Climate Review for the month May 2016

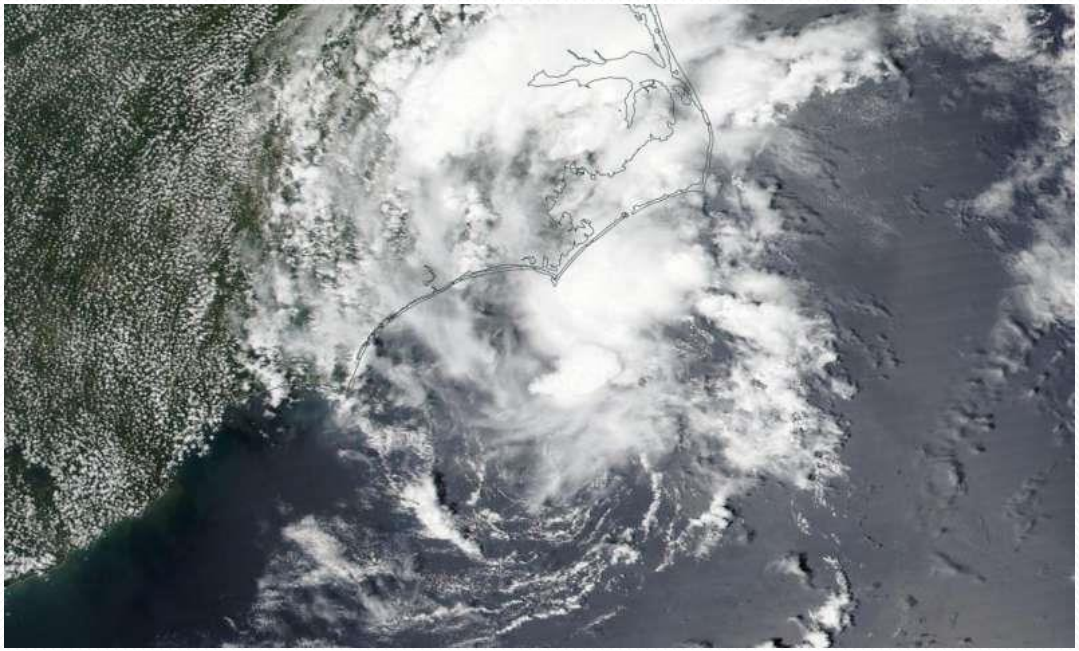
Presented by:

National Weather Service

Newport/Morehead City

Summary

The main highlight in May's weather across the eastern North Carolina was above to well above normal rainfall. A slow-moving coastal low produced heavy rainfall on the 3rd of May, while a stalled frontal boundary led to another round of heavy rainfall on the 17th. The heaviest rainfall occurred at the end of the month as the remnants of Tropical Storm Bonnie moved slowly up the North Carolina coast. This heavy rainfall included a single day record of 7.09 inches at Cape Hatteras on May 31, shattering the previous record of 3.44 inches set in 1940. A monthly record of 12.67 inches was recorded at Cape Hatteras. All of the Newport/Morehead City County Warning Area received above normal rainfall in May, with the heaviest rainfall near the coast.



Satellite image of the remnants of Tropical Storm Bonnie off the southern Outer Banks of North Carolina.

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 May 2016

	Avg_ Max	Avg_Max Normal	Avg_ Min	Avg_Min Normal
Beaufort	76.0	76.0	62.2	61.5
Cape Hatteras	75.1	73.7	63.0	60.5
New Bern	78.7	80.3	59.6	58.7
Greenville	77.6	80.2	59.2	57.6
Williamston	76.1	78.5	59.5	55.9
Plymouth	77.8	80.7	58.7	57.2
Bayboro	77.1	79.7	58.0	58.3

Maximum Temperatures were generally a degree or two below normal during May 2016, while the minimum temperatures tended to be slightly above normal.

