

CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of January 2016

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Participating territories

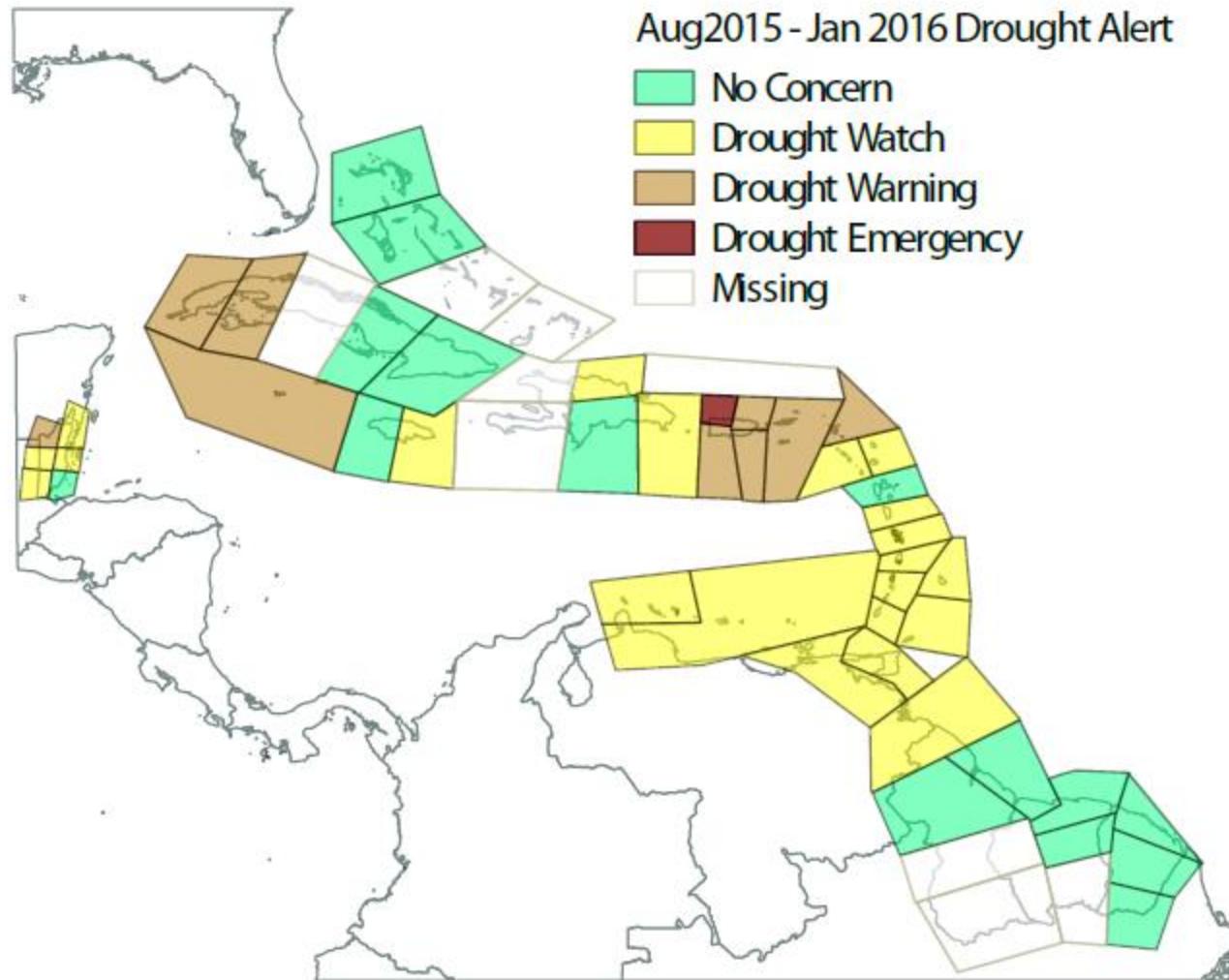
Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Barth's, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the US Virgin Islands



Drought Outlook Aug to Jan

Areas under immediate drought concern?

