

CariCOF Drought Outlook by the end of October 2015

Coordination – CIMH – Dr. Cédric J. Van Meerbeeck

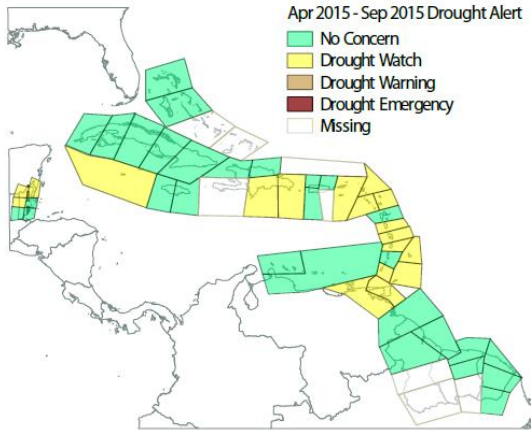
Participating territories

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



SPI outlook May to Oct – areas under immediate drought concern?

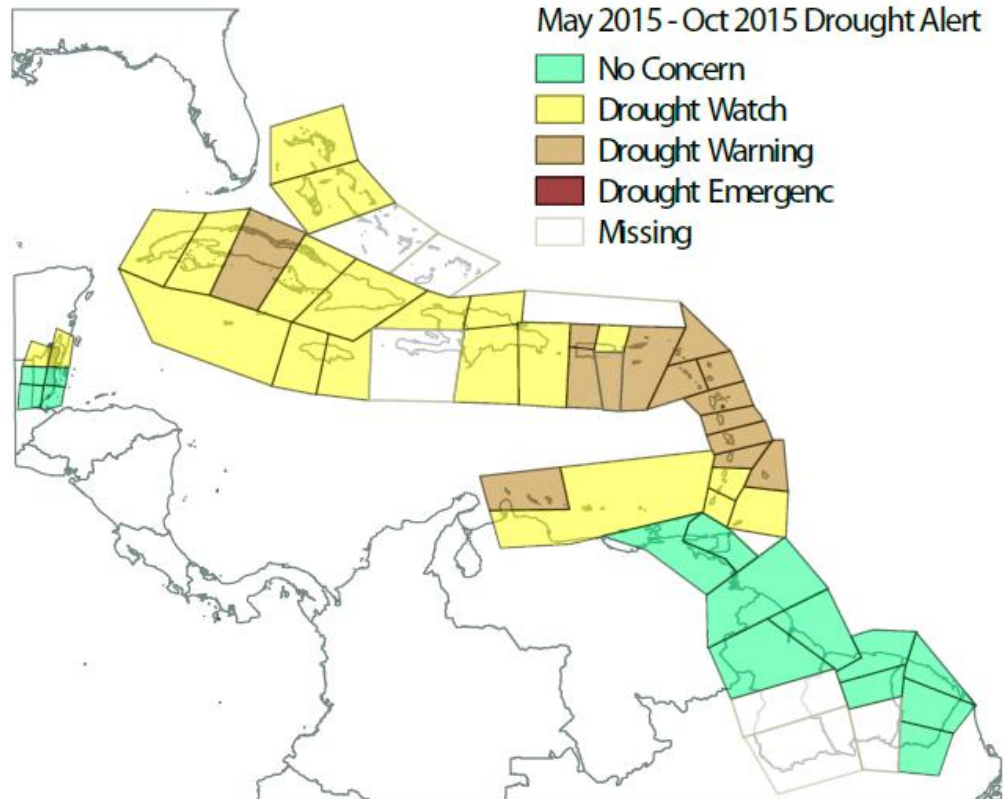
Jun 2015 update



July 2015's update:

Drought concern is noted in ABC Islands, Barbados, Central Cuba, US C'bean Terr., Leewards and Windwards (except Grenada, St. Vincent), where we issue a drought warning.

Some drought concern is further noted in all other areas of the Caribbean Islands (except Trinidad) and in N Belize.



Drought outlook till Nov 2015 – shorter- / longer-term concern?