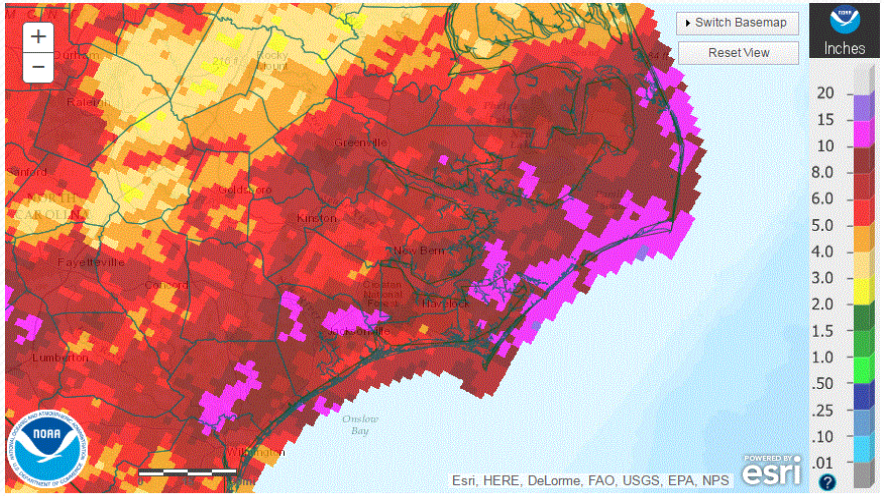
Max and Min Temperature within our CWA in May 2016.

	MAX	MIN
Beaufort	83	49
Cape Hatteras	86	50
New Bern	88	46
Greenville	89	45
Williamston	89	48
Plymouth	88	44
Bayboro	88	46

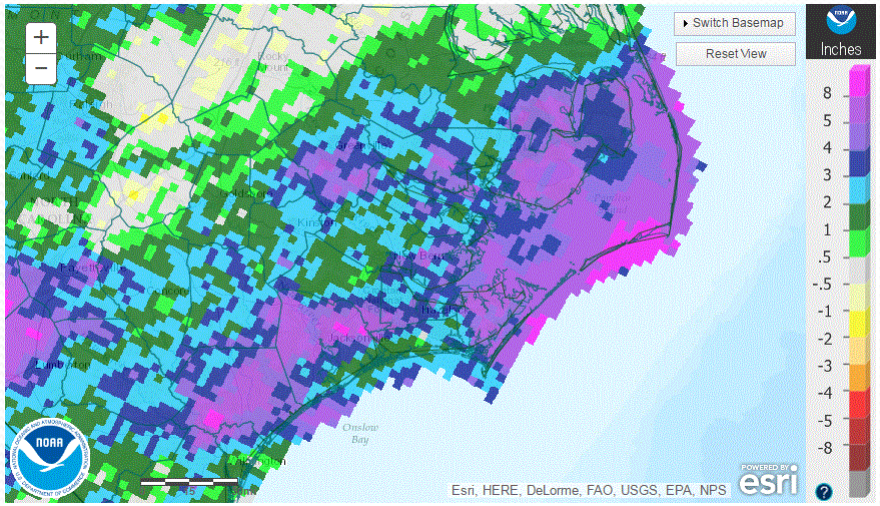
May 2016 Rain Versus Climate Normal

	Precipitation (inches)	Normal	Difference
Beaufort	7.90	3.93	**3.97**
Cape Hatteras	12.67	3.57	**9.10**
New Bern	6.68	4.15	**2.53**
Greenville	6.62	3.85	**2.77**
Williamston	5.30	3.74	**1.56**
Plymouth	4.58	4.19	**0.39**
Bayboro	9.66	4.12	**5.54**

The entire region received above normal rainfall for the month of May 2016. The highest rainfall departures were near the coast.