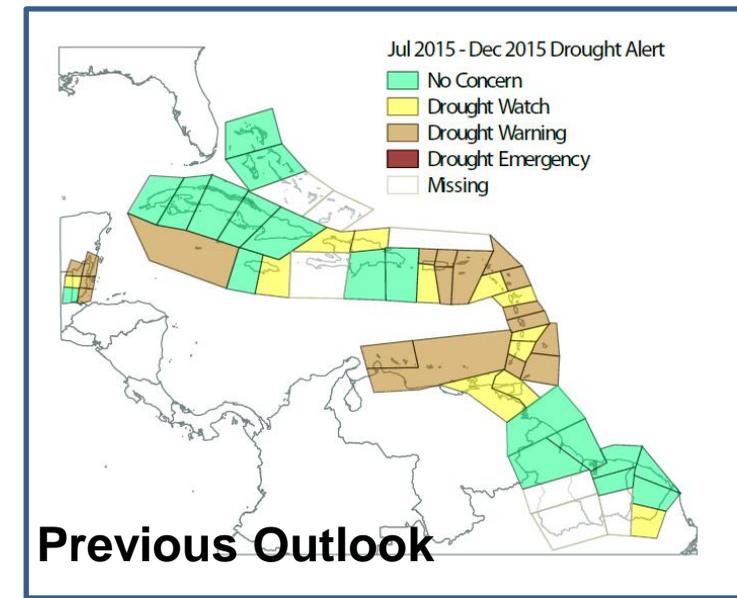
Current Outlook



Current update (October 2015):

Drought concern is noted in NW Belize, Cayman, W Cuba, N Leewards & US C'bean Terr. where we issue a drought warning, and especially in NW Puerto Rico where we issue a drought emergency.

Some drought concern is further noted in other areas of the Caribbean Islands (except Bahamas, E Cuba, Guadeloupe & S Hispaniola).



Previous Outlook

Drought outlook till January 2016 – shorter-/longer-term concern?

- **Current drought situation (up to the end of September):** (*more information [here](#)*)
 - Because of below-normal rainfall during the previous dry and current wet seasons, water shortages occur in many portions of the Antilles.
 - Nearly all island nations are in longer-term drought (except Bahamas), as well as W Belize. After a record dry July to September period in 33 out of 180 odd stations (notably in Barbados, Belize, Cayman, Dom. Republic, Jamaica, Leewards, Martinique and US C'bean Terr.), many Antilles islands are currently facing severe shorter-term drought.
- **Shorter-term (till January):**
 - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist in the Antilles and in Belize, especially in Cayman, W Cuba, N Leewards and US C'bean Terr.
- **Longer-term (November and beyond):**
 - Strong El Niño in place. El Niño often results in a drier wet season and an early end to it (except for the NW C'bean), and particularly so in the SE C'bean. This may lead to drought concerns towards the next dry season.
 - Areas with existing water shortages may not see full recovery by the end of the wet season, in particular Barbados, Belize, central Hispaniola, E Jamaica, Leewards, Trinidad & Tobago, US C'bean Terr. and Windwards.

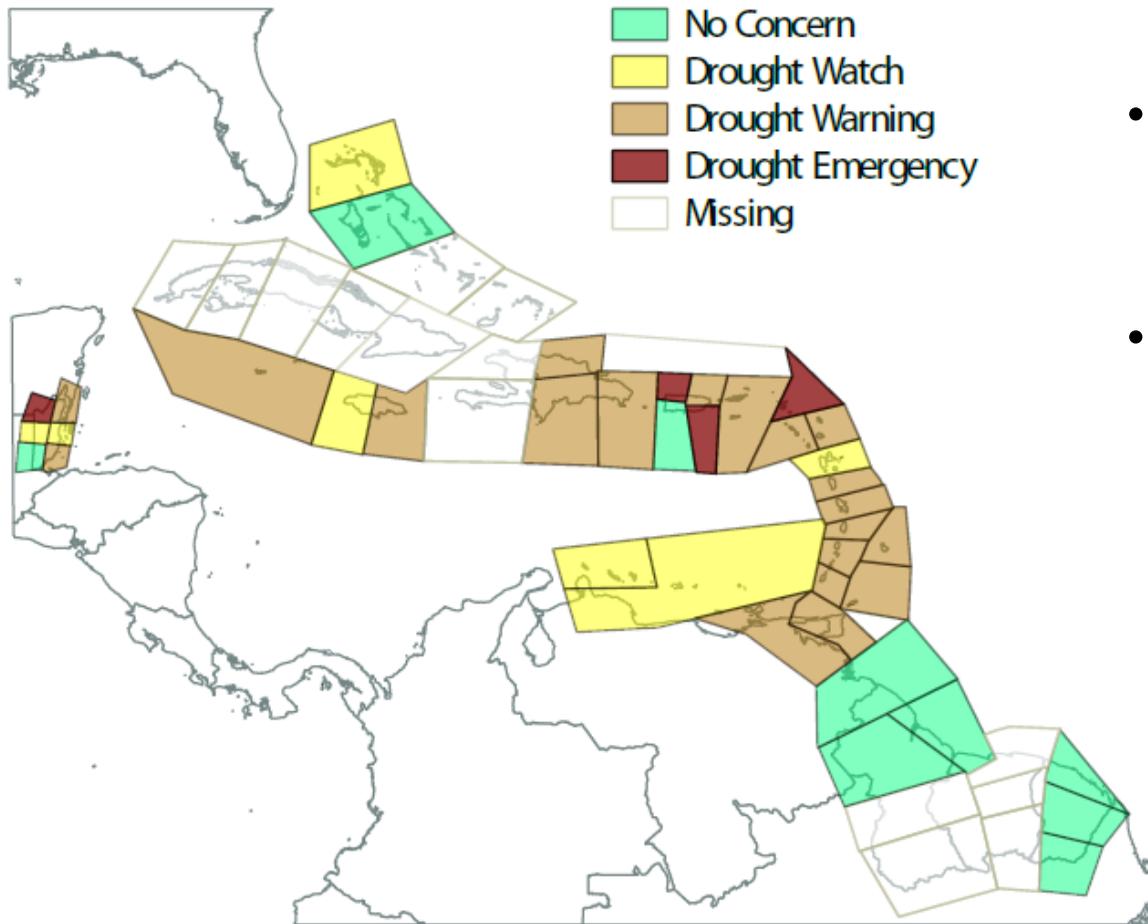
RAISE AWARENESS & CONSERVE WATER!!

