Climate Review for the month of January 2012

Presented by:
BelMel Publishing
Mild and dry conditions continued into the month of January. Even with a positive PNA for most of the month, and then the AO went negative by the end of the month, our CWA was still 3 to 5 degrees above normal for temperatures. The average maximum temperature ranged between 56-61 degrees and min temperature ranged 39-43 degrees. The MHX CWA continued to be below normal, with most of the CWA averaging about 2 inches. There were a few locations around the Outer Banks area, especially Cape Hatteras, that averaged between 3 to 5 inches of rain. Cape Hatteras broke a 24-hr precipitation total record of 3.08 inches on January 12 (previous record of 1.62 inches back in 1980).

La Niña conditions continued to dominate across the United States. The Niño index in January was -1.1°C for the Niño 3.4 region which this is considered to be a moderate La Niña. It appears that La Niña has peaked, but can not confirm until February. Both the Northerly and Southerly Jets (200mb) continued to have a typical La Niña pattern. The U.S. Drought conditions across our CWA continued to be D1 (Abnormally Dry) and dry conditions are expected to persist.
The CWA was 3 to 5 degrees above normal temperature (average) for the month.
Max and Min Temperature within our CWA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>MAX</th>
<th>MIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaufort</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Hatteras</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Bern</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenville</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinston AG</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamston</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurora</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayboro</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mild max temperatures throughout the month, but the coldest temperatures occurred on the 4th.
Below normal precipitation continued into January. Most of the CWA, averaged about 2 inches while the Cape Hatteras area averaged 3 to 5 inches of rain.
Before

January 3, 2012
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Now

January 31, 2012
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

Author: Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid for February 2 - April 30, 2012
Released February 2, 2012

KEY:
- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events such as individual storms cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications such as crops that can be affected by such events.

"Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.