

# CariCOF Drought Outlook by the end of May 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

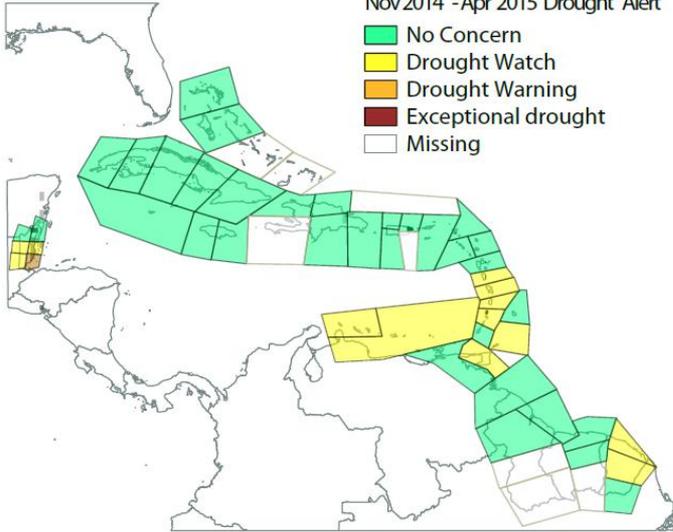


# SPI outlook Dec to May – areas under immediate drought concern?

## January 2015 update

Nov 2014 - Apr 2015 Drought Alert

- No Concern
- Drought Watch
- Drought Warning
- Exceptional drought
- Missing



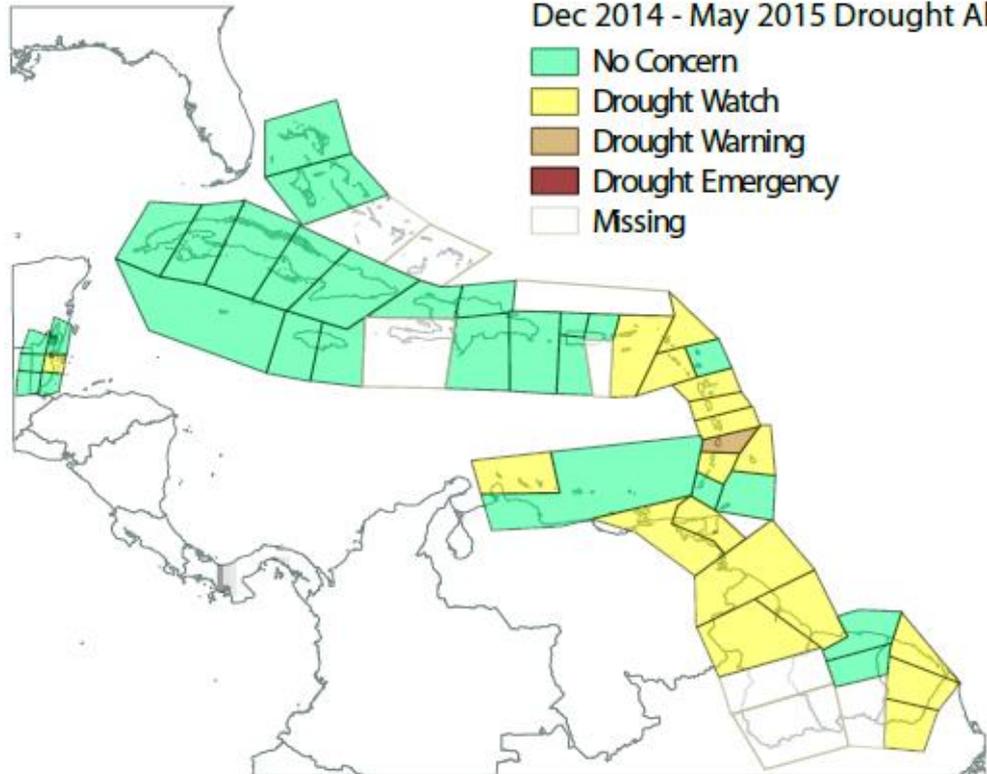
## February 2015's update:

No drought concerns are noted in the Caribbean from Puerto Rico westwards as the concerns subsided in Belize. However, concern has grown further east and south, with St. Lucia now under a drought warning.

Some concern exists in the ABC Islands, and in much of eastern and southern Caribbean (drought watch.)

