

Regional Drought and Water Supply Status May 2020

SUMMARY OF CURRENT CONDITIONS (as May 7, 2020)

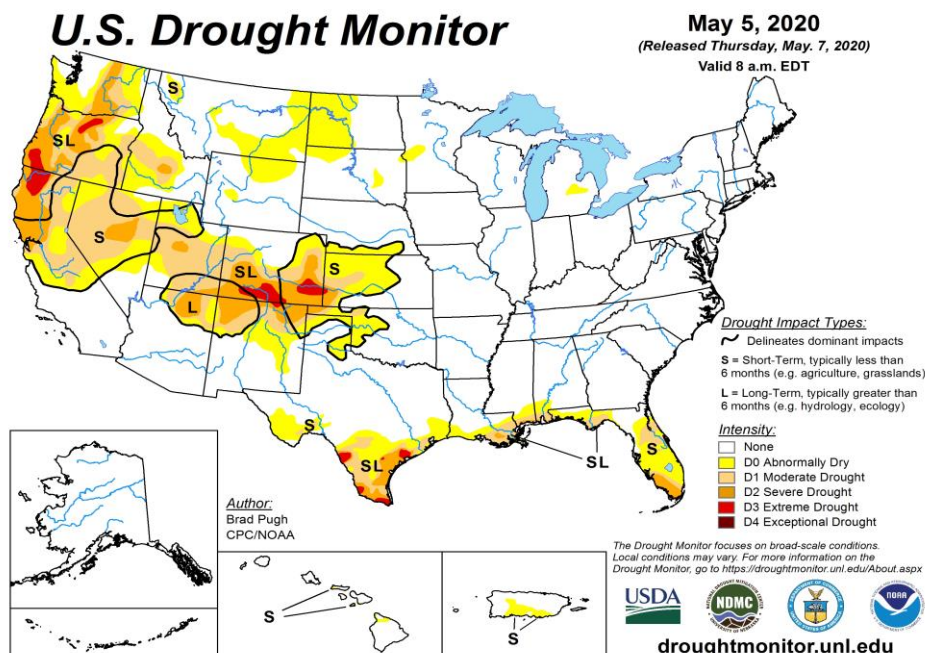
- U.S. Drought Monitor – Normal
 - The latest U.S. Drought monitor released on May 7 indicates that the COG region is drought free.

- Drought Stage - Normal
 - The current drought stage as defined in [COG's water supply and drought response awareness plan \(the Plan\)](#) is NORMAL. COG's Plan focuses on tracking and responding to drought conditions as it relates to regional water supply.

- Drought Stages from VADEQ and MDE - Normal
 - COG jurisdictions that are monitored by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ([VADEQ](#)) and Maryland Department of the Environment ([MDE](#)) are under a normal status.

- Streamflow, groundwater, and reservoir levels – Above Normal to Normal
 - Potomac streamflow levels are currently above median levels and local reservoirs remain full. Most of the regional groundwater wells monitored are at normal levels.

- Forecasts – Normal
 - The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook indicates drought is not likely in the COG region over the next three months.



The May 5th U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that drought conditions do not exist in the COG region.

Source: NOAA <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

POTOMAC STREAMFLOW LEVELS

Potomac streamflows are currently above median levels.

Instantaneous flows readings on May 7 were:

Little Falls –30,600 cfs (median = 11,400 cfs)

Point of Rocks –25,200 cfs (median = 8,820 cfs)

Source: USGS Little Falls: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?01646500>

