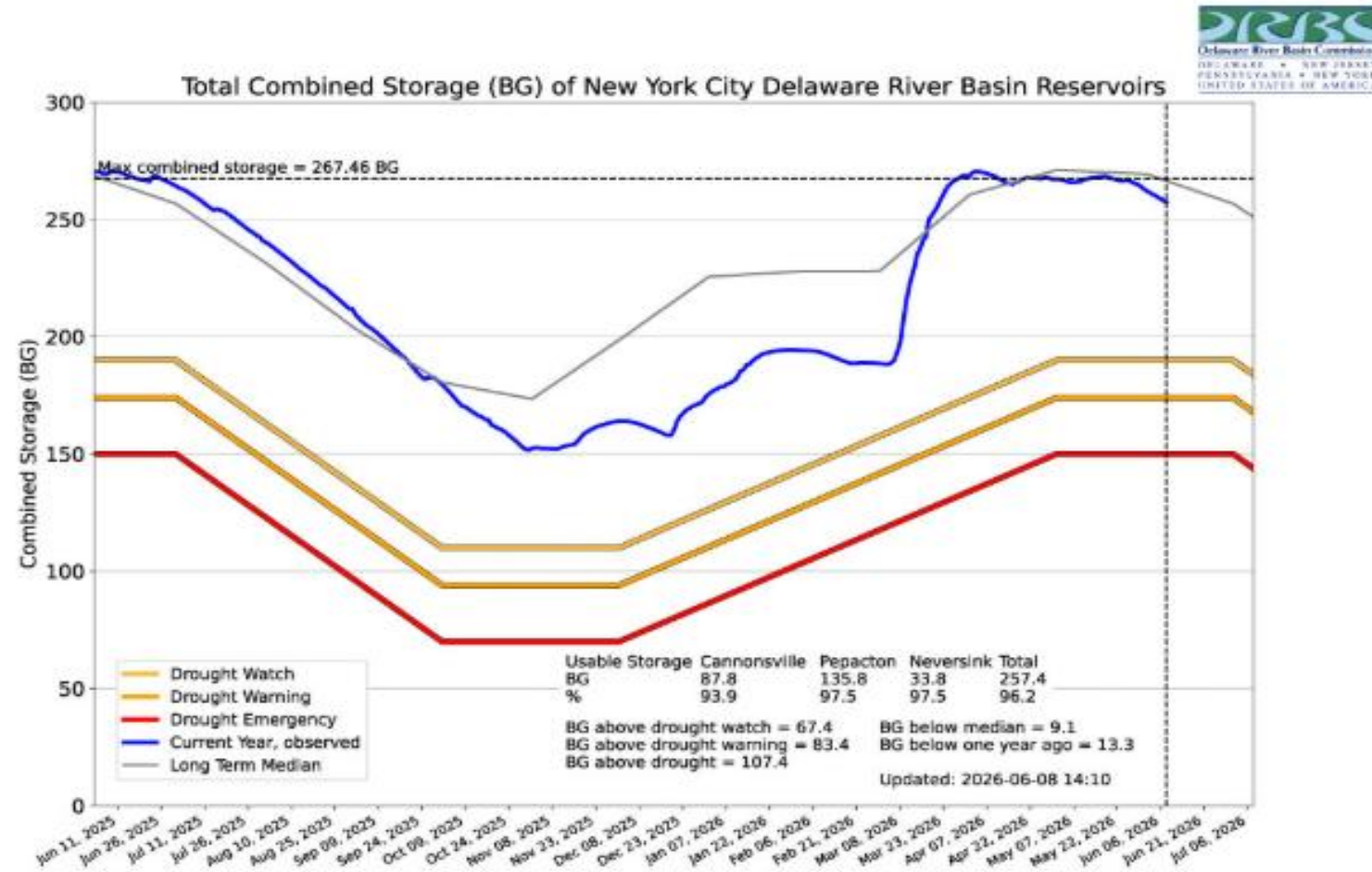


Manasquan
June 2026



Delaware River Basin – NYC Reservoirs

June 8, 2026





Delaware River Basin – Salt Front

Salt Front Location:
June 8, 2026

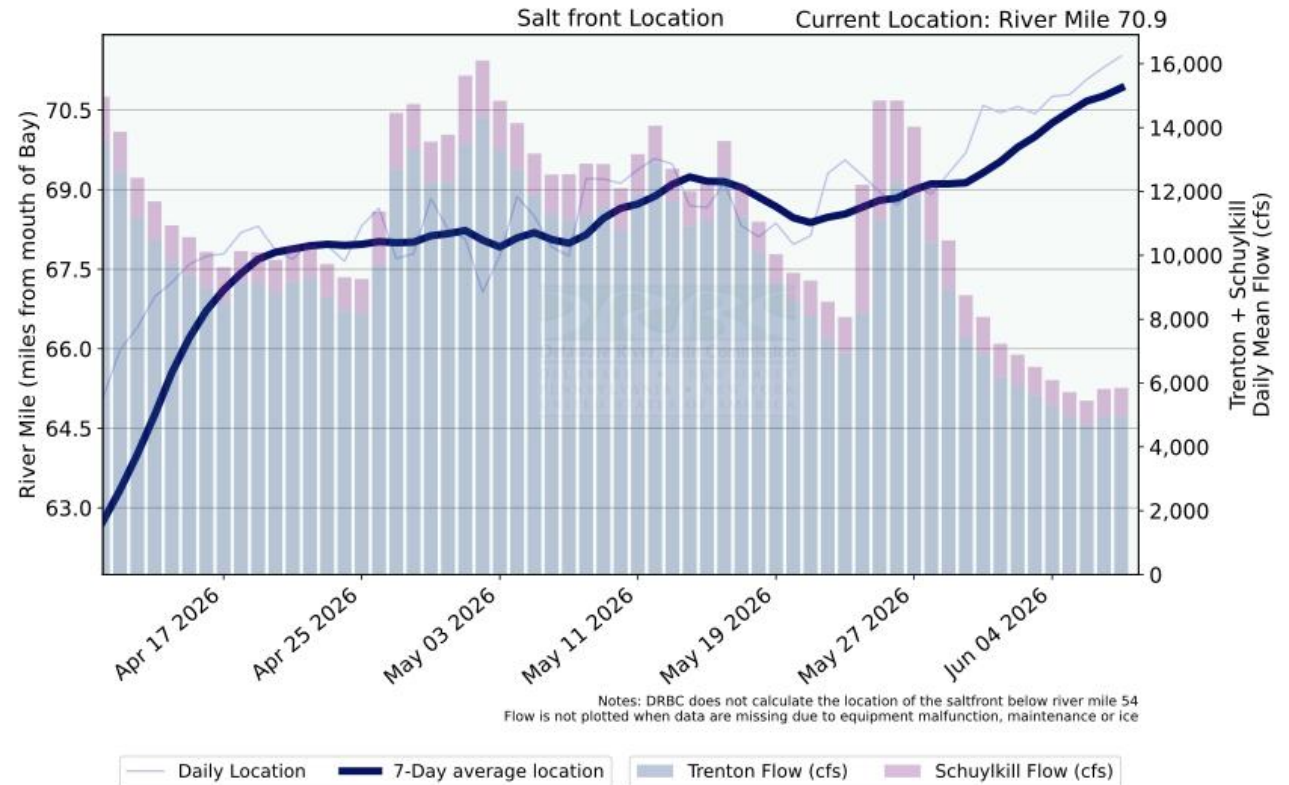
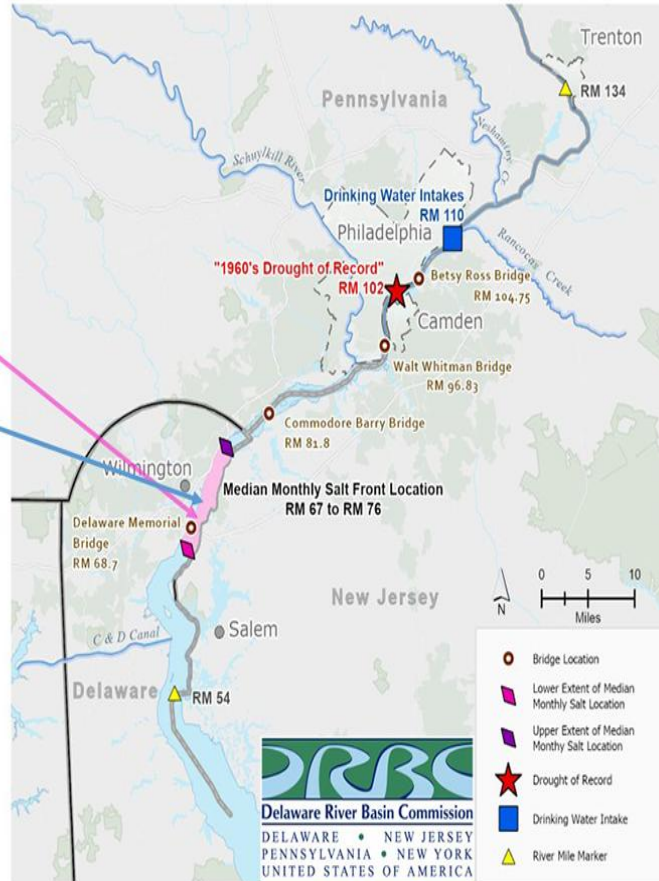
Normal June
Location:
RM 69

6/8/2026
Location:
RM 70.8

Salt front not tracked below RM 54.

