



August 2017

CISA & CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring Newsletter

Dear CoCoRaHS Observer,

This month's newsletter includes:

- A Southeast Regional Climate Update
- An overview of the North Carolina King Tides Citizen Science Project
- Information on the National Condition Monitoring Map and Condition Monitoring Training Animation to be launched in September
- Observer Reports about Solar Eclipse 2017!

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to us at cisa@sc.edu if you have any other questions or comments.

The CISA Team - Amanda, Ellie, Kirsten, Kerry and Meghan

SE Regional Climate Update

The NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information has released their overview of the [July 2017 Climate Report](#). Here are some highlights:

- Across the contiguous United States the average temperature for July was 2.1°F warmer than normal; this July was the 10th warmest on record.
- For most of the United States, the July precipitation total

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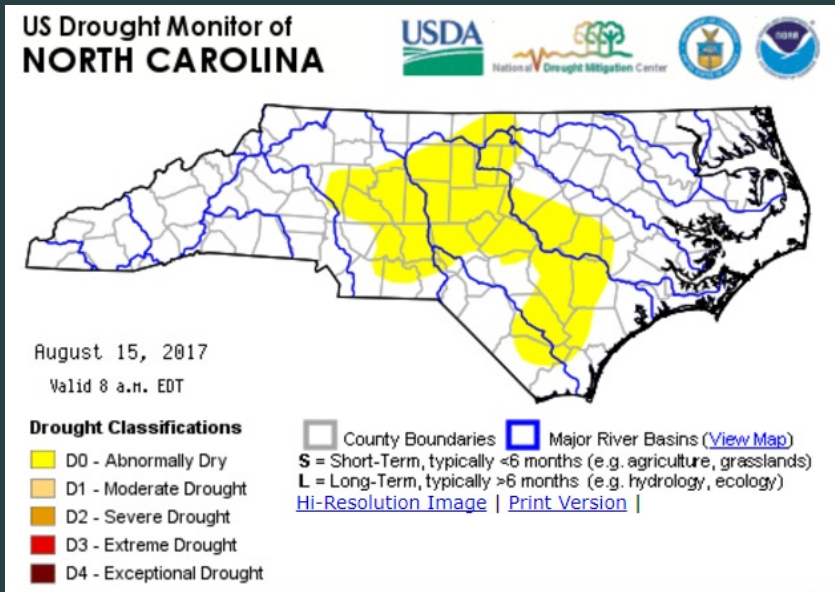
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was below normal. However, many areas in the Southeast had near average precipitation through July.

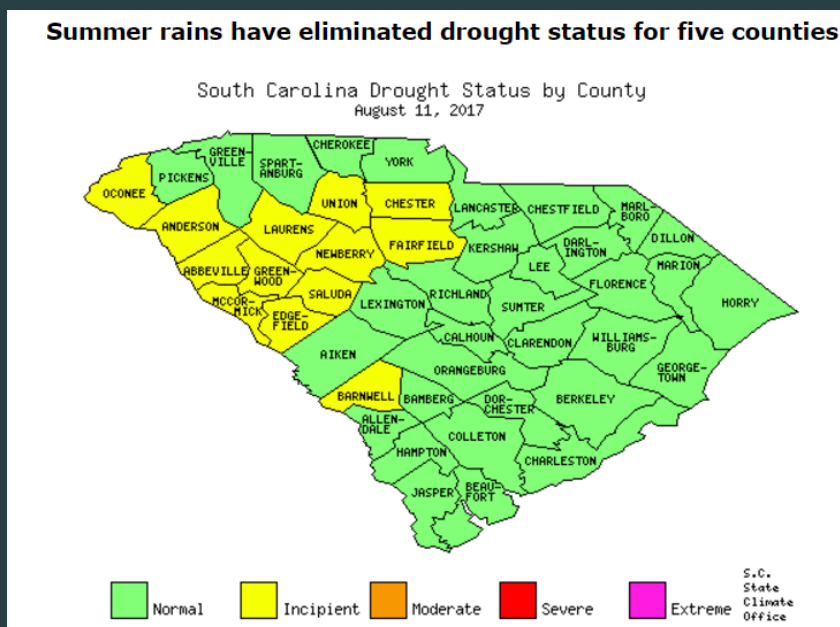
- By August 1st, the percentage of contiguous United States land area in drought had increased to 11.8%.

The [North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council](#) updated their drought status with changes for many counties. While the last few weeks have been marked with no drought in North Carolina, there are now 29 counties in a state of incipient drought. The rest of the state is under normal conditions.



Map released by the North Carolina D.M.A.C. on August 15, 2017.

The [South Carolina Drought Response Committee](#) has also updated their map to reflect current conditions in the state, as of August 11, 2017. There are currently 13 counties in the state with an incipient drought status while the rest of the state remains under normal conditions.



Map released by the United States Drought Monitor on August 11, 2017.

Is it normal for the conditions in your area to get dry in August?

Have you seen an above-normal amount of rain over this summer? Make sure to comment on that in your weekly condition monitoring report!

North Carolina King Tides Citizen Science Project

We are excited to be able to share another citizen science project with you!

