

Climate Review for the month of December 2015

Presented by:
National Weather Service
Newport/Morehead City

Summary

December 2015 was characterized by a persistent ridge along the southeast coast providing a warm, moist southwest flow resulting in temperatures that were not only well above normal, but the warmest December on record for many parts of eastern North Carolina. Cape Hatteras had an average temperature in December of 62.8 degrees, shattering its old record of 56.6 degrees set in 1956. Likewise, New Bern had its warmest December on record with an average temperature of 59.8 degrees, breaking the old record of 56.3 set in 1971. Other locations such as Kinston and Jacksonville also had their warmest December ever.

Rainfall was close to normal near the coast, but 1 to 4 inches above normal over inland areas from the southern Coastal Plains to the Sound Counties.

DISCLAIMER : The climate data provided are preliminary and have not undergone final quality control by NCDC. Therefore...this data is subject to revision.

Average Temperatures within our CWA in December 2015

	Avg_ Max	Avg_Max Normal	Avg_ Min	Avg_Min Normal
Beaufort	68.1	57.0	54.0	39.7
Cape Hatteras	68.9	55.9	56.8	42.7
New Bern	69.5	57.5	50.0	36.1
Greenville	67.8	55.3	48.5	34.0
Williamston	66.7	54.6	48.7	33.0
Plymouth	67.6	56.0	49.4	35.9
Bayboro	68.5	58.3	50.5	35.7

Temperatures were as much as 10 to 15 degrees above normal for both maximum and minimum temperatures through the month of December 2015.

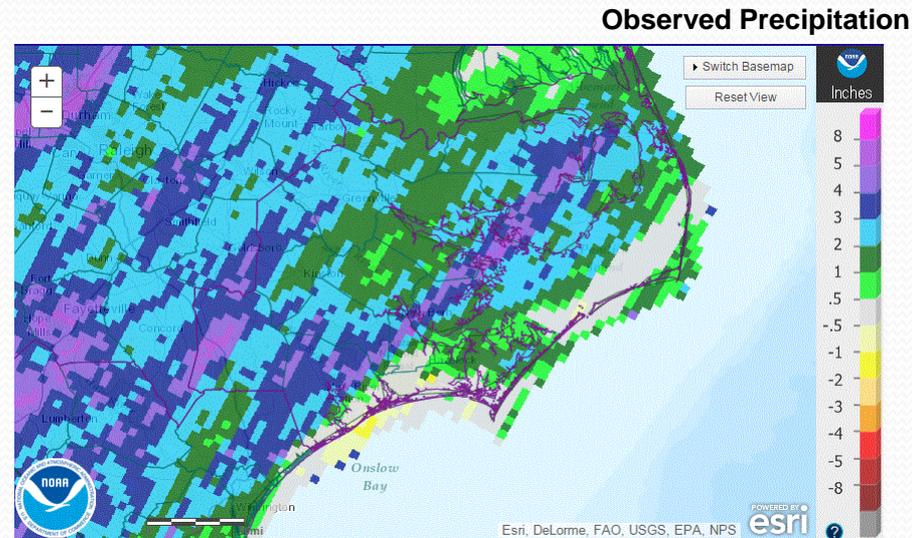
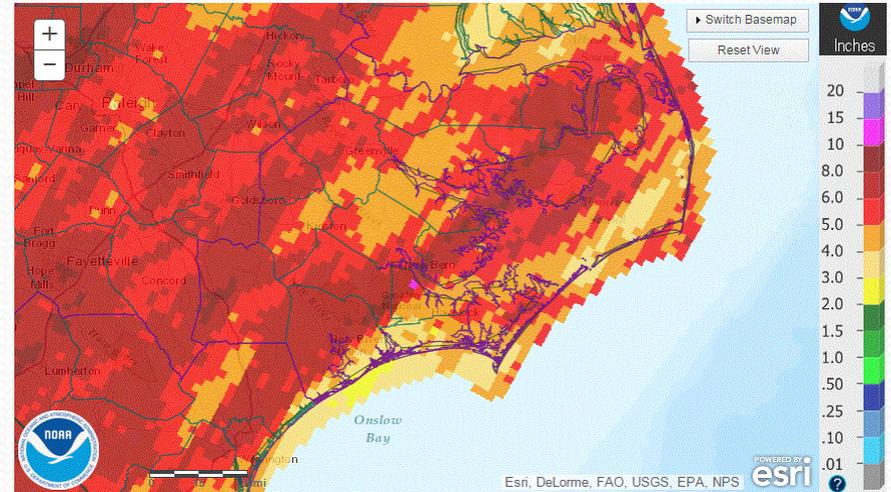
Max and Min Temperature within our CWA in December 2015.