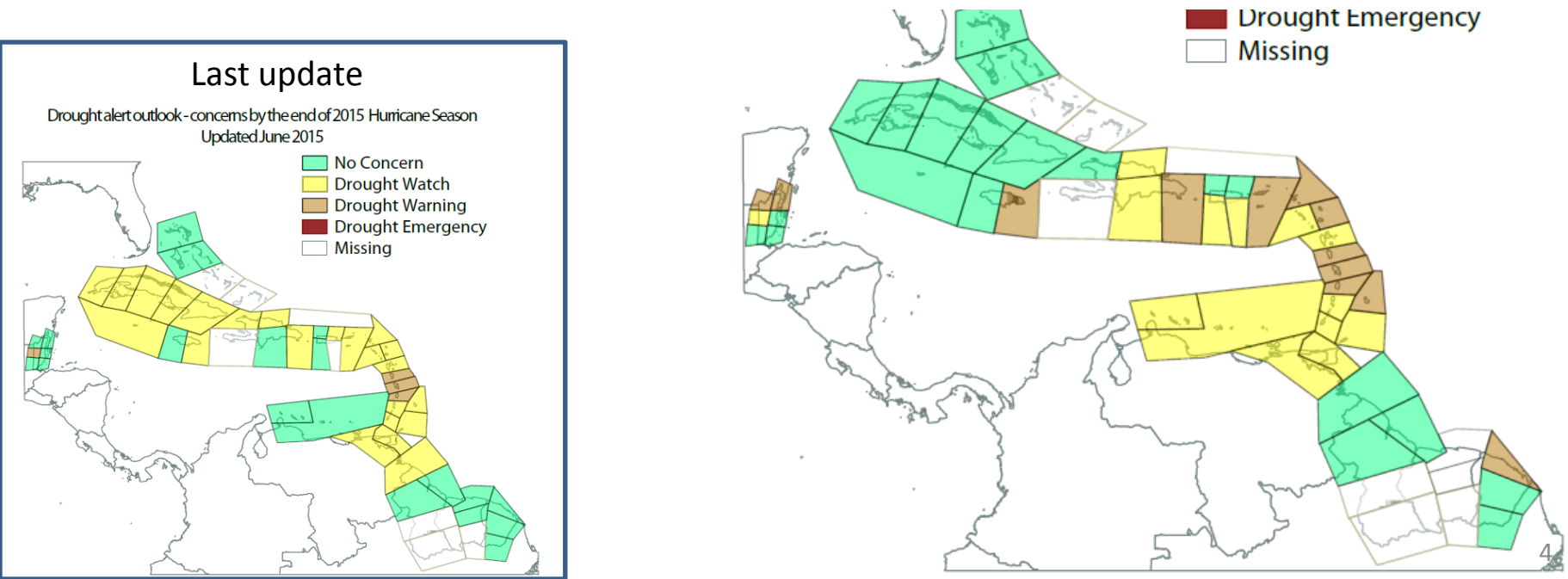
- Current drought situation: (*find more information [here](#)*)
 - Because of below-normal rainfall during the previous wet season and the dry season which just ended, water shortages may occur in portions of the Antilles.
 - South-eastern Jamaica, Haïti, many of the Leeward and some of the Windward Islands are in longer-term drought and have suffered water shortages. After a very dry month of June (except in Cayman, Cuba, N Dom. Rep. and Trinidad & Tobago), many of the Antilles islands, are currently facing shorter-term drought.
- Shorter-term (till October):
 - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist in the ABC Islands, Windward and Leeward Islands, but generally improve in other areas.
- Longer-term (November and beyond):
 - El Niño is intensifying. El Niño often results in a late start and early end of the wet season (except for the NW Caribbean), and particularly so in the SE Caribbean. This may lead to drought concerns towards the next dry season
 - Areas with existing water shortages may not see full recovery in the wet season, in particular Dominica, E Jamaica, Leewards, Martinique and St. Lucia.

CONSERVE WATER!!

Especially in eastern Cuba, Haïti, Jamaica,
Leeward and Windward Islands.

Long-term drought outlook – drought concerns until end of the 2015 Caribbean hurricane/wet season (Nov 30th, 2015)?

- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until June 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 is a concern across all the Antilles, from E Jamaica and Dom. Rep. going east- and southward, northern portions of Belize and northern French Guiana.
- A drought warning is issued for Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, N Belize, Dominica, E Dom. Rep., N French Guiana, E Jamaica, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Martin/Maarten.



Alert level	Meaning	Action level
NO CONCERN	No drought concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ monitor resources ✓ update and ratify management plans ✓ public awareness campaigns ✓ upgrade infrastructure
DROUGHT WATCH	Drought possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ keep updated ✓ protect resources and conserve water ✓ implement management plans ✓ response training ✓ monitor and repair infrastructure
DROUGHT WARNING	Drought evolving	<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
DROUGHT EMERGENCY	Drought of immediate concern	<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