Dec 2014 - May 2015 Drought Alert

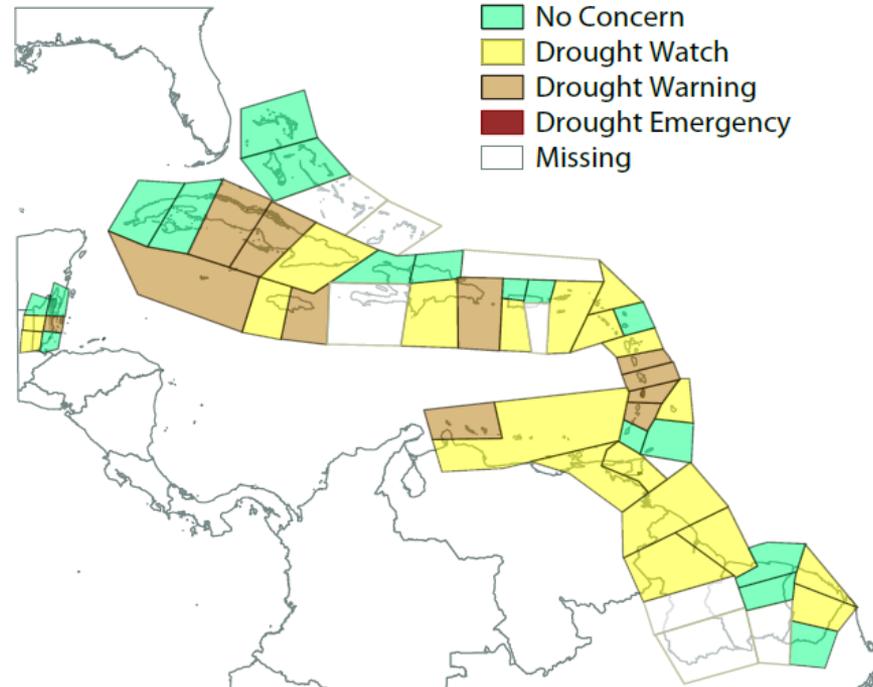
- No Concern
- Drought Watch
- Drought Warning
- Drought Emergency
- Missing



# SPI outlook Hydrological Year 2014-2015 – drought concern by the end of the Caribbean dry season (May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015)?

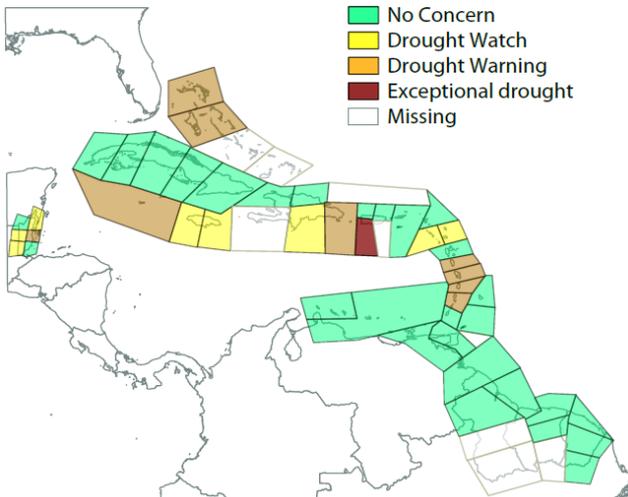
- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until January 2015, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater.
- Impactful hydrological drought is a concern across the region (except Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Grenada, Suriname and Tobago). A drought warning is issued for ABC Islands, Cayman, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent as well as portions of Belize, Cuba and Dom. Republic.

Hydrological Year 2014-2015 Drought Alert  
Updated February 2015



## Previous update

Hydrological Year 2014-2015 Drought Alert  
Updated January 2015



## Drought outlook till May 2015 – **shorter- / longer-term concern?**

- Current drought situation:
  - Cayman, Eastern Jamaica, Haïti and some of the Windward Islands are in longer-term drought and have suffered water shortages. Few areas are currently facing shorter-term drought.
- Shorter-term:
  - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation will arise in St. Lucia and possibly appear in some of the other islands and improve over others.
- Longer-term:
  - Because of below normal rainfall during the previous wet season, water shortages may occur in portions of the Antilles toward the end of the dry season, which is our tourist season.
  - Chances are that an El Niño may evolve. El Niño often results in a drier dry season (except for the NW Caribbean), and particularly in the SE Caribbean later in the dry season. However, above-average temperatures in the Atlantic suggest a wetter dry season.
  - Regardless, areas with existing water shortages may not see any improvement until late in the dry season.

**CONSERVE WATER!!**

**Especially in Cayman, Haïti, Jamaica and Windward Islands.**

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