	MAX	MIN
Beaufort	75	33
Cape Hatteras	76	40
New Bern	80	28
Greenville	81	28
Williamston	80	29
Plymouth	79	26
Bayboro	78	32

December 2015 Rain versus Climate Normal

	Precipitation (inches)	Normal	Difference
Beaufort	4.11	3.52	0.59
Cape Hatteras	4.97	4.27	0.70
New Bern	6.42	3.40	3.02
Greenville	5.34	3.25	2.09
Williamston	4.39	3.24	1.15
Plymouth	4.61	3.29	1.32
Bayboro	7.57	3.75	3.82

Rainfall in December 2015 ranged from near normal along the coast, to 1 to 4 inches above normal over inland areas, especially in the southern Coastal Plains and Sound Counties.



Latest Drought Monitor for North Carolina



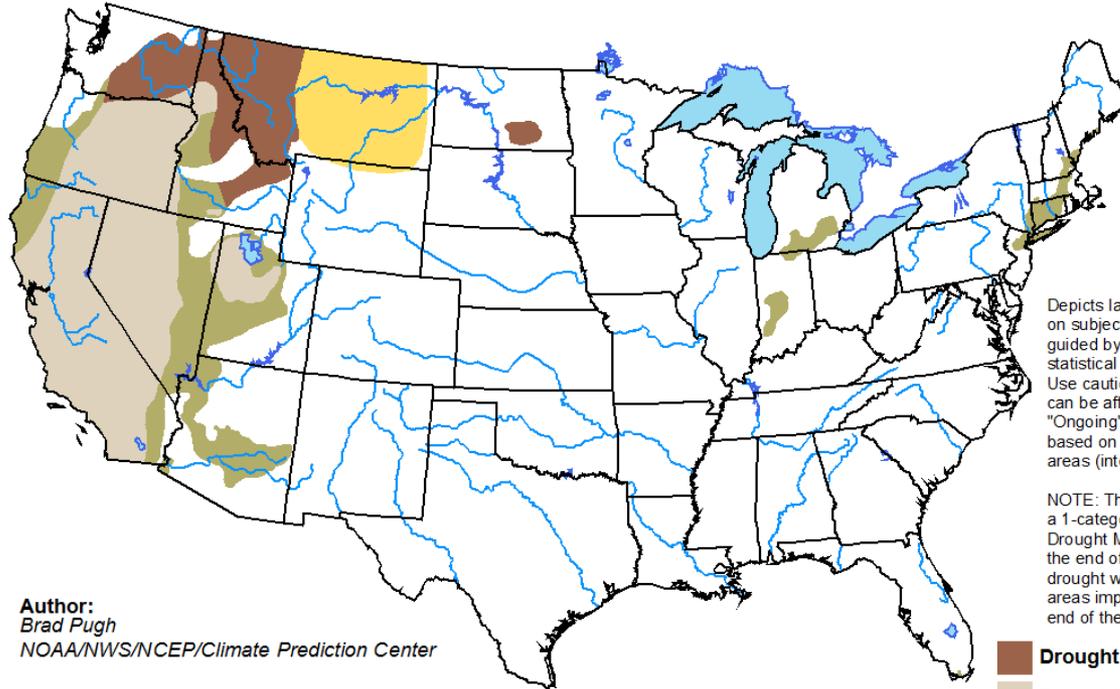
No Drought Conditions observed in North Carolina as of December 29, 2015

Seasonal Drought Outlook

January through March

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

Valid for December 17 - March 31, 2016
Released December 17, 2015

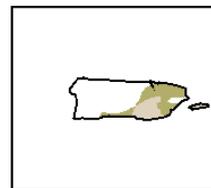
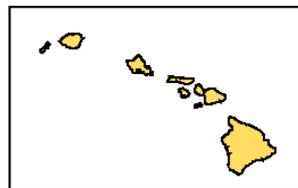
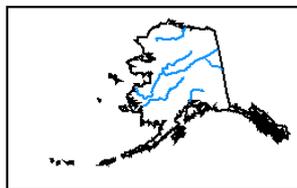


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Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

-  Drought persists
-  Drought remains but improves
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>