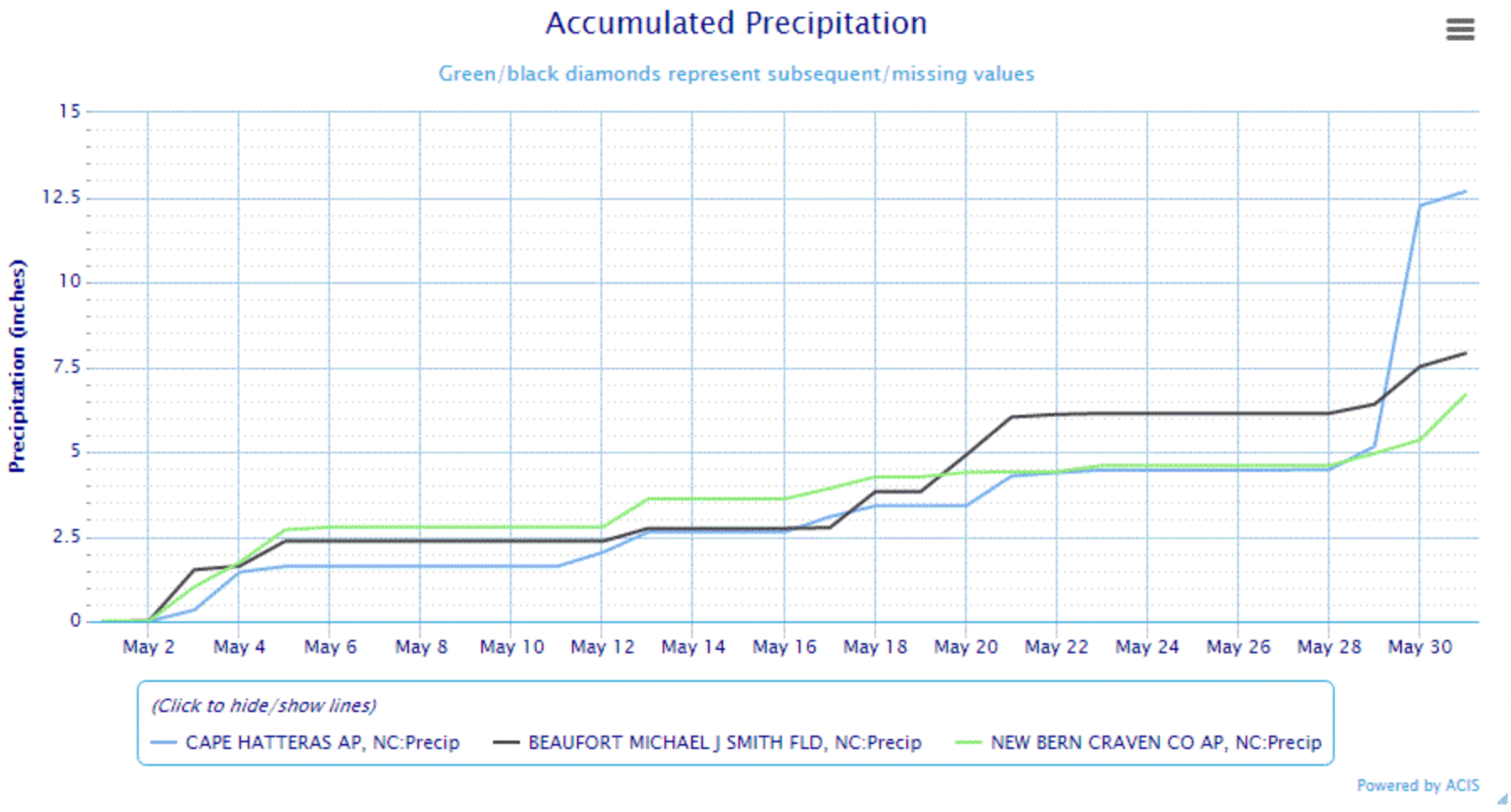


Observed Precipitation



Departure From Normal

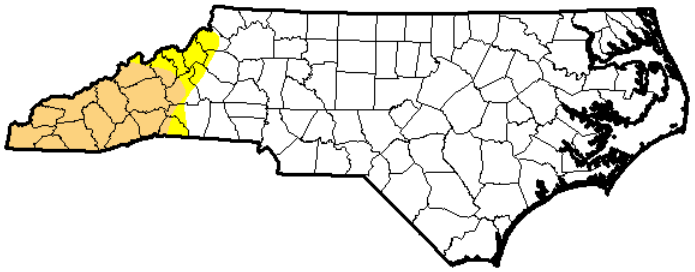
May 2016 Total Precipitation



Latest Drought Monitor for North Carolina

U.S. Drought Monitor

North Carolina



May 31, 2016

(Released Thursday, Jun. 2, 2016)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	86.06	13.94	10.92	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 5/24/2016	86.83	13.17	7.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 3/1/2016	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/29/2015	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/29/2015	35.61	64.39	17.66	1.89	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 6/2/2015	38.97	61.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

Big change from April when much of the state was in D0 (abnormally dry). Now only the mountains are in drought status.

Monthly Drought Outlook

For June