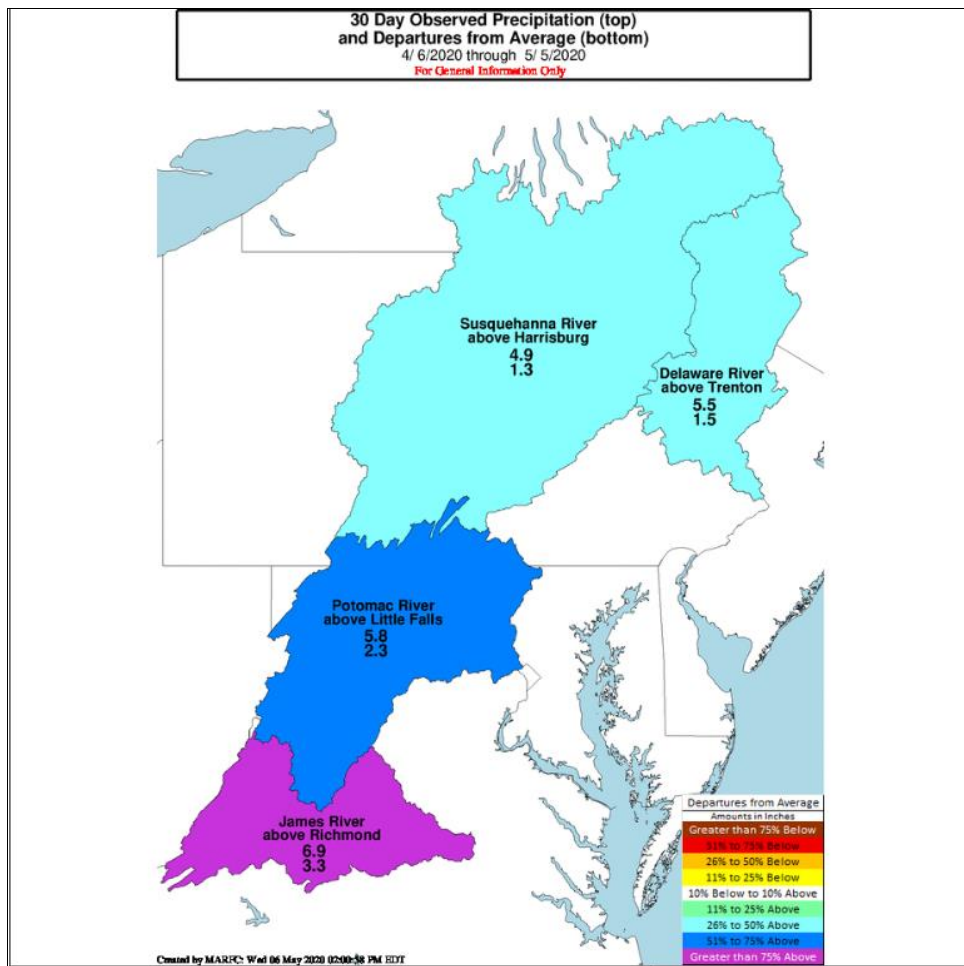
Source: USGS Point of Rocks: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?01638500>

POTOMAC BASIN PRECIPITATION (as of 05/05/20)

The Potomac Basin received 5.8 inches of rain in the last 30 days, which is 51-75%% above average.

Source: Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center

<https://www.weather.gov/marfc/BasinPrecipitation30Day>



GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Groundwater levels are normal for most of the wells monitored in the COG region.

Source: USGS

https://md.water.usgs.gov/groundwater/web_wells/current/water_table/counties/index.html

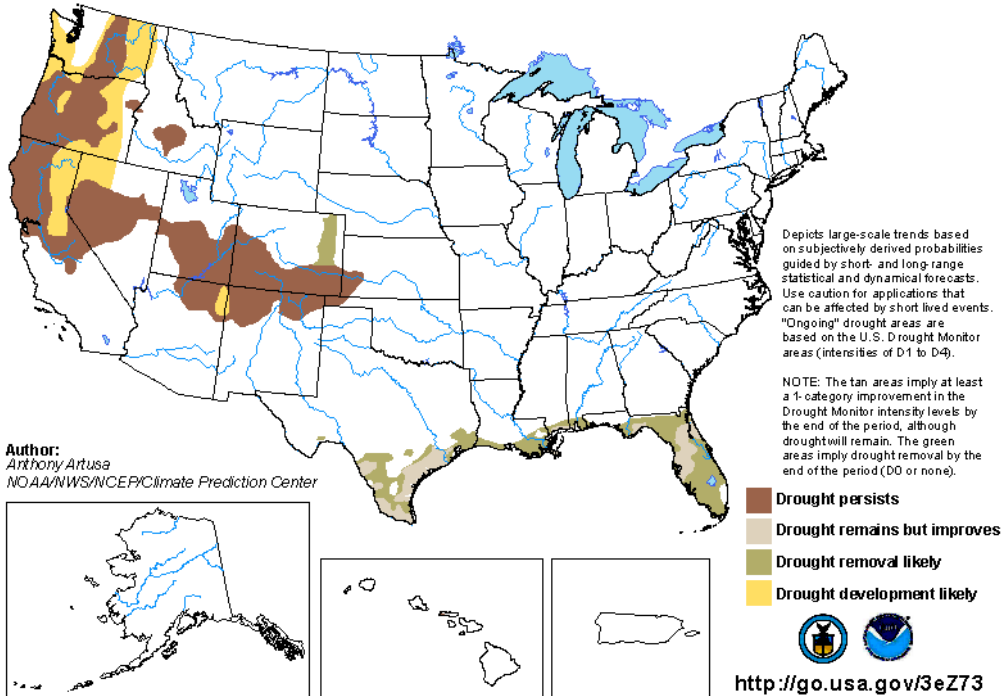
<https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/NetMapT1L2.asp?ncd=crn&sc=51>

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook indicates that drought is not expected in the COG region over the next three months. Source: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.php

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for April 16 - July 31, 2020
Released April 16



RESERVOIR LEVELS

Drinking water reservoirs at Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca are full.