Long-term drought outlook

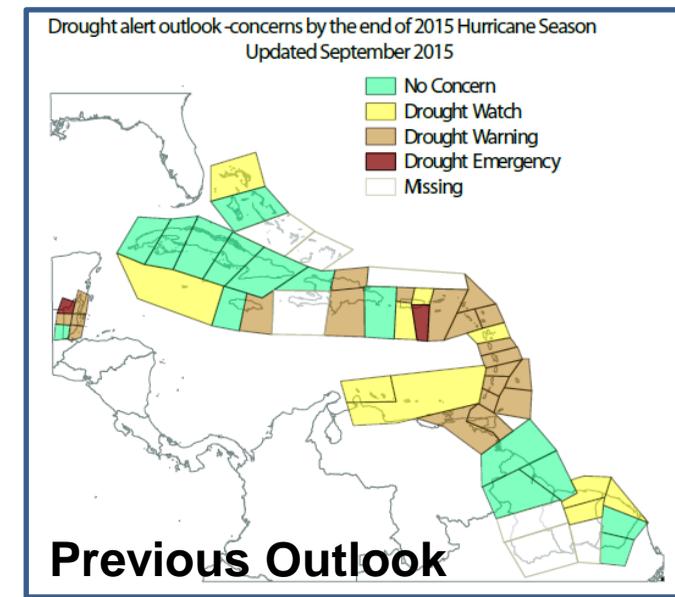
Concerns until end of the Caribbean hurricane/wet season (Nov 30th, 2015)?

Current Outlook

Drought alert outlook -concerns by the end of 2015 Hurricane Season
Updated October 2015



- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until September 2015, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is ≤ -1.3 (*very dry or worse* – ref.: CDPMN).
- Impactful hydrological drought by the end of the wet season (November 30) is a concern across all the Antilles (no data available for Cuba and Haiti) and in Belize.
- A **drought emergency** is issued for N Leewards, NW Belize and NW & SE Puerto Rico. A **drought warning** is issued for Barbados, Belize, Dom. Republic, E Jamaica, S Leewards, NE Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago and Windwards.



ALERT LEVEL	MEANING	ACTION LEVEL
<p>NO CONCERN</p>	<p>No drought concern</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ monitor resources ✓ update and ratify management plans ✓ public awareness campaigns ✓ upgrade infrastructure
<p>DROUGHT WATCH</p>	<p>Drought possible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ keep updated ✓ protect resources and conserve water ✓ implement management plans ✓ response training ✓ monitor and repair infrastructure
<p>DROUGHT WARNING</p>	<p>Drought evolving</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ protect resources ✓ conserve and recycle water ✓ implement management plans ✓ release public service announcements ✓ last minute infrastructural repairs and upgrades ✓ report impacts
<p>DROUGHT EMERGENCY</p>	<p>Drought of immediate concern</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ release public service announcements ✓ implement management and response plans ✓ enforce water restrictions and recycling ✓ enforce resource protection ✓ repair infrastructure ✓ report impacts



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