In a July CISA Meeting, Christine Voss provided us with a short presentation on the [North Carolina King Tides Project](#).

This project aims to educate people from around the world about the impacts of sea level rise on their lives. Dr. Voss is leading an effort, supported by CISA, to help citizen scientists learn to measure water levels along the NC coastline, which are submitted through [NOAA's "What's Your Water Level" App](#).

Through volunteer submissions of pictures and water level measurements, the researchers behind this project can create a photographic record of extreme high tide events. This allows them to visualize what normal tides might look like in the future and how local resources and institutions may be impacted.



North Carolina King Tide 2015

If you are a coastal North Carolina observer looking for another citizen science project, this may be the one for you! If you would like to learn more, contact Amanda Farris, who can put you in touch with Dr. Voss (afarris@sc.edu).

National Condition Monitoring Web Map and New Condition Monitoring Training Animation

The CISA team has been working with CoCoRaHS headquarters over the last year to implement condition monitoring for all CoCoRaHS observers, building on the successful pilot project here in the Carolinas. As part of these efforts, we are developing training and education materials to serve as resources for

CoCoRaHS observers throughout the country and the decision makers who reference your reports.

As many of you already know, the [condition monitoring web map](#) provides observers with a spatial visualization of the CoCoRaHS condition monitoring reports in the Carolinas. The web map includes the qualitative descriptions of conditions at each point where an observer submits a report. This web map has been so beneficial for the monitoring of drought onset, intensification, and recovery that ***a nationwide web map is going to be released in September!*** This will allow you to easily view reports from your fellow CoCoRaHS observers in other parts of the country and may give you a few new ideas about things to include in your own reports. Those of you who access the Carolinas web map from the CISA website will be directed to the national map come September.

We have also worked with Noah Besser, the animator who helped create other CoCoRaHS training animations, to develop a condition monitoring animation. The animation includes information about what condition monitoring is, who uses the reports, how to submit reports, and what types of information to include in your reports. If you're new to condition monitoring, be sure to check out this resource which will become available in early September. If you're an old hat at condition monitoring reporting, consider sharing the animation with friends or family who might also be interested in participating in CoCoRaHS and condition monitoring reporting.

Total Solar Eclipse 2017

On August 21, 2017, many observers were fortunate enough to see a total or partial solar eclipse! We were interested to see what the CoCoRaHS observers had to say about the experience. Below are a few examples from condition monitoring reports and observations emailed directly to CISA.

SC-AK-4: Temperature & Barometric Pressure at the beginning of eclipse was 93 degrees, 30.32"

Temperature during totality & Barometric pressure was 85 degrees, 30.31"

Total temperature drop was 8 degrees in the middle of the afternoon in about 1 1/2 hour! During totality the sounds of the night time pond bugs became very loud & I also noticed that the alligators came out during totality & then disappeared afterwards. Very cool stuff right in our backyard!! So totality worth the hype!

SC-AN-21: We had a great view of the total eclipse on Monday with partly cloudy skies but none of those clouds brought us rain! It's been 12 days since our last measurable precipitation so things are starting to dry out.

SC-BF-23: ... Number two was the total eclipse of the sun. Interesting because there was a total eclipse of the sun July 10, 1972 and I was in deep ocean solo in a 28-foot sloop named "Blue Gipsy". Having been at sea 24 days (out of 39 Days) from Plymouth, England to Newport, Rhode Island in the Observer Singlehanded Trans-Atlantic Race... (O.S.T.A.R.) I was at 41 deg. 19.3 N. Lat, 44 Deg. 29 W. Lon. and the weather was stormy and overcast. It was a rough day and it became very dark for that time of day and I remembered it was supposed to be a total eclipse and that explained it. And today was a similar day but there were no rough seas or ice bergs etc. but I still did not get to see the eclipse, only a brief glimpse of the beginning of the event today. It looked like a shark had bit a small chunk out of the sun and then the clouds obscured all and it started raining lightly. (0.03") But what memories!



Mark Guydish, [Times Leader](#): August 21, 2017, Columbia, SC

And here are some observer reports about the eclipse from around the country. You'll easily be able to access reports from other states soon with the new national condition monitoring web map, launching in September 2017!

ID-AD-9: Nearly total eclipse (99%+) of the sun occurred at 11:27 AM August 21st. Light turned amber, insect and bird and breezes stopped moving, and the air temperature dropped about 6 degrees mostly in the 10 minutes after the full eclipse.

IL-TZ-26: The solar eclipse Monday was 96% covered which was good to look at once it cleared after the rain. I however drove south 200 miles to southern Illinois and watched the perfect 100% eclipse. This was a once of a lifetime experience and well worth all my effort to see it!!!!!!

OR-LN-67: My count of measurable rain days against no-rain days have closed to within 20 days but still favors the rainy side. The smoke from wildfires threaten eclipse visibility in some areas tomorrow.

IN-AL-5: ... today we will have a solar eclipse possibly sending the bees back to the hive and diurnal critters into their nocturnal habits.... golly, maybe I can get a few extra z's this afternoon.

Feel free to contact us with any questions.

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