

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Wilmington, NC
805 AM EDT Wed Apr 15 2026

To: Subscribers – Family of Services and NOAA Weather Wire Service and other National Weather Service Partners, Users and Employees

From: Rick Neuherz - Senior Service Hydrologist

Subject: Upgrading River Forecast Services from Flood-only to Daily Issuance for Selected Locations in southeast North Carolina and northeast South Carolina

Effective April 28, 2026, the National Weather Service (NWS) Wilmington office, in coordination with the Southeast River Forecast Center (SERFC), will upgrade hydrologic services for 6 river gauge locations. Services will transition from “flood-only” forecasts to daily routine forecasts.

Previously, these locations were designated as flood-only forecast points, meaning the five-day forecast was only provided by SERFC hydrologists when river levels were expected to rise near or above the Flood Stage at each site. Following inquiries from partners and users, the SERFC will now provide daily, year-round forecast information for these sites.

This transition provides several benefits:

- Enhanced Situational Awareness: Provides valuable data during drought and/or low flow conditions, not just flood events.
- Recreational Safety: Supports enhanced services for recreational interests and public safety along river reaches.
- Consistency: Daily modeling of points situated between or above existing daily forecast locations ensures a more seamless hydrologic profile across the area.

The enhanced forecasts will be integrated into the existing SERFC workflow and distributed through the local NWS office to the online National Water Prediction Service (water.noaa.gov). Note: Not all river forecast points will transition to a daily forecast frequency. In some cases, a river gauge location will remain "flood-only" due to low-flow modeling complexities such as those that are tidal at low flows.

The following gauges will transition to daily issuance. Sites are listed by forecast grouping, name, NWS ID, and USGS or state ID.

Pee Dee Forecast Group

- Black Creek near Quinby | [BCRS1](#) | USGS 02130980
- Lumber River at Nichols | [NICS1](#) | USGS 02134900
- Waccamaw River at Freeland | [FRENZ](#) | USGS 02109500
- Waccamaw River at Longs | [LNGS1](#) | USGS 02110500

Cape Fear Forecast Group

- Cape Fear River at William O Huske L&D | [STPN7](#) | USGS 02105500
- Cape Fear River at Elizabethtown | [ELZN7](#) | NC 30075

For questions regarding these changes, please contact:

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