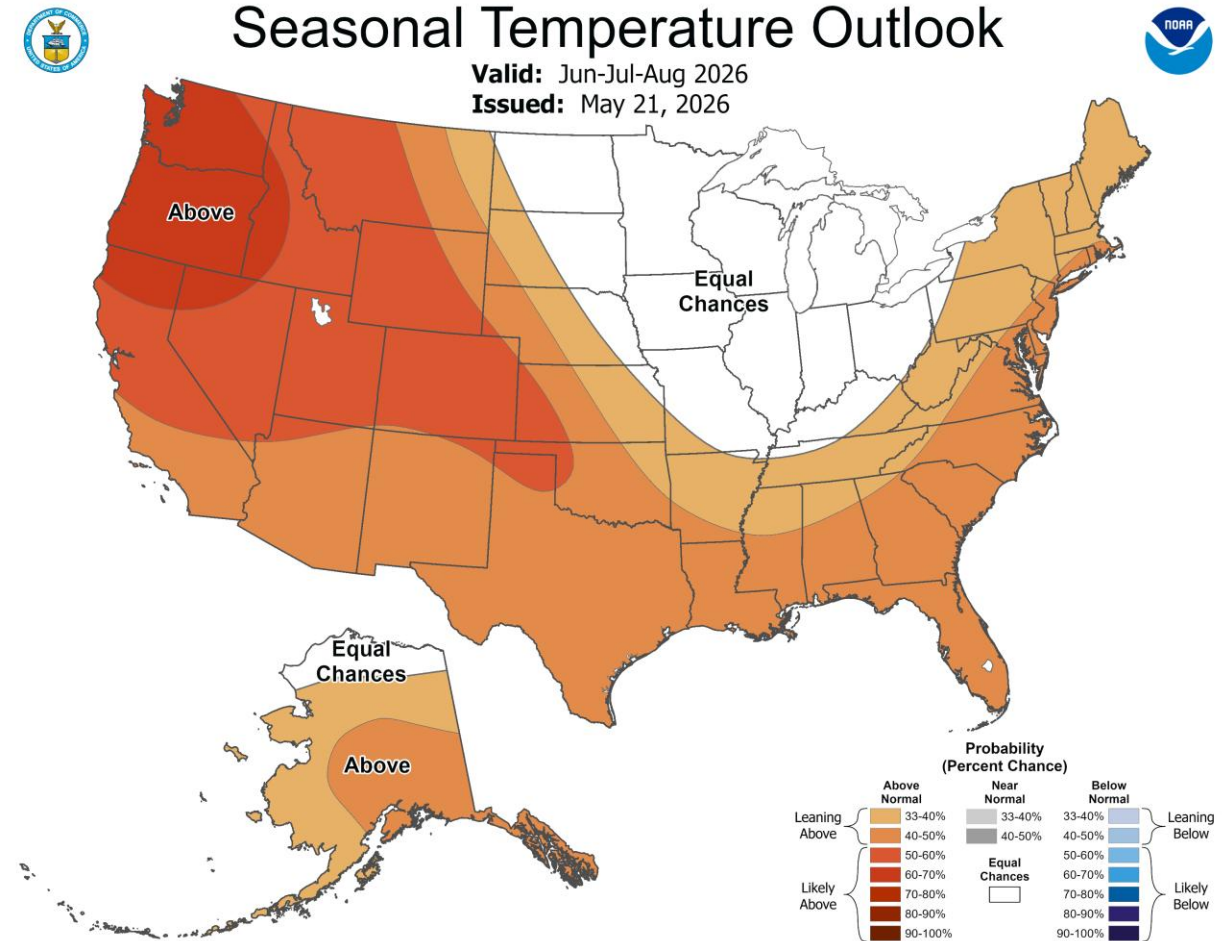
Median Monthly Salt Front Locations

January	69
February	71
March	70
April	67
May	68
June	69
July	70
August	74
September	76
October	72
November	70
December	69