Source: <http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/nab/potopub.html>

As of the May 2020 report, there is a below normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2020 summer and fall seasons. Generally, the use of Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs is triggered by low flows brought about by a combination of low precipitation and low groundwater levels. There is a 3 to 10 percent conditional probability that natural Potomac flow will drop below 600 to 700 million gallons per day (MGD) at Little Falls through December 31 of this year.

Source: ICPRB

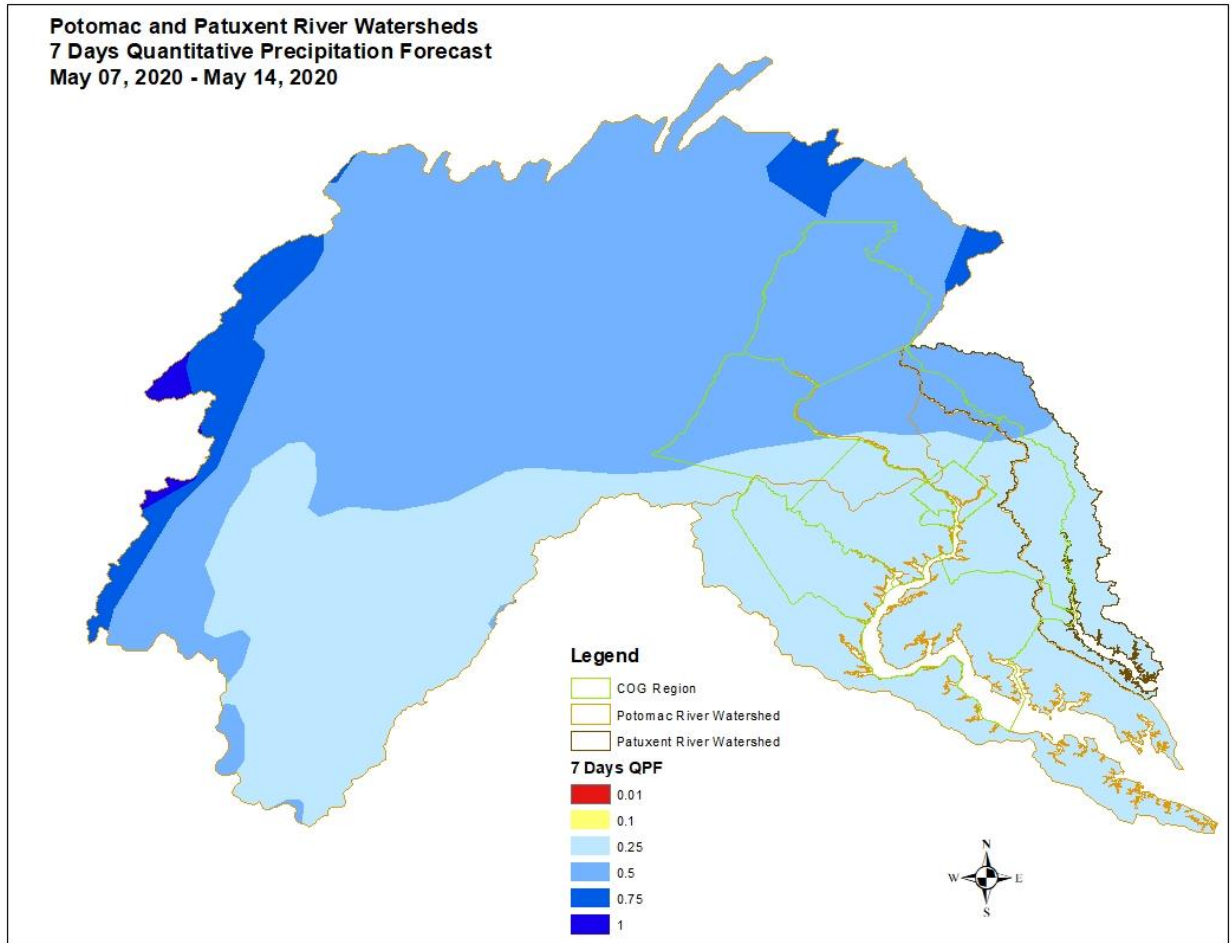
<https://www.potomacriver.org/focus-areas/water-resources-and-drinking-water/cooperative-water-supply-operations-on-the-potomac/drought-monitoring-and-operations/water-supply-outlook-status/>

7 DAY PRECIPITATION FORECASTS

The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for roughly 0.25 inches in the COG region.

Source: COG and NOAA: <http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/day1-7.shtml>

**Potomac and Patuxent River Watersheds
7 Days Quantitative Precipitation Forecast
May 07, 2020 - May 14, 2020**



For additional information please visit COG's Water Supply and Drought website:
<https://www.mwcog.org/drought>