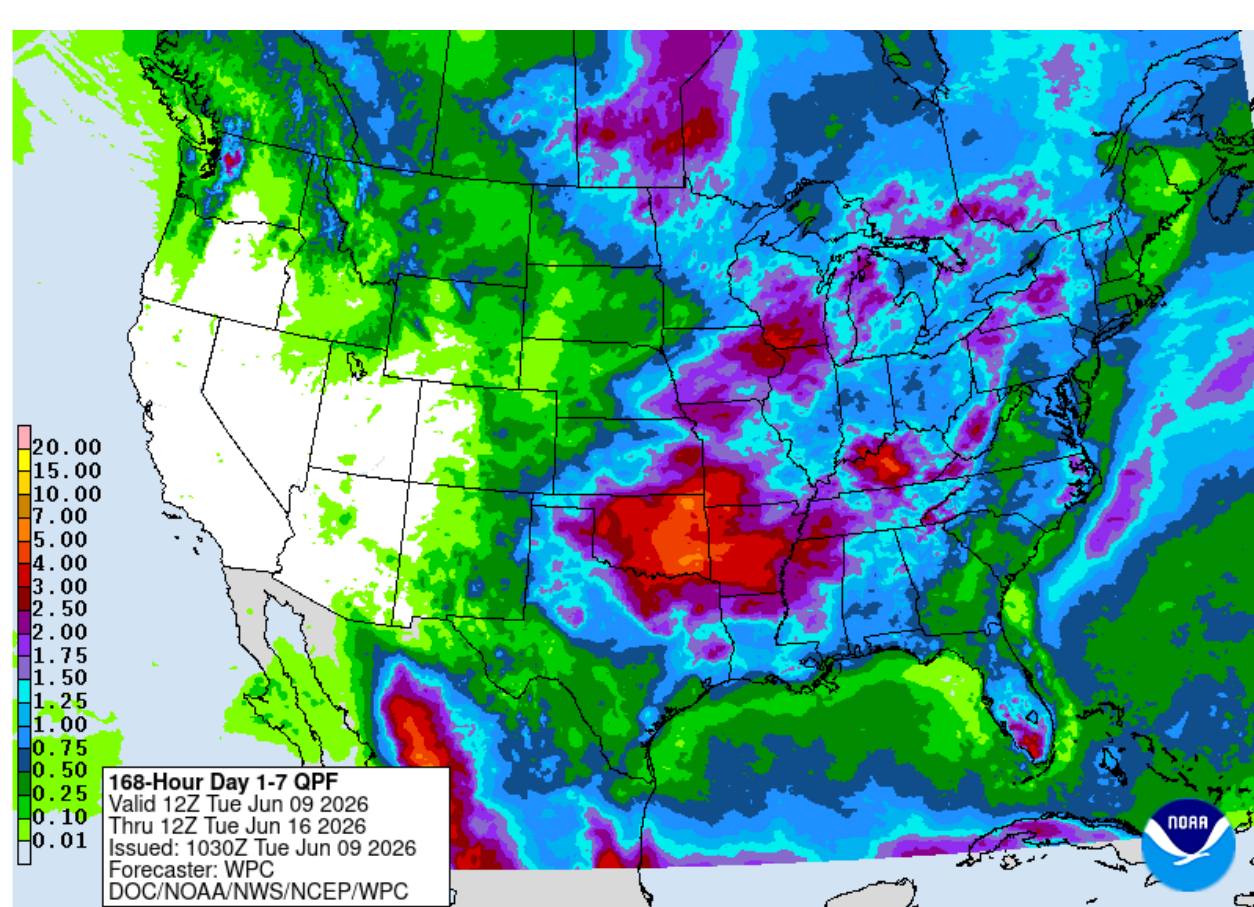
Updated: 2026-06-09 08:32

Weather Forecasts





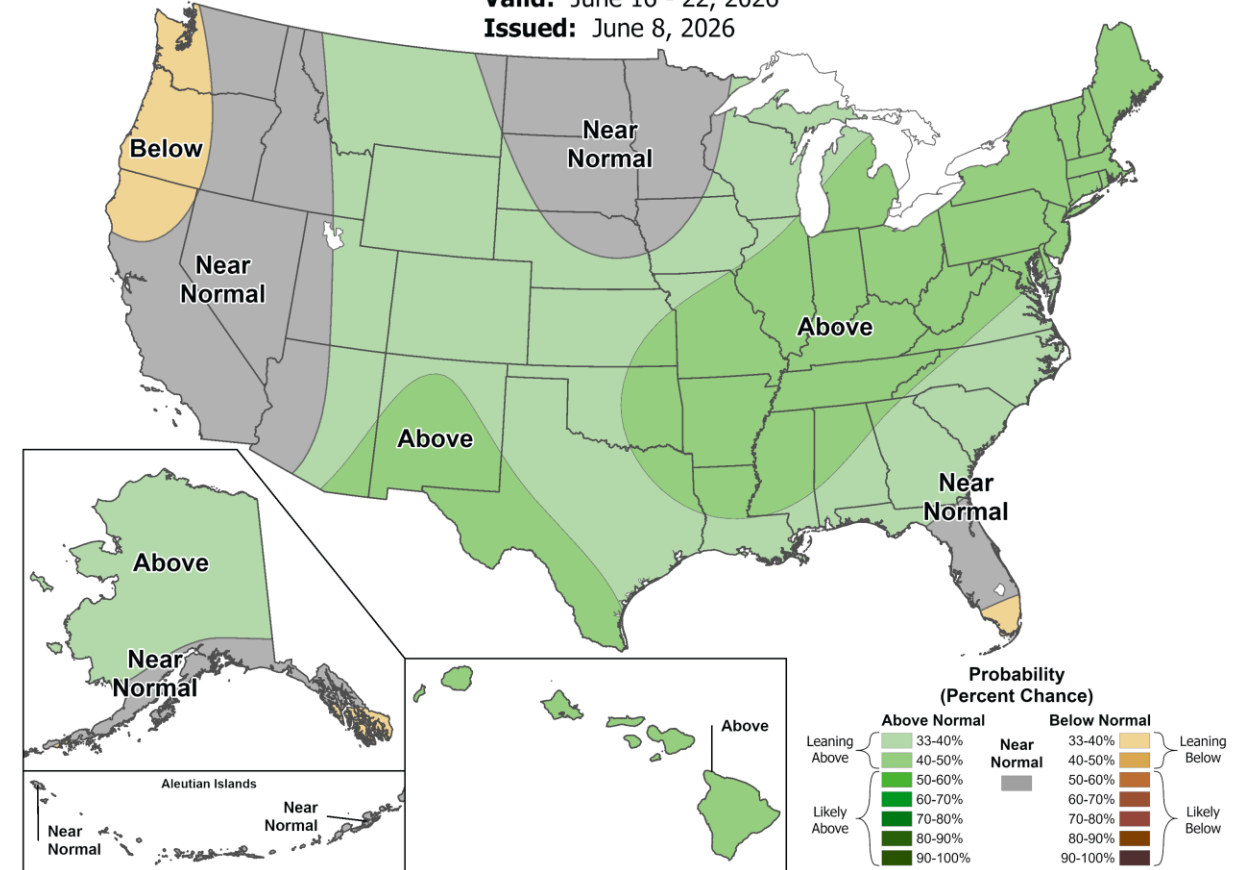
Climate Forecasts – Near term Precipitation



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: June 16 - 22, 2026

Issued: June 8, 2026



Status Recap & How You Can Help



NJ is in Drought Warning

- Drought Warning issued December 5, 2025
- 2025 overall was warm and dry
- 2026 Climate:
 - January through March - cold and dry with some decent storms in March particularly in Northern NJ
 - April - warm and dry
 - May - cool and dry
- Major reservoir storage levels generally adequate as of June 1
- Streamflow and groundwater still stressed

Water Supply Status and Actions

NORMAL 

Routine monitoring of water supply and meteorological indicators. All conditions normal.

WATCH 

Focus placed on voluntary reductions in demand through increased public awareness.

Current Status

WARNING 

DEP Commissioner issues order urging public to voluntarily use water sparingly; DEP may issue orders to purveyors to manage supplies in most affected regions.

EMERGENCY 

Governor orders mandatory restrictions on certain uses of water, usually phased in as conditions deteriorate.



What New Jerseyans can do



New Jersey is still in a
DROUGHT WARNING

DID YOU KNOW ?

NJ has been experiencing below average precipitation for almost 2 years.
A DEFICIT OF ABOUT 25%

Learn how you can help:
dep.nj.gov/conserves-water



- **Conserve Water**
- **Amplify NJDEP's regular condition updates on drought.**
 - <https://dep.nj.gov/conserves-water/toolkit/#social-posts>
- Toolkit includes seasonally updated:
 - Downloadable social medial posts.
 - Printable Flyers
 - Logos for the "Every Drop Counts" campaign.
 - Water Conservation Model Ordinance - Municipalities can adopt a Sustainable Jersey water conservation model ordinance in time for spring



Help Communicate That Every Drop Counts.

During a drought, it is important to spread public awareness of both the state's water supply levels and how we can do our part to conserve water.



Drought Outreach Toolkit

- Social Posts
- Printable Flyers
- Logo for Every Drop Counts



